



30 June 2023

Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp.

37<sup>th</sup> Floor, Tower 1, The Enterprise Center 6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas Makati City

Attention:

Atty. Marie Rose M. Magallen-Lirio

Head - Issuer Compliance and Disclosure Department

Re:

SMC SLEX Inc. Php7.3 Billion Fixed Rate Bonds

SEC Form 17 - C

## Gentlemen:

In compliance with the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. ("PDEX") guidelines, please find enclosed copy of our disclosure to Securities and Exchange Commission, in the form of SEC 17-C.

As agreed with you, we shall inform PDEx in case of any changes.

Very truly yours,

RAOUL EDUARDO C. ROMULO
Corporate Information Officer

Subject: Re: SMC SLEX Inc. - SEC Form 17-C 30 June 2023

Date: Friday, June 30, 2023 at 3:37:32 PM Philippine Standard Time

From: ICTD Submission

To: corsec.sbr

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		NOTICE TO
COMPANIES		

Please be informed of the reports that shall be filed only through ictdsubmission@sec.gov.ph.

Pursuant to SEC MC Circular No. 3 s 2021, scanned copies of the printed reports with wet signature and proper notarization shall be filed in PORTABLE DOCUMENT FORMAT (pdf) through email at ictdsubmission@sec.gov.ph such as the following SECONDARY REPORTS:

- 1. 17-A 6. ICA-QR 11. IHAR 16. 39-AR 21. Monthly Reports
- 2. 17-C 7. 23-A 12. AMLA-CF 17. 36-AR 22. Quarterly Reports
- 3. 17-L 8. 23-B 13. NPM 18. PNFS 23. Letters
- 4. 17-Q 9. GIS-G 14. NPAM 19. MCG 24. OPC (Alternate Nominee)
- 5. ICASR 10. 52-AR 15.BP-FCLC 20.S10/SEC-NTCE-EXEMPT

Further, effective 01 July 2023, the following reports shall be submitted through <a href="https://efast.sec.gov.ph/user/login">https://efast.sec.gov.ph/user/login</a>.

- 1. FORM MC 18 7. Completion Report
- 2. FORM 1 MC 19 8. Certificate-SEC Form MCG- 2009
- 3. FORM 2- MC 19 9. Certificate-SEC Form MCG- 2002, 2020 ETC.
- 4. ACGR 10. Certification of Attendance in Corporate Governance
- 5. I-ACGR 11. Secretary's Certificate Meeting of Board Directors (Appointment)
  - 6. MRPT

Please be informed that the submission of the abovementioned eleven (11) reports through the ictdsubmission@sec.gov.ph shall no longer be accepted. For further information, please access this link Notice for

# guidance on the filing of reports:

Likewise, the following reports shall be filed through the Electronic Filing and Submission Tool (eFAST) at <a href="https://efast.sec.gov.ph/user/login">https://efast.sec.gov.ph/user/login</a>:

- 1. AFS 7. IHFS 13. SSF
- 2. GIS 8. LCFS 14. AFS with Affidavit of No Operation
- 3. BDFS 9. LCIF 15. AFS with NSPO Form 1,2, and 3
- 4. FCFS 10. OPC\_AO 16. AFS with NSPO Form 1,2,3 and 4,5,6
- 5. FCIF 11. PHFS 17. FS Parent
- 6. GFFS 12. SFFS 18. FS Consolidated

For the submission and processing of compliance in the filing of Memorandum Circular No. 28 Series of 2020, please visit this link – <a href="https://apps010.sec.gov.ph/">https://apps010.sec.gov.ph/</a>

For your information and guidance.

Thank you.

# **COVER SHEET**

			2 0 0 0 1 0 6 2 2 C. Registration Number		
SMC SLEX IN	C				
( F o r m e r l y S (	OUTH L	UZON	TOLLWAY		
CORPORATION)					
(Company's Full Name)					
1     1     /     F     S     A     N     M     I     C       C     E     N     T     R     E     ,     7     S     T     .       M     A     N     D     A     L     U     Y     O     N     G     ,	G U E L P F R A N C C I T Y		T I E S		
(Business Address: No. Street City / Town / Province)					
SHAINA ANELLA B. RAMIREZ Contact Person			9178130910 Telephone Number		
1 2 3 1 1 Month Day Fiscal Year	7 - C FORM TYPE		0 5 1 1 Month Day Annual Meeting (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs of May)		
FIA Secondary License Type, If Applicable					
Dept, Requiring This Doc.		Amended A	rticles Number/Section		
		Total Amount of E	Borrowings		
Total No. of Stockholders	Do	mestic	Foreign		
To be Accomplished by SEC Personnel Concerned					
File Number	<u></u>	LĊU	•		
Document I.D.		Cashier	-		
STAMPS					

Remarks = Pls. Use black ink for scanning purposes

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

# SEC FORM 17-C

# CURRENT REPORT UNDER SECTION 17 OF THE SECURITIES REGULATION CODE AND SRC RULE 17.2(c) THEREUNDER

1.	30 June 2023					
	Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported	d)				
2.	SEC Identification Number <u>A200010622</u>	3. BIR Tax Identification No. <u>207-247-094</u>				
4.	SMC SLEX INC.  Exact name of issuer as specified in its charter	er				
5.	Metro Manila, Philippines Province, country or other jurisdiction of incorporation	6. (SEC Use Only) Industry Classification Code:				
7.	11/F San Miguel Properties Centre, 7 St. Address of principal office Code	Francis Street, Mandaluyong City1550 Postal				
8.	. (02) 8584-4655 Issuer's telephone number, including area code					
9.	(N/A) Former name or former address, if changed since last report					
10.	Securities registered pursuant to Sections 8 a	nd 12 of the SRC or Sections 4 and 8 of the RSA				
Tit	tle of Each Class	Number of Shares of Common Stock Outstanding and Amount of Debt Outstanding				
	Amount Interest Rate					
	Series C P2.5 Billion 6.4872%					
11.	Indicate the item numbers reported herein:	ltem 9				

#### Item 9. Other Events

SMC SLEX keeps Highest Rating

On 30 June 2023, the Philippine Rating Services Corporation ("PhilRatings") published a report stating that PhilRatings maintained the Issue Credit Rating of PRS Aaa with a Stable Outlook for SMC SLEX Inc.'s outstanding P2.5-billion Fixed-rate bonds.

Obligations rated "PRS Aaa" are of the highest quality with minimal credit risk. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is extremely strong. PRS Aaa is the highest rating assigned by PhilRatings.

A copy of the PhilRatings press release is attached as Annex "A".

- nothing follows -

### **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Regulation Code, the issuer has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

30 June 2023

Date

RAOUL EDUARDO C. ROMULO
Chief Finance Officer and

Corporate Information Officer



#### The Pioneer Domestic Credit Rating Agency

#### **RATING NEWS**

June 30, 2023

## SMC SLEX's P2.5 Billion Bonds Keeps Highest Rating

Philippine Rating Services Corporation (PhilRatings) maintained the Issue Credit Rating of **PRS Aaa**, with a **Stable** Outlook, for SMC SLEX, Inc. 's (SMC SLEX) outstanding P2.5-billion Fixed-rate bonds. SMC SLEX, which is part of the San Miguel Group, was incorporated primarily to engage in the rehabilitation, construction and expansion of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX).

Obligations rated **PRS** Aaa are of the highest quality with minimal credit risk. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is **extremely strong**. PRS Aaa is the highest rating assigned by PhilRatings.

A **Stable** Outlook, on the other hand, indicates that ratings are likely to be maintained or to remain unchanged in the next twelve (12) months.

The assigned rating takes into account the following considerations: (1) the Company's expansion of concession assets and continuing enhancement of toll operations; (2) the strong demand for its toll services, supported by greater mobility; (3) the Company's healthy liquidity, backed by strong cash flows from toll operations; and (4) the continued push of the government to improve the country's infrastructure environment.

PhilRatings' ratings are based on available information and projections at the time that the rating review was performed. PhilRatings shall continuously monitor developments in relation to SMC SLEX and may change the ratings at any time, should circumstances warrant a change.

SMC SLEX is the concessionaire of the SLEX, a 36.1-kilometer (km) toll road that links major economic centers in Metro Manila to the southern provinces of Luzon. The SLEX is an integrated expressway composed of four toll roads, three of which are currently operational. Currently under construction is Toll Road 4 (TR 4), which is 66.7-km toll road expansion of the SLEX and consisting of a four-lane toll way extending from Sto. Tomas, Batangas to Lucena City, Quezon. TR 4 is expected to cut the travel time between Sto. Tomas and Lucena, from four hours to one hour.

In December 2022, the infrastructure arm of the San Miguel Group, SMC Infrastructure, executed the Seamless Project in its southern tollways. The project trimmed the usual five toll stops to only two toll stops, for both northbound and southbound travelers, cutting the overall transaction time spent in toll plazas for motorists. The project runs along the SLEX, Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (STAR), NAIA Expressway (NAIAX), and the entire Skyway System (Stages 1,2, and 3). According to San Miguel Corporation President Ramon Ang, this program is also part of the Group's preparation for the full integration of the Interoperability Project of the government which aims to achieve seamless travel across major expressways in Luzon.

The strong demand for the SLEX is reflected in its annual average daily traffic (AADT), which recorded double-digit increases in all vehicle classes in 2021. As economic activities steadily recovered, traffic volume continued to grow in 2022, notably exceeding 2019 pre-pandemic AADT by 2.8%. The official announcement on May 5, 2023 from the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring that the COVID-19 pandemic has ceased to be a global health emergency of international concern is expected to spur greater public mobility and promote traffic growth in the expressways, as restrictions are set at the lowest level.

In 2022, revenues from toll operations grew by 15.5% to P6.4 billion, driven by increased traffic volume. The uptrend was sustained in the first three months of 2023 (3M2023) due to strong demand.

Toll revenues grew by 13.3% to P1.7 billion in 3M2023. Net income for the period significantly rose by 36.4% to P964.0 million, backed by the growth in toll revenues, coupled with reduced costs and expenses.

The uptrend in AADT is projected to continue, as traffic volume normalizes in the expressway. SMC SLEX sees the recovering industrial and socio-economic activities in the CALABARZON region as supportive of the projected growth in average daily traffic volume. The gradual commencement of operations of the TR 4 is expected to similarly support higher traffic volume. Given these, revenues from toll operations are seen to post a healthy growth over the projected period.

Higher bottom line supported the Company's cash flows, which amply covered operations. Generated cash from operations was largely used for the Company's widening and enhancement projects, as well as project development costs of the TR 4 Project. In May 2022, SMC SLEX settled its Series B bonds amounting to P2.4 billion.

Current ratio as of end-2022 was more than satisfactory at 4.9x, and further improved to 5.6x as of end-March 2023. Cash and cash equivalents more than covered the Company's outstanding debt as it rose by 17.4% to P5.3 billion, as of end-March 2023. Cash flows from operations will continue to be healthy, and will be used mostly for the continued construction and enhancement projects along the SLEX. The TR 4 project will continue to primarily account for the Company's cash outflows, until its target completion in 2026.

The national government still continues to ramp up its efforts to enhance the infrastructure landscape of the country. The Marcos administration launched the "Build Better More" Program, of which 194 infrastructure flagship projects (IFPs) were approved with an estimated cost of P9 trillion. The IFPs include irrigation, water supply and flood management, digital connectivity, health, power and energy, agriculture, and other infrastructure. The development of many regions through these infrastructure projects will increase economic activity, particularly in provincial areas, and spur higher demand for connectivity and services of expressways.