

Press Statement of Oscar M. Lopez on behalf of the Lopez Family:

March 19, 2009

The Lopez family denies published media speculations over the circumstances surrounding the partial sale of First Philippine Holdings' stake in Meralco.

It is important to point out that given the magnitude of this decision, senior family members and some key advisors had discussions over the last few months on the future of Meralco and the Group. Eventually, we realized that it was a necessary business decision no matter how painful and difficult it was.

Given how Meralco's history has long been intertwined with our family, acceptance of this sale was not easy, most especially by my brother Manolo, who has invested more than 30 years of his life with the company.

However, beyond merely just being a family matter, any decision to sell a substantial stake in Meralco ultimately necessitated a proper review and approval by the First Philippine Holdings Board of Directors. The approval was secured in a special board meeting held on March 13, 2009.

This is contrary to insinuations that the decision was hastily arrived at without proper consultations. Given that our companies are publicly-listed, we could do no less.


OSCAR M LOPEZ

Reference: Benjamin R. Lopez (brlopez@fphc.com)