

DEL MONTE PACIFIC LIMITED
REPORTS 2001 INTERIM EARNINGS RESULTS

- **Results Lower - Mainly Due To Pricing & Market Conditions in the US and Europe**
- **Sales Volume Steady, compared to 1H 2000**
- **Asia Processed Volume Continued to Grow**
- **Philippines Volume Up Strongly and Market Share Held or Grew for All Product Categories**
- **Asian Results Impacted by Currency Translation**

Date: 26 July 2001

Del Monte Pacific Limited today announced that for the half year ended 30 June 2001 net profit after tax declined by 39% compared to the same period last year, from US\$19 million to US\$11.5 million. Turnover was US\$80.3 million, down 19%.

The Group said its earnings performance was in line with the profit alert issued on 13 July 2001. The decline in net income and turnover was largely due to continued soft product pricing and weak market conditions in the US and Europe.

Overall sales volume, however, was maintained, compared to the same period last year.

In Asia, the Group's largest market, sales volume for processed products grew but profits were down, due to currency translation. In the key Philippines market, the Group continued strong sales volume growth and held or grew market share for all key product categories.

The Group also achieved higher productivity and improved cost management.

"Our underperformance was mainly centered on continued soft product pricing in North America and Europe, where market conditions remained weak," said Mr. Tony Chew, Chairman of the Board for Del Monte Pacific Limited.

"Although we achieved improvements in productivity and operational efficiencies, they were insufficient to offset the effects of lower pricing," said Mr. Chew.

"In the midst of these challenges, we are focused on growing our value-added product mix, improving quality, reducing costs, and enhancing customer service," said Mr. Chew. "At the same time, we are working to develop new markets."

EBITDA margin was 18.2%, which compares favourably to others in the food and beverage industry. After taking into account share repurchases and the dividend payout

during the period under review, the Group's balance sheet continues to be strong with a net debt of US\$ 1.1 million, representing a 1% net debt to equity ratio. Earnings Per Share (EPS) for the half year were 1.06 US Cents (1.88 SGD Cents), compared to 1.67 US Cents (2.96 SGD Cents) for the same period last year.

Full Year Outlook

The Group expects results in the second half of 2001 to outperform those achieved in the first half, although weak market conditions in the US and Europe are expected to continue.

However, for the full year ending 31 December 2001, results are expected to be lower than those achieved in the last financial year.

About Del Monte Pacific Limited

Del Monte Pacific, with net sales of US\$ 200 million in Financial Year 2000, is one of Asia's leading producers, marketers and exporters of premium quality, branded processed fruit (pineapple solids and mixed fruits), beverages (juices and pineapple concentrate), tomato and other processed food products (tomato sauce, spaghetti sauce, tomato ketchup and pasta) and non-processed products including fresh pineapples.

Del Monte Pacific's key competitive strength lies in the ownership of the premium Del Monte brand in the Philippines and the Indian Sub-Continent; leading market position in the Philippines and long-term supply relationships with key strategic partners who hold the Del Monte brand globally.

The Del Monte brand was introduced in 1892 and is one of the best-known consumer brands around the world.

Del Monte Pacific Limited and its subsidiaries ("Del Monte Pacific" or the "Group") are not affiliates of Del Monte Corporation and its parent, Del Monte Foods Company, or Fresh Del Monte Produce, Inc. and its subsidiaries, or Kikkoman Corporation and its subsidiaries, including Del Monte Asia Pte. Ltd.