

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

7,085.69 ▼ 54.98 PTS. ▼ 0.77%

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022
BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P833.00 -P27.00 -3.14%	ACEN AC Energy Corp. P9.15 -P0.49 -5.08%	AEO Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P58.50 ---	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P11.76 -P0.04 -0.34%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P34.45 -P0.05 -0.14%	AP Aboitiz Power Corp. P30.05 -P0.30 -0.99%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P122.50 -P2.50 -2.00%	BLOOM Bloomberg Resorts Corp. P6.49 +P0.14 +2.20%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P94.90 +P0.20 +0.21%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P30.50 -P1.50 -4.69%
GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P3,300.00 +P60.00 +1.85%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P532.50 +P4.50 +0.85%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P194.10 -P5.40 -2.71%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P220.40 -P2.40 -1.08%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P58.75 +P1.75 +3.07%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P9.92 +P0.12 +1.22%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P55.80 +P0.60 +1.09%	MEG Megaworld Corp. P3.10 -P0.04 -1.27%	MER Manila Electric Co. P306.20 -P0.20 -0.07%	MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P3.90 +P0.05 +1.30%
PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P36.00 -P0.55 -1.50%	RLC Robinsons Land Corp. P18.30 +P0.24 +1.33%	RRHI Robinsons Retail Holdings, Inc. P58.65 +P1.60 +2.80%	SECB Security Bank Corp. P112.50 +P1.50 +1.35%	SM SM Investments Corp. P930.00 -P10.00 -1.06%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P111.00 ---	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P33.55 -P0.85 -2.47%	TEL PLDT, Inc. P1,848.00 +P26.00 +1.43%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P126.80 -P0.90 -0.70%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P28.90 -P0.90 -3.02%

New group obtains original proponent status for Sangley int'l airport project

By Arjay L. Balinbin Senior Reporter

SPIA Development Consortium, a newly formed group that seeks to develop the Sangley Point International Airport, announced on Tuesday that it had been granted original proponent status for the project.

The provincial government of Cavite has "formally accepted" the proposal, the group said in an e-mailed statement to reporters, adding that it has also been granted original proponent status, or OPS.

"The grant of the OPS gives the consortium the right to directly negotiate the final terms and conditions of the joint venture with the province as well as the right to match the best counter proposal that may be received during the 60-day mandatory competitive or Swiss challenge process," it noted.

The group said Cavite Governor Juanito Victor "Jonvic" C. Remulla issued the certificate of acceptance to the consortium on Jan. 7.

The governor was quoted as saying the acceptance of the unsolicited proposal is a "clear sign" of the province's commitment to delivering the project to the Filipino people.

"We are very glad and hopeful that this consortium made up of reputable domestic and well-known global development and investment companies will help us successfully complete the project," he also said.

The Cavite province previously declared a second failed bidding because no bids came in after the Oct. 20 deadline.

SPIA Development Consortium announced in November that it submitted its own unsolicited proposal for the airport project.

The consortium is composed of Philippine developers and investors

as well as global firms. The local lead members are Cavite Holdings, Inc. and Yuchengco Group of Companies.

MacroAsia Corp., a non-equity member, will provide management and technical services for aviation support as well as the logistics component of the project, the consortium said.

The global firms involved are Samsung C&T Corp., which built the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur and the Burj Khalifa in Dubai, and Munich Airport International GmbH, the management services arm of Munich Airport.

Arup Group, a London-based design company, is also a member of the consortium.

"The long-delayed Sangley Airport project is envisioned as a fully modernized, world-class and green airport that is designed to meet an anticipated increase in demand for air transport in the next 30-40 years, and as operations at NAIA (Ninoy Aquino

International Airport) are eventually phased out to allow for a development of the site and its surrounding areas," the consortium said.

"After final planning, design and financial closing, the work would immediately begin with the construction of a 4.6-kilometer connector road from the Kawit Interchange of Cavite that would lead to Sangley, with the time of completion estimated at two years, the consortium affirmed," it added.

MacroAsia and its partner China Communications Construction Co. Ltd. had negotiated with Cavite for the project in 2020, but the latter canceled its notice of selection and award in January 2021 due to the "various deficiencies in the submission of requirements to conclude the joint venture agreement."

The province had issued a new invitation for firms to submit joint venture proposals for the airport project but received no bids.

TransCo plans net connectivity via power lines

STATE-LED National Transmission Corp. (TransCo) will roll out communications infrastructure on power lines to connect rural public schools to the internet, the Department of Finance (DoF) said.

TransCo has tested the information and communications technology that will use existing power line infrastructure to help the Department of Education (DepEd) link public schools to the internet.

"The internet system will be developed with the cooperation of the electric cooperatives nationwide by lending to the government their power lines for the high-speed internet connection," DoF said in a statement on Tuesday.

Under its Project Lightning, TransCo will enable the transfer of large amounts of data at high speeds using technology installed on power distribution lines and poles. This will connect schools to the internet without installing new cellphone towers or laying fiber optic cables.

The project will prioritize rural schools expected to be left out by telecommunications firms that do not see the areas as commercially viable because broadband construction would prove too expensive and unprofitable. — **Jenina P. Ibañez**

FULL STORY



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SEC issues halt order vs Emporia, warns others

THE Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has issued a cease-and-desist order against SPAV Solutions Corp., which is doing businesses under the names Emporia Institute or Emporia.

The regulator also issued separate advisories against Crypto-stakers.com and Trust Legacy International Community PH for their respective investment-taking activities.

In an issuance dated Dec. 14, the SEC handed a halt order against SPAV Solutions "as it operates as a fraud to the public, which if unrestrained, will likely cause grave or irreparable injury or prejudice to the investing public."

SPAV Solutions is registered as a domestic corporation with company registration number CS201815812 in July 2018. Meanwhile, Emporia Institute, Inc. is not registered with the SEC while S&A Enterprises, Inc. had its registration revoked in August 2006.

The SEC issued an advisory against SPAV Solutions in August last year, telling the public to exercise caution when dealing with individuals or groups soliciting investments for the company.

SPAV Solutions' amended articles of incorporation specifically state that the company "shall not solicit, accept or take investments/placements from the public neither shall it issue investment contractions."

"Immediately after its incorporation, respondents James Sumilang and Neilbert Abella operated SPAV Solutions by making it appear to the public that the corporation is engaged in a foreign currency trading business, and enticed the public to invest therein," the SEC said in its issuance.

The commission's Enforcement and Investor Protection Department (EIPD) received several inquiries about the unauthorized investment programs of SPAV Solutions. At least nine individuals also filed complaints against the entity, which prompted its investigation.

The EIPD found that SPAV Solutions' investment business works like a mutual fund, where pooled investments will be traded for at least one trading cycle of three months. Investors

can invest for as low as P20,000 and the net return was "conservatively pegged" at 10% monthly.

SPAV Solutions also executed and entered into Percentage Allocation Money Management Services, among its other investment schemes.

The EIPD found that while SPAV Solutions is registered with the commission, it does not have the required secondary license to act as a lending company, broker and/or dealer of securities, investment adviser of an investment company, investment house, and transfer agent, neither do Emporia Institute and S&A Enterprises.

BusinessWorld reached out to Mr. Sumilang and SPAV Solutions Director Marian Hannah Louise P. Vailoces via LinkedIn for comment, but they have yet to respond as of press time.

CRYPTO-STAKERS AND TRUST LEGACY INTERNATIONAL

Meanwhile, in separate advisories dated Jan. 6, the SEC is warning the public against unregistered entities Crypto-stakers and Trust Legacy International for their unlicensed investment-taking programs

The SEC said Crypto-stakers is operated by individuals using different pseudonyms, such as Mark Jorrel Chavez, Marc Jeff Hofilena, Imalyn Espinosa, Lovely Sheymandani, Danilyn Corpuz, Hanilyn Arce Doquioag, Carina C., and Esmeralda R.

Crypto-stakers is trying to lure the public to invest in its program with a guaranteed 8% daily payout for 25 days or a 100% return of investment within 25 days for a minimum of P1,000. This is on top of referral bonuses.

The SEC warns that Crypto-stakers' investment scheme "shows indication" of a possible "Ponzi scheme" wherein the earnings of older investors are derived from the investments of newcomers.

On the other hand, Finland-based Trust Legacy International "claims to be an automatic online investment platform" that is engaged in Bitcoin Trading. — **Keren Concepcion G. Valmonte**

FULL STORY



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Chamber of Mines provides relief to typhoon victims

FILIPINO miners were among the first to help victims of Typhoon Odette, large-scale mining companies said, as they shared their recent activities such as providing clean water and food packages, to construction materials and medical teams.

Michael T. Toledo, chairman of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP), said member-firms provided "unquantifiable efforts that are equally valuable in times of disaster," such as emergency response teams, the use of company equipment in the clearing efforts, and manpower resources.

"These are our employees who were at the scenes to help the communities, like doctors who did the rounds and brought first-aid kits in affected barangays," he said. "This was true in Odette, as in other past typhoons like Yolanda, Ondoy, and Sendong, as well as the big earthquakes in Mindanao in 2017, and Luzon in 1990."

FULL STORY



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San Miguel postpones return-to-office plan in Metro Manila

SAN MIGUEL Corp. (SMC) decided to postpone its return-to-office plan to prevent a virus outbreak at its Metro Manila offices after coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases picked up again.

"We are carefully monitoring our COVID-19 cases across the group and adjusting our policies. For now, we encourage our employees to work from home unless otherwise required by our operations," SMC President and Chief Executive Officer Ramon S. Ang said in a statement. — **Keren Concepcion G. Valmonte**

FULL STORY



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MPOWER Wins Gold in the 2021 Zuellig Sustainability Awards

Zuellig Pharma's steadfast commitment to holistic sustainability remains resolute as the company concluded its 2021 Supplier Sustainability Awards last December 1, 2021.

In line with its transformative journey to sustainability,

Zuellig Pharma, Asia's leading health care services provider, celebrates its meaningful partnerships with global suppliers by recognizing noble contributions towards sustainability. Zuellig Pharma Corporation is present in 14 countries across the Asia Pacific region each with individual vendor nominations. The 14 international nominees were evaluated based on four sustainability pillars (Impact, Innovation, Insights, and Initiative) and MPOWER bested all other international nominees. Following MPOWER are silver and bronze awardees Sodexo (India) and Agility Logistics (Thailand), respectively.

Since MPOWER's inception in 2013, it has been committed to delivering stable and reliable energy as well as best-in-class energy solutions and to driving flagship Corporate Social Responsibility programs in line with Meralco's sustainability agenda. The Kinder Classroom Project, which has built and inaugurated 9 classrooms with audio-visual learning materials, has benefitted more than 2,500 students, enabling more conducive learning spaces for the Filipino youth during their formative years. This multi-awarded program garnered 7 awards and has been recognized by the Department of Education and various local government units for its efforts to uphold quality Filipino education. Prior to this, MPOWER, together with its partners also conducted school electrification programs in off grid locations by way of donating and installing solar panels in selected schools. In addition, in the last two years, MPOWER reached Php 1M in donations for 12 school beneficiaries in Luzon and the Visayas for its Back-To-School Donation Drive to support modular learning during the pandemic.

To help counter the effects of climate change and to help realize decarbonization goals, CommuniTrees, an annual tree planting program with MPOWER's partners, is on track to plant 8,000 seedlings across Luzon by the end of 2021 to mark MPOWER's eight fruitful years in the business. This is in support of Meralco's thrust of building a sustainable and greener future by nurturing the environment and by giving back to the communities it serves.



MPOWER was also privileged to present its projects to a global audience through a paper on Corporate Social Responsibility Opportunities for the Philippine Competitive Retail Electricity Market during the Conference on Electric Power Supply Industry (CEPSI) held in Malaysia in September 2018. Meralco President and CEO, Atty. Ray C. Espinosa said, "We are deeply honored to be this year's Zuellig Supplier Sustainability Gold awardee. Sustainability truly is at the core of our strategy and operations as a Company, and we, in Meralco, are committed not only to keep the lights on, but also to power the good life for all. MPOWER SVP and Head, Mr. Roberto Almazora voiced out the same saying, "We, at MPOWER, have always pursued our business endeavors with sustainability embedded at our core and to be recognized for our efforts is both humbling and reassuring that we are navigating towards the right direction."

In recent years, MPOWER has also significantly ramped up its clean energy transition in support of the government's sustainability and decarbonization efforts by sourcing from renewable energy (RE) power plants. "We are one with the government to achieve its 50% RE energy mix aspiration by 2040. As a responsible retailer, the only way to do this is to contract from clean and greenfield plants, to encourage new RE investments, and to shift away from old and unsustainable energy sources," said Almazora. With MPOWER's strategic power supply sourcing, wide range of end-to-end business solutions through its affiliates, and thrust to empower consumers and communities through collective action, it is evident that sustainability has and always will be a catalyst for MPOWER's strategic initiatives.

MPOWER is the leading and most trusted Retail Electricity Supplier in the Competitive Retail Electricity Market, holding a 30% market share nationwide. It offers customized energy solutions to meet the needs of Contestable Customers with an average demand of at least 500 kW for the past 12 months. Learn more at www.mpower.com.ph.