

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

7,293.52 ▲ 54.24 PTS. ▲ 0.74%

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BusinessWorld

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P868.00 +P23.00 +2.72%	ACEN AC Energy Corp. P9.65 -P0.08 -0.82%	AEV Aboltiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P62.95 +P2.60 +4.31%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P12.50 ---	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P34.65 +P0.55 +1.61%	AP Aboltiz Power Corp. P33.25 -P0.55 -1.63%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P129.50 +P0.20 +0.15%	BLOOM Blossom Resorts Corp. P6.15 -P0.24 -3.76%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P94.70 -P0.30 -0.32%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P31.00 -P0.30 -0.96%
GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P3,318.00 -P42.00 -1.25%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P555.00 +P1.00 +0.18%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P199.90 -P0.30 -0.15%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P230.40 +P1.40 +0.61%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P62.00 +P1.90 +3.16%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P10.10 +P0.08 +0.80%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P57.30 -P0.90 -1.55%	MEG Megaworld Corp. P3.20 ---	MER Manila Electric Co. P315.00 +P3.20 +1.03%	MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P3.89 +P0.01 +0.26%
PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P37.45 ---	RLC Robinsons Land Corp. P18.70 -P0.30 -1.58%	RRHI Robinsons Retail Holdings, Inc. P57.65 +P0.55 +0.96%	SECB Security Bank Corp. P111.00 ---	SM SM Investments Corp. P959.00 +P1.00 +0.10%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P111.90 +P0.40 +0.36%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P34.70 +P0.90 +2.66%	TEL PLDT, Inc. P1,878.00 -P3.00 -0.16%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P127.00 +P0.10 +0.08%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P27.70 -P0.40 -1.42%

Meralco seeks competitive bids for 850-MW supply

LISTED electricity seller Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) is calling for competitive bids to challenge an unsolicited offer from a renewable energy entity for the supply of 850 megawatts (MW) of mid-merit power for 20 years.

“Through its Third Party Bids and Awards Committee (TB-PAC), Meralco invites interested parties to challenge the offer of Terra Solar, which proposed a P6.0800 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) headline rate and levelized cost of electricity (LCOE),” the company said in a media release sent on Sunday.

Meralco described Terra Solar as an existing entity incorporated by Razon-led Prime Infrastructure Capital, Inc. and Solar Philippines Power Project Holdings, Inc., the holding firm of the solar energy projects led by Leandro L. Leviste.

It said Terra Solar had proposed its solar power plants with an energy storage system in Batangas, Cavite, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, and Zambales, with 600 MW of energy available by Feb. 26, 2026 and an additional 250 MW the year after.

Mid-merit power plants operate to fill the gap between base-

load generation capacity and peak generation capacity.

Meralco said its latest round of competitive selection process (CSP) is in compliance with the Department of Energy’s policy on renewable portfolio standards (RPS) and forms part of Meralco’s efforts to source up to 1,500 MW of its power requirements from renewable energy (RE) sources.

The RPS program requires power distribution utilities, including electric cooperatives and retail electricity suppliers, to source or produce a fraction of

their requirements from eligible RE resources.

The mechanism, which is meant to develop indigenous and environmentally friendly energy sources, sets a minimum annual incremental requirement for the RPS participants, who can opt to buy RE certificates from the market as compliance to the law.

In its invitation to bidders, Meralco said the guaranteed renewable energy certificates to the bid winner is equivalent to 45% of the plant capacity factor with respect to the contract capacity.

The company said that the power supply should have 100% of the 850-MW capacity available for six to 13 hours daily covering the peaking hours of Meralco from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The contract period will start in 2026.

Power companies that are interested in bidding can submit their expression of interest until Feb. 2. A pre-bid conference is set on Feb. 4. The deadline of bid submission is on March 7.

Meralco earlier called on power generation companies to join the CSP for the supply of 170 MW

of peaking power needed for the summer months.

Interested parties had until Jan. 5 to submit expressions of interest for the contract covering the period Feb. 26 to July 25, 2022. The bid submission deadline is on Feb. 2.

Meralco’s controlling stakeholder, Beacon Electric Asset Holdings, Inc., is partly owned by PLDT, Inc. Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary Media-Quest Holdings, Inc., has interest in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Marielle C. Lucenio**

PPP Center aims for more health, climate projects

By Jenina P. Ibañez Senior Reporter

THE Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center wants more projects on health and climate resiliency as it prepares for the next administration.

“With the pandemic still affecting our lives, health projects can help address the challenges that we face in terms of limited hospital beds and facilities, particularly in the regions,” the center said in an e-mail.

“And with the challenge of climate change being felt, worldwide, it becomes imperative for the Philippines to adapt infrastructure that can help mitigate these devastating effects. We have already seen the damage that can be done with the recent destruction brought by Typhoon Odette.”

PPP projects valued at P7.2 billion are in the pipeline, the PPP Center said, covering 63 projects, mostly in the transportation sector.

“Most projects cover transportation (roads, airports, ports),” the center said. “Meanwhile, health, solid waste management projects, water supply projects are of particular interest for local government units.”

The center said that “the next administration can readily pursue and implement these projects.”

PPPs in these sectors are significant because they provide alternative sources for funding amid the government’s limited fiscal space, it added.

“PPPs also allow implementing agencies to gain access to technologies, operational and management expertise that the private sector can provide through their resources, experiences, and expertise.”

The PPP Center maintains that PPPs are still viable options for the next government to roll out infrastructure and development projects.

“As the government continues to grapple with the devastating effects of Typhoon Odette and other climate resiliency issues as well as COVID-19, PPPs can help address the infrastructure gaps in our health and environment sectors.”

The Duterte administration had previously steered clear of PPPs due to allegedly disadvantageous provisions such as subsidies and guarantees.

But the government is working on amending the rules implementing the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Law in a bid to avoid “onerous” contract provisions in PPP projects, or

unwarranted guarantees taking up the country’s fiscal space.

President Rodrigo R. Duterte in November — just eight months before a new administration takes office — named Socio-economic Planning Secretary Karl Kendrick T. Chua as the chairman of a committee that would amend the implementing rules of the law authorizing the private sector to build and operate infrastructure projects.

The PPP Centers said discussions on the rule changes are still ongoing, with a stakeholder consultation set to be done this quarter.

Zy-za Nadine Suzara, executive director of the Institute for Leadership, Empowerment, and Democracy (I-LEAD), said the next administration should consider PPPs as an investment strategy for public infrastructure.

FULL STORY



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OUTLIER

Haus Talk’s debut, growth potential pique investors

INVESTORS snatched up residential real estate developer Haus Talk, Inc. last week, banking on its growth potential after its debut.

Haus Talk ended as the 14th most active trading stock, with P626.99-million worth of 394.53 million shares reported in the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) in the trading week of Jan. 17-21.

Despite a strong debut on Monday, shares in Haus Talk closed at P1.50 apiece on Friday, unchanged from its initial public offering (IPO) price.

“Due to its huge landbank, the growth potential of HTI is what made its strong movement on the first week of its market debut,” Mercantile Securities Corp. Analyst Jeff Radley C. See said in a Viber message, referring to the company’s ticker symbol.

Haus Talk’s performance during its debut on Monday reflected investors’ optimism on the company and the niche market segment it serves, Timson Securities Trader Darren Blaine T. Pangan said in a separate Viber message.

Haus Talk — listed on the small, medium, and emerging board — was the first company to debut this year.

It had raised P700 million from its IPO. Bulk of the proceeds (64%) will be used for land acquisition, 30% for project development, and the remaining for general corporate purposes.

It plans to buy bigger plots of lands worth around P640 million for its projects for development from 2022 up

to 2024, its prospectus said. These lands are located in Antipolo City, Rizal; Bacoor, Cavite; and Calasiao, Pangasinan.

The residential real estate developer was organized in 2004 and is run by Pampanga-based Madlambayan family. Its projects are based in Antipolo City and Laguna province.

To date, the company completed 10 projects that cater to economic, mid-, and high-end market segments. Six of these projects were undertaken by the company’s wholly owned subsidiary, Tradition Homes, Inc.

In the nine months to September 2021, Haus Talk’s revenue surged by 164% to P173.99 million, it said in a disclosure last Friday. It attributed the growth to new projects in Antipolo City (East View Residence Premiere) and San Pedro, Laguna (South View Homes Calendola), which comprised 53% of the total sales.

Its bottom line likewise “increased by 107%,” without providing the net income figures for the period.

“Consistent earnings would compel traders and investors to look after the real estate company,” Mr. See said.

Mr. See placed Haus Talk’s primary support at P1.45 and its resistance at P1.70.

“We’ll have to see in the coming days if support at P1.49 holds; otherwise, P1.65 seems to be the resistance level to watch for this issue,” Mr. Pangan said. — **M.I.U. Catilogo**

PT&T partners with Singapore’s Kacific for satellite internet

LISTED diversified telecommunications company PT&T Corp. said it is working with Kacific Broadband Satellites Ltd., a Singapore-based next-generation broadband satellite operator, to “offer high-speed satellite internet at a more economical cost.”

PT&T intends to expand its presence across the country in order to meet growing demand, a company official said.

The company has launched its latest very small aperture terminal (VSAT) product in partnership with Kacific.

“As the new normal calls for people to follow social distancing and lockdown protocols, the need for reliable internet that is efficient and sustainable has never been timelier and more important, especially in the remote areas,” PT&T Senior Vice-President Ella Mae Ortega said in an e-mailed statement over the weekend.

The company said its broadband satellite internet services is powered by Kacific’s high-throughput Ka-band satellite Kacific1, which spans the Asia-Pacific region.

“The satellite’s beams are received by VSATs, which are small, roof-mounted dishes that transmit and receive data, voice, and video signals over a satellite communication network,” it noted.

“Ka-band technology is designed specifically to provide reliable, high-speed broadband internet to rural and remote populations through concentrated spot beams and simple easy-to-install onsite 1.2m antennas which is cheaper than larger dishes of other VSAT technologies,” it added.

Kacific’s Chief Commercial Officer Brandon Seir said the partnership is expected to further strengthen his company’s position “as a provider who can seamlessly connect rural enterprise, government and residential customers.”

“We will follow a common goal to deliver affordable internet connectivity nationwide and join the rally in driving digital transformation in the country,” he added.

— **Arjay L. Balinbin**

ICTSI: Tanza terminal can receive containers during Roxas Blvd. closure

LISTED port operator International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI) on Sunday said its terminal in Tanza, Cavite is ready to receive containers from the Manila port during the closure of the southbound portion of Roxas Boulevard.

“Enhancements at CGT (Cavite Gateway Terminal)... came at an opportune time with the temporary closure of the southbound portion of Roxas Boulevard,” ICTSI said in an e-mailed statement. The road is part of a cargo truck trade route connecting the Port of Manila to Southern Luzon.

“Close to 900 trucks and over 1,000 trailers daily travel the road’s southbound direction alone,” the company noted.

According to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the two-month closure of Roxas Boulevard southbound lane began on Jan. 15 to give way for the repair of the damaged box culvert directly in front of HK Sun Plaza in Pasay City heading to the EDSA-Roxas Boulevard flyover.

“We support the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority’s (MMDA) call to look for other ways to transport containers, and

we are happy to be able to offer an alternative through the services provided by CGT,” ICTSI Executive Vice-President Christian R. Gonzalez said.

The DPWH said the northbound portion of the road will also be closed for another two months after repairs on the southbound portion are completed by March 15.

In December, officials from ICTSI, Department of Transportation, DPWH, and Philippine Ports Authority met to discuss solutions for trucks and trailers which will be affected by the closure.

Among the solutions considered was transporting container vans via barges from the Manila International Container Terminal to CGT in Tanza, Cavite.

ICTSI said it recently strengthened yard and wharf operations at CGT with the deployment of additional landside container handling equipment and directly contracted barge equipment.

“With an area of six hectares, the CGT has the capacity to handle 115,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent unit annually),” the company added. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**