

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

7,288.21

▲ 35.57 PTS.

▲ 0.49%

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022

BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P873.00 +P11.00 +1.28%	ACEN AC Energy Corp. P9.63 +P0.04 +0.42%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P64.05 +P0.55 +0.87%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P12.36 -P0.06 -0.48%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P34.75 -P0.35 -1.00%	AP Aboitiz Power Corp. P32.50 +P0.15 +0.46%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P127.20 -P0.20 -0.16%	BLOOM Bloomerry Resorts Corp. P6.11 ---	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P94.90 +P1.30 +1.39%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P31.00 +P0.40 +1.31%
GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P3,234.00 -P26.00 -0.80%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P560.00 +P2.50 +0.45%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P202.00 +P1.00 +0.50%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P232.80 +P3.80 +1.66%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P61.00 -P0.05 -0.08%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P10.08 -P0.08 -0.79%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P56.25 -P0.75 -1.32%	MEG Megaworld Corp. P3.20 +P0.05 +1.59%	MER Manila Electric Co. P324.40 +P9.40 +2.98%	MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P03.81 -P0.03 -0.78%
PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P37.00 -P0.40 -1.07%	RLC Robinsons Land Corp. P18.88 -P0.08 -0.42%	RRHI Robinsons Retail Holdings, Inc. P59.00 +P1.05 +1.81%	SECB Security Bank Corp. P107.60 -P2.40 -2.18%	SM SM Investments Corp. P950.00 ---	SMC San Miguel Corp. P112.50 +P0.50 +0.45%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P35.05 +P0.65 +1.89%	TEL PLDT, Inc. P1,886.00 +P27.00 +1.45%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P127.90 ---	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P28.45 +P1.45 +5.37%

Converge, ABS-CBN's Sky Cable top Netflix's Dec. internet speed index in PHL

CONVERGE ICT Solutions, Inc. and ABS-CBN Corp.'s pay television and broadband arm Sky Cable Corp. are the fastest internet service providers (ISP) on Netflix, the media-streaming company's December ISP Speed Index Leaderboard showed.

With a speed of 3.6 megabits per second (Mbps), Converge and Sky Cable have topped the list of major ISPs in the Philippines that provide the best Netflix streaming experience.

Netflix, an American subscription streaming service and production company, said that its ISP Speed Index is a "measure of prime-time Netflix performance on particular ISPs around the globe."

"It is not a measure of overall performance for other services/data that may travel across the specific ISP network."

Both Globe Telecom, Inc. and PLDT, Inc. ranked second with a speed of 3.4 Mbps for the month of December.

Cable and satellite company Royal Cable was third with 3.2 Mbps.

Converge, SKY Cable, Globe, and PLDT all registered an average speed of 3.4 Mbps in October and November, while Royal Cable recorded a speed of 3 Mbps in both months.

For standard definition quality, Netflix recommends a minimum internet download speed of 3 Mbps.

A minimum of 5 Mbps is recommended for high-definition quality.

"Video streaming is one of the most demanding applications on the Internet. It not only requires speed but high-quality connection as well, otherwise users experience buffering, pixelization and slow-loading times," Converge Chief Operations Officer Jesus C. Romero said in an e-mailed statement on Tuesday.

"We have designed our network to have low-delay or latency, no congestion, no packet loss and minimal outages to ensure that our customers have an enjoyable and uninterrupted video viewing experience. We recognize our position in the Netflix ISP Speed Index Philippines as affirmation of the quality service we offer our customers," he added.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has a majority stake in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

Telco DITO targets to increase subscribers to 12M this year

DITO Telecommunity Corp. is aiming to reach 12 million subscribers this year, according to the company's chief administrative officer, Adel A. Tamano, noting that the new telco player easily hit five million subscribers in just nine months last year.

"In less than a year, about nine months, we got five million subscribers. We are hoping to get much more [this] year, and I think it's still a conservative goal. We're only aiming for about 12 million subscribers," Mr. Tamano told CNN Philippines' *New Day* on Tuesday.

"We are also going to be launching products that we hope will change the market," he added.

In a recent disclosure to the stock exchange, listed DITO CME Holdings Corp. said that its telco unit intends to launch a fixed wireless product this year.

"We are currently undergoing a test broadcast to ensure the quality of the product that we will be launching sometime in the first quarter of 2022," DITO CME Investor Relations Officer Leo D. Venezuela was quoted as saying.



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DITO CME, which owns 54% of DITO Telecommunity, is raising P8 billion via a stock rights offering.

"Proceeds will be used to fund our telco services all over the country in fulfillment of the technical audit requirements, and to fulfill our own mission to be a compelling and a competitive alternative telco in service of the Filipino public," DITO CME President Eric R. Alberto said.

The company previously received regulatory approval to extend its stock rights offer through Jan. 25, allowing more qualified investors to obtain additional shares at an "attractive discount."

"The offer price is an 18.4% discount from the closing price as of Jan. 13, allowing eligible shareholders the chance to grow their investment in DITO CME as it sets its eyes on growing the telecom network of DITO Telecommunity and its other digital businesses," the listed company said.

DITO Telecommunity had generated P2 billion in revenue as of Dec. 18, Mr. Tamano said at a virtual briefing in December.

DITO CME handles Udena Corp.'s investments in media, communications, entertainment, and information technology.

It has three digital companies: Unalytics, which provides managed analytics services; Acuity Global, which curates media properties across platforms and provides media planning and buying; and Luna Academy, an online education platform aimed at equipping users with future-ready skills, credentials, and certificates.

DITO CME shares closed 3.90% lower at P5.18 apiece on Tuesday. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

PAL: Direct flights between Manila-Tel Aviv starts in April

FLAG carrier Philippine Airlines, Inc. (PAL) said flights between Manila and Tel Aviv, Israel will begin in April.

"Philippine Airlines will be serving Tel Aviv starting in April. We are working on final arrangements and look forward to making announcements on these developments soon," PAL Spokesperson Cielo C. Villaluna told *BusinessWorld* in a phone message on Tuesday.

Last week, Secretary of Transportation Arthur P. Tugade met with Israeli Ambassador to the Philippines Ilan Fluss to discuss ways to push for PAL's planned Manila-Tel Aviv-Manila flights.

In April last year, PAL announced that it was eyeing twice weekly nonstop flights to Tel Aviv's Gurion international Airport using its Airbus A350 aircraft.

There are over 30,000 Filipinos in Israel, mostly of workers, some students,

and diplomats, according to the Israel Embassy.

In December, Mr. Fluss visited Davao City, the first stop for his goal to strengthen the tourism partnership with the Philippines.

The ambassador expressed optimism for the restoration of over 20,000 Filipino arrivals in 2019 through the direct route.

Mr. Tugade said last week that he requested PAL to coordinate with the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) on the requirements for the plan.

The Department of Transportation (DoTr) chief had advised MIAA and CAAP "to provide the needed assistance to PAL for the seamless facilitation of the flight, within the timeline agreed amongst the DoTr, Embassy of Israel, and PAL," the Transportation department said in a statement. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

Johnson & Johnson Baby First Bath Program, in partnership with MCNAP and IMAP, educates frontliners on newborn skin care

Parents and caregivers understand that safe and gentle products offer the best care for delicate newborn skin. With a market full of product options for babies accompanied by aggressive marketing, parents and caregivers look for assurance that they are making the right product choices in caring for their little ones.

Understanding this, Johnson & Johnson (Philippines), Inc. (J&J) partnered with the Mother and Child Nurses Association of the Philippines (MCNAP) and the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines (IMAP) to educate frontliners on caring for baby's delicate skin as part of its Baby First Bath Program.

Through a series of talks developed for MCNAP and IMAP members, J&J educated participants on the science behind Johnson's Baby CottonTouch products and how they are specially formulated for baby's First Bath in hospitals and lying-in clinics, and for continued use at home.

Johnson's Baby CottonTouch is proven to be 100% gentle on newborn skin even as it protects against irritation, dryness, redness, germs, and pollution. Its smooth and velvety lather also encourages more playful touch, interaction, and eye contact so that less time is spent on functional tasks like washing, making the bath time experience better for babies and parents or caregivers alike.

"In home-use tests, Johnson's CottonTouch wash and lotion were reported to make bath time more interactive and beneficial for both the babies and their parents or caregivers," said J&J's Head of HCP Marketing & Media Elaine Pallasigui. "Imparting this knowledge to MCNAP and IMAP is important as frontliners in child care are key to the success of our Baby First Bath Program. Working with MCNAP allows us to reach moms with newborn babies in the hospitals while IMAP connects us to the moms and babies in lying-in facilities."

"We are grateful to have partnered with J&J for this program as it is aligned with our goal to help more mothers take better care of their babies and ensure that all newborns will have



immediate access to safe and effective products," said the national president of MCNAP, Aileen Ongleo.

Following the implementation of the Baby First Bath Program, Johnson's Baby CottonTouch is now used by nurses and midwives as baby's First Bath in over 390 hospitals and lying-in clinics across the country. Johnson's Baby CottonTouch products are given to the newborns' parents upon discharge so that they can use it at home as well.

In 2021, J&J's Baby First Bath Program reached over 308,000 births or 29% of the estimated 1.05 million births in the Philippines in that year. The program intends to reach 240,000 births in 2022.

Johnson & Johnson has long been giving babies, parents, and healthcare professionals safe and innovative products for newborns that live up to its pure, mild, and gentle promise. For over a hundred years, the company has been dedicated to understanding babies and the special nurturing they need.

PCC says checking scope of Robinsons after Ministop deal

THE Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) is monitoring the scope of a Gokongwei-led firm in the consumer retail sector after it announced the acquisition of the remaining stake of its Japanese partner in local convenience store chain Ministop.

PCC Chairman Arsenio M. Balisacan said in a statement on Tuesday that the agency had received reports "of Ministop Japan's sale to Lotte, including its sale of its joint venture stake in the Philippines."

His statement comes after Robinsons Retail Holdings, Inc. said on Monday that it plans to "repurpose" and "rebrand" its Ministop stores after it fully acquires the franchise in February.

The listed company plans to buy the stake of Japan-based Ministop Co., Ltd. in Robinsons Convenience Stores, Inc. (RCSI) for an undisclosed price. The transaction will bump its stake in RCSI, which is the exclusive franchisee of Ministop in the Philippines, to 100% from its current 60%.

"Based on PCC's merger rules, the commission acknowledges that Robinsons' current majority stake in Ministop already affords them control, and Robinsons is no longer required to notify the proposed acquisition to the antitrust commission," Mr. Balisacan said.

"PCC takes note, however, of the scope of Robinsons' portfolio in the consumer retail sector which includes

supermarkets, department stores, and community malls, among others," he added.

According to Mr. Balisacan, merger reviews are concentrated on the effects and changes of market behavior in the possession of new owners or stakeholders.

"This transaction may result in a change in ownership of a significant portion of equity, but it is not likely to have an effect on the economic behavior of the target firm," Mr. Balisacan said.

"[PCC] will continue to monitor on acquisitions of notable brands and sizable firms to prevent the substantial lessening of competition in the market," he added. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**