

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

7,009.43

▲ 0.49 PT.

▲ 0.007%

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022

BusinessWorld

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P791.00 +P14.00 +1.80%	ACEN AC Energy Corp. P8.03 +P0.06 +0.75%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P57.30 +P0.30 +0.53%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P12.80 -P0.20 -1.54%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P35.35 +P0.40 +1.14%	AP Aboitiz Power Corp. P35.40 +P0.75 +2.16%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P130.00 -P0.40 -0.31%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P98.95 -P0.05 -0.05%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P26.80 +P1.50 +5.93%	EMP Emperador, Inc. P14.70 +P0.70 +5.00%
GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,408.00 +P20.00 +0.84%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P506.00 -P1.00 -0.20%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P220.40 -P7.40 -3.25%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P210.40 +P5.40 +2.63%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P56.70 -P1.30 -2.24%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P9.08 -P0.08 -0.87%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P53.95 -P0.25 -0.46%	MEG Megaworld Corp. P3.05 ---	MER Manila Electric Co. P374.00 +P4.20 +1.14%	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P13.42 -P0.06 -0.45%
MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P3.75 ---	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P32.50 +P0.30 +0.93%	RLC Robinsons Land Corp. P20.00 -P0.40 -1.96%	SECB Security Bank Corp. P109.20 -P0.80 -0.73%	SM SM Investments Corp. P867.00 -P15.00 -1.70%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P109.00 +P0.30 +0.28%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P38.90 -P0.15 -0.38%	TEL PLDT, Inc. P1,785.00 +P53.00 +3.06%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P111.90 +P3.80 +3.52%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P26.10 -P0.60 -2.25%

Globe subsidiary Asticom Technology plans IPO in five years

GLOBE Telecom, Inc.'s wholly owned Asticom Technology, Inc., a shared services company, said on Wednesday that it plans to go public in five years.

"It is part of our five-year plan to go public, to have that IPO (initial public offering). So yes, that is part of the growth strategy of the Asticom Group of Companies in order for us to continue growing the portfolio

of services," Asticom President and Chief Executive Officer Mharicar Castillo-Reyes said during a virtual press briefing.

She also said the group will soon launch a staffing and platform company that will "revolutionize the staffing solution industry."

Asticom has formed various subsidiaries, including Asti Business Services,

Inc. (ABSI), Fiber Infrastructure and Network Services, Inc. (FINSI), BRAD Warehouse and Logistics Services, and HCX Technology Partners, Inc.

Created in 2021, ABSI serves as Asticom's business process solutions arm.

FINSI, which was also created in 2021, offers end-to-end services and industry-specific solutions to telecommunica-

tions, tower, infrastructure, and technology, including construction, building, installation, and maintenance services.

BRAD is an end-to-end supply chain technology solutions provider. Its services are tailor-fit for different industries, including e-commerce, food and beverage, health and wellness, and telecommunications.

Meanwhile, HCX is a provider of human resources, customer relationship management, and digital solutions.

The group announced in January that it had reached P2 billion in revenues as of the fourth quarter of 2021.

Globe Telecom shares closed 0.84% higher at P2,408 apiece on Wednesday. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

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- THAI SPEAKING CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER
- VIETNAM SPEAKING CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER
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SEC approves Bacolod hospital IPO



THE Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has approved the initial public offering (IPO) of Asia-Pacific Medical Center Bacolod, Inc., or APMC Bacolod.

In its March 22 meeting, the commission sitting en banc, resolved to render effective the Bacolod City-based medical facility's offering of common shares worth up to P1 billion, subject to the compliance of remaining requirements.

"APMC Bacolod will offer to the public 3,600 blocks composed of 10 shares each, at an offer price ranging from P250,000 to P400,000 per block. The shares will be traded over the counter," the SEC said in a media release on Wednesday.

The net proceeds from the offering is expected to amount to P997.52 million, which the company will use for the building and construction, loan payment, working capital, and

other expenses related to its P2.6-billion medical facility in Bacolod.

APMC Bacolod will be a "multidisciplinary facility that will house medical and dental specialists who are subscribers to the capital stock of the corporation." The intended and considered markets for its shares are mostly specialists and individuals related to these specialties, the company said in its prospectus.

APMC Bacolod is currently developing a state-of-the-art medical facility under Allied Care Experts Medical Center Bacolod, Inc.

In 2018, the deed of absolute sale was signed to acquire a lot for the center's site located along Lacson St., beside the Ceres Northbound Terminal, in Brgy. Bata, Bacolod City.

APMC Bacolod said it aims to set up a Level 2 healthcare facility with an "organized, systematic,

cost-effective, sympathetic and holistic approach to its goal in providing the best quality and justifiable medical and dental services to its clients and stakeholder."

The new facility will provide services to residents of Bacolod City, nearby barangays and municipalities, and the whole province.

"Enormous task is expected and ahead of us but we are holding on to the vision of our founders and leaders, with dedication, faith in God and a burning passion to work together to cater to the people of Negros of their medical and health needs. Soon, there will rise a 250-bed capacity tertiary care medical center that is state of the art and of international standards, in the heart of Sugarlandia," APMC Bacolod said in a statement.

In Western Visayas, there are three hospitals under the banner

of Asia-Pacific Medical Center — in Aklan, Bacolod and Iloilo.

In June 2021, the SEC approved the initial public offering of Asia-Pacific Medical Center Aklan, Inc., covering 240,000 common shares.

APMC Aklan offered 35,420 shares, equivalent to 3,600 blocks or 10 shares per block at an offer price ranging from P250,000 to P350,000 per block. It expected to net P983 million from the offer.

APMC Aklan is currently constructing a seven-story, 216-bed health care facility worth P1.3 billion. The project is slated for completion by the second quarter of 2023.

The hospital will include doctors and dentists' clinics, office area for the health maintenance organization, administration office, parking lots, commercial area, and waiting areas for patients. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**

Concepcion: Whether four-day workweek or WFH, goal is still economic recovery

Whether it's a four-day workweek or a hybrid/flexible work arrangement, Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship Joey Concepcion said the goal is still to keep the engines of the economy going.

"Let's not lose sight of the goal," said the Go Negosyo founder. Concepcion said that he supports the return of employees to on-site work because it will encourage economic activity. He reiterated the importance of increased economic activity that results from employees returning to the workplace.

"Many small businesses such as cafeterias and transportation are built around employees' presence in the offices. Encouraging people to return to the offices will spur economic activity among these MSMEs," he said.

However, Concepcion believes that while hybrid work or a continuation of work-from-home arrangement may be possible for white-collar jobs and even BPOs, it may not be the case for employees who need to perform on-site work in manufacturing plants, render essential services, or handle physical goods.

"People who work in the factories, move goods, or perform services, they can't do their work from home," he said. "At this point, we are already learning what works for one doesn't necessarily work for the other. I'm sure many will be open to the idea of a hybrid work-from-home arrangement, or for four-day workweeks, but we can't

have the same solution for everybody," he said.

Moreover, he said that a four-day workweek for everybody might not be ideal as there are businesses that rely on regular work shifts to produce goods for consumers." A four-day workweek may not be enough to produce the goods that the market needs or for businesses to stay afloat," he said.

The Go Negosyo founder said that imposing a four-day workweek arrangement for all businesses might disrupt workflows and affect costs, especially on businesses that rely on on-site work to be performed.

It was earlier proposed that workers render 40 hours of work per week over four 10-hour days in order to help businesses cut costs and insulate workers from rising fuel prices. It was made clear, however, that government can only encourage, not obligate, the private sector to adopt a four-day workweek arrangement. The Labor Code does not prescribe the minimum number of working days in a week, and workers' consent will also have to be sought as the 10-hour workdays will mean setting aside the eight-hour workday.

"The imposition of a four-day workweek will have to be subject to government policies and guidelines which might take time to revise," said Concepcion. "Meanwhile, we have to keep the economy open so more industries can offer jobs, and reduce the unemployment in the country."

CLI The East Village towers done by 2026

REAL estate developer Cebu Landmasters, Inc. (CLI) said that the development of The East Village's first three towers at Davao Global Township (DGT) will be completed in the third quarter of 2026.

"The East Village at DGT is the first residential development in the township with over 2,000 residential unit offerings spread across the 6-tower vertical village. The newly launched and sold-out three towers with a total of 1,087 units will break ground in the second quarter of 2022 and are scheduled for completion in the third quarter of 2026," CLI said in a disclosure on Wednesday.

The East Village and DGT are both projects of YHEST Realty Development Corp., CLI's joint venture with the Yuson, Huang and Tan families belonging to the Villa-Abrille clan of Davao.

CLI reported that it sold out all units in the three towers, generating P4.068 billion in sales.

"Positioned as the most connected, green, and generous abode designed for the global Filipino, the record high sales turnout of The East Village shows that the development captured the robust demand in Davao City for residential units within a premier township designed to meet world-class standards," CLI said.

The residential units are a mix of studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units with floor areas from 22.3 to 75 square meters (sq.m.). Prices range from P118,800 per sq.m. to P150,000 per sq.m. for the first three towers. The East Village, along with a lifestyle mall and cultural center, is part of first phase of the 22-hectare DGT, which is close to completion, CLI said.

"DGT is envisioned to transform the former Matina Davao Golf Club into a global and iconic central business district. It will host the headquarters of top corporations in the country, office hubs of BPOs and multinational-

als; it will have a hospital, retail, civic spaces and a central park. It will be a development that dynamic Davao City truly deserves," YHEST President Fred Yuson said.

Part of DGT's initial phase is the P700-million lifestyle mall, DGT City Center. It will be complemented by the P200-million DGT Cultural Center, with showrooms, museum spaces, and theater, among other features.

CLI said it is developing other townships, including the 100-hectare Minglanilla Techno Business Park in Cebu, the 14-hectare Manresa Town in Cagayan de Oro, and more future estate projects in Cebu and Bacolod.

The company posted an attributable net income of P535.96 million in the third quarter last year, down 24.5% year on year. Its nine-month income went up by 23.3% to P1.85 billion.

At the stock exchange, CLI shares were unchanged at P2.97 apiece on Wednesday. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**

First Gen test-drives integrated EV project

FIRST Gen Corp. has launched on Wednesday its electric vehicle (EV) initiative called GreenWheels, a project that the company said will bring it closer to carbon neutrality.

"EVs do not spew CO₂ (carbon dioxide) and other pollutants into the atmosphere, and these vehicles' increasing popularity now expands their role in reducing emissions from the transport sector. By utilizing a solar-powered charging station, even the power used to charge the EVs becomes clean. This further optimizes and enhances the role of EVs in cutting down CO₂ emissions and mitigating climate change," First Gen President Francis Giles B. Puno said in a media release.

The project will be used inside the company's Clean Energy Complex in Batangas City, supporting its push for reduced carbon emissions.

First Gen said under the GreenWheels project, it developed a fast EV charging station, which can accommodate multiple EVs, inside the complex.

"For the test vehicle, First Gen has acquired a Nissan LEAF, one of the first passenger EVs to hit the Philippine market," it said.

After the pilot testing, the electric vehicle unit was calculated to be able to reduce 3 tons of carbon emissions after a 50-kilometer drive a day. A car that runs on fossil fuel can emit the same amount of carbon emission in a year.

The same calculations showed the acquired car can run up to 311 kilometers in one full charge.

Mr. Puno said the transport sector is a "crucial" factor in mitigating climate change.

"As part, therefore, of our mission to forge collaborative pathways for a decarbonized and regenerative future, we are pilot-testing the GreenWheels Project to understand its potential in reducing our carbon footprint and evaluate the feasibility later of developing it," he said.

On Monday, First Gen reported that it ended last year with "flat earnings" of P12.4 billion attributable to equity holders due to more expensive fuel prices offsetting higher electricity sales as power demand recovered to pre-pandemic levels.

First Gen shares at the local bourse went up 30 centavos or 1.24% to close at P24.55 apiece on Wednesday. — **Marielle C. Luceno**