

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,168.00 ▼ 117.19 PTS. ▼ 1.86%

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2022  
BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

<b>AC</b> Ayala Corp. P629.00 -P1.00 -0.16%	<b>ACEN</b> AC Energy Corp. P7.38 +P0.03 +0.41%	<b>AEV</b> Aboltiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P48.95 -P0.25 -0.51%	<b>AGI</b> Alliance Global Group, Inc. P9.20 -P0.15 -1.60%	<b>ALI</b> Ayala Land, Inc. P26.50 -P1.15 -4.16%	<b>AP</b> Aboltiz Power Corp. P28.85 -P0.55 -1.87%	<b>BDO</b> BDO Unibank, Inc. P120.00 -P3.00 -2.44%	<b>BPI</b> Bank of the Philippine Islands P91.00 -P1.60 -1.73%	<b>CNVRG</b> Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P19.30 -P0.02 -0.10%	<b>EMP</b> Emperador, Inc. P18.90 +P0.70 +3.85%
<b>GLO</b> Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,100.00 ---	<b>GTCAP</b> GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P478.00 -P10.00 -2.05%	<b>ICT</b> International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P186.70 -P8.40 -4.31%	<b>JFC</b> Jollibee Foods Corp. P195.00 -P1.80 -0.91%	<b>JGS</b> JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P48.30 -P1.60 -3.21%	<b>LTG</b> LT Group, Inc. P8.10 ---	<b>MBT</b> Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P49.50 -P0.85 -1.69%	<b>MEG</b> Megaworld Corp. P2.25 -P0.07 -3.02%	<b>MER</b> Manila Electric Co. P371.20 +P0.20 +0.05%	<b>MONDE</b> Monde Nissin Corp. P13.40 -P0.04 -0.30%
<b>MPI</b> Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P3.60 -P0.02 -0.55%	<b>PGOLD</b> Puregold Price Club, Inc. P31.00 ---	<b>RLC</b> Robinsons Land Corp. P16.34 -P0.66 -3.88%	<b>SECB</b> Security Bank Corp. P89.00 -P0.15 -0.17%	<b>SM</b> SM Investments Corp. P763.00 -P11.00 -1.42%	<b>SMC</b> San Miguel Corp. P101.00 -P0.80 -0.79%	<b>SMPH</b> SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P35.10 -P1.35 -3.70%	<b>TEL</b> PLDT, Inc. P1,760.00 -P30.00 -1.68%	<b>URC</b> Universal Robina Corp. P96.50 -P0.50 -0.52%	<b>WLCON</b> Wilcon Depot, Inc. P23.05 -P0.15 -0.65%

# Telcos renew support for SIM card registration bill

By Arjay L. Balinbin Senior Reporter

THE country's major mobile network operators said on Wednesday that they are ready to support the legislative process for the proposed measure mandating the registration of subscriber identity module or SIM cards under the Marcos administration.

PLDT, Inc.'s wireless arm unit Smart Communications, Inc., Globe Telecom, Inc., and DITO Telecommunity Corp. issued statements on Wednesday expressing their support for the bill that was previously vetoed by President Rodrigo R. Duterte.

Senator Grace S. Poe-Llamanazares, who chairs the Senate committee on public services, said on June 15 that she intends to refile her original bill.

The bill will "ensure consumer protection," PLDT's Smart said.

"As a longtime advocate of consumer online protection, Smart has been actively implementing initiatives to keep our customers safe, especially from scams and fraud," Alfredo S. Panlilio, PLDT and Smart president and chief executive officer, said in an e-mailed statement.

"We are always ready to support the legislative process. We welcome any opportunity to contribute to the success of the SIM card registration bill and support the government in developing its implementing rules and regulations," he added.

PLDT and Smart recently said that more than 23 million SMS containing three URLs identified as phishing sites have been blocked.

In a statement to *BusinessWorld*, Globe said its support for the bill is "part of our commitment to support the government in its fight against fraud, terrorism and other crimes."

"It also paves the way for greater digital and financial inclusion."

At the same time, it noted that the National ID system rollout should be completed for this proposed measure to be successful, "as we need a reliable and verifiable source of identification to lay the foundation for a credible database."

"This is a critical component in ensuring mobile phone users are protected against text scams and crimes perpetrated in anonymity."

"We look forward to working with Congress in threshing out critical issues surrounding the bill's proposed implementation once enacted into law, particularly in addressing challenges on the timetable for registration of tens of millions of SIM cards currently in use," it added.

The company has around 87 million mobile customers out of the more than 120 million total mobile customers in the country. It said that around 95% of these customers are using prepaid SIMs.

For his part, DITO Chief Administrative Officer Adel A. Tamano said the company is "ready for it."

"We support the government's objective to protect the public from criminality based on the use of unregistered SIM cards," he said in a statement to *BusinessWorld*.

Malacañang said that Mr. Duterte vetoed the bill because such a measure could result in "dangerous state intrusion and surveillance, threatening many constitutionally protected rights," as it also calls for the registration of social media accounts.

The proposed measure sets penalties for anyone who registers a SIM card using false information.

Ms. Poe has said that she intends to talk with her fellow senators in the incoming 19th Congress to "rally support for the measure to help expedite deliberations."

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.

## Great Deals ties up with Lazada to improve logistics

GREAT DEALS E-commerce Corp. has partnered with Lazada to improve its logistics in Visayas and Mindanao with the launch of fulfillment centers.

In a statement on Wednesday, Great Deals said the new fulfillment centers in Cebu City and Davao City will allow customers to receive their parcels three days after placing an order.

"The building of fulfillment centers in Cebu and Davao showcases Lazada and Great Deals' advanced logistics, warehousing and fulfillment capabilities, pioneering hyper-localization in terms of using nationwide geotagging technology in the country's online shopping industry," Great Deals said.

According to Great Deals, the hyper-localized strategy assists brands in setting up in key locations and reaching customers in nearby areas faster and more efficiently. It also brings an improved online shopping experience to Visayas and Mindanao via shorter delivery time and reduced shipping fee costs.

"Lazada's partner brands will also soon be brought closer to their customers in Mindanao, as Great Deals is set to open a fulfillment center in Davao in July 2022," the company said.

Steve Sy, Great Deals founder and chief executive officer, said that they are

looking to onboard more brands in the new project.

"We look forward to onboarding more brands in this new project, and we are grateful for the continued support of Lazada for making this happen as Great Deals is constantly looking for ways to improve customer experience with our brands and consumers and to be there to assist them to penetrate local markets nationwide, reduce shipping fees, and shorten delivery time," Mr. Sy said.

"Lazada supercharged the way Filipinos shopped in Luzon, particularly in Metro Manila, even at the height of the pandemic in 2020. Now, we want to help replicate and bring that to Visayas and Mindanao to reach a bigger portion of our Filipino consumers," he added.

Separately, Great Deals said it has begun the development of its 70,000-square meter fulfillment center in San Rafael, Bulacan, which will utilize robots to scale up to a million orders daily.

"Customer experience is our utmost priority, and through these fulfillment centers, we wish to reach more Filipinos and let them experience the power of online shopping. We are at the forefront of the online shopping experience. We are constantly looking for local solutions to our local problems," Mr. Sy said. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

## SES says satellites with 'fiber-like speeds' will be locally available next year

SES S.A., a Luxembourg-based satellite communications services provider, said on Wednesday that it will bring more advanced satellite technology to the Philippines next year to aid the country's digitalization efforts.

The company's "Second-Generation Medium Earth Orbit Satellites," or O3b mPOWER, will be "available in the Philippines in 2023," Rob Marabut, business development director at SES, said during a virtual press briefing.

He said this technology will support a variety of requirements from major sectors such as mobile network operators, government, maritime, and mining, among others.

In Southeast Asia, the Philippines has the second-highest number of internet users at 79 million next to Indonesia's 171.2 million, Jose del Rosario, research director at Northern Sky Research, said during his presentation.

The Philippines is "quite good" in terms of internet penetration at 72.1%, but requirements per user are increasing, Mr. Del Rosario said.

"Why satellites? It's part of everyday life and there are tremendous benefits to mankind."

Among these benefits are "instant infrastructure, robust and reliable infrastructure, and it is the only viable solution in underserved and remote locations," he added.

According to SES, its O3b mPOWER has "fiber-like speeds," which will "enable the delivery of cloud computing applications and services to power digital inclusion, while connecting communities and industries regardless of the remoteness of their location."

"When its services become available in early 2023, O3b mPOWER's reliable and fiber-like connectivity will play a key role in driving commercial and economic developments throughout the Philippines," it added.

Mr. Del Rosario expects that the Philippines will create a robust and thriving space industry to support the country's involvement and cooperation.

According to its website, SES, which supplies video and data connectivity worldwide, has over 70 satellites in two different orbits. It is serving one billion television viewers, seven out of the top 10 global telecom companies, four out of the world's six major cruise liners, and 58 government organizations. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

## SariSuki launches speedy grocery delivery service Supah

SOCIAL commerce startup SariSuki has introduced a new rapid grocery delivery service called Supah that delivers groceries across select parts of Metro Manila.

During a media round table in Pasig City on Wednesday, SariSuki Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer Brian P. Cu said that Supah offers a delivery service for grocery items such as snacks, condiments, beverages, fresh produce, and dry and frozen goods within 15 minutes.

Supah's delivery services are currently available in Makati City, Bonifacio Global City in Taguig, Pasig City, Mandaluyong City, San Juan City, Binondo district in City of Manila, and both New Manila and Timog areas of Quezon City.

"Our business puts tremendous value on our customers' time and needs. We see doing the grocery as effortless,

time-saving and economical, while still making it possible to attend to other things. Thanks to our efficient ecosystem of suppliers, vendors and riders, we are able to fulfill this commitment without a delivery fee," Mr. Cu said.

Supah currently has eight "dark stores" where the goods are stored, and over 100 riders that cater close to 5 million people, and categorizes under quick commerce.

Mr. Cu, a former president of Grab Philippines, said that Supah has been "quietly tested" since March over certain areas and has garnered a positive response, adding that the company raised around \$11 million last year to fund the new venture.

"When we first started it, no one thinks they need 15 groceries until they get groceries in 15 minutes, sometimes even a little bit less. The goal of Supah is [to] help reduce the time used up by

today's busy consumers in going to the supermarket, and in spending time away from the other activities that they can use with the time that they have," Mr. Cu said.

Lance Y. Gokongwei, JG Summit Holdings, Inc. president and chief executive, said that the company can help Supah by making products from its Universal Robina Corp. (URC) more accessible.

JG Summit's corporate venture capital, JG Digital Equity Ventures (JGDEV), is an investor in SariSuki. Mr. Gokongwei is also a board director of SariSuki.

"I think my role really is to advise and provide some experience that I can share. As far as the JG Summit resource, of course, our ecosystem, we want to help as much as possible in terms of making products, for instance, from URC as accessible as possible to the company," Mr. Gokongwei said.

"Supah offers great potential as it tries to address the consumers' evolving needs in grocery shopping by finding the optimal balance among several critical factors like speed, assortment, value, and convenience. This innovative technology will help shape the future of grocery shopping in the country," he added.

Moving forward, Mr. Cu said that the company seeks to expand, saying that 40 dark stores is enough to cover the entirety of Metro Manila.

"We're looking at expansion. But we want to prove (there's) enough demand in the existing stores that we have now before we start investing in expansion," Mr. Cu said.

"To cover the entire Metro Manila in 15 minutes, we need to have 40 dark stores. But we're not saying that we're going to go to 40 next year," he added. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

**Manulife**

Single Pricing Investment Funds of Variable Life Insurance Contracts

Fund	Current Week	Unit Price	
		June 21, 2022	June 14, 2022
Peso Secure Fund	1.662	1.667	1.667
Peso Diversified Value Fund	1.823	1.834	1.834
Peso Growth Fund	2.663	2.717	2.717
Peso Dynamic Allocation Fund	0.951	0.964	0.964
Peso Target Distribution Fund	0.760	0.767	0.767
Peso Cash Fund	1.016	1.016	1.016
Peso Wealth Optimizer 2025 Fund	0.892	0.902	0.902
Peso Wealth Optimizer 2031 Fund	0.843	0.856	0.856
Peso Wealth Optimizer 2036 Fund	0.824	0.839	0.839
Powerhouse Fund	0.780	0.797	0.797
Emperador Fund	0.805	0.823	0.823
USD Secure Fund	1.485	1.485	1.485
USD Asia Pacific Bond Fund	1.036	1.040	1.040
USD Global Target Income Fund	0.738	0.743	0.743
USD ASEAN Growth Fund	1.474	1.499	1.499
USD Asia Pacific Property Income Fund	0.844	0.865	0.865
PHP Asia Pacific Property Income Fund	0.854	0.863	0.863
PHP Tiger Growth Fund	0.711	0.697	0.697
PHP Tiger Growth Fund	0.624	0.620	0.620
PHP Global Preferred Securities Income Fund	0.950	0.960	0.960
USD Global Preferred Securities Income Fund	0.837	0.858	0.858
PHP US Growth Fund	0.917	0.925	0.925
USD US Growth Fund	0.796	0.814	0.814
PHP Global Health Fund	0.965	0.961	0.961
USD Global Health Fund	0.928	0.937	0.937
PHP Global Multi-Asset Income Fund	0.991	0.999	0.999
USD Global Multi-Asset Income Fund	0.958	0.980	0.980

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

**Manulife**

Dual Pricing Investment Funds of Variable Life Insurance Contracts

Fund	Current Week	Unit Bid Price	
		June 21, 2022	June 14, 2022
Peso Bond Fund	2.830	2.837	2.837
Peso Stable Fund	2.760	2.778	2.778
Peso Equity Fund	1.989	2.029	2.029
Peso Balanced Fund	0.973	0.986	0.986
Peso Target Income Fund	0.775	0.782	0.782
U.S. Dollar Bond Fund	2.121	2.127	2.127

  

Fund	Current Week	Unit Offer Price	
		June 21, 2022	June 14, 2022
Peso Bond Fund	2.873	2.880	2.880
Peso Stable Fund	2.802	2.820	2.820
Peso Equity Fund	2.019	2.060	2.060
Peso Balanced Fund	0.988	1.001	1.001
Peso Target Income Fund	0.787	0.794	0.794
U.S. Dollar Bond Fund	2.153	2.159	2.159

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**Manulife China Bank**

Single Pricing Investment Funds of Variable Life Insurance Contracts

Fund	Current Week	Unit Price	
		June 21, 2022	June 14, 2022
Peso Secure Fund	1.662	1.666	1.666
Peso Diversified Value Fund	1.794	1.805	1.805
Peso Growth Fund	2.596	2.649	2.649
Peso Dynamic Allocation Fund	0.947	0.960	0.960
Peso Target Distribution Fund	0.754	0.761	0.761
Peso Cash Fund	0.989	0.989	0.989
Peso Wealth Optimizer 2025 Fund	0.840	0.850	0.850
Peso Wealth Optimizer 2031 Fund	0.789	0.801	0.801
Peso Wealth Optimizer 2036 Fund	0.783	0.777	0.777
Powerhouse Fund	0.781	0.786	0.786
USD Secure Fund	1.471	1.477	1.477
USD Asia Pacific Bond Fund	1.011	1.017	1.017
USD Global Target Income Fund	0.744	0.749	0.749
USD ASEAN Growth Fund	1.452	1.470	1.470
ChinaBank Dollar Fund Income VUL Fund	0.991	0.990	0.990
USD Asia First Fund	1.184	1.189	1.189
USD Asia Pacific Property Income Fund	0.845	0.867	0.867
PHP Asia Pacific Property Income Fund	0.865	0.874	0.874
PHP Tiger Growth Fund	0.719	0.705	0.705
USD Tiger Growth Fund	0.631	0.627	0.627
PHP Global Preferred Securities Income Fund	0.944	0.954	0.954
USD Global Preferred Securities Income Fund	0.840	0.861	0.861
PHP US Growth Fund	0.900	0.908	0.908
USD US Growth Fund	0.794	0.812	0.812
PHP Global Health Fund	0.959	0.958	0.958
USD Global Health Fund	0.930	0.939	0.939

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**Manulife China Bank**

Dual Pricing Investment Funds of Variable Life Insurance Contracts

Fund	Current Week	Unit Bid Price	
		June 21, 2022	June 14, 2022
Peso Bond Fund	1.961	1.967	1.967
Peso Stable Fund	1.828	1.840	1.840
Peso Equity Fund	1.795	1.832	1.832
Peso Balanced Fund	0.960	0.974	0.974
Peso Target Income Fund	0.768	0.775	0.775
U.S. Dollar Bond Fund	1.539	1.545	1.545

  

Fund	Current Week	Unit Offer Price	
		June 21, 2022	June 14, 2022
Peso Bond Fund	1.991	1.997	1.997
Peso Stable Fund	1.896	1.896	1.896
Peso Equity Fund	1.822	1.865	1.865
Peso Balanced Fund	0.975	0.989	0.989
Peso Target Income Fund	0.780	0.787	0.787
U.S. Dollar Bond Fund	1.562	1.569	1.569

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