

## Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,352.32

▼ 92.69 PTS.

▼ 1.43%

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2022

BusinessWorld

## PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

<b>AC</b> Ayala Corp. P654.00 +P4.00 +0.62%	<b>ACEN</b> AC Energy Corp. P8.16 -P0.24 -2.86%	<b>AEV</b> Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P50.15 +P0.75 +1.52%	<b>AGI</b> Alliance Global Group, Inc. P9.60 -P0.20 -2.04%	<b>ALI</b> Ayala Land, Inc. P26.15 -P0.75 -2.79%	<b>AP</b> Aboitiz Power Corp. P29.95 -P0.35 -1.16%	<b>BDO</b> BDO Unibank, Inc. P116.30 -P3.20 -2.68%	<b>BPI</b> Bank of the Philippine Islands P87.30 -P1.60 -1.80%	<b>CNVRG</b> Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P21.20 +P0.25 +1.19%	<b>EMP</b> Emperador, Inc. P17.70 -P0.20 -1.12%
<b>GLO</b> Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,240.00 ---	<b>GTCAP</b> GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P488.00 ---	<b>ICT</b> International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P186.20 -P8.10 -4.17%	<b>JFC</b> Jollibee Foods Corp. P205.00 -P2.00 -0.97%	<b>JGS</b> JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P50.00 -P2.50 -4.76%	<b>LTG</b> LT Group, Inc. P8.20 -P0.29 -3.42%	<b>MBT</b> Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P48.75 +P0.20 +0.41%	<b>MEG</b> Megaworld Corp. P2.28 +P0.04 +1.79%	<b>MER</b> Manila Electric Co. P350.00 -P8.00 -2.23%	<b>MONDE</b> Monde Nissin Corp. P13.36 -P1.04 -7.22%
<b>MPI</b> Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P3.63 -P0.01 -0.27%	<b>PGOLD</b> Puregold Price Club, Inc. P31.65 +P0.30 +0.96%	<b>RLC</b> Robinsons Land Corp. P18.28 +P0.30 +1.67%	<b>SECB</b> Security Bank Corp. P89.75 +P0.55 +0.62%	<b>SM</b> SM Investments Corp. P844.00 +P5.00 +0.60%	<b>SMC</b> San Miguel Corp. P105.00 +P0.30 +0.29%	<b>SMPH</b> SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P37.25 -P0.50 -1.32%	<b>TEL</b> PLDT, Inc. P1,693.00 -P65.00 -3.70%	<b>URC</b> Universal Robina Corp. P115.80 -P2.40 -2.03%	<b>WLCON</b> Wilcon Depot, Inc. P23.55 +P0.55 +2.39%

## Cold chain logistics firm files P1.5-billion IPO

ISOC Cold Chain Logistics, Inc. has filed with the corporate regulator an application to hold an initial public offering (IPO) of shares worth nearly P1.5 billion to fund, among others, its expansion plans.

The company, which operates under the business name ORCA Cold Chain Solutions, plans to sell 1.035 billion common shares in its primary offer, 444.8 million common shares via a secondary offer, and 222 million common shares as an overallotment option.

In its filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, ISOC plans to sell a total of 1.702 billion shares, including the option shares, priced at up to P0.88 apiece.

“[ISOC] intends to use the net proceeds, estimated to be P841.1 million, for land acquisition, expansion of existing facilities to accommodate additional VAS (value-added services), development of new cold storage facilities, and general corporate purposes,” it said in its preliminary prospectus.

ISOC is a pioneering company that utilizes the latest technology and process innovation in the cold storage industry. Its shares will be traded on the Small, Medium and Emerging Board of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Its facilities support the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccination drives of



REUTERS/LOISA LOPEZ

various local government units by establishing dedicated loading bays, transport paths, and storage spaces for the vaccines.

It has a total installed capacity of one million doses and serviced the storage requirements for COVID-19 vaccines.

In its prospectus, ISOC reported a net loss of P312.4 million at the end of 2021, which is a decrease from its P356.1-million loss for 2020.

Its revenues last year increased by 15.4% to P339.7 million from P294.3 million previously.

Of the secondary offer shares, 266,880,000 will come from selling shareholder ISOC Holdings, Inc. and 177.92 million from Philware Magnate, Inc. They also own the option shares.

Proceeds from the option shares may be used for price stabilization transactions by purchasing common shares in the open market for a period not exceeding 30 calendar days from the listing date.

ISOC has engaged Investment & Capital Corporation of the Philippines to arrange the sale share and has set the offer period to commence at 9 a.m. on Oct. 20 and end at 12 p.m. on Oct. 26, 2022.

The final offer price will be determined through a book-building process after securing regulatory approval.

The company said that at present, the competition within the Philippine cold chain logistics industry is “moderately fragmented” in nature, with the presence of 27 non-captive players among 40 to 60 total players in the country’s frozen storage industry.

It counts itself as among the top five industry participants, which collectively accounted for 52% of the local cold storage pallet capacity as of 2019. — **Justine Irish DP. Tabile**

## Monde Nissin says ethylene oxide not added in noodles

MONDE Nissin Corp. said on Thursday that Lucky Me! products do not contain ethylene oxide, which it described as commonly used to treat spices and seeds to control microbial growth.

In a statement, the listed company said that it is aware of information being shared about some of its products in an ongoing recall in the European Union (EU) and Taiwan due to the presence of the chemical.

“Rest assured that all Lucky Me! products are Philippine FDA (Food and Drug Administration) registered and

comply with local food safety standards and even the US FDA standards for ethylene oxide,” the company said.

Monde Nissin clarified that ethylene oxide is not added in its popular noodle brand, but when used as a treatment for agricultural products, traces of these materials may still show in processed seasoning and sauces.

“The recall affects other companies’ noodle brand[s] and multiple categories such as ice cream, sesame seed, spices, calcium carbonate supplements, among others,” it said.

The company’s statement came after the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) released on Wednesday a food alert about the recall of Lucky Me! Instant Pancit Canton Noodles Original Flavor with a best-before date of July 20 for the presence of the “unauthorized pesticide” ethylene oxide.

FSAI said that ethylene oxide is not authorized for use in foods sold in the EU and that even though it doesn’t pose acute risks to health, there may be health issues if there is continued consumption.

Monde Nissin, a global food and beverages company based in the Philippines, has a portfolio of market-leading brands across fast-growing categories, including Lucky Me! noodles, SkyFlakes crackers, Fita crackers, Monde Nissin baked goods and Quorn meat alternative products.

In the Philippines, Monde Nissin’s manufacturing plants are located in Laguna, Cebu, and Davao.

On Thursday, shares in the company fell by 7.22% or P1.04, finishing at P13.36 apiece. — **Justine Irish DP. Tabile**

## Pilmico launches hog feed brand to boost production

PILMICO Foods Corp. announced on Thursday that it launched an improved hog feed brand to help boost swine farmers’ production.

“Elite XP was revamped to provide a better nutrition solution for hogs as an answer to the continued threats to swine health. The leveled-up formulation contains new features,” the Aboitiz group’s food and agribusiness unit said in a media release.

Among the improvements are an immuno-growth factor and Piglet+ Technology, designed to strengthen the health and improve the growth of pigs and optimize breeder pigs’ full genetic potential. “With Elite XP’s new formula that helps speed up the efficient growth and productivity of pigs, Pilmico aims to thrust the recovery of the swine industry and help swine farmers meet the country’s high demand for pork,” it added.

Pilmico Assistant Vice-President of Nutrition and Research Joana J. Pequero said that this project is part of the firm’s initiative to push for food security in the country.

“To continue delivering our mission to feed humanity, Pilmico is committed to being at the forefront of transforming our products and services and helping our partners in the swine industry to reach their full potential. This is one of the many initiatives we have in store as we continue on our mission to achieve a sustainable and food-secure country,” she said.

Pilmico comprises four divisions: flour, feeds, farms, and trading. It has more than 29 facilities, including flour and feed mills, pig farms and a meat-cutting facility across nine Asia-Pacific countries. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocsan**

## SC affirms P51-M canceled tax assessment on Unisys

THE Philippine Supreme Court (SC) has affirmed the cancellation of the tax assessment on Unisys Public Sector Services Corp. worth P51.19 million representing its erroneously paid value-added tax (VAT) for three quarters in 2009 and three quarters of 2010.

In an 11-page resolution dated June 15 and made public on July 6, The High Court said the commissioner of internal revenue’s (CIR) appeal only “rehashed” its arguments rejected by the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA).

The High Court noted that the CIR’s petition was denied for lack of merit.

“It is worth noting that the CTA division and the CTA en banc were on in finding that respondent made an overpayment of VAT in the amount of P51.19 million and is entitled to the refund of the same,” according to the tribunal’s ruling.

The CTA previously ruled that the company had failed to take into account the 7% standard input tax mandated by the country’s revenue code. Its actual sales

for the six quarters were lower than the standard input tax rate.

The company is a VAT-registered domestic corporation engaged in manufacturing and supplying computer hardware and other information technology solutions to government agencies.

CIR, the petitioner, argued that the company failed to comply with the requirements for the claim for a refund.

The High Court disagreed with the argument, as it said the nonsubmission of supporting documents is not fatal to the taxpayer’s judicial claim for a VAT refund.

It added that the CIR did not present proof that it required the company to submit additional documents and likewise cannot claim that the taxpayer failed to comply with the requirements.

“The law accords the claimant sufficient latitude to determine the completeness of his submission because, in the first place, he bears the burden of proving his entitlement to a tax refund or credit,” said the court. — **John Victor D. Ordoñez**

Frontier Towers erects 500<sup>th</sup> tower in PHL

TOWER company Frontier Tower Associates Philippines, Inc. (Frontier Towers) announced on Thursday the completion of its 500<sup>th</sup> tower in the country, indicating its strong presence in the telecom tower industry.

Frontier Towers, a subsidiary of telecommunications infrastructure provider Pinnacle Towers Pte. Ltd., “erected its 500<sup>th</sup> common telecom tower this week, marking the most of any tower company in the Philippines,” the company said in an e-mailed statement.

Pinnacle is backed by global investment firm KKR, which has also provided capital for Metro Pacific Hospitals, the hospital arm of Metro Pacific Investment Corp., as well as Voyager Innovations, Inc., a unit of PLDT, Inc.

The government has been pushing for mobile network operators to share infrastructure since 2017, saying every tower in the country serves more than 7,000 subscribers, as opposed to the ideal of having 1,000 subscribers per tower, and the usual 2,000 subscribers per tower in countries with faster internet.

“By constructing more common telecom towers that can be used by multiple mobile network operators concurrently, mobile network operators are able to improve their offerings to Filipino consumers, such as through improved speeds, in a sustainable manner,” Frontier Towers said.

Frontier Towers is among the first 23 tower companies that secured a provisional license to own, construct, manage, and operate common towers in the Philippines.

The PLDT group announced in April that its subsidiaries, Smart Communications, Inc. and Digital Mobile Philippines, Inc., had signed sale and purchase deals in connection with the sale of its 5,907 telecom towers and related passive telecom infrastructure for P77 billion to the subsidiaries of international telecommunications infrastructure services companies edotco Group and EdgePoint.

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**

## Metro Pacific’s CAVITEX C5 Link Ext. in Parañaque to open this month

CAVITEX Infrastructure Corp. (CIC), a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC), is eyeing to open this month the 1.6-kilometer (km) extension of the CAVITEX C5 Link in an effort to increase the volume of motorists on its road network.

The Segment 3A2 from Merville to E. Rodriguez (both in Parañaque) is expected to open by “July 16,” MPTC Chief Finance Officer Christopher Daniel C. Lizo told reporters on Thursday.

The Segment 3A2 extends CAVITEX C5 Link’s 2.2-kilo-

meter operational segment that spans between Merville — a village in Parañaque — and Taguig.

This means that motorists will be able to get to and from Taguig, Pasay, and Parañaque more easily. The extension is seen to help decongest the local roads.

The current operational segment serves up to “13,000 motorists daily, and we expect (the volume) to go up to 18,000,” Mr. Lizo said.

Fees to be collected will also increase. “Currently, users of the (2.2-km) section pay P22. When

we open the 3A2, the stretch will run (3.8km), so from P22 to P32,” Mr. Lizo noted.

The Merville Entry/Exit ramps will be relocated to the new segment, in front of Shell C5 Southlink, according to the CIC.

At the same time, a service tunnel road will be opened to manage the traffic of motorists coming from West Service Road going to Merville, Pasay, and Parañaque.

The company is also working on the Segment 2 (CAVITEX to Sucat Interchange), which is now 30% complete.

The P15-billion CAVITEX C5 Link project, upon completion in 2023, is projected to serve 50,000 cars daily and reduce travel time to Makati and Taguig from Parañaque, Las Piñas, and Cavite from one hour to about 10 minutes.

The 7.7-kilometer project will help “decongest major thoroughfares such as EDSA, MIA Road, etc.,” said CIC President and General Manager Raul L. Ignacio.

The company told motorists to take advantage of the Easytrip RFID and use it “for more seamless travel.”

“We continue to offer free RFID installation and reloading at our customer service stations in CAVITEX and CAVITEX C5 Link,” Mr. Ignacio said.

“They may also conveniently reload and monitor our expressways’ traffic conditions by using our latest app, MPT DriveHub. With the help of the app and by using their RFIDs, they would be able to avoid long queues at the cash lane and have a more seamless travel in our expressways,” added Mr. Ignacio.

The company expects the project to play a major role in Metro Manila’s economic development.

MPTC’s parent, the Metro Pacific Investments Corp., is one of three Philippine units of Hong Kong’s First Pacific Co. Ltd., the others being PLDT, Inc. and Philex Mining Corp. Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has an interest in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**