

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,362.30 ▲ 50.27 PTS. ▲ 0.79%

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2022
BusinessWorld

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P660.00 +P21.00 +3.29%	ACEN AC Energy Corp. P8.50 ---	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P58.00 -P1.00 -1.69%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P9.62 -P0.09 -0.93%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P26.10 +P0.65 +2.55%	AP Aboitiz Power Corp. P32.50 ---	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P112.60 -P1.20 -1.05%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P92.00 +P1.95 +2.17%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P20.05 +P1.13 +5.97%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P18.94 +P0.06 +0.32%
GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,056.00 +P36.00 +1.78%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P449.80 +P8.80 +2.00%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P188.00 +P4.10 +2.23%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P205.00 -P0.40 -0.19%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P54.00 +P1.00 +1.89%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P8.70 ---	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P48.90 +P1.10 +2.30%	MEG Megaworld Corp. P2.32 +P0.04 +1.75%	MER Manila Electric Co. P322.00 -P5.20 -1.59%	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P15.00 +P0.40 +2.74%
MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P3.75 -P0.03 -0.79%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P30.10 ---	RLC Robinsons Land Corp. P17.90 +P0.62 +3.59%	SECB Security Bank Corp. P84.00 -P2.90 -3.34%	SM SM Investments Corp. P769.00 -P11.00 -1.41%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P104.50 -P0.50 -0.48%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P37.00 ---	TEL PLDT, Inc. P1,728.00 +P73.00 +4.41%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P121.00 +P3.30 +2.80%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P27.00 -P0.50 -1.82%

Puregold profit hits P2B as new stores boost sales

PUREGOLD Price Club, Inc. reported a 4.1% increase in its net income to P2.05 billion from last year's P1.97 billion after booking higher sales boosted by newly opened stores and eased mobility restrictions.

"Sales had an uplift as mobility eased further in the second quarter. Total traffic to all stores increased by 10% versus

the same period last year," the company said in a press release on Tuesday.

During the second quarter, the company posted a 13.7% increase in net sales to P43.73 billion from the last year's P38.45 billion.

In the first six months, the company registered a net income of P4.2 billion, a 5.3%

jump from last year's P3.99 billion.

"This was principally driven by the continuous organic expansion of the Group's grocery retail outlets, strategic cost management and sustained strong consumer demand," the company said in a disclosure to the stock exchange.

It also posted a 7.9% increase in net sales for the semester to

P82.24 billion from P76.18 billion a year earlier.

"Net sales slightly grew due to sales contribution from full operation of 2021 new stores and revenue contribution from 2022 newly opened stores of both Puregold and S&R," the company said.

The company added nine additional Puregold stores during the

first half of the year, bringing the total number of Puregold group stores countrywide to 507 as of the end of June.

These stores include 438 Puregold stores, 22 S&R membership shopping warehouses, and 47 S&R New York Style quick service restaurants.

Puregold Price Club operates the group's stores located all over

the Philippines, maintains two online platforms — "Sally" and "PureGo" — and is affiliated with other online delivery platforms like Pickaroo, Metromart, Lazada, and Shopee.

On the stock exchange on Tuesday, shares in the company ended unchanged at P30.10 apiece. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

SMIC gets regulatory nod to acquire geothermal firm

SM INVESTMENTS Corp. (SMIC) has acquired full ownership of Philippine Geothermal Production Co., Inc. (PGPC), the operator of Tiwi and Mak-Ban steam fields, through a P15.76-billion share-swap deal with Allfirst Equity Holdings, Inc.

"The acquisition of PGPC is sizeable, accretive to our shareholders, and a strong strategic fit with our portfolio of investments in high growth sectors in the Philippines," said Frederic C. Dybuncio, president and chief executive officer of SMIC

in a stock exchange disclosure on Tuesday.

He added that the deal further reinforces the SM group's commitment "to sustainability, good governance and acting as a catalyst for responsible development in the communities we serve."

In the disclosure, SMIC said that it received on Aug. 1 the approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission to acquire the 81% stake of related parties in Allfirst, the holding company for PGPC, in exchange for shares in SMIC.

SMIC said that the deal will bring the company's ownership in PGPC to 100%. The transaction also involves the issuance of 17.44 million new shares to the sellers or 1.4% of shares outstanding in SMIC.

The steam fields in Tiwi, Albay and Mak-Ban (Makiling-Banahaw) in Laguna and Batangas generate combined geothermal steam enough to produce 300 megawatts of electricity.

Aside from the two steam fields, PGPC also has several greenfield concession areas for geothermal steam

production which it plans to develop in the future.

Tiwi is the first commercial-scale geothermal steam field development in Southeast Asia, followed by Mak-Ban. Both are in operation since 1979.

"In 2021, PGPC delivered \$99.4 million in revenues and \$48.8 million in net income, equivalent to 1.2% of SMIC 2021 revenues and 5.5% accretion to SMIC 2021 net income respectively," SMIC said.

On Tuesday, shares in SMIC slipped by 1.41% or P11 to close at P769 each. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**



AboitizPower, Chevron ink fuel supply deal

CHEVRON Philippines Inc. has signed a deal with Aboitiz Power Corp. to supply diesel fuel to the latter's nine power generation plants.

In a media release on Tuesday, Chevron Philippines Country Chairman Billy Liu said the two companies "share the same advocacy of providing affordable, reliable, and safe energy."

"Our number one goal now is to keep [AboitizPower's] equipment running and electricity flowing at their thermal plants so they can continue to provide for the energy needs of the nation," he said.

Ronaldo S. Ramos, president and chief operating officer of AboitizPower's oil business unit, said: "With Chevron Philippines as our provider of quality fuel, we look forward to operational efficiency and worry-free operations so that we can keep supplying much-needed power to keep the lights on in many Filipino households."

Emmanuel Lopez, senior vice president of AboitizPower's coal business unit, said that the company trusts the reliable service of the oil firm as it previously supplied the diesel and gasoline requirement to start up Therna Visayas, Inc. in Cebu after Typhoon Odette hit the Philippines in December last year.

"It showed how dedicated and efficient they are in providing service, even during a disaster," he said.

AboitizPower, which has a total capacity of 3,962 megawatts, is engaged in power distribution, generation, and retail electricity services.

Chevron Philippines markets the Caltex brand of fuels and lubricants. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Globe seeks partnerships with more property developers for telco space

GLOBE TELECOM, Inc. said on Tuesday that it hopes to partner with more property developers to make sure that future housing projects have built-in broadband and dedicated spaces for telecommunications infrastructure.

"Globe currently has 18 property developer partners, with 200 developments covering nearly 100,000 units fitted with built-in broadband through these collaborations," the company said in an e-mailed statement.

The telco announced recently that executives from ASEANA Holdings, Inc., Cebu Landmasters, Inc., Robinsons Land Corp., and Victor Consunji Development Corp. "have committed to supporting Globe's quest for immediate and reliable connectivity in housing developments, from condominiums to villages."

"What we envision is when a customer steps into a property, he is ready to connect just like electricity and water are readily available," Globe President and Chief Executive Officer Ernest L. Cu said.

"And it's great we've gotten this far in terms of our existing partner developers, because like Globe, they are also customer-centric. We are no longer just talking to a blank wall," he added.

Last week, the Department of Information and Communications Technology said it would support legislation that will set

standards for telco integration in residential property design.

"In one of my talks before in the Chamber of Commerce, I pushed for the revision of National Building Code. The building code requires the provision of electricity, water and sewerage, but not telecommunications," Information and Communications Secretary Ivan John E. Uy told reporters on the sidelines of PLDT, Inc.'s Jupiter Cable System launch on Friday.

Isabela Rep. Faustino A. DyV has said he would refile the House bill that seeks to require developers to properly provision ICT facilities for telcos.

"Customers are demanding it, so why should we say no? Spending on fiber optic units, it's a basic expectation already. We have reached a point that when people find out you don't have fiber, clients back out," said John Richard Sotelo, senior vice-president and business unit general manager of RLC Residences.

Mr. Cu said Globe "stands ready to work with developers in embedding connectivity in their projects."

"We're here to work with you. We know that this is an area that probably is not within the realm or sphere of competence of your engineering teams, just like we don't know construction. We're here to provide that service. We're here for you." — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

Cityland plans P1.5-B debt papers

CITYLAND Development Corp. approved a plan to file P1.5-billion worth of commercial papers with the Securities and Exchange Commission to meet its funding requirements.

The filing was approved in a board meeting held on Aug. 1 as stated in the company's disclosure on Tuesday.

"This debt mix in favor of short-term borrowings is a strategy which the group adopted to take advantage of lower cost of money for short-term loans versus long-term loans," Cityland Development said in its information statement.

The company's future projects include 50-story City North Tower in Bagong Pagasa, Quezon City, and Pioneer Heights 2 in Mandaluyong City.

Cityland Development expects the completion of its Pioneer Heights 1 in Mandaluyong City by 2023, and its high-rise condominium 101 Xavierville in Loyola Heights, Quezon City by 2024.

Meanwhile, its subsidiary City & Land Developers, Inc. plans to build 40-story Bonifacio Place in Barangka Itas, Mandaluyong City and 39-story One Hidalgo in Marlate, Manila.

Cityplans, Inc., another subsidiary, plans to build Windsor Mansion, Oxford Mansion and Pasig Royale Mansion, which are all eight-story condominiums to be located in New Santolan, Pasig City.

"For the year 2022, real estate sales and leasing are expected to bounce back due to the opening up of the economy," Cityland Development said.

"The return-to-office work setup will provide an increase in rental income and demand for condominium projects," it added.

Cityland Development's primary purpose is to engage in real estate development, it is 50.98%-owned by Cityland, Inc.

On the stock exchange on Tuesday, Cityland Development shares remained unchanged at P0.71 apiece. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

Toyota expands lineup of all-new Lite Ace

TOYOTA MOTOR Philippines Corp. (TMP) has expanded the available variants of its new light commercial vehicle offering, the Lite Ace, in a bid to support local businesses.

The car manufacturer said in a statement late on Monday that it is adding new variants — the Lite Ace FX Utility Van and the Lite Ace Cargo Aluminum Van — to the currently available variants of the light commercial vehicle.

The new variants join the Panel Van and Pickup variants that were unveiled during the Lite Ace's launch on July 15.

The Lite Ace FX Utility Van variant is priced at P727,000 while the Cargo Aluminum Van is priced at P699,000.

Both variants are available for preorder in all Toyota dealerships across the country since August 1. The official release of the two new variants is projected by September this year.

"The FX Utility Van-variant has up to 12-person seating capacity (including driver), perfect as people transport, while the Cargo Aluminum Van variant best fits agricultural businesses or transportation of dry goods and other materials," TMP said.

TMP First Vice-President for Vehicle Sales Operations Sherwin Chualim said that the company was very encouraged by the public's warm reception and positive feedback during the release of the Lite Ace's first two variants.

"One of the key strengths of the All-New Lite Ace line is its versatility and flexibility, and with the availability of the FX Utility Van and Cargo Aluminum variants, we will be able to address the needs of more entrepreneurs and business operators for efficient and economical transport," Mr. Chualim said.

According to TMP, the Lite Ace FX Utility Van and Cargo Aluminum Van both have Supplemental Restraint System (SRS) airbags, and are powered by a 1.5-liter gasoline engine and a 5-speed manual transmission, similar to the two previously launched variants.

"Customers can also avail special MSME financing packages for these two variants through Toyota Financial Services Philippines," TMP said. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochove**

Chemical Industries' net loss narrows to P2M

CHEMICAL Industries of the Philippines, Inc. registered a net loss of P2 million in the second quarter, seven times lower than the P14.71-million loss posted a year ago, on lower operating expenses.

The company's topline for the three months ending in June was at P633,113, almost three times lower than the last year's P1.87 million as stated in its quarterly report.

Chemical Industries disclosed that there were no sales revenues for both second quarters of 2022 and 2021 as revenues came from rent.

It also reported a decrease in its other income, which the company attributed to the termination of leasing activities in April.

Consolidated other income for the second quarter reached P217,148, a

decrease of 0.85% from the P218,997 recorded last year.

Meanwhile, the company's expenses for the second quarter amounted to P2.91 million, six times lower than last year's P18.59 million.

"The decrease in operating expenses was mainly due to payment in clearing the Pasig property in 2021," the company said.

The bulk of the company's expenditures is made up of its expenses for outside services, which amounted to P1 million, 17 times lower than last year's P17.21 million.

In the first half, Chemical Industries' net loss amounted to P5.62 million, almost four times lower than the previous year's P19.21 million.

Its year-to-date revenue decreased by 46.2% to P2.07 million from P3.85 million previously.

The company posted an almost three times decrease in operating expenses for the first half to P7.91 million from the recorded P23.45 million last year.

Chemical Industries and its subsidiaries are primarily engaged in the manufacture and sale of distribution of industrial chemicals and lease of office space.

Its subsidiaries include CAWC, Inc., Kemwater Phil. Corp. and Chemphil Manufacturing Corp.

On the stock market on Tuesday, shares in Chemical Industries ended unchanged at P125.20 apiece. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**