

## Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,752.50

▲ 46.07 PTS.

▲ 0.68%

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BusinessWorld

## PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

<b>AC</b> Ayala Corp. P720.00 -P12.00 -1.64%	<b>ACEN</b> ACEN Corp. P8.04 -P0.59 -6.84%	<b>AEV</b> Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P59.00 +P1.65 +2.88%	<b>AGI</b> Alliance Global Group, Inc. P10.30 ---	<b>ALI</b> Ayala Land, Inc. P29.30 +P0.80 +2.81%	<b>AP</b> Aboitiz Power Corp. P31.50 -P0.45 -1.41%	<b>BDO</b> BDO Unibank, Inc. P131.50 +P2.70 +2.10%	<b>BPI</b> Bank of the Philippine Islands P96.95 +P2.80 +2.97%	<b>CNVRG</b> Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P18.60 -P0.04 -0.21%	<b>EMI</b> Emperador, Inc. P20.50 +P0.45 +2.24%
<b>GLO</b> Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,220.00 -P48.00 -2.12%	<b>GTCAP</b> GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P494.00 -P1.00 -0.20%	<b>ICT</b> International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P186.50 -P1.50 -0.80%	<b>JFC</b> Jollibee Foods Corp. P237.00 +P3.00 +1.28%	<b>JGS</b> JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P54.50 +P2.15 +4.11%	<b>LTG</b> LT Group, Inc. P9.25 +P0.01 +0.11%	<b>MBT</b> Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P53.45 +P0.75 +1.42%	<b>MEG</b> Megaworld Corp. P2.59 +P0.02 +0.78%	<b>MER</b> Manila Electric Co. P313.80 -P4.20 -1.32%	<b>MONDE</b> Monde Nissin Corp. P16.00 -P0.08 -0.50%
<b>MPI</b> Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P3.73 -P0.02 -0.53%	<b>PGOLD</b> Puregold Price Club, Inc. P35.40 +P0.90 +2.61%	<b>RLC</b> Robinsons Land Corp. P19.20 -P0.02 -0.10%	<b>SCC</b> Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P42.55 -P0.15 -0.35%	<b>SM</b> SM Investments Corp. P879.00 -P1.00 -0.11%	<b>SMC</b> San Miguel Corp. P100.90 ---	<b>SMPH</b> SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P37.05 +P0.05 +0.14%	<b>TEL</b> PLDT, Inc. P1,711.00 +P12.00 +0.71%	<b>URC</b> Universal Robina Corp. P126.30 +P4.30 +3.52%	<b>WLCON</b> Wilcon Depot, Inc. P30.00 +P0.30 +1.01%

## Haus Talk sets 2026 completion for P3.8-B project

HAUS TALK, Inc. expects revenues of P3.8 billion from a mixed-use property project in a 12-hectare land in Laguna that it targets to complete by the end of 2026.

"It's a mix of townhouses, duplexes and single attached units. There will also be an area for commercial [purposes] that will serve the unit owners," President Maria Rachel D. Madlambayan said in a text message on Monday.

She said the project is categorized under the government's economic housing program with a price ceiling of P2.5 million for the basic unit.

"This will be different from our other projects because we will be using a new construction technology," she said.

Haus Talk said land-banking remains a top priority to sustain its expansion plans for the next three to five years, it said in a press release last week.

The company bought the 12-hectare or 120,000-square-meter (sq.m.) property in Biñan, Laguna using internally generated funds, which it solely allotted for the development of the mixed economic and residential complex.

The proposed project will start initial work in September and will be launched before the year ends.

"We will be introducing green architecture and new construc-

tion technology for this project with partners that cannot be disclosed at this time just yet," Ms. Madlambayan said.

It plans to allot 60% or 72,000 sq.m. to property buyers. Units in the project will have an average lot area of 50 sq.m., which will bring around 1,440 units.

The average selling price per unit is P2.5 million, translating to around P3.6 billion in revenues for the company.

Meanwhile, Haus Talk said in a press release that its board of directors approved an annual payout dividend ratio of at least 20% of its recurring net income for the preceding fiscal year.

"This will give investors additional income during favorable periods," the company said.

In the first six months, the company's net income rose to P85.21 million, more than five times last year's P16.09 million,

while its topline reached P385.72 million, more than four times last year's P88.77 million.

Haus Talk, a homegrown and family-run residential property provider, is the first firm to list on the small, medium and emerging board of the Philippine Stock Exchange this year.

On Friday, shares in Haus Talk climbed by 1.06% or P0.01 to 95 centavos apiece. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

## DMCI Power to explore hybrid systems to power off-grid areas

DMCI Power Corp. (DPC), the power generation arm of DMCI Holdings, Inc., is looking at the use of hybrid systems to help reduce fuel importation, a company official said last week.

"In a recent discussion initiated by the [Department of Energy's] Renewable Energy Management Bureau, the agency and DPC agreed to explore the possibility of using hybrid fuel (biomass and coal) in Masbate," Antonino E. Gatdula, Jr., president of DPC, said in an e-mail.

Mr. Gatdula said that if its plan is proven effective, the company will replicate the planned hybrid system in its other service areas.

Based on DPC's website, the company operates in three provinces, namely: Masbate, Palawan, and Mindoro. It also ventured into power generation in the province of Sultan Kudarat in 2016.

On Aug. 10, Energy Secretary Raphael P.M. Lotilla said at a Senate energy committee hearing that his

department was looking into hybrid systems as a long-term solution to address the country's dependence on imported fuel.

Apart from DPC's plan to explore hybrid fuel for Masbate, the company is also planning to develop a multi-technology power plant complex in the province.

Mr. Gatdula said the complex would use solar and diesel power to support the initiative for hybrid systems.

He said DPC uses indigenous fuel to operate its off-grid thermal power plant on the island of Masbate, which he claims to "lower" the universal charge for missionary electrification, a subsidy being paid by consumers.

"The savings translate to roughly P50 million to P70 million per month, depending on the price movement of petroleum and petroleum-based fuels in the world market," he added. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

## RLC to seek sustainability certificates for new offices

ROBINSONS Land Corp. (RLC) has committed to ensuring that all of its future offices in the National Capital Region (NCR) will be environment-friendly and will have sustainability certifications.

"We actually said that all of our future buildings in NCR will be environment-friendly and built under the same ESG (environmental, social, and governance) standards. All these buildings will be certified," RLC President and Chief Executive Officer Frederick D. Go told reporters on the sidelines of the property developer's bond listing ceremony on Friday.

As part of its efforts to infuse sustainability in its buildings, RLC rolled out solar rooftops, recyclable water systems, environment-friendly equipment, solutions and systems, solid waste management, and bicycle-friendly facilities.

Mr. Go said that RLC buildings will seek to be certified not only with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) but also with other sustainability certifications such as Building for Ecologically Responsive Design Excellence (BERDE).

Meanwhile, Mr. Go said that RLC has committed to infuse its office port-

folio in its real estate investment trust (REIT) arm, RL Commercial REIT, Inc. (RCR).

"What RLC has committed is that our office portfolio is basically committed to RCR," he said.

"We did say that it is our intention to infuse projects every year. So there will be an asset scheduled for infusion next year that we haven't decided which one," he added.

RLC is yet to make a decision on whether it will also be infusing its mall portfolio in RCR.

"Malls are definitely a REIT-able asset but we have not given it thought yet, I think the right timing for putting malls into REIT is still probably two years away. I don't think now is the time to think about it," Mr. Go said.

RLC is hopeful that foot traffic in its mall and hotel segment will be back to pre-pandemic levels by the end of the year.

"We are hopeful that we will be back to pre-pandemic levels by the end of the year and of course, we can only be hopeful. We can never be sure," Mr. Go said. "[But] as long as there are no lockdowns, it will just keep getting better." — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**



YUE CHAN/UNSPASH

## Century Pacific eyes solar power for other manufacturing plants

CENTURY Pacific Food, Inc. is planning to add solar facilities in its other manufacturing plants after it has completed the commissioning of a 5.2-megawatt solar photovoltaic (PV) facility last year.

"Yes, we are looking for opportunities to go solar or use renewable sources in other manufacturing plants," Dappy Tecson of Century Pacific's investor relations team told *BusinessWorld* through e-mail on Aug. 25.

Ms. Tecson said that Century Pacific's solar facility supplies up to 15% of the company's power requirements in its tuna and coconut manufacturing hubs in General Santos City.

According to the company's website, the commissioning of the solar PV plant was completed in June 2021. Previously, the company used clean energy sourced from a hydroelectric power plant through the grid.

In terms of carbon footprint reduction, Ms. Tecson noted that the solar PV plant has helped the company in reducing its carbon footprint by 10% in 2021. She said: "apart from solar, our coconut division is also targeting to be carbon neutral by 2028."

In Century Pacific's disclosure on Aug. 22, the company said that it aims to minimize its ecological impact via its commitment to plastic neutrality.

Ms. Tecson said that Century Pacific will also explore other strategies as part of its sustainability commitment such as turning waste into energy, which she said will lessen the firm's coal usage.

In the second quarter, Century Pacific's attributable net income increased by 7.7% to P1.54 billion from P1.43 billion in the same period last year. Year to date, the company's net profit increased by 8.5% to P2.95 billion from P2.72 billion in 2021. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

## Globe installs 933 sites for 5G; DITO reaches 12M subscribers

GLOBE Telecom, Inc. announced on Monday that it rolled out a total of 933 sites for its fifth-generation (5G) wireless technology in the first half of the year.

"Globe's 5G network outdoor coverage has reached nearly 97% of the National Capital Region and 86% of key cities in Visayas and Mindanao," Globe said in an e-mailed statement.

5G technology offers lower latency, higher bandwidth, and more reliable internet connections than 4G.

As of the end of June, about 2.7 million devices were connected to Globe's 5G network, it noted.

"Globe is also accelerating its 5G roaming rollout to more countries in Asia, the Middle East, and Europe to



BW FILE PHOTO

bring seamless and world-class connectivity experience to travelers and overseas Filipino workers."

Meanwhile, DITO Telecommunity Corp. said it had achieved its 12-million-subscriber target.

The third telco player "attained its 12 million subscriber base as of Aug. 26, 2022," DITO said in a statement.

The company attributed its subscriber growth to the speed of its network rollout.

"With more than 5,500 cellular towers built, DITO Telecommunity has increased its coverage to over 600 cities and municipalities and has effectively breached its 70% population coverage target," it said.

DITO is also developing its 5G network. "Since we started our roll-out in 2019, we have been developing our 5G network," DITO Chief Technology Officer Rodolfo D. Santiago said.

At the same time, the company reported that its 5G Home Wifi continues to attract a growing number of users.

"As of August 2022, the service has expanded to over 600 municipalities and cities in the greater Metro Manila area, providing speeds of up to 500 Mbps," it said. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

## Supermarkets: Lift use of SRP bulletin until year-end

THE use of the suggested retail price (SRP) bulletin issued by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) should be lifted until year-end, according to a supermarket industry group.

Steven T. Cua, Philippine Amalgamated Supermarkets Association president, told *BusinessWorld Live* on One News Channel aired Monday that the group has been suggesting that the SRP is not needed unless there is a calamity or a state of national emergency.

"Maybe this is as good a time for the DTI to lift the use of the SRP until the end of the year and see what happens. If retailers, distributors, or manufacturers abuse this, I think it is the fall of these sectors and the retailers because people will not buy their products," Mr. Cua said.

"We have always been suggesting that there is no need for SRP unless there's a calamity or a state of national emergency. That is what the SRP is supposed to be for because it is a price-regulating mechanism. Let the manufacturers find the right place for their products, to be able to position their products and brands well," he added.

On Aug. 12, the DTI issued a new SRP bulletin that reflected price increases for 67 out of 218 stock-keeping units (SKUs) under its jurisdiction on the back of higher production costs. The price increases vary from 3.29% to 10%.

Some of the basic necessities and prime commodities that were priced higher include canned sardines, coffee, noodles, bottled water, processed milk, detergent soap, candle, and condiments.

"Amid these adjustments, the DTI remains steadfast in its commitment [to] ensuring that consumers have access to reasonably priced goods in the market, hence increases were kept to a minimum," Trade Undersecretary Ruth B. Castelo said in a previous statement.

Based on Republic Act No. 7581 or the Price Act, the DTI monitors the prices and supply of products such as canned fish and other marine products, processed milk, coffee, bread, salt, laundry soap, detergent, candles, flour, processed and canned pork, processed and canned beef, and poultry meat, noodles, vinegar, *patis*, soy sauce, toilet paper, soap, and school supplies.

"The main function of the SRP Bulletin is to inform and guide retailers and consumers, protect them from deceitful or unconscionable transactions, and give consumers the freedom to choose the product they prefer at a price they can afford," Trade Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual said in a previous statement.

Meanwhile, Mr. Cua said that the group had been advised by a leading salt manufacturer of a price increase.

"We've been advised by one manufacturer at least — a leading local brand — which said that prices will go up by 33%. So far, we have not ordered yet. Our supermarkets have not really seen the price increases," he said.

"Salt sales are not that strong in supermarkets. The sales are stronger in wet markets. But at the supermarket, sometimes people forget to buy salt," he added. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**