

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,301.71

▼ 39.98 PTS.

▼ 0.63%

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

BusinessWorld

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P700.00 +P2.00 +0.29%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P6.28 -P0.17 -2.64%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P58.00 +P0.50 +0.87%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P9.00 -P0.01 -0.11%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P25.55 -P1.40 -5.19%	AP Aboitiz Power Corp. P30.75 -P0.95 -3.00%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P122.80 +P2.30 +1.91%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P94.00 +P0.35 +0.37%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P14.92 -P1.90 -11.30%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P20.25 -P0.10 -0.49%
GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,142.00 +P12.00 +0.56%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P485.00 +P4.60 +0.96%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P181.00 ---	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P237.00 -P1.00 -0.42%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P48.50 -P0.50 -1.02%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P8.73 -P0.17 -1.91%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P52.00 +P0.95 +1.86%	MEG Megaworld Corp. P2.17 -P0.04 -1.81%	MER Manila Electric Co. P305.00 ---	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P12.96 -P0.54 -4.00%
MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P3.60 -P0.02 -0.55%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P29.75 -P0.75 -2.46%	RLC Robinsons Land Corp. P16.40 -P0.32 -1.91%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P41.05 -P0.15 -0.36%	SM SM Investments Corp. P819.50 +P1.00 +0.12%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P97.65 -P0.35 -0.36%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P34.20 -P0.70 -2.01%	TEL PLDT, Inc. P1,640.00 +P30.00 +1.86%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P115.30 -P1.70 -1.45%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P29.50 +P0.75 +2.61%

ACEN lists P10-B ASEAN green bonds

ACEN Corp. announced on Thursday that it had successfully issued and listed its maiden peso-denominated ASEAN green bonds with a principal amount of P10 billion.

"We are grateful for the strong support of Philippine institutional and retail investors for the company's maiden peso green bond issuance," ACEN President and Chief Executive Officer Eric T. Francia said in a statement.

ACEN, the listed energy arm of the Ayala group, said the green bonds are the first tranche under its P30-billion debt securities program registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The bonds have a fixed interest rate of 6.05% annually for a five-year tenor maturing in 2027.

ACEN noted that the green bonds were eight times oversubscribed, signaling robust demand and strong participation from institutional investors.

ASEAN green bonds comply with the ASEAN green bonds standards and proceeds are used exclusively to finance or refinance eligible green projects.

Maria Corazon G. Dizon, ACEN's chief financial officer and treasurer, said amid the "challenging macroeconomic environment, we are encouraged by the enthusiastic take-up of our bonds by the investing community."

"Our group is one of the country's largest issuers of green bonds, and we are happy to contribute to the development of our nation's debt capital market with our maiden peso green bond issuance," she added.

ACEN will use the proceeds to fund its various renewable projects in the Philippines.

These projects are the 283-megawatts of direct current (MWdc) San Marcelino Solar 1 farm in Zambales, 42-MWdc expansion of the 72-MWdc Arayat-Mexico solar farm in Pampanga, and the construction of the 133-MWdc solar farm in Lal-lo, Cagayan.

To date, ACEN and its majority shareholder AC Energy and Infrastructure Corp. have raised an aggregate of \$1.6 billion through green bonds since 2019 to fund renewable energy projects.

On Thursday, shares in ACEN closed 2.64% lower at P6.28 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

MPTC's innovation unit to expand service portfolio

MPT Mobility, the innovations arm of Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC), said it is expanding its portfolio of services with new mobility solutions.

The company now has eight active business units. These are Dibz, On-Us Solutions, Inc. (Byahe), Spot On, Easytrip Services Corp., MPT DriveHub, Savvice Corp., NLEX Drive and Dine, and Onehub.

This is "a union of strategic partnerships, plans, and projects that embody innovative solutions," Rodrigo E. Franco, MPTC president and chief executive officer, said in an e-mailed statement on Thursday.

The company said its goal is to provide motorists with modern mobility solutions to improve their travel experience.

MPT Mobility's Dibz is a parking solution app aimed at addressing parking difficulties in the capital region.

"Dibz will set its footprint soon in Makati, particularly in the Dela Rosa 1, Dela Rosa 2, and Valero parking lots, as a city with a surplus of vehicles and outnumbered parking slots," the company said.

The company recently acquired the biggest stake in Byahe, a modern jeepney operator that manages 30 units across seven routes within Metro Manila, Pampanga, and Nueva Ecija.

Meanwhile, Spot On is MPT Mobility's out-of-home advertising arm, which provides bridge and median billboards along MPTC expressways.

Easytrip is the exclusive electronic toll collection system integrator and provider of MPTC expressways.

The group's MPT DriveHub is a travel companion app that houses its mobility solutions for customers.

"In the future, users can look forward to expressway support (for trip planning and navigations)," the company said.

Moreover, Savvice, formerly Southbend Express Services, Inc., is transitioning from an outsource manpower solution to a full-service solutions provider.

MPT Mobility said Savvice currently offers fleet services (with the newly launched towing service and roadside assistance), maintenance facilities, traffic auxiliary, roadway system, and general services.

"Savvice is also gearing up for future partnerships and exclusive distributorships for a wide variety of products and services," it added.

MPT Mobility is also expanding a rest stop along North Luzon Expressway (NLEX).

NLEX Drive and Dine expansion includes the planned construction of five new buildings and a multi-level parking.

MPTC is the tollways unit of Metro Pacific Investments Corp., one of three key Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., the others being Philex Mining Corp. and PLDT, Inc.

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**

SMC plans P80-B bonds; CLI downsizes issuance to P5 billion

SEPARATELY, the board of directors of listed conglomerate San Miguel Corp. (SMC) authorized a plan to issue bonds worth P80 billion in a board meeting on Thursday.

The bonds will be composed of P60-billion fixed-rate peso-denominated bonds with an over-subscription option of P20 billion.

According to SMC's disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, its board of directors also authorized the company's filing of its registration statement and prospectus with the SEC.

It also authorized the filing of the listing application of the peso bonds with the Philippine Dealing Exchange Corp.

"The board has authorized the engagement of the services underwriters, advisors, legal counsels,

stock and transfer agent, receiving agent or bank, and other agents as may be necessary," the company said in a disclosure.

Shares in SMC shaved off 35 centavos or 0.36% to P97.65 each.

CEBU LANDMASTERS FINALIZES SIZE OF ISSUANCE

Cebu Landmasters, Inc. (CLI) downsized the initial tranche of its shelf offering to P5 billion from P8 billion, the firm disclosed on Thursday.

As earlier approved by the board of directors of the company, the program was supposed to cover a principal amount of up to P5 billion and an over-subscription option of up to P3 billion.

CLI said that the issue size of its maiden fixed rate bond offering will have an aggregate

principal amount of P5 billion across three tenors.

"In a strong show of confidence in CLI, the company's maiden retail bonds received strong demand from both institutional and retail investors, even as CLI price at the lowest end of the initial spread range," the company said in a stock exchange disclosure.

The interest rate for the 3.5-year series A is at 6.4222%, 5.5-year series B at 6.9884%, and 7-year series C at 7.3649%.

CLI said that the public offer period will run from Sept. 26 to 30 on the condition of receipt of the permit to sell from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

On Thursday, shares in CLI lost 6 centavos or 2.49% to P2.35 apiece. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

Subsea cable widens reach of Eastern Communications



SIGMUND/UNSPLASH

EASTERN Telecommunications Philippines, Inc. said its \$150-million (about P8.7 billion) submarine cable project will help it reach more customers in the rural parts of Visayas and Mindanao.

The company, also known as Eastern Communications, undertakes the project in partnership with telecommunications companies Globe Telecom, Inc. and InfiniVAN, Inc.

Eastern Communications, through Cable Infinity ship operated by Kokusai Cable Ship Co., arrived in the municipality of Dapa, Siargao, on Sept. 22 for its cable laying project under the Philippine Domestic Submarine Cable Network project, the company said in an e-mailed statement.

Over the next nine months, the submarine project will be expanded to include other islands in Visayas and Mindanao, it added.

The company targets to reach more customers by boosting its network resiliency in remote and disaster-prone areas.

It recently rolled out its cable-laying project in Zambales with its project partners which ferried a total cable distance of about 2,500 kilometers.

In April, the company announced its footprint expansion in the provinces of Negros and Bicol.

The telecommunications company has earmarked P3 billion for its nationwide expansion this year.

In 2021, the company allotted P2.8 billion for its expansion plans. It was able to complete the rollout of its services in Tuguegarao, Batangas, Lucena, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, and Davao City last year.

Eastern Communications is a broadband provider jointly owned by PLDT, Inc. and Globe.

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LANDBANK underpins Aklan co-op's growth to serve more farmers



The Integrated Barangays of Numancia Multi-Purpose Cooperative (IBON MPC), with support from LANDBANK, continues to expand lending operations and membership to support small farmers from Aklan and neighboring provinces.

NUMANCIA, AKLAN — From a barangay-based cooperative with only 23 members and P2,500 as starting capital in 2003, the Integrated Barangays of Numancia Multi-Purpose Cooperative (IBON MPC) has since transformed into a region-based development cooperative servicing the financial needs of over 7,200 farmer-members from Western Visayas.

With credit support from Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK), IBON MPC continues to expand its lending operations, which account for nearly three-fourths of the co-op's income.

The IBON MPC first availed of a P1-million rediscounting loan from LANDBANK in 2006 to augment the working capital requirements of its borrowers. With operations improving through the years, the co-op was able to bolster its borrowing capacity. And in 2021, it successfully negotiated a renewed loan line of P60 million or 193% higher than its initial loan 15 years ago.

LANDBANK's continuing support allowed IBON MPC to reach and help more farmers in Aklan and neighboring provinces by providing affordable and accessible financing for the purchase of farm inputs, labor, and other production requirements.

The co-op's farmer-members are no longer dependent on unfair arrangements with local moneylenders who practice the "alili system," where borrowers pay loans with their produce worth over three times the borrowed amount.

"LANDBANK has always counted on cooperatives as allies on the ground to serve small farmers and fishers, and advance development

in the countryside. We remain committed to providing cooperatives with the necessary financial assistance to help sustain and expand their operations and ensure food security for the nation," said LANDBANK President and CEO Cecilia C. Borromeo.

Aside from being LANDBANK's effective conduit in providing financial support to small farmers, the IBON MPC has also been helping to improve the entire agricultural value chain in the region. It is now engaged in pre- and post-harvest services, such as land preparation, crop establishment, harvesting, drying and milling services; trading of palay, rice and agricultural inputs; and operation of agri-venture stores across Aklan.

The co-op also recently ventured into organic vegetable farming, chicken egg production, native chicken raising, goat raising, and inland fish culture to provide members with additional and alternative sources of livelihood.

"LANDBANK has provided us the capacity to sustain and expand our operations over the years. Sa mga panahong kailangan namin ng financial resources, nandiyan sila at madaling lapitan. I hope LANDBANK will continue to support the rural sector, especially the small farmers and fishers," said IBON MPC General Manager Arnulfo T. Magcope.

LANDBANK continues to extend intensified support to cooperatives nationwide to ramp up efforts and initiatives promoting inclusive and sustainable development.