

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,701.81 ▼13.94 PTS. ▼0.20%

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2022  
BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

<b>AC</b> Ayala Corp. P740.00 +P7.00 +0.95%	<b>ACEN</b> ACEN Corp. P7.09 -P0.03 -0.42%	<b>AEO</b> Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P59.10 ---	<b>AGI</b> Alliance Global Group, Inc. P9.90 -P0.05 -0.50%	<b>ALI</b> Ayala Land, Inc. P28.50 -P0.65 -2.23%	<b>AP</b> Aboitiz Power Corp. P32.05 -P0.45 -1.38%	<b>BDO</b> BDO Unibank, Inc. P129.90 +P1.90 +1.48%	<b>BPI</b> Bank of the Philippine Islands P98.25 ---	<b>CNVRG</b> Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P17.06 -P0.14 -0.81%	<b>EMI</b> Emperador, Inc. P20.25 +P0.05 +0.25%
<b>GLO</b> Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,140.00 +P10.00 +0.47%	<b>GTCAP</b> GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P500.00 -P9.00 -1.77%	<b>ICT</b> International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P187.20 -P2.80 -1.47%	<b>JFC</b> Jollibee Foods Corp. P247.00 +P0.60 +0.24%	<b>JGS</b> JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P51.60 +P0.60 +1.18%	<b>LTG</b> LT Group, Inc. P8.93 -P0.15 -1.65%	<b>MBT</b> Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P54.00 ---	<b>MEG</b> Megaworld Corp. P2.41 -P0.05 -2.03%	<b>MER</b> Manila Electric Co. P317.00 -P1.00 -0.31%	<b>MONDE</b> Monde Nissin Corp. P15.50 -P0.46 -2.88%
<b>MPI</b> Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P3.84 -P0.01 -0.26%	<b>PGOLD</b> Puregold Price Club, Inc. P34.80 +P1.00 +2.96%	<b>RLC</b> Robinsons Land Corp. P18.68 -P0.02 -0.11%	<b>SCC</b> Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P41.00 -P0.20 -0.49%	<b>SM</b> SM Investments Corp. P884.50 -P0.50 -0.06%	<b>SMC</b> San Miguel Corp. P98.00 -P0.65 -0.66%	<b>SMPH</b> SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P36.55 +P0.10 +0.27%	<b>TEL</b> PLDT, Inc. P1,700.00 +P2.00 +0.12%	<b>URC</b> Universal Robina Corp. P126.40 -P1.90 -1.48%	<b>WLCON</b> Wilcon Depot, Inc. P29.45 -P0.55 -1.83%

# Stock trading via GCash to start by Nov. — PSE

THE Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) has tied up with GCash to allow subscribers of the mobile payment platform to directly invest in the stock market, the local bourse's top official said on Tuesday.

"GCash and PSE have agreed to tie up. And we will be offering stock trading to the 67 million subscribers of GCash," PSE President and Chief Executive Officer Ramon S. Monzon said in an interview on *BusinessWorld Live*.

"We agreed on the commercial terms and we are now doing the technical issues," Mr. Monzon added.

Through the partnership, the PSE will design a platform that will allow GCash users to be able to invest directly in the stock market.

"Because of the profile of GCash subscribers, we are also in the process of studying how we can offer or make possible fractional trading in shares so that more GCash subscribers

are able to invest in stocks," Mr. Monzon said.

He said that the PSE already reached an agreement with GCash that the broker that will handle the said transaction will be AB Capital Securities, Inc.

"It's a tripartite agreement between PSE, GCash and AB Capital," he added.

Mr. Monzon said: "By November, GCash subscribers should be able to invest already in the stock market."

The PSE chief said that the tie-up with GCash will be a game-

changer for the stock exchange in terms of the number of retail investors participating in the market.

"The PSE was organized in 1927. We're talking about 94 years and we only have 1.7 million stock market investors," Mr. Monzon said.

"When we were going over the projections of GCash, they project[ed] about more than nine million new investors in five years' time," he added. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**



## Manila Water signs P15-billion loan for capex projects

MANILA WATER Co., Inc. has signed a P15-billion loan facility with a 10-year term to fund its upcoming projects, Metro Manila's east zone water concessionaire told the stock exchange on Tuesday.

"The loan will be used to finance Manila Water's capital expenditure projects," the Razon-led water provider said.

The company did not disclose details about the use of the loan proceeds. The loan facility was signed with China Banking Corp.

Separately on Tuesday, Manila Water said in a press release that it would continue to "intensify" its expansion in Rizal province with 50 pipe-laying mainline extension and individualization projects.

Of the projects lined up for 2021 and 2022, up to 40 had been completed while 10 are set to be finished this year.

"Almost 17,000 families from Rizal will benefit from these projects," the company said.

Of the 40 completed projects, more than 13,500 families in the Rizal service area of Manila Water are now being provided with improved water quality and supply, the company said.

"Manila Water has always been committed to provide its customers access to reliable and potable water supply, and to extend its service to those who are living in the farthest and highest parts of its service area," said Nestor Jeric T. Sevilla, Jr., the company's corporate communications affairs group head.

Earlier this month, Manila Water said it was working closely with government agencies Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and the National Water Resources Board in developing new water sources.

The company is currently constructing a water treatment plant that will draw water from the eastern part of Laguna Lake. The area is said to be the cleanest portion of the lake.

The water treatment plant is part of Manila Water's water supply system project that seeks to expand its services to more towns in Rizal province.

Among the components of the P2.7-billion water treatment plant are an 8-million-liter capacity reservoir, an intake structure, a pumping station, and a water treatment plant using a dissolved

air flotation system, multi-media, and granular activated carbon filters as well as a reverse osmosis system.

As of June, Manila Water placed its water service connection in its coverage area at 1,132,976, which it said translates to 74 million residents in the eastern part of Metro Manila and the entire Rizal province.

Of the total connections, 95% or 1,077,017 are domestic customers while 5% or 54,399 are commercial and industrial customers, it added.

The company said that in almost 10 years, service connections increased by 21% as there were only 896,148 water service connections in the east zone by end-2012, covering 6.2 million customers.

On Tuesday, shares in the company closed unchanged at P15.40 apiece. — **A. E. O. Jose**

## PLDT and Smart launch integrated operations center

PLDT, Inc. and Smart Communications, Inc., launched on Tuesday their integrated operations center in Makati City that can quickly identify areas hit by services outages.

"This cutting-edge facility is the latest testament to the commitment of the PLDT Group to be at the forefront of innovation in the country," said PLDT Senior Vice-President Mario G. Tamayo, delivering a message on behalf of PLDT Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan.

National Telecommunications Commission Deputy Commissioner Edgardo V. Cabarios said that the integrated operations center will intensify PLDT and Smart's services.

"The operations center covers the entire network. If there are problems it will be easy to identify," Mr. Cabarios said.

The operations center is equipped with network monitoring and multimedia conferencing facilities, including a video wall that displays various network dashboards for immediate identification of areas affected by service outages.

Mr. Tamayo said that the integrated operations center will oversee the operations and monitor the performance of PLDT's extensive fiber infrastructure and the wireless facilities of Smart.

"We are also contributing greatly to helping the government realize its ambition to improve the country's digital infrastructure, making available the best of our technologies to put the Philippines at par with the rest of Asia," Mr. Tamayo said.

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.

— **A. E. O. Jose**

## ICTSI's Abbotsford sells stake in port operator

LISTED port operator International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI) announced on Tuesday that its unit Abbotsford Holdings, Inc., is selling its shares in Davao-based port operator Hijo International Port Services, Inc. (HIPSI) for P325 million.

In a stock exchange disclosure, ICTSI said Abbotsford agreed to sell 162,500 or 65% shares of HIPSI to Hijo Resources Corp. (HRC). ICTSI said Abbotsford divested its shares because the "expected market didn't materialize."

Abbotsford confirmed that it received an acceptable bank guarantee to cover the balance payment under the share purchase agreement with HRC.

HRC made an initial payment of P95 million and will settle the balance in multiple tranches over the next eight quarters, ICTSI said in its regulatory disclosure.

After the sale, Abbotsford will no longer be a shareholder of HIPSI, a joint venture company between ICTSI and HRC.

HRC is a diversified corporation with businesses in leisure, tourism, agribusiness, and property development.

On Tuesday, shares in ICTSI closed lower by 1.47% or P2.80 to P187.20 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

## Meralco to power edotco expansion

MANILA Electric Co. (Meralco) will energize the expansion of edotco Towers, Inc. to support businesses by helping improve internet connectivity in the Philippines.

"One of the immediate things we want to do is upgrade the service for our cellular sites. This is where we look forward to Meralco supporting this because the speed of energization enables our customers to deliver excellent internet connectivity services for the Filipinos," Suraj Narayanan Kutty, acting country managing director of edotco, said in a press release on Tuesday.

Meralco said that it had energized almost 50 edotco common towers this year, with 50 more expected to be fully energized by yearend.

The listed power distributor also said that it would facilitate the seamless transfer of service of approximately 700 telco assets within Meralco's franchise area that edotco acquired from PLDT, Inc.

Meralco will also conduct the systematic handling of future service applications to ensure its timely energization.

"Meralco will provide strategic and technical support to enhance edotco's operational efficiency and offer value-add services," the company said, citing these as automatic payment arrangements, enrollment to the peak/off-peak program, online and power quality services, and contract right-sizing.

edotco is an integrated telecommunications infrastructure services company in Asia. It provides end-to-end solutions in the tower services sector such as tower leasing, co-locations, build-to-suit, energy, transmission, and operations and maintenance.

Meralco's controlling stakeholder, Beacon Electric Asset Holdings, Inc., is partly owned by PLDT, Inc.

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.

On Tuesday, shares in Meralco closed lower by 0.31% or P1 to P317 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

## Landers to open in Megaworld's Bacolod township

MEMBERSHIP shopping store Landers Superstore is set to open its first store in Western Visayas inside a township built by listed property developer Megaworld Corp.

"We are very happy and excited to host another Landers in our township. This time, inside The Upper East township in Bacolod, which is envisioned to be Bacolod's newest central business district," said Graham M. Coates, first vice-president and head of Megaworld Lifestyle Malls, in a press release on Tuesday.

"This will be one of our anchor commercial establishments that will be directly connected to our iconic Upper East Mall," Mr. Coates said.

The store will be Landers' second one outside Luzon. It will sit on a 25,000-square-

meter or 2.5-hectare property along Upper East Avenue across Two Regis and Herald Parksites and integrated into where centuries-old trees are preserved.

"This premier membership shopping store will be directly connected to the west wing of the soon-to-rise three-level Upper East Mall via a 30-meter long bridgeway," Megaworld said.

The store will feature its own Caltex gas station where "members can enjoy unrivaled exclusive discounts on fuel products."

Landers Upper East will have a parking area designed to accommodate more than 300 vehicles at a time and with permeable paver blocks "for better rainwater retention."

The store will host sustainable features including high bay LED lighting fixtures,

energy-efficient air-conditioning units, and a rainwater collection system that will allow the harvesting of water for later use.

The Bacolod branch is the fourth Landers store hosted by Megaworld, after Landers Alabang West, Landers Arcovia City and Landers Uptown Bonifacio.

"Our strategic partnership with Landers has gone a long way. They are an important component of our rising modern townships," Mr. Coates said.

Landers said that Bacolod stood out among other cities in the region for its "tremendous" economic growth over the years and its "solid" reputation.

"The retail chain also noted the increasing demand for premium goods and experiences from the city's growing

population, ensuring a steady market for its core business," the company said.

The opening of the store is expected to provide employment to the local workforce and bring in investments.

"The opening of this new branch is expected to generate about 500 jobs from construction phase to its full launch," the company added.

"Residents and visitors of the City of Smiles will have more reasons to smile because they can finally enjoy Landers' full range of topnotch products, great deals, and exclusive perks closer to home," said Landers.

On Tuesday, shares in Megaworld slipped by five centavos or 2.03% to P2.41 apiece. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

## Metro Pacific Tollways plans IPO to raise \$500M

SINGAPORE — Metro Pacific Tollways Corp., the largest toll road developer and operator in the Philippines, could raise \$500 million from a planned initial public offering (IPO) on the local bourse, two sources close to the matter told Reuters.

Metro Pacific Tollways' President and Chief Executive Rodrigo E. Franco declined to comment on the financial details of the IPO but said the aim was to list the company in late 2023 or 2024.

The listing of Metro Pacific Tollways, in which Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd. has a 43.9% interest, could value the company at more than \$2 billion, the sources said, declining to be named because the IPO details are confidential. — **Reuters**

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