Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) 5,904.75 ▲9.11 PTS. ▲0.15%

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PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC	Ayala Corp.	P608.00	+P11.00	+1.84%
ACEN	ACEN Corp.	P5.90	-P0.09	-1.50%
AEV	Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc.	P57.90	+P1.60	+2.84%
AGI	Alliance Global Group, Inc.	P8.03	+P0.23	+2.95%
ALI	Ayala Land, Inc.	P23.50	+P0.70	+3.07%
AP	Aboitiz Power Corp.	P31.30	-P0.50	-1.57%
BDO	BDO Unibank, Inc.	P120.00	+P2.00	+1.69%
BPI	Bank of the Philippine Islands	P91.50	-P0.50	-0.54%
CNVRG	Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.	P12.50	-P0.02	-0.16%
EMI	Emperador, Inc.	P19.60	-P0.10	-0.51%
GLO	Globe Telecom, Inc.	P2,200.00	+P30.00	+1.38%
GTCAP	GT Capital Holdings, Inc.	P395.00	——	
ICT	International Container Terminal Services, Inc.	P169.80	-P8.20	-4.61%
JFC	Jollibee Foods Corp.	P231.00	-P0.60	-0.26%
JGS	JG Summit Holdings, Inc.	P41.05	+P0.15	+0.37%
LTG	LT Group, Inc.	P8.01	+P0.05	+0.63%
MBT	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.	P50.05	+P0.90	+1.83%
MEG	Megaworld Corp.	P2.04	——	
MER	Manila Electric Co.	P296.00	+P1.00	+0.34%
MONDE	Monde Nissin Corp.	P11.50	-P0.20	-1.71%
MPI	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	P3.50	+P0.05	+1.45%
PGOLD	Puregold Price Club, Inc.	P28.10	——	
RLC	Robinsons Land Corp.	P16.80	+P1.18	+7.55%
SCC	Semirara Mining and Power Corp.	P40.50	+P1.20	+3.05%
SM	SM Investments Corp.	P762.00	-P26.50	-3.36%
SMC	San Miguel Corp.	P98.40	-P0.90	-0.91%
SMPH	SM Prime Holdings, Inc.	P31.80	+P0.40	+1.27%
TEL	PLDT, Inc.	P1,430.00	-P8.00	-0.56%
URC	Universal Robina Corp.	P111.90	+P3.80	+3.52%
WLCON	Wilcon Depot, Inc.	P28.40	+P0.80	+2.90%

PAL revises 2022 target revenues to $2.6 billion

PHILIPPINE Airlines, Inc. (PAL) upwardly revised its 2022 topline target to $2.6 billion after reaching its previous $2-billion revenue goal as early as October.

"We exceeded our target already so it's quite good. Of course, we forecast another target, for the year it's $2.6-billion revenue," PAL Holdings, Inc. President and Chief Operating Officer Stanley K. Ng said on the sidelines of a Management Association of the Philippines event last week.

PAL Holdings is the listed company that operates Philippine Airlines, the country's flag carrier.

"If I remember correctly, [considering] we have three more months to go, [we are at] around $2 billion already," Mr. Ng said, referring to Philippine Airlines' total revenue by the month of October.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ng said that he expects a full recovery in domestic sales and 70% of pre-pandemic levels in international sales by December.

"This year has been strong. In domestic, we're already about 90% [of pre-pandemic level]. In December, we are approaching 100% of pre-pandemic level in domestic travels," Mr. Ng said.

For international sales, Mr. Ng said that the airline is already at 60% of its pre-pandemic level.

BW FILE PHOTO

"By December it's going to be around 70% already. China is about 20% of our market so that's why we still can't go back to 100% of pre-pandemic," Mr. Ng said.

In the first half of this year, the carrier generated $1.1 billion in revenues representing a 258% growth in passenger revenues and 31% growth in cargo revenues from the same period last year.

Destinations such as New Zealand, London, and Sapporo are still those not being served by the flag carrier after returning more than 20 aircraft to its lessor.

"We don't have that [many] airplanes to fly to those destinations right now," Mr. Ng said.

He added that if things improve for the airline, it expects to start servicing the three destinations by next year.

However, more than concerns about adding more planes, Philippine Airlines is putting more focus on re-fleeting to provide better customer experience, Mr. Ng said.

"Some of our [planes] are getting a little bit old in terms of aesthetic but in terms of engines and safety it's perfect but of course, people right now are more demanding of the seats," Mr. Ng said.

As a first step, Mr. Ng said that the airline has started by improving the food it serves by partnering with local chefs to introduce Filipino cuisine to the world.

"Here and there if we can do it, we've been doing it already. But the metal, the hardware, the aircraft it will take some time but we are in the process of deciding also," Mr. Ng said about the airline's target to grow back its fleet. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

MacroAsia's TERA targets to become major internet service provider, partners with Gur Lavi

TERA Information and Connectivity Solutions, Inc. (TERA), a subsidiary of MacroAsia Corp., is working to become a fixed-line internet service provider for both business and residential users in the next three to five years, a company official said.

"That's our aspiration ... for the next three to five years," TERA General Manager Anthony G. Hilario told reporters on Friday after the company signed a partnership deal with telco solutions distributor Gur Lavi Corp.

"[We take] baby steps to become a service provider," he added.

Under the partnership, TERA aims to deliver "end-user experiences as technology and tier 1 internet services provider to the LT Group, Inc," a listed holding company of business tycoon Lucio C. Tan.

With Gur Lavi, MacroAsia hopes to reduce operational costs and boost its digitalization efforts as it strives to recover from the pandemic crisis.

Gur Lavi is the company behind TeLavi Cloud, an all-in communication platform introduced amid the pandemic. It provides cloud telephony solutions, team messaging, videoconferencing, and call center solutions to enterprise and residential customers.

"We feel that Gur Lavi has very good expertise and technical understanding of the whole technology side. That is something we can leverage on. Hopefully we can learn a lot from them," MacroAsia President and Chief Operating Officer Eduardo Luis T. Luy said.

For his part, Gur Lavi President and Chief Executive Officer Erwin Co said: "We wish to impart our expertise, our knowledge in helping TERA and the other companies in their group in their digital transformation journey." — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

MACROASIA Corp. President and COO Eduardo Luis T. Luy signed on Oct. 14 a partnership deal for the company's subsidiary, Tera Information and Connectivity Solutions, Inc., with Gur Lavi Corp. President and CEO Erwin Co.

SC finds transport firm, its president liable for tax evasion

THE Supreme Court (SC) has affirmed the tax evasion convictions of Kingsam Express, Inc. (KEI) and its president for failing to pay deficiency income tax for the taxable years 2008 and 2009 worth more than P4 million and P10.8 million, respectively.

In a 14-page resolution dated Sept. 7 and made public on Oct. 14, the SC First division said the firm and its president "willfully" attempted to evade the tax obligations.

"The president and responsible officer, knew of KEI's purchase of bus units in 2008 and 2009 and yet he deliberately omitted the transactions in the corporation's income tax returns and financial statements," said the High Court.

The ruling affirmed the findings of the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA), which sentenced KEI President Samuel S. Santos to up to four years of imprisonment and a fine of P100,000 for the four indictments against him.

The tax court said noted that the transport firm and Mr. Santos underdeclared their income for 2008 and 2009 by at least 620% and 650%, respectively.

Under the country's revenue code, taxpayers are required to file an accurate quarterly income tax return and a final or adjustment return.

The law also provides the internal revenue commissioner with the authority to assess a taxpayer's tax deficiencies based on the "best evidence obtainable."

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KEI argued that the CTA's ruling should be overturned since Mr. Santos was not properly identified by government prosecutors in the case.

The High Court disagreed saying the firm's president himself admitted to the tax tribunal that he was in charge of information on the tax returns.

"The state can resort to administrative and judicial remedies to collect taxes from erring taxpayers which comprise both civil and criminal suits," it noted.

"Thus, the State, through the CIR, can directly file a criminal complaint to enforce the collection of taxes." — **John Victor D. Ordoñez**

TUNG NGUYEN FROM PIXABAY

Hospital networks important in managing healthcare facilities better

HAVING a hospital network in the Philippines will help in making healthcare efficient, affordable and accessible, a top official of Metro Pacific Hospital Holdings, Inc. (MPHHI) said.

"Hospitals [in the Philippines] were actually left alone to do their own thing so there was a lack of standardization across the network," MPHHI Chief Executive Officer Harish Pillai said in an interview.

"We have a few good hospitals, especially in the National Capital Region, like Makati Medical Center and Cardinal Santos Medical Center but there's a great value to leverage the power of a network," Mr. Pillai added.

According to the official, MPHHI addressed this by introducing co-creation and collaboration principles through the creation of experience councils.

"As a holding company, we now have clinical functions. We have a group chief medical officer, we are now going to appoint a chief nursing officer, we have a quality head, patient experience head, and information technology head," Mr. Pillai said.

"This new leadership at the holding company will influence our hospitals also to really work in a totally different way focusing on the code that is basically patient-focused," Mr. Pillai added.

Although the Philippines is fortunate to have a very talented healthcare workforce, Mr. Pillai said that since it is fragmented, collaboration among doctors is difficult.

"So, one of our big projects is the digital architecture that we are trying to create. That will really benefit patients at large, especially in the provinces," Mr. Pillai said.

Through this project, medical experts will be able to share their expertise in a digital ecosystem with the hospitals in the area.

Mr. Pillai said that the digital ecosystem will allow patients in provinces to access the same level of expertise as those in Metro Manila.

To date, MPHHI has 19 hospitals in its network, making it the largest private hospital operator in the country. It also has two allied health colleges, a growing number of primary care clinics and a cancer care center, and a central clinical laboratory. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

SNAP considers expanding floating solar project in Magat

RENEWABLE energy company SN Aboitiz Power (SNAP) is planning to scale up its 200-kilowatt floating solar power project in Magat dam, its top official said last week.

Joseph S. Yu, president and chief executive officer of SNAP, told *BusinessWorld* that the company is upgrading its solar panels to ones with higher efficiency and newer design.

"We are currently upgrading the panels to a newer design. In the meantime, we still have yet to see the system being challenged by a strong typhoon that would allow us to develop the technical resiliency aspect of the system," Mr. Yu said.

He said that at present, the company is in coordination with the National Irrigation Administration and National Grid Corp. of the Philippines to work out the access to the reservoir and the transmission units.

"We have a service contract to upscale it to around 67-megawatts," he added.

"Numbers are changing, almost every time so it is hard to pin it down, but [the] rule of thumb I am assuming [is] that it would be a million dollars per megawatt," Mr. Yu said.

In 2019, SNAP said it invested around P24 million in the floating solar project in Ramon, Isabela, which consisted of 720 solar panels. The facility is situated over a 2,500-square meter area in the Magat reservoir.

SNAP is a joint venture between SN Power of Norway and Aboitiz Power Corp. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**