Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) 6,437.38 ▲ 33.64 PTS. ▲ 0.52%

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2022
BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC	Ayala Corp.	P665.50	-P2.50	-0.37%
ACEN	ACEN Corp.	P7.00	-P0.05	-0.71%
AEV	Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc.	P56.75	+P0.40	+0.71%
AGI	Alliance Global Group, Inc.	P9.50	+P0.30	+3.26%
ALI	Ayala Land, Inc.	P29.70	+P1.20	+4.21%
AP	Aboitiz Power Corp.	P34.20	+P0.35	+1.03%
BDO	BDO Unibank, Inc.	P128.90	+P0.40	+0.31%
BPI	Bank of the Philippine Islands	P97.50	+P1.70	+1.77%
CNVRG	Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.	P15.00	——	
EMI	Emperador, Inc.	P20.05	-P0.25	-1.23%
GLO	Globe Telecom, Inc.	P2,214.00	-P8.00	-0.36%
GTCAP	GT Capital Holdings, Inc.	P433.00	+P20.20	+4.89%
ICT	International Container Terminal Services, Inc.	P188.00	+P3.80	+2.06%
JFC	Jollibee Foods Corp.	P244.00	+P2.00	+0.83%
JGS	JG Summit Holdings, Inc.	P44.90	-P0.10	-0.22%
LTG	LT Group, Inc.	P9.19	+P0.10	+1.10%
MBT	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.	P51.65	+P1.45	+2.89%
MEG	Megaworld Corp.	P2.26	+P0.08	+3.67%
MER	Manila Electric Co.	P306.20	+P0.60	+0.20%
MONDE	Monde Nissin Corp.	P12.72	+P0.40	+3.25%
MPI	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	P3.41	+P0.01	+0.29%
PGOLD	Puregold Price Club, Inc.	P35.15	+P0.35	+1.01%
RLC	Robinsons Land Corp.	P16.40	+P0.44	+2.76%
SCC	Semirara Mining and Power Corp.	P30.55	——	
SM	SM Investments Corp.	P859.00	-P8.00	-0.92%
SMC	San Miguel Corp.	P98.00	+P0.10	+0.10%
SMPH	SM Prime Holdings, Inc.	P34.00	-P0.60	-1.73%
TEL	PLDT, Inc.	P1,579.00	+P1.00	+0.06%
URC	Universal Robina Corp.	P131.90	-P0.30	-0.23%
WLCON	Wilcon Depot, Inc.	P31.30	+P0.10	+0.32%

Sta. Lucia expects sales from upscale 128 Nivel Hills at P8B

STA. LUCIA LAND, Inc. and its Cebu-based partners launched what they call a high-end, five-star development in Cebu City from which sales are expected to reach at least P8 billion.

"*Siguro pagbebentahan diyan* not less than *mga* P7 [billion] *pero, kasi may mga* price increase, *aabot ng* more than P8 [billion]," said Sta. Lucia Land President Exequiel D. Robles in a media briefing on Saturday in Cebu City.

(Sales would possibly be no less than around P7 billion, but because of price increases, these could reach more than P8 billion).

The project — 128 Nivel Hills — is a two-tower master-planned development that is now in its early stage of construction in the city's Lahug district, after being stalled during the height of the pandemic in 2020. A branded hotel is planned to be the third tower.

Mr. Robles said revenues from the project would be realized through the years when buyers pay their property purchase in installments. He added that taxes, marketing, advertising, and maintenance expenses could account for nearly 10% of what the project will bring.

Sta Lucia Land's partner in the project that overlooks Cebu City's skyline is Diamond Hiland, Inc., which is a partnership between Carlos Yeung's MSY Holdings Corp. and former ambassador Philippe J. Lhuillier's PJL Leisure, Inc.

Liezel Tuazon-Magpoc, president and chief executive officer of Sta Lucia Land's marketing arm, said separately that the completion of the project is targeted in 2026.

"We start turnover by 2027. So, [for the] whole two towers, we expect about P8 [billion] to P9 billion proceeds," she told reporters when the project's showroom was opened on Saturday.

128 Nivel Hills will have two towers and a branded hotel for which the partners are in talks with possible managers. Its first tower will offer 576 units, of which 366 are residential units with the rest, or 210 units, for the condotel.

The second tower will have 613 residential units sized from 28 square meters (sq.m.) for a studio to 163.9 sq.m. for a four-bedroom unit. In between are two-bedroom, and three-bedroom cuts. — **Victor V. Saulon**

FULL STORY
Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link
<https://bit.ly/3EW5vL3>

SEC warns public about Teck Mining

THE Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) warned the public not to invest in an entity called Teck Mining or in any investment offers on teckph.com

In an advisory, the SEC said Teck Mining and teckph.com are not connected to Canada-based Teck Resources Ltd. and Sun Life Management Co., Inc.

The SEC said that it received reports that officers or agents of Teck Mining have been enticing the public through social media posts to invest in the company through teckph.com.

The regulator also received reports that representatives of Teck Mining have been saying that it is related to Teck Resources. The entity's representatives were also using Sun Life's insurance certificate form to make it appear that investments in Teck Mining are insured.

"Teckph.com uses a modified website material of the legitimate mining company Teck Resources without due authority," the regulator said.

Investors are instructed to download Teck Mining's trading application from Google Play Store. They will then be contacted through messaging platforms to introduce the investment scheme.

Potential investors are asked to invest as low as P100 with a promised income of not less than a 2% interest rate daily.

"Thus, an investment of P5,000 has the potential to earn as much as 40% or equivalent to P2,000 within a 20-day cycle," the SEC said.

The commission said that teckph.com or Teck Mining is not registered as a corporation or partnership and does not have the necessary license to solicit or take investments from the public as called for under the Securities Regulation Code.

"It appears that teckph.com or Teck Mining does not constitute a legitimate business that would generate a genuine income," the regulator said.

The commission added that the contracts being offered by the entity are "non-existent" and the materials being used in its postings were lifted from the website of Teck Resources. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

CEB increases local flights from Cebu, int'l flights to Hong Kong, Seoul

BUDGET carrier Cebu Pacific (CEB) announced on Sunday its plan to add more domestic and international flights due to anticipated increased demand during the holiday season.

"We know that many are raring to travel again to their favorite local and foreign destinations, so we are very excited to mount these additional flights as we approach the holiday season," Xander Lao, Cebu Pacific's chief commercial officer said in an emailed statement.

Starting Dec. 1, the airline will increase weekly flights between Cebu and Iloilo, Dumaguete, Legazpi, Surigao, Pagadian, and Tacloban.

To widen its international footprint, Cebu Pacific will also add more flights between Manila and Brunei, Jakarta, Seoul, Taipei, and Hong Kong. The increased weekly flight frequency (from two times to four times) to and from Brunei is expected to start on Nov. 27.

Weekly flights between Manila and Hong Kong will be increased to 32x from 28x currently starting Dec. 11.

Flights between Manila and Seoul (Incheon) will increase to 14 times per week from seven times currently starting Dec. 1.

Cebu Pacific currently flies to a total of 34 domestic and 19 international destinations.

The airline said it continues to implement a multi-layered approach to safety while it operates with a 100% fully vaccinated crew, 97% of whom have been boosted.

Cebu Air, Inc., the listed operator of Cebu Pacific, managed to cut its attributable net loss for the third quarter of the year to P2.54 billion from a loss of P8.20 billion in the same period last year.

The company's revenues for the quarter reached P16.85 billion, surging from P3.25 billion previously. This was propelled by a strong recovery across the airline's business segments, according to the company.

Expenses increased 111.6% to P19.89 billion from P9.4 billion in the same period last year.

"Despite being a lean season, the continued easing of travel requirements encouraged strong travel demand. For the third quarter, Cebu Pacific has flown over four million passengers, a 489% increase versus the third quarter last year," the company said in a statement. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

Growth,
from S1/1

activities induced by the resumption of face-to-face classes," it said.

The implementation of the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE) law, Financial Institutions Strategic Transfer (FIST) Act, and the second tranche in the reduction in personal income taxes will further boost the domestic outlook in 2023 and 2024, the BSP said.

The BSP noted the economy is expected to operate at "slightly above potential."

"Estimates from the BSP's Policy Analysis Model for the Philippines (PAMPh) 4 indicate that the output gap is projected to turn positive in 2023, reflecting largely the sustained expansion in 2022. The output gap will return to broadly neutral territory in 2024 as the impact of policy interest rate adjustments take hold on the economy," it said.

"Improved external trade competitiveness and sustained remittances amid peso depreciation, notwithstanding the slowdown in global growth outlook, could drive the higher domestic output gap. Meanwhile, potential output is expected to sustain its recovery given the continued reopening of the economy, improvements in labor conditions, and investment growth."

INFLATION

The BSP said inflation is projected to remain elevated in the near term, and above the 2-4% target range until the second quarter of 2023.

"Inflation is seen to decelerate back to within the target range by Q3 2023 and approach the low end of the target range in Q4 2023 to Q1 2024 due to negative base effects, before stabilizing at the midpoint of the target by Q2 2024," it said.

"The projected deceleration of the inflation path can be attributed to the easing global oil and non-oil prices and negative base effects from transport fare adjustments in 2022 as well as the impact of BSP's cumulative policy rate adjustments."

The BSP last week raised its average baseline inflation projection to 5.8% this year, from 5.4% previously. It also hiked the inflation forecast to 4.3% from 4.1% for 2023, while lowering the 2024 forecast to 3.1% from 3.2%.

"However, high inflation remains to be a risk. We forecast inflation in November to hit 7.8% or even higher, with upside risks still largely from food," China Banking Corp. Chief Economist Domini S. Velasquez said.

October inflation rose to a near 14-year high of 7.7% in October, from 6.9% in September and 4% a year earlier. Excluding food and fuel prices, core inflation grew to 5.9% in October.

PHILIPPINE STAR / MICHAEL VARCAS
THE ORTIGAS business district pictured on Nov. 9, 2021.

"We cannot say it will not exceed 8% definitely as vegetable and meat prices are on an uptrend. We might see some pressure still as we approach Christmas where demand tends to increase," Ms. Velasquez said.

Security Bank Corp. Chief Economist Robert Dan J. Roces said the growth outturn in the third quarter points to a "comfortable space" to do more rate hikes.

"Forward guidance so far points to more tightening ahead with the central bank still having a lot of work to do, as core inflation remains above-target and still climbing — indicating stronger pass-through of food and energy prices amid demand-side appetite — which continues to lift price expectations," he said.

If the US Federal Reserve continues policy tightening, BSP Governor Felipe M. Medalla told Reuters the central bank will have to raise interest rates to prevent the peso's weakness from further stoking inflation.

The US Federal Reserve has increased borrowing costs by 375 bps since March, which brought the policy rate to 3.75-4%.

"We think that BSP will continue to be aggressive, matching the Fed in December of 50 bps. Until early next year, the BSP will likely move in lockstep with the Fed both to prevent the peso from depreciating and also as domestic core prices continue to accelerate," Ms. Velasquez said.

Asian Institute of Management economist John Paolo R. Rivera noted that as inflation has not yet peaked and as the Fed is showing signs of slowing down, the BSP may still hike rates but not as aggressive as 75 bps.

"However, should inflation uptick faster as expected, BSP can use other monetary tools to temper inflation," he added. — **KBT**