

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,525.16 ▼ 149.22 PTS. ▼ 2.23%

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2022

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P695.50 -P16.50 -2.32%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P7.45 -P0.16 -2.10%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P53.80 -P1.65 -2.98%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P10.00 +P0.01 +0.10%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P29.00 -P0.90 -3.01%	AP Aboitiz Power Corp. P34.20 -P0.40 -1.16%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P129.00 -P2.60 -1.98%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P99.00 -P3.80 -3.70%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P16.00 ---	EMI Emperador, Inc. P20.20 +P0.05 +0.25%
GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,182.00 -P20.00 -0.91%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P443.00 -P7.60 -1.69%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P190.00 +P1.60 +0.85%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P237.00 -P9.60 -3.89%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P46.15 -P0.85 -1.81%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P8.90 -P0.01 -0.11%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P55.00 -P0.60 -1.08%	MEG Megaworld Corp. P2.28 +P0.04 +1.79%	MER Manila Electric Co. P282.20 -P4.80 -1.67%	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P11.38 -P0.20 -1.73%
MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P3.48 -P0.05 -1.42%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P32.20 +P0.20 +0.63%	RLC Robinsons Land Corp. P16.30 +P0.12 +0.74%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P33.60 +P0.10 +0.30%	SM SM Investments Corp. P910.00 -P33.00 -3.50%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P93.00 -P2.30 -2.41%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P34.70 -P1.70 -4.67%	TEL PLDT, Inc. P1,700.00 +P31.00 +1.86%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P134.40 -P3.60 -2.61%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P30.90 +P0.25 +0.82%

Higher power rates seen on ceased 670-MW supply

MANILA ELECTRIC Co. (Meralco) is negotiating with power generation companies to source 670 megawatts (MW) that a unit of San Miguel Global Power Holdings Corp. stopped supplying in a move that could raise electricity rates starting in January.

The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), however, was left out of the discussion as it claims to have not been informed by the power distributor of the reported cessation of supply.

Joe R. Zalardriaga, Meralco spokesperson and head of corporate communications, confirmed on Wednesday that San Miguel Global Power subsidiary South Premiere Power Corp. (SPPC) had terminated their power supply contract.

"We are confirming the receipt of the notice of cessation of SMC Global Power's supply. This covers 670 MW of our power supply agreement (PSA) with [SPPC]," Mr. Zalardriaga said.

On Tuesday, SMC Global Power said in a statement that it was terminating SPPC's PSA with Meralco effective Dec. 7.

"Unfortunately, despite being shown that granting our petition would have been the cheapest option for consumers, the ERC still denied our petition," SMC Global Power President and Chief Executive Officer Ramon S. Ang said.

Mr. Zalardriaga said that Meralco is now sourcing power from the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM), while

negotiating with generation companies to secure power supply.

"Our priority is to ensure continuity of stable and reliable power supply, we are exhausting all efforts to mitigate any impact of these recent developments," he said.

Meralco Vice-President and Head of Utility Economics Lawrence S. Fernandez said that SPPC's power supply covers about 12% of Meralco's supply last month.

"The spot market prices based on the IEMOP's report from Monday and Tuesday, they ranged from P7 to P9 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) compared to SPPC's P4 per kWh," Mr. Fernandez said, referring to Independent Electricity Market Operator of the Philippines.

"We still need to see the other factors that will come into play. To assume higher bills for customers, well in terms of the bills of the customers, that is a possibility, but still remains to be seen," Mr. Zalardriaga said.

Last month, the Court of Appeals (CA) issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) in favor of SMC Global Power, suspending the implementation of SPPC's PSA with Meralco.

The 60-day TRO was sought by the company after the ERC denied a joint petition for a rate increase filed by SMC Global Power and Meralco. The rate increase was meant to partially recover the losses incurred by SMC Global Power units SPPC and San Miguel Energy

Corp. (SMC), the administrators of the natural gas-fired power plant in Ilijan, Batangas, and the coal power plant in Sual, Pangasinan, respectively.

SMC Global Power is seeking to recover losses amounting to P5 billion while absorbing P10 billion. It claims to have lost P15 billion because of extraordinary circumstances, including soaring fuel costs, which were way higher than when its units forged the PSAs.

Meanwhile, the ERC said on Wednesday that it has yet to receive an official notice from Meralco on the cessation of SPPC's supply.

"It is not yet clear to us at this point, if SPPC served a notice of PSA termination or merely a suspension of supply considering that the case before the CA filed by SPPC involving the said PSA is still for final resolution," ERC Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer Monalisa C. Dimalanta said.

The ERC said it is also waiting for the guidance of the Office of the Solicitor General for its next step, "after the matter was referred for undertaking the appropriate legal remedy."

It said that based on ERC records of Meralco billings for November 2022, the 670-MW contract with SPPC accounted for 13.4% of the utility's supply and was priced at P4.2455 per kWh. It said the average WESM price for the same period was P8.47 per kWh.

The regulator said the cessation of supply from a bilateral contract or PSA does not excuse the distribution utility from its obligation under Section 23 of Republic Act No. 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) of 2001 "to supply electricity in the least cost manner to its captive market..."

On Monday, Meralco said it had secured a certificate from the Department of Energy (DoE) exempting the 670-MW emergency power supply agreement from going through a competitive selection process.

Jose Ronald V. Valles, Meralco's first vice-president and head of its regulatory management, said on Monday that so far, the company had negotiated with Aboitiz Power Corp., which only offered 300 MW capacity and only for a period of two months until Jan. 25.

Mr. Zalardriaga said that despite SMC Global Power's move to terminate its PSA, the power distributor is still considering the offer of SMC Global Power's 1,200-MW capacity of its Ilijan plant.

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. — Ashley Erika O. Jose



UNSPLASH

DMCI Power plans solar in its energy mix

DMCI Power Corp. targets to include solar energy in its energy mix in 2023, the power generation arm of DMCI Holdings, Inc. announced on Wednesday.

"Next year, we are targeting to include solar energy in our mix. We have a four megawatts (MW) solar plant that's set to operate in Masbate by the fourth quarter of 2023," Antonino E. Gattula, Jr., president of DMCI Power, said in a media release.

DMCI Power has also invested P745 million to expand its installed capacity in Masbate. The off-grid energy provider said it had installed an additional 11 MW of generation capacity in the province, increasing its installed capacity by 21%.

"One plant is already operational while the other is set to run within the month. These investments are in line with our commitment to provide adequate, reliable and dependable power supply in missionary areas," Mr. Gattula said.

For the January-to-September period, energy sales in Masbate rose by 11% to 111 gigawatt-hours

(GWh) from 100 GWh driven by strong energy demand, the company said.

Last month, the power generation company said it had deployed and operated a three-MW diesel plant in Pio V. Corpuz town in Masbate.

Meanwhile, the company is also targeting the operation of the eight-MW diesel power plant in Cataingan town this month, while the plant's final testing and commissioning go on.

In August, DMCI Power said that the company was planning to explore hybrid systems with the possibility of using biomass and coal to energize off-grid areas.

DMCI Power has a combined capacity of 148 MW in Masbate, Palawan, and Oriental Mindoro.

Established in 2006, the company is primarily engaged in energizing off-grid small and remote islands. Its portfolio includes diesel, bunker, and thermal energy.

On Thursday, shares in DMCI Holdings closed 0.61% higher to end at P9.93 each. — Ashley Erika O. Jose

Aboitiz Equity Ventures' P20-B retail bonds secure PDEX nod

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures, Inc. (AEV) received the approval of the Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp. or PDEX to list its P20-billion fixed-rate retail bonds, the firm said on Tuesday.

"The PDEX approval paves the way for the secondary market trading of the Series A bonds, with a fixed interest rate of 6.8725% per annum maturing in 2026, and the Series B bonds with a fixed interest rate of 7.5321% per annum maturing in 2029," the company said in a disclosure.

The offer will have a base amount of P8 billion, which comprises P7.45 billion from the final tranche of the company's P30 billion shelf registration in 2019, and P550 million from the first tranche of its P30-billion shelf registration in 2022.

The holding firm will also offer an oversubscription of up to P12 billion, which is part of the 2022 shelf-registration program.

The P20-billion retail bonds are set for issuance on Dec. 7. The offer period was scheduled from Nov. 22 to 28.

Airbnb: Filipinos more flexible in travel

MORE Filipinos have become flexible in their travel plans after mobility restrictions were relaxed, according to online home-sharing platform Airbnb.

Airbnb said in a statement that its online survey showed 65% of Filipinos are more flexible in terms of their type of holidays and time of travel, while one in every four Filipinos is planning to travel without set dates within the next year.

The online survey, commissioned by Airbnb, was done by data firm YouGov from Oct. 6 to 12 involving 1,063 respondents in the Philippines.

The survey also showed that almost half of Filipino respondents said that they are likely to travel if they could find accommodation that makes longer stays easy and comfortable, while 35% pointed to destinations offering unique styles of accommodations.

The survey added that 25% of respondents think that it is a priority to have access to amenities such as a dedicated work area and fast and reliable internet connection for an easier combination of remote work and travel, while over half have shown interest in becoming Airbnb hosts to take advantage of the new demand for travel.

According to a press release from the Securities and Exchange Commission, the company expects proceeds from the offer to amount to P19.76 billion if the oversubscription option is fully exercised.

The company intends to use the funds for the acquisition of GMR-Megawide Cebu Airport Corp. by its subsidiary Aboitiz Infra-Capital, Inc. A portion of the proceeds will refinance maturing debt.

Philippine Rating Services Corp. previously gave the bond issuance the highest issue credit rating of PRS Aaa with a stable outlook. The rating means the issuance is of the highest quality, has minimal credit risk, and the obligor can meet its financial commitment. A stable outlook means the rating is likely to be maintained in the next 12 months.

On the stock market on Wednesday, shares in AEV declined by P1.65 or 2.98% to P53.80 apiece. — Justine Irish D. Tabile

According to Airbnb, Pasay City was the top trending domestic destination for Filipino guests in Airbnb in the third quarter, followed by El Nido, Cebu City, Parañaque City, and Iloilo City.

"Around the world, Airbnb has seen strong growth rates of new Airbnb hosts, especially in countries with high inflation rates. Notably, 77% of Filipinos polled said they were looking for ways to offset rising costs of living," the company said.

"The survey also shows that desire for travel remains high, with over a quarter of respondents saying that they will continue to find ways to travel even if general costs of living rise," it added.

Amanpreet Bajaj, Airbnb general manager for Southeast Asia, India, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, said that changes in long-term stays and flexible travel hint at the vital role of short-term accommodations such as Airbnb.

"This growing appetite for travel is a positive sign as tourism recovery gathers pace. More keenly, this is an opportune moment for aspiring Filipino entrepreneurs to Airbnb their homes and earn additional income to mitigate rising living costs or support their travels," Mr. Bajaj said. — Revin Mikhael D. Ochave

Manulife

Fund	Unit Price		
	Current Week	December 6, 2022	November 29, 2022
Peso Secure Fund	1.637	1.637	1.633
Peso Diversified Value Fund	1.816	1.816	1.828
Peso Growth Fund	2.759	2.759	2.867
Peso Dynamic Allocation Fund	0.965	0.965	0.989
Peso Target Distribution Fund	0.750	0.750	0.758
Peso Cash Fund	1.024	1.024	1.023
Peso Wealth Optimizer 2026 Fund	0.900	0.900	0.917
Peso Wealth Optimizer 2031 Fund	0.862	0.862	0.886
Peso Wealth Optimizer 2036 Fund	0.849	0.849	0.880
Powerhouse Fund	0.822	0.822	0.848
Emperador Fund	0.838	0.838	0.866
USD Secure Fund	1.485	1.485	1.454
USD Asia Pacific Bond Fund	1.028	1.028	1.010
USD Global Target Income Fund	0.734	0.734	0.728
USD ASEAN Growth Fund	1.535	1.535	1.496
USD Asia Pacific Property Income Fund	0.787	0.787	0.771
PHP Asia Pacific Property Income Fund	0.825	0.825	0.817
PHP Tiger Growth Fund	0.662	0.662	0.584
USD Tiger Growth Fund	0.559	0.559	0.487
PHP Global Preferred Securities Income Fund	0.959	0.959	0.963
USD Global Preferred Securities Income Fund	0.812	0.812	0.808
PHP US Growth Fund	1.000	1.000	1.004
USD US Growth Fund	0.859	0.859	0.854
PHP Global Health Fund	1.105	1.105	1.103
USD Global Health Fund	1.043	1.043	1.031
PHP Global Multi-Asset Income Fund	1.038	1.038	1.037
USD Global Multi-Asset Income Fund	0.973	0.973	0.961

Manulife

Fund	Unit Bid Price		
	Current Week	December 6, 2022	November 29, 2022
Peso Bond Fund	2.789	2.789	2.752
Peso Stable Fund	2.753	2.753	2.772
Peso Equity Fund	2.083	2.083	2.144
Peso Balanced Fund	0.989	0.989	1.013
Peso Target Income Fund	0.785	0.785	0.774
U.S. Dollar Bond Fund	2.124	2.124	2.080

Fund	Unit Offer Price		
	Current Week	December 6, 2022	November 29, 2022
Peso Bond Fund	2.831	2.831	2.824
Peso Stable Fund	2.795	2.795	2.814
Peso Equity Fund	2.084	2.084	2.177
Peso Balanced Fund	1.024	1.024	1.028
Peso Target Income Fund	0.777	0.777	0.786
U.S. Dollar Bond Fund	2.156	2.156	2.112

Manulife China Bank

Fund	Unit Price		
	Current Week	December 6, 2022	November 29, 2022
Peso Secure Fund	1.626	1.626	1.622
Peso Diversified Value Fund	1.798	1.798	1.798
Peso Growth Fund	2.888	2.888	2.794
Peso Dynamic Allocation Fund	0.962	0.962	0.986
Peso Target Distribution Fund	0.744	0.744	0.753
Peso Cash Fund	0.993	0.993	0.992
Peso Wealth Optimizer 2026 Fund	0.847	0.847	0.863
Peso Wealth Optimizer 2031 Fund	0.805	0.805	0.829
Peso Wealth Optimizer 2036 Fund	0.785	0.785	0.813
Powerhouse Fund	0.822	0.822	0.848
USD Secure Fund	1.485	1.485	1.434
USD Asia Pacific Bond Fund	1.010	1.010	0.991
USD Global Target Income Fund	0.742	0.742	0.735
USD ASEAN Growth Fund	1.513	1.513	1.476
China Asset Fund	0.977	0.977	0.986
USD Asia First Fund	1.102	1.102	1.099
USD Asia Pacific Property Income Fund	0.789	0.789	0.773
PHP Asia Pacific Property Income Fund	0.806	0.806	0.828
PHP Tiger Growth Fund	0.668	0.668	0.589
USD Tiger Growth Fund	0.596	0.596	0.502
PHP Global Preferred Securities Income Fund	0.953	0.953	0.957
USD Global Preferred Securities Income Fund	0.817	0.817	0.813
PHP US Growth Fund	0.982	0.982	0.986
USD US Growth Fund	0.854	0.854	0.829
PHP Global Health Fund	1.110	1.110	1.109
USD Global Health Fund	1.048	1.048	1.036
PHP Global Multi-Asset Income Fund	1.012	1.012	1.011
USD Global Multi-Asset Income Fund	1.064	1.064	1.057

Fund	Unit Bid Price		
	Current Week	December 6, 2022	November 29, 2022
Peso Bond Fund	1.950	1.950	1.927
Peso Stable Fund	1.790	1.790	1.834
Peso Equity Fund	1.667	1.667	1.833
Peso Balanced Fund	0.910	0.910	1.001
Peso Target Income Fund	0.748	0.748	0.787
U.S. Dollar Bond Fund	1.620	1.620	1.591

Fund	Unit Offer Price		
	Current Week	December 6, 2022	November 29, 2022
Peso Bond Fund	1.990	1.990	1.950
Peso Stable Fund	1.817	1.817	1.902
Peso Equity Fund	1.692	1.692	1.902
Peso Balanced Fund	0.924	0.924	1.016
Peso Target Income Fund	0.759	0.759	0.779
U.S. Dollar Bond Fund	1.477	1.477	1.524