

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,756.69 ▼ 33.55 PTS. ▼ 0.49%

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023
BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P703.00 -P9.00 -1.26%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P7.30 -P0.30 -3.95%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P59.00 -P1.00 -1.67%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P11.80 ---	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P30.00 -P0.70 -2.28%	AP Aboitiz Power Corp. P34.70 -P0.30 -0.86%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P110.90 -P1.50 -1.33%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P104.50 -P1.50 -1.42%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P18.00 ---	EMI Emperador, Inc. P20.20 -P0.15 -0.74%
GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,114.00 -P18.00 -0.84%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P440.60 -P5.40 -1.21%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P203.00 +P5.00 +2.53%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P241.00 -P1.00 -0.41%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P56.20 +P0.10 +0.18%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P9.66 -P0.02 -0.21%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P57.20 -P0.20 -0.35%	MEG Megaworld Corp. P2.07 -P0.03 -1.43%	MER Manila Electric Co. P306.00 -P3.80 -1.23%	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P12.30 -P0.18 -1.44%
MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P3.88 +P0.28 +7.78%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P34.90 -P0.30 -0.85%	RLC Robinsons Land Corp. P15.00 -P0.08 -0.53%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P35.90 ---	SM SM Investments Corp. P903.50 +P3.50 +0.39%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P95.00 ---	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P37.25 -P0.25 -0.67%	TEL PLDT, Inc. P1,433.00 +P21.00 +1.49%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P138.00 -P2.00 -1.43%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P29.80 ---

5G subscription in PHL seen rising at 'brisk pace'

THE total revenue of telecommunications companies in the Philippines is expected to increase at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4% during 2021-2026, with subscriptions to fifth-generation (5G) services seen growing at a "brisk pace," according to London-based data analytics company GlobalData Plc.

In its analysis report released last month, GlobalData said the progress in telecom revenue will be mainly supported by mobile data and fixed broadband segments.

Citing its research, GlobalData said the mobile voice service revenue in the

country will decrease over 2021-2026 in line with the constant decline in mobile voice average revenue per user or ARPU, as telcos extend unlimited voice minutes as part of their packaged plans.

Meanwhile, mobile data service revenue is expected to increase at 7.8% over the period "driven by the projected rise in mobile internet subscriptions, growth in higher ARPU-yielding 5G subscriptions and a steady rise in the consumption of mobile data services."

Aasif Iqbal, telecom analyst at GlobalData, said: "4G services accounted for 80.4% of the total mobile subscriptions in

2021 and will remain the leading mobile technology through 2026."

"5G subscriptions will however increase at a brisk pace over the forecast period, supported by 5G network expansion efforts by operators like PLDT and Globe Telecom across the country."

GlobalData also expects revenue from the fixed voice segment to grow over the forecast period driven by the subscription gains in the voice over internet protocol or VoIP segment.

"Fixed broadband service revenue will also increase during the forecast period, driven by a steady rise in fiber-to-

home subscriptions, and continued growth in DSL (digital subscriber line), cable internet, and fixed wireless subscriptions," GlobalData noted.

It said that the acceleration in the adoption of fiber-optic broadband services in the country can be attributed to the rising demand for high-speed data services and the expansion of fiber-optic network infrastructure by local government and service coverage by operators.

"For instance, PLDT has added 489,000 new fiber subscriptions and has deployed 1.29 million new fiber ports in the first nine months of 2022," GlobalData said.

On Monday, Globe Telecom said it had successfully tested the 5G-standalone technology in various applications.

"The successful demonstration of 5G standalone with network slicing highlights the company's commitment to driving innovation and providing new and improved services to its customers," the telco said in a statement.

"The technology also opens up new opportunities for businesses across a range of industries, as it enables Globe to provide products and services that are tailored to specific demands," it added. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

ACEN signs EPC contract for solar farm in Australia

ACEN Corp. said its subsidiary had chosen PCL Construction as its engineering, procurement and construction contractor (EPC) for the development of its 520-megawatt direct current (MWdc) Stubbo solar farm in Australia.

"PCL has been engaged to deliver all aspects of the solar project and is responsible for the detailed design, engineering and procurement of Stubbo solar," ACEN said in a media release on Tuesday, adding that the contractor will also handle the operation and maintenance services of the solar farm for two years.

ACEN said the construction of the Stubbo solar farm started after it is-

sued a notice to proceed to PCL, which means all contracts for the project are in place. It described PCL as a diversified construction company involved in solar energy solutions in Australia, the United States and Canada.

ACEN quoted Gopi Govindraj, country manager of PCL, as saying, "We look forward to designing and building this important solar project for ACEN Australia."

Sech Zabaleta, chief development officer at ACEN, said that the Stubbo solar farm is part of the Ayala-led company's renewable energy expansion where it targets to reach 20 gigawatts

of installed renewable energy (RE) capacity by 2030.

The solar farm project is located in Stubbo, New South Wales. It will connect the existing 330-kiloVolt (kV) network between Wollar and Wellington.

The project is expected to power up to 185,000 households. It includes a provision for a 200-megawatt-hours (MWh) battery energy storage system, which will allow the solar farm "to dispatch energy when it is most needed during peak hours and provide important grid stability services."

In a separate media release, ACEN said it executed on Dec. 9 a P10-billion

loan facility agreement with BDO Unibank, Inc.

ACEN also said it signed a deal for the acquisition of subscription rights in Sinocalan Solar Power Corp. (SSPC), the developer of a 60-megawatt-peak solar power plant in Pangasinan.

The renewable energy company said it signed a deed of assignment with Sungrow Power Renewables Corp. to acquire subscription rights to be issued in the increased authorized capital stocks of SSPC.

On Tuesday, shares in ACEN closed 3.95% lower to end at P7.30 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Sta. Lucia Land taps Enderun for hotel management

STA. LUCIA LAND, Inc. has tapped Enderun Hotels to undertake the hotel management and consultancy services of the listed developer's properties in Baguio and Palawan.

In a press release on Tuesday, the company said the partnership with the division of Enderun Colleges covers the full management of its SotoGrande properties in the two areas.

"The hospitality management solutions provider will also oversee the overall strategic direction of the two properties and supervise SotoGrande Baguio and Palawan's sales, marketing, and revenue management," the firm said.

SotoGrande Baguio is an eight-storey property on Leonard Wood Road located outside Camp John Hay. It has 188 rooms, two meeting rooms, a bar and a restaurant.

The hotel is also close to Baguio Country Club, SM City Baguio, Brent International School, University of the Philippines Baguio, and Saint Louis University.

Meanwhile, SotoGrande Palawan is a six-storey business hotel in Puerto Princesa City with 147 units. The 1,020-square-meter property is in Catalina Lake Residences.

"We believe that the service, leadership, and integrity that we incorporate into our projects will resonate with the exceptional guest experience that Enderun Hotels can only provide as we continue to work towards providing a legacy through strategic land developments and expanding quality projects," Sta. Lucia Land Project Development Head Jayson P. Robles said.

The hotels in Baguio and Palawan, which will be launched this year, are the sixth and seventh properties built under the SotoGrande group.

Its other hotels are located in Cebu, Iloilo, Davao, Neopolitan in Fairview, Katipunan, and Batangas.

On the stock exchange on Tuesday, shares in Sta. Lucia Land closed unchanged at P3.20 apiece. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

Maynilad plans to spend P19B on new sewer lines

MAYNILAD Water Services, Inc. is targeting to spend P19 billion in the next five years for the installation of 121 kilometers of new sewer lines as part of the expansion of its sewerage services.

In a media release on Tuesday, the west zone water concessionaire said the new pipelines will be laid in portions of Manila, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Bacoor, Las Piñas, Caloocan, and Quezon City.

The new pipelines will catch used water generated by 2.1 million customers and will then be treated under Maynilad's sewerage treatment plants for proper discharge.

"The installation of new sewer lines is part of our effort to protect community health and the environment through proper sewage collection and treatment. We hope for the continued support of the local government units so that we can fast track the implementation of these pipe-laying projects in their area," Randolph T. Estrelado, chief operating officer of Maynilad, said.

Maynilad said that the pipeline laying was coordinated with authorities of affected local government units to minimize the inconvenience it may cause to the public.

"Affected roads are also immediately restored with temporary asphalt pavement to make the roads

passable to motorists. Moreover, Maynilad regularly monitors its contractors to ensure that their work sites are fully enclosed by board-up barricades and have appropriate lighting and traffic/warning signs," Maynilad added.

The west zone water concessionaire currently operates up to 625 kilometers of sewer lines, and about 22 wastewater treatment facilities that can treat 664 million liters of wastewater per day.

Maynilad, a concessionaire of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, serves the cities of Manila, except portions of San Andres and Sta. Ana. It also operates in Quezon City, Makati, Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas and Malabon. It serves the cities of Cavite, Bacoor and Imus, and the towns of Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario in Cavite province.

Metro Pacific Investments Corp., which has a majority stake in Maynilad, is one of three 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 an interest in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Ayala Land drops two projects from latest reinvestment plan

AYALA Land, Inc. (ALI) removed two projects in its reinvestment plan for the net proceeds it received from the sale of its shareholdings in AREIT, Inc. amounting to P3.44 billion.

In a regulatory filing on Tuesday, the company amended the reinvestment plan it passed on May 2, 2022, to cut down the recipient projects to six from seven last year.

The block sale of its shareholdings was conducted in preparation for the property-for-share swap between AREIT and the sponsor company.

As AREIT's sponsor, ALI needs to submit a sworn statement containing the reinvestment plan for the proceeds raised from the sale of shares. The statement is to be submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Philippine Stock Exchange and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

According to the company, ALI has disbursed the proceeds to various investments following its reinvestment plan from May 2, 2022 to the end of the third quarter last year.

"ALI intends to use the sale of proceeds from the AREIT shares to fund ongoing and future investments in real estate properties in Metro Manila, Batangas, Cavite, and Laguna.

The projects removed were the land acquisitions of the Quezon City and Bulacan proper-

ties, which were at P290.46 million and P125.17 million, respectively, while it added a new acquisition in Caloocan worth P156.95 million.

The company also made changes to the disbursements on the remaining four projects in which it added P119 million to the other Quezon City property to reach P2.1 billion and decreased P5 million to the disbursement in Batangas property to P745 million.

The company also decreased the disbursements to its land acquisition by P10.23 million to P108.14 million, while it added P154.91 million to the ongoing construction of One Vertis Plaza to P265.21 million.

ALI is the disbursing entity for the properties in Caloocan and Cavite, One Vertis Plaza and Andacillio, while the Batangas property has Laguna Technopark, Inc. as its disbursing entity.

Meanwhile, the remaining Quezon City property will be disbursed by ALI Eton Property Development Corp., a joint venture between ALI and Eton Properties Philippines, Inc.

On Tuesday, shares in ALI closed 70 centavos or 2.28% lower to P30 apiece, while AREIT stocks climbed by 15 centavos or 0.42% to P36.10 each. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

NLEX to start third Candaba viaduct, set to finish connector's first section

NLEX Corp., a unit of Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC), announced on Tuesday that it targets to start the implementation of its Candaba Third Viaduct project in the first quarter of the year.

"The project will expand the five-kilometer bridge from existing three lanes without a shoulder to three lanes with inner and outer shoulder per direction," NLEX Corp. said in an e-mailed statement.

The project is seen to enable faster journeys as it will increase the maximum speed at the viaduct from 60 kilometers per hour (kph) to 80kph.

"Also in the pipeline is the construction of new expressway lanes in Pampanga from San Fernando to Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) Spur in Mabalacat," NLEX Corp. said.

The company is also undertaking an eight-kilometer connector project from Caloocan Interchange on C3 Road up to the vicinity of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Sta. Mesa, Manila.

The project is expected to decongest major thoroughfares in the capital region.

"Its first section between Caloocan and España interchanges is

at 94% completion and expected to open within the first quarter of the year," NLEX Corp. noted.

"The second section, connecting España and Sta. Mesa, is now 29% complete," it added.

At the same time, the company said it plans to enhance its assets for better customer experience by undertaking regular pavement repair and bridge strengthening programs, replacement of traffic safety devices, and continuous enhancement of its toll systems.

The company is also set to install more closed-circuit television cameras along NLEX,

SCTEX, and Subic Freeport Expressway, as well as upgrade the NLEX-SCTEX traffic control center.

MPTC is the tollway 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**