

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

7,069.68

▲ 13.06 PTS.

▲ 0.18%

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2023

BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| AC Ayala Corp. P745.00 — | ACEN ACEN Corp. P7.22 +P0.26 +3.74% | AEV Aboltiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P58.70 +P0.30 +0.51% | AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P12.50 +P0.20 +1.63% | ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P32.80 +P0.15 +0.46% | AP Aboltiz Power Corp. P37.80 +P0.15 +0.40% | BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P122.50 -P0.50 -0.41% | BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P110.00 +P0.10 +0.09% | CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P19.38 +P0.54 +2.87% | EMI Emperador, Inc. P20.60 -P0.35 -1.67% |
| GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,042.00 -P38.00 -1.83% | GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P506.00 +P10.20 +2.06% | ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P216.00 — | JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P242.60 -P2.40 -0.98% | JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P57.40 +P2.30 +4.17% | LTG LT Group, Inc. P10.00 +P0.02 +0.20% | MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P58.70 +P0.90 +1.56% | MEG Megaworld Corp. P2.13 — | MER Manila Electric Co. P287.20 +P5.00 +1.77% | MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P14.48 +P0.08 +0.56% |
| MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P4.07 -P0.01 -0.25% | PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P36.20 +P0.15 +0.42% | RLC Robinsons Land Corp. P15.00 +P0.18 +1.21% | SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P34.75 -P0.20 -0.57% | SM SM Investments Corp. P950.00 — | SMC San Miguel Corp. P97.05 +P0.55 +0.57% | SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P38.00 -P0.35 -0.91% | TEL PLDT, Inc. P1,478.00 +P18.00 +1.23% | URC Universal Robina Corp. P140.00 -P5.00 -3.45% | WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P34.10 +P0.05 +0.15% |

Philex targets to acquire shares in Itogon miner

PHILEX Mining Corp. is targeting to expand its business and plans to acquire shares in a mineral exploration and production company in Itogon, Benguet province, the listed firm said on Monday.

In a regulatory filing, the mining company said it had signed a term sheet with Macawiwili Gold Mining and Development Co., Inc. outlining its intentions in preparation for a possible acquisition of shares.

"Our interest to pursue investments in the Macawiwili property is part of our business direction

for this year to broaden interest in 'green metals' through mergers and acquisitions," said Eulalio B. Austin Jr., president and chief executive officer of Philex.

Macawiwili has more than 800 hectares of contract area under its mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA), it said. The term sheet covers the parties' intentions "to explore commercial, financial, and technical avenues" ahead of an acquisition of shares.

Macawiwili also has interests in the exploration of various

mineral deposits such as gold and copper. Philex is one of the oldest and largest copper and gold producers in Southeast Asia.

Philex said activities to start the partnership will include holding due diligence and scout drilling on the property of Macawiwili covered by an MPSA in Itogon, which is near its existing Padcal mine.

Mr. Austin said the planned acquisition would fulfill the company's target for expansion and extension of the Padcal mine.

The term sheet was signed by Philex Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan and Mr. Austin. Macawiwili was represented by its shareholders Michael G. Escaler, Jose Ma. S. Lopez, and Felicisimo A. Feria.

Mr. Pangilinan said Macawiwili is a "good addition or extension" to the Padcal mine, adding that "any addition, expansion, or extension... would greatly benefit not just our employees and their families, but also our host and neighboring communities, and our nation as a whole."

"I hope that this is the start of something good and that it would ride the wave of higher metal prices in gold and copper," he said.

Padcal mine is an underground mine located in Tuba, Benguet province. Its operation started in 1958 but was scheduled for retirement by the end of 2024.

Last year, Philex said it was looking at extending the operation of the Padcal mine but depending on the study of the remaining mineable reserves as well as the favorable price of copper and gold.

On Monday, shares in the company closed unchanged at P3.17 apiece.

Philex is one of three Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., the others being Metro Pacific Investments Corp. and PLDT Inc.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has interest in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

SEC drafts rules to protect consumers of financial services

THE Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has released a draft implementing rules and regulations (IRR) for a law that aims to protect consumers of financial products and services.

The draft IRR of Republic Act No. 11765 or the Financial Products and Services Consumer Protection Act of 2022 will apply to all financial products and services and financial service providers.

"It is the policy of the State to ensure that appropriate mechanisms are in place to protect the interest of consumers of financial products and services under the conditions of transparency, fair and sound market conduct, and fair, reasonable, and effective handling of financial consumer disputes, which are aligned with global best practices," the first section of the rules read.

The IRR seeks to implement financial consumers' right to equitable and fair treatment; disclosure and transparency of financial products and services; protection of consumer assets against fraud; data privacy and protection; and timely handling of complaints.

Upon implementation, the IRR will give the SEC the power to formulate its standard

and rules, conduct market surveillance and examination, require financial service providers and their third-party agents to submit reports, and impose enforcement action against non-compliant financial service providers.

The enforcement actions may include restriction; disqualification; imposition of fines, suspension, or penalties; cease and desist order; suspension; and disgorgement of profits obtained or losses avoided.

Under the IRR, the commission will provide efficient and effective consumer redress through mediation, conciliation or other modes of dispute resolution which the financial consumer may avail before adjudication.

The SEC will also have the authority to adjudicate actions arising from financial transactions and the claim or relief prayed for by the financial consumer not exceeding P10 million.

"The commission, through its Authorized Operating Department or body, may order the payment or reimbursement of money which is subject of the action filed before it," the draft read.

The IRR will also require investment advisers or financial advisers to be registered with the commission before engaging in the business of or acting as an investment adviser.

The adviser must give sufficient product disclosure to the financial consumer before the contracting of the financial product or service.

Upon the implementation of the IRR, investment advisers are required to file with the commission their application within 90 days from the effectivity of the memorandum circular.

The IRR also seeks to hold financial service providers' board and senior management accountable for approving and overseeing the implementation of the Financial Service Provider's Consumer Protection Risk Management System.

Financial service providers need to have appropriate product design and delivery which have adequate product suitability and affordability, a cooling-off period, and transparent fees charged for prepayment of loans.

The IRR will also require transparent and responsible pricing of financial products and services, fair and respectful treatment of cli-

ents, prohibition of abusive collection or debt recovery practices, and privacy and protection of client data.

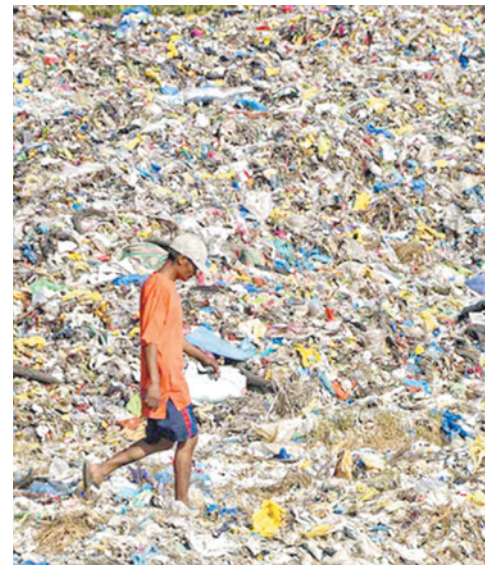
The rules also include the disclosure of bundled products and the right of choice to be made known to consumers during the shopping and pre-contractual phases. Financial service providers are to offer product bundles with market-based pricing.

The rules will also require the staff of financial service providers who deal directly with consumers to receive adequate training suitable to the complexity of the financial products or services they offer.

Any person who willfully violates the IRR provisions may be punished by one- to five-year imprisonment or a fine of P50,000 to P2 million, or both.

For administrative sanctions, the SEC may impose a fine of P50,000 to P10 million for each instance of investment fraud and not more than P10,000 fine for each day of continuing violation.

In case of profit gain or loss as a result of the violation, the SEC may impose a fine not more than three times the profit gain or loss. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**



BW FILE PHOTO

Prime Infra unit acquires Cebu-based waste management company ACI

PRIME Infrastructure Capital, Inc. (Prime Infra) said on Monday that its unit Prime Integrated Waste Solutions Inc. (PWS) has fully acquired ARN Central Waste Management, Inc. (ACI).

"We are excited about this acquisition which marks Prime Infra's entry into the waste business. Prime Infra established PWS as a response to the market demand for modern waste recovery facilities to accommodate the rapid year-on-year increase in solid waste output," Prime Infra President and Chief Executive Officer Guillaume Lucci, said in a media release.

ACI is a Cebu-based waste management company that offers treatment services and air purification.

Prime Infra said that the acquisition was sealed during a ceremonial signing of the share purchase agreement held last week.

Prime Infra said that ACI will be the first waste management business that it will develop. ACI receives about 1,000 tons of Cebu province's solid waste daily.

Prime Infra said it targets to "bring it at par with world-class materials recovery facilities (MRFs) in other developed countries like Singapore."

To achieve this, Mr. Lucci said that Prime Infra's unit, PWS, will deliver waste-management services that will create a positive impact on the environment and on the communities.

PWS is also planning to develop two more MRFs in Luzon in the next two years.

"The transaction is also part of Prime Infra's overall strategy to establish an integrated waste management and sustainable fuels solution that will help tackle the solid waste problem in the Philippines," Mr. Lucci said.

Meanwhile, Prime Infra said that another unit, WasteFuel Philippines, is planning to put up its first biorefinery in Cebu City.

WasteFuel Philippines, which is engaged in the waste business, converts organic waste and agricultural feedstock into green methanol and sustainable aviation fuel. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

ABS-CBN, GMA seal partnership to co-produce content

LISTED media companies ABS-CBN Corp. and GMA Network, Inc. have signed a partnership deal to co-produce content for television and streaming provider Viu.

The two media companies recently sealed a partnership for the co-production of a TV series that will be aired on GMA this year.

They will collaborate on the romantic drama series *Unbreak My Heart*, which will be filmed in Switzerland.

The program will also be streamed in 15 territories outside the Philippines via Viu, a video streaming service, ABS-CBN said in an e-mailed statement.

"This is a milestone in the industry. We're thankful for this opportunity and we're very happy to work with GMA to serve our audiences. We unite as one team. We never imagined that this was going to happen," ABS-CBN Chief Operating Officer of Broadcast Cory V. Vidanes said.

On Friday last week, ABS-CBN announced that it signed a worldwide publishing agreement with Warner Chappell Music, the global music publishing company of Warner Music Group. It is home to a wide array

of legendary songwriters and a rich catalog of contemporary hits and influential standards. With offices in more than 20 countries, Warner Chappell provides deep

"The deal grants Warner Chappell Music global publishing administration rights to the entire song catalogue of ABS-CBN Music that will open new markets and opportunities for local composers," ABS-CBN said.

The company said last year that it would explore various partnership opportunities both locally and globally.

ABS-CBN currently produces content and distributes programs through its partnerships with A2Z Channel 11 and TV5, Kapamilya Online Live on Facebook and YouTube, and streaming service iWantTFC, among others.

Under President Rodrigo R. Duterte's government, lawmakers who supported him rejected the franchise application of ABS-CBN, the former rival of GMA Network in the broadcasting space. The House of Representatives committee on legislative franchises deemed the broadcast network critical of Mr. Duterte and "undeserving" of the privilege. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

Manila Water unit secures P200-M loan for expansion

A UNIT of Manila Water Co., Inc. has signed a P200-million 10-year term loan facility to fund the refurbishment, expansion, and improvement of its service facilities area, the listed firm said on Monday.

In a stock exchange disclosure, Manila Water said the proceeds of the loan will be used by Bulacan Water Co., Inc. "to finance the refurbishment, expansion, and improvement of the service facilities and the water source and distribution system, and provision of sanitation services in the [subsidiary's] service area."

Bank of the Philippine Islands extended the loan.

Bulacan Water is a joint venture between Filipinas Water Holdings Corp. and the Bulacan Water District. Filipinas Water is a consortium of Manila Water and its unit Manila Water Philippine Ventures, Inc.

In a separate media release, Manila Water said that it developed a service continuity plan for the company's five-year service improvement plan for 2023 to 2027.

Under this program, the company targets to spend about P37.7 billion for the rehabilitation and improvement of its existing water treatment plants, pump stations and reservoirs including the Balara Treatment Plant, East La Mesa Treatment Plant, chemical and chlorine houses and 80 pump stations and reservoirs.

"These projects which will help the company maintain its compliance to

water quality standards, and improve service reliability, operational flexibility, and efficiency to maintain its current 24/7 uninterrupted water supply," Manila Water said.

The company has also allocated about P23.8 billion for "pipelaying of reliability lines, regular maintenance of mainlines, and rehabilitation and replacement of aged primary lines."

Manila Water said that it has also set aside P14.8 billion for its planned network efficiency and technology, and P2.8 billion for mainline extension projects.

Meanwhile, the company has allocated P2.7 billion for natural calamity risk mitigation projects, which aim to temper the impact of climate change on the supply and distribution of water.

It said the projects involve the construction of emergency reservoirs and pipe bridges, and retrofitting and flood-proofing of facilities, reservoirs, and package treatment plants.

In 2022, Manila Water announced that it had reached a total of 7.4 million customers after it expanded its coverage to 1.3 million water service connections.

The water concessionaire serves Manila's east zone network, which comprises Marikina, Pasig, Makati, Taguig, Pateros, Mandaluyong, San Juan, portions of Quezon City and Manila, and several towns of nearby Rizal province.

At the local bourse on Monday, shares in the company declined by 12 centavos or 0.6% to end at P19.88 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**