

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

7,014.04

▼ 31.44 pts.

▼ 0.44%

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023

BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P769.00 +P1.00 +0.13%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P6.75 -P0.29 -4.12%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P58.00 -P1.05 -1.78%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P12.38 -P0.14 -1.12%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P31.95 +P0.35 +1.11%	AP Aboitiz Power Corp. P38.50 -P0.80 -2.04%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P124.50 -P1.00 -0.80%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P110.30 -P2.10 -1.87%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P17.42 -P0.26 -1.47%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P20.35 ---
GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,074.00 -P28.00 -1.33%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P478.60 -P2.40 -0.50%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P211.20 +P1.20 +0.57%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P252.00 +P4.00 +1.61%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P55.10 ---	LTG LT Group, Inc. P9.73 -P0.22 -2.21%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P59.20 +P0.65 +1.11%	MEG Megaworld Corp. P2.16 ---	MER Manila Electric Co. P291.00 -P9.00 -3.00%	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P14.04 -P0.22 -1.54%
MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P3.90 -P0.11 -2.74%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P35.95 +P0.40 +1.13%	RLC Robinsons Land Corp. P14.92 -P0.04 -0.27%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P33.80 +P0.20 +0.60%	SM SM Investments Corp. P933.00 -P14.00 -1.48%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P96.75 +P0.05 +0.05%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P38.30 +P0.55 +1.46%	TEL PLDT, Inc. P1,440.00 +P8.00 +0.56%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P140.80 -P3.80 -2.63%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P31.35 +P0.85 +2.79%

ACEN secures \$107M for Vietnam wind farm project

ACEN CORP. and its partner BIM Group received a \$107-million financing package from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for their joint venture project — the 88-megawatt (MW) Ninh Thuan wind farm in south central Vietnam.

“This major boost on our wind farm’s financing from Asia and the Pacific’s climate bank and ACEN’s long-standing financing partner, ADB, and our other parallel lenders will help catalyze renewable energy build-up ca-

capacity by 2030,” said Patrice R. Clause, chief executive officer of ACEN’s international operations, in a media release on Tuesday.

The 88-MW wind farm adds to ACEN’s operating wind projects in Vietnam, which have a capacity of 420 MW.

The Ayala-led listed energy firm said that the funding was arranged and syndicated by ADB as mandated lead arranger and bookrunner. The funding was also secured with the lending group

comprised of ADB, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Hong Kong Mortgage Corp. Ltd., Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp., ING Bank, and Cathay United Bank.

The Ninh Thuan wind farm started commercial operations in 2021. It is expected to generate about 339 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of renewable energy per year, which can avoid 215,000 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.

According to the media release, energy demand in Vietnam

continues to grow and it is necessary to meet the demand with renewable energy.

The media release quoted ADB’s regional official as saying that the project is a crucial step for Vietnam’s resilience and recovery by further expanding its renewable energy mix and contributing to its net-zero targets.

“Energy demand in Vietnam has grown rapidly even during the pandemic, and it is crucial that this demand be met through clean

energy that will drive sustainable economic growth,” said Jackie B. Surtani, ADB private sector operations department infrastructure finance division director for East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific.

ACEN said that ADB will also grant the Ninh Thuan wind farm an additional \$5 million from the Goldman Sachs and Bloomberg Philanthropies-backed Climate Innovation and Development Fund, which will fund its environmental initiatives.

The company described BIM Group as a private conglomerate in Vietnam with activities in real estate, renewable energy, aquaculture and food, consumer and lifestyle.

The wind farm is part of ACEN’s target to expand its renewable energy capacity to 20 gigawatts by 2030.

At the local bourse on Tuesday, shares in the company closed 29 centavos or 4.12% lower to end at P6.75 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

SEC warns about unlicensed Lele Gold Farm, Trading Cartel

THE Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) warned the public against the investment-taking activities of Trading Cartel and Lele Gold Farm as the entities are not registered with the regulator.

In its verification, the regulator found out that the people affiliated with Trading Cartel had been promising a return of 5%-10% monthly interest.

The SEC said that since Trading Cartel’s scheme involves the sale of securities, the entity is required to register the securities with the regulator and its agents must also have the appropriate license to sell.

Meanwhile, Lele Gold Farm is a mobile application that offers the public

“the luxury of earning while playing the games.” It also uses the names Lele Gold Coin and Gold Farm.

In an advisory, the SEC said that investors of Lele Gold Farm are given six types of investment plans worth P3,840, P15,360, P36,480, P52,800, P100,800 and P288,000. Investors are promised weekly earnings ranging from P539 to P11,520 or a monthly income ranging from P2,310 to P345,600.

According to the SEC, the investment scheme propagated by the entity involves the offering and selling of securities in the form of investment contracts to the public with the investors not needing to exert any effort other than to invest money.

In its review, the regulator found out that both entities are not registered as a corporation or a partnership and operate without the necessary license or authority.

Meanwhile, the commission said that FDMS Business, a registered corporation under the SEC, has been soliciting investments without securing a license or authority.

FDMS Business offers investment plans through its “Affiliate Learning Program” wherein investors are given the choice to invest in three packages.

The packages — pre-subscription, basic subscription and pro-subscription — require a minimum investment of P3,000 to P1 million and a promised

earning of 30% to 50% per month or 150% to 250% in five months.

The commission emphasized that the selling and offering of securities through the form of investment contracts using the “Ponzi scheme” is fraudulent therefore making it a non-registrable security.

“The commission will not issue a License to Sell Securities to the Public to persons or entities that are engaged in this business or scheme,” the SEC said.

The SEC also informed the public that it does not allow the registration of foreign exchange in the nature of financial futures contracts, contracts for difference, and the like. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

Tax court affirms partial refund of KEPCO’s excess VAT

THE Court of Tax Appeals (CTA) has affirmed its ruling partially granting KEPCO Ilijan Corp.’s refund claim worth P23.39 million representing its excess input value-added tax (VAT) traced to its zero-rated sales of electricity to the National Power Corp. for the period covering three quarters of 2002.

In a 16-page decision dated Jan. 9 and made public on Jan 11, the CTA full court upheld its second division’s ruling that said P23.39 million out of the firm’s P74.66 million claim was backed by official receipts.

“At the outset, a tax credit or refund, like tax exemption, is strictly construed against the taxpayer,” the tribunal said. “The taxpayer claiming the tax credit or refund has the burden of proving that he is entitled to the refund or credit.”

It disqualified some transactions from zero-rated sales since KEPCO failed to write its Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) in some receipts for the second, third and fourth quarters of 2002.

Under the law reforming the energy industry, power generation companies are entitled to zero-rated sales of electricity that do not translate to any output tax.

The country’s revenue code requires a taxpayer to indicate in its receipts that it is a VAT-registered entity. Receipts should also contain the entity’s Taxpayer Identification Number.

The term “zero-rated” must be written on its official receipts to avail of the incentive.

KEPCO manages the Ilijan gas-fired power plant, which is the largest natural gas facility in the country. It gets its fuel from the Philippines’ only indigenous gas field.

Citing Supreme Court jurisprudence, the CTA said official receipts issued in a name approved and authorized by the Securities and Exchange Commission must be considered non-compliance with regulations of the country’s tax code.

The tax tribunal also denied the commissioner of internal revenue’s (CIR) appeal to overturn the refunded amount, as it said the CTA Second Division correctly determined that the power firm successfully proved its entitlement to the reduced amount.

“The CIR failed to point out the specific invoices and official receipts which should have been disallowed,” the court said.

“Bare allegations which are not supported by any evidence, documentary or otherwise, sufficient to support a claim, fall short to satisfy the degree of proof needed.” — **John Victor D. Ordoñez**

Megawide says P2.8-B offering proceeds used for various projects

MEGAWIDE Construction Corp. on Tuesday said it has utilized P2.77 billion from the net proceeds of its 2020 preferred share offering for various infrastructure projects.

From the net offering proceeds of P4.33 billion, the company has released P2.77 billion, the listed construction company said in a regulatory filing on Tuesday.

“Balance of the offering proceeds as of Dec. 31, 2022, is P1.56 billion,” it noted.

As of Sept. 30, Megawide has utilized P77.87 million for the Mactan Cebu International Airport (MCIA) multi-use development, P133.49 million for the expansion of pre-cast and other ancillary business, P816.13 million for the expansion of MCIA under a concession agreement, P883.40 million for the development of Cebu Integrated Transport Hub, and P331.56 million for general corporate purposes.

For the quarter that ended Dec. 31, 2022, the company released P144.20 million for the expansion of pre-cast and other ancillary business and P383 million for the development of the Cebu Integrated Transport Hub.

The MCIA mixed-use development project involves the construction of a 400-room hotel, a meeting, incentives, conference, and exhibition facility, and a travel retail concept to complement the airport’s features.

Megawide also expects that the demand for pre-fabricated construction materials will rise under the new normal. Hence, the company is expanding its pre-cast plant capacity to approximately 40,000 cubic meters per month (cu/m/month), from the current 13,000 cu/m/month, in different locations in the country.

The company also has a proposal to extend its existing concession agreement in MCIA by another 25 years. It involves the takeover of the airside facility, rehabilitation of the existing runway and taxiways, construction of an additional full-length parallel taxiway, and development of additional rapid exit taxiways and runway holding positions.

At the same time, the proposal involves the construction of a second parallel and independent instrument runway, as well as the construction of Terminal 3.

Megawide is also developing a modern public market and an integrated multimodal transport hub in Cebu.

The project involves the redevelopment of the existing public market, including the construction of a new wholesale market, new night market, and other lifestyle commercial establishments, land transport, and ferry terminals, among others. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

AboitizPower expects 17 MW more from Tiwi geothermal

ABOITIZ Power Corp. (AboitizPower) expects an additional 17 megawatts (MW) from its geothermal power plant in Tiwi, Albay when its renewables arm completes a binary project within the existing facility.

On Tuesday, AboitizPower, through its subsidiary AP Renewables Inc. (APRI), broke ground for its Tiwi binary geothermal power plant project, which is expected to be completed by yearend.

“The Tiwi binary power plant is a facility designed to extract the recoverable heat from the geothermal brine that is processed in a closed-loop system where no harmful gas or liquid is being emitted nor any waste products are discharged to the atmosphere,” said Jeffrey R. Estrella, president and chief operating officer of APRI.

The project will be built from the ground up with an entirely new binary plant system, pipes, and transmission line. It is located within the 15-hectare Tiwi geothermal power plant.

“The design will produce an additional 17-MW gross generated electricity, an additional source of clean energy to the Luzon grid,” Mr. Estrella said.

In December, AboitizPower announced that it signed an engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract with Ormat Technologies, Inc. and Desco, Inc. for the development of its binary plant.

The company also signed last year an agreement with its steam provider for the

supply of brine, which will fuel the binary plant.

In a video message, James A. Villaroman, chief renewable energy (RE) officer of AboitizPower, said that additional renewables capacity will be vital for the country’s energy security.

“Our country embarks on an energy transition; we recognize we must work with others both within and outside our industry to contribute to the nation’s energy goals. The scale of the transformation of the country’s energy system requires collaboration and innovation. This project is a testament to that,” Mr. Villaroman added.

Geothermal energy, a form of renewable energy, comes from the earth’s heat and is produced by drilling production wells into the ground to tap high-temperature fluids from geothermal reservoirs.

The APRI Tiwi binary project will form part of AboitizPower’s target to grow the attributable capacity of Cleanergy, the company’s renewable energy brand, in the next 10 years.

By the end of 2030, AboitizPower is targeting to expand Cleanergy in the Philippines and abroad. It is targeting to build an additional 3,700 MW of RE, growing its capacities to 4,600 MW by 2030.

Currently, the company has 1,000 MW of RE projects. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Century Properties plans to offer P3-billion retail bonds

THE board of directors of Century Properties Group, Inc. has approved a plan for the listed property developer to offer fixed-rate retail bonds worth up to P3 billion.

In a disclosure to the stock exchange on Tuesday, the company said that the board approved the offering with a principal amount of P2 billion and an oversubscription option of up to P1 billion.

The bond offer will consist of Series A, B and C due in 2026, 2028 and 2030, respectively. It is

the second tranche of Century Properties’ P6-billion shelf-registered debt securities program.

In 2021, the company filed the P3-billion initial tranche of the debt program to refinance maturing debt and bankroll capital expenditures for ongoing projects.

In a special board meeting on Monday, the board also approved a decision to apply for the registration and licensing of the bonds with the Securities and Exchange Commission

and the listing with the Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp.

Century Properties’ board also approved a plan to redeem P3 billion preferred shares of the company by July 10 at P100 apiece, which upon redemption will not be considered retired and may be re-issued.

“The company shall issue a separate ‘Notice of Redemption’ by publication and by mail accordingly,” the firm said.

Century Properties has six subsidiaries, namely: Century Communities Corp., Century City Development Corp., Century Limitless Corp., Century Properties Management, Inc., Century Destinations and Lifestyle Corp., and PHirst Park Homes, Inc.

On the stock exchange on Tuesday, shares in the company climbed by 0.015 or 3.85% to P0.405 apiece. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**