

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

7,042.70

▼ 38.66 PTS.

▼ 0.54%

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023

BusinessWorld

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P748.00 -P1.00 -0.13%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P7.40 -P0.10 -1.33%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P57.50 -P1.00 -1.71%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P12.44 -P0.16 -1.27%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P32.65 -P0.15 -0.46%	AP Aboitiz Power Corp. P37.95 +P0.20 +0.53%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P122.00 —	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P108.60 -P0.60 -0.55%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P18.58 -P0.28 -1.48%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P21.05 +P0.15 +0.72%
GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,146.00 -P4.00 -0.19%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P525.00 +P14.00 +2.74%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P211.00 -P5.60 -2.59%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P241.40 -P2.60 -1.07%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P56.90 +P0.40 +0.71%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P10.30 +P0.10 +0.98%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P58.55 -P0.35 -0.59%	MEG Megaworld Corp. P2.25 +P0.03 +1.35%	MER Manila Electric Co. P289.40 +P1.40 +0.49%	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P13.94 -P0.36 -2.52%
MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P4.30 -P0.06 -1.38%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P35.90 +P0.35 +0.98%	RLC Robinsons Land Corp. P16.26 -P0.24 -1.45%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P33.85 +P0.35 +1.04%	SM SM Investments Corp. P942.00 -P3.00 -0.32%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P94.60 +P0.10 +0.11%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P37.80 —	TEL PLDT, Inc. P1,502.00 -P45.00 -2.91%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P141.00 -P0.90 -0.63%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P32.10 -P0.50 -1.53%

Monde Nissin to buy 15% stake in Figaro Coffee

By Justine Irish D. Tabile Reporter

MONDE Nissin Corp. is acquiring a 15% stake in Figaro Coffee Group, Inc. (FCG) for around P820.27 million in a move analysts see as helping expand the companies' business reach.

"We are excited with the opportunity to become shareholders in FCG as it provides a greater exposure to the food service sector which we view as a potentially attractive avenue for further growth both here in the Philippines and abroad," Monde Nissin Chief Executive Officer Henry Soesanto said in a media release on Thursday.

In a regulatory filing on Thursday, FCG whose main business unit operates and franchises a network of retail restaurants said its board approved on Jan. 25 the issuance of about 820.26 million common shares to Monde Nissin at a peso each.

Monde Nissin separately told the stock exchange that its board delegated to its executive committee the subscription to the FCG shares.

With the announcement, shares in FCG climbed by five centavos or 5.62% to close at P0.94 apiece. Monde Nissin slipped by 36 centavos or 2.52% to P13.94 each.

FCG Chairman Emeritus Jerry Liu said his group welcomes the partnership with Monde Nissin.

"[W]e believe a combination of their leadership in the food sector, strength in manufacturing and timeless brand equity, combined with our fast-growing store network and brand strength will yield excellent opportunities for Figaro Coffee Group to solidify its position as a very strong and stable [food and beverage] company," he said.

According to Mr. Soesanto, the partnership will help in enhancing the procurement capabilities of FCG, the

parent of Figaro Coffee Systems, Inc., which operates Figaro Coffee, Angel's Pizza, Tien Ma's, The Figaro Group Express outlet, and Cafe Portofino.

Meanwhile, analysts expect the deal to benefit both sides, with FCG benefitting immediately.

"FCG has a lot of room for growth, expanding aggressively amid the re-opening of the economy, and the recent subscription would be a great tool to further widen its local footprint to boost revenues," Regina Capital Development Corp. Head of Sales Luis A. Limlingan said in a Viber message.

On the other hand, Monde Nissin "could hitch a ride alongside this expansion," he added.

AP Securities, Inc. Equity Research Analyst Carlos Angelo O. Temporal said in a Viber message that while the benefits of the acquisition will not materialize immediately for Monde Nissin "we think in the long run this remains

positive for the company as it indicates that management is open to diversify to boost its income."

He said his assessment considered the size of the investment consideration of about P820 million against Monde Nissin's current market capital of P257 billion.

"FCG, on the other hand, is the one likely to benefit the most from this transaction. Aside from the proceeds the company will receive which will be utilized for its expansion, the entry of Monde could help FCG improve its cost efficiency through the former's economies of scale, and its product offerings such as by incorporating Monde's products like alternative meat to FCG's restaurants — a key trend that Shakey's Pizza Asia Ventures, Inc. is taking advantage of," Mr. Temporal added.

Mr. Temporal added that he expects FCG's share to see higher uplift from the transaction than Monde Nissin.

BRIEFS

ACEN readies 60-MW solar farm in Pangasinan

ACEN Corp. said on Thursday that it is set to start building a P2.8-billion 60-megawatt (MW) solar farm in Pangasinan, marking the Ayala-led company's first development in the province and its second project to commence construction this year.

"We hit the ground running in 2023 with back-to-back projects commencing with construction here in the Philippines, and 700 MW capacity expected to start operations within the next 12 months," Jose Maria Zabaleta, chief development officer of ACEN, said in a statement.

"At ACEN, we know it's a race against time and we need big leaps to help curtail potential power shortages and address climate change," he said, adding that the company aggressively scaling up its clean energy generation to help in the region's net-zero transition.

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code or by typing the link
<https://bit.ly/3j5q1jZ>

German firm expands with \$16-M plant in PHL

GERMAN firm ZAMA Precision Industry Manufacturing Philippines, Inc. is expanding its manufacturing capabilities in the country through a new facility in Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

In a statement on Thursday, the German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GPCCI) said ZAMA Philippines, a unit of Germany's ZAMA Group, broke ground for the \$16-million facility on Jan. 17. ZAMA Group is a member of the business group.

"Through this new facility, we will be able to amplify our efforts in producing electromechanicals technologies, wire harness and textile materials, as well as explore other business ventures. This contributes more to the economy of the Philippines and also generates more employment," ZAMA Philippines President Ronald Wienholts said in the statement.

— **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

FULL STORY



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<https://bit.ly/3DfYB14>

Meralco unit installs 2 more solar rooftops

MANILA ELECTRIC CO. (Meralco) said on Thursday that its renewable energy unit has turned over solar rooftop projects to The Orchard Golf and Country Club and Bio-star NutriProducts, Inc.

In a media release, MSpectrum, Inc. or Spectrum said it installed The Orchard's solar panels, which have a combined capacity of 99.9-kilowatt-peak (kWp), at the country club's facility in Dasmariñas, Cavite. The power source began operating early last year.

Since its completion, The Orchard's solar rooftop has generated more than 125,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of clean energy equivalent to saving around 10,000 kWh in monthly consumption. In energy costs, the savings amounted to P785,000 last year, Spectrum said.

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code or by typing the link
<https://bit.ly/3fYvLX5>

Kia Philippines launches dealership in Libis

KIA PHILIPPINES recently inaugurated a new dealership in Libis, Quezon City as part of its expansion efforts across the country.

The South Korean car brand said in a statement on Thursday that the dealership, Kia Acropolis, is under Filipino-owned Autoklassik Motors Corp. The latest dealership features Kia Philippines' refreshed look, alongside outlets in Alabang, Sto. Tomas, BGC, Ortigas, and Kawit.

"Soon, all 42 Kia dealerships nationwide will have refreshed exteriors, and by next year all will share Kia's revamped interior design aesthetic. Newly appointed Kia dealers will also proudly display the new corporate identity," Kia Philippines said.

— **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code or by typing the link
<https://bit.ly/5WE9yKk>

Manila Water earmarks P37B for water treatment projects

MANILA WATER Co., Inc. announced on Thursday a P37.3-billion investment in its wastewater master plan, which covers the construction of treatment facilities and a sewer network across the Marikina River, San Juan River, Pasig River, and Laguna Lake.

"These wastewater projects are designed to collect, convey, and treat wastewater generated within their respective catchment areas," Manila Water said in a statement e-mailed to reporters.

The company said that P10.2 billion is allocated for the San Mateo-Rodriguez and Quezon City East sewerage systems that will cater to customers in some areas of Marikina.

The two sewerage systems, which are set to serve around 129,000 residents by 2046, will be designed to support the Marikina River system.

Meanwhile, the P20-billion Mandaluyong West, Quezon City South, and San Juan South sewerage system will cover portions of catchments draining towards the San Juan River and Pasig River systems.

According to the company, the project will have the capacity to treat 60 million liters, expandable to 120 million liters, of wastewater per day conveyed through a 53-kilometer sewer network.

A total of P2.8 billion is allocated for the remaining segments of the North and South Pasig sewerage system aimed at protecting the Pasig River system.

"The sewerage systems will have treatment provisions for households in Pasig and portions of Quezon City, Mandaluyong, Cainta, and Taytay," the company noted.

Manila Water also noted that the P1.6-billion Hinulugang Taktak sewerage system is already "taking shape" in Antipolo City. The project will treat 16 million liters of wastewater per day before releasing it into waterways, according to the company.

The company plans to deploy new desludging trucks and build a treatment plant to provide sanitation services to the residents of Baras, Pililla, Tanay, and Jala-jala in Rizal.

The goal is to reduce pollution produced by the company's operations. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

ABS-CBN eyes Malaysian audience

LISTED media company ABS-CBN Corp. said it hopes to expand its audience reach in Malaysia through a partnership with a local digital radio platform.

The media company announced the launch of MYX Radio, MORE, and TeleRadyo on Malaysia's digital radio platform, SYOK of Astro Radio.

"The goal is to expand ABS-CBN's reach 'across borders and cultures through various media and platforms," the company said in a statement.

SYOK is a multi-lingual digital lifestyle and entertainment platform in Malaysia with more than 100 online radio stations, music, and podcasts, among others.

Like ABS-CBN, SYOK also hopes to widen its reach to more diverse listener groups.

ABS-CBN and GMA Network, Inc. recently signed a partnership deal to co-produce content for television and streaming provider Viu. They will collaborate on the romantic drama series *Unbreak My Heart*, which will be filmed in Switzerland.

The Lopez-led media company has also inked a worldwide publishing agreement with Warner Chappell Music, the global music publishing company of Warner Music Group.

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

The company said last year that it would explore various partnership opportunities both locally and globally. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

Megawide unit bags 3 more Pfirst Park Homes projects

LISTED infrastructure company Megawide Construction Corp.'s precast unit has bagged three new supply-and-build contracts with residential developer Pfirst Park Homes, Inc. (PPHI), a company official announced on Thursday.

The precast business unit will supply precast materials for housing projects in three new PPHI locations: Naic, Cavite; Baliuag, Bulacan; and Tayabas, Quezon.

"The challenge in addressing the country's housing backlog is not in

the supply but the speed in which we can build," Markus Hennig, executive vice-president for Megawide's Precast and Construction Solutions, said in an emailed statement.

"Our proprietary precast technology allows us to deliver cost-effective units with greater speed and efficiency than conventional methods," he added.

The company said its precast business continues to expand its order

book by getting more projects in the horizontal housing segment.

"The company now has 11 projects with PPHI and is building a total of about 19,000 units for these sites across Luzon," Megawide said.

"As of end Dec. 2022, the total number of houses turned over by [the precast unit] has reached more than 9,000 since it started its partnership with PPHI in 2018," it added.

Megawide intends to build an onsite plant for faster turnover.

The company innovates through proprietary engineering technologies like precast which "enables quicker turnaround times, requires less manual labor during construction, and lowers long-term project costs," Megawide said.

Megawide's main precast plant is located in Taytay, Rizal. It can produce up to 168,000 cubic meters of precast units per year. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**