

## CREIT receives permit to sell P4.5-billion green bonds

THE Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) issued a permit to sell to Citicore Energy REIT Corp. (CREIT) for its maiden P4.5 billion ASEAN Green Bond offering.

The offer will consist of a base principal amount of P3 billion with an oversubscription option of up to P1.5 billion.

"We are hopeful that the offer's objective of funding green projects will translate to a favorable reception from the market," Oliver Y. Tan, president and chief executive officer of CREIT, said in a press release on Monday.

The fixed-rate bonds are scheduled to be listed with the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. on Feb. 10, 2023 with a coupon rate of 7.0543% due in February 2028.

The offer period will run from Jan. 30 to Feb. 3. It will have SB Capital and Investment Corp. and PNB Capital and Investment Corp. as its joint local underwriters, issue managers and selling agents.

ASEAN green bonds' proceeds are meant to be exclusively used to finance or refinance, in part or in full, new or existing eligible green

projects that comply with regulatory standards.

"We constantly explore and prioritize investment alternatives that would allow us to accelerate CREIT's growth trajectory and green asset portfolio, to enable us to reward our shareholders with greater value," Mr. Tan said.

Proceeds of the offering will be used for the development of a solar rooftop system project and the acquisition of 5 million square-meter land parcels in Batangas.

CREIT aims to lease out the land parcels it will be able to purchase to solar power generators and operators affiliated with its sponsor, Citicore Renewable Energy Corp. (CREC).

"These units have secured Solar Energy Service Contracts from the Department of Energy to construct three utility-scale solar plants, with a total projected generation capacity of 269 megawatts direct current and form part of CREC's expansion pipeline," the company said.

On the stock market on Monday, shares in CREIT closed unchanged at P2.46 apiece. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

# Raslag to acquire 42-hectare Tarlac land for solar farm project

RASLAG Corp. said on Monday that it plans to acquire about 42 hectares of land in Tarlac province's Gerona town for around P273 million to serve as the site of a proposed solar power plant.

In a disclosure to the stock exchange on Monday, the company said it intends to purchase the property in barangays Plastado and Carino for its Raslag-6 project at P650 per square meter.

The acquisition price is exclusive of capital gains taxes, documentary stamp taxes, land reclassification and conversion fees, and other miscellaneous fees and expenses, it said.

Raslag said the transaction involves a downpayment of P61.43 million, apart from P27.30 million in earnest money to be paid upon the acquisition agreement. The balance is to be paid in nine monthly payments of approximately P20.48 million.



Raslag-6 will be connected to the 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line of the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines. Raslag said the additional operating solar plant would increase its income in the coming years.

The company said it would buy the property from "multiple sellers" at a price determined by the parties after negotiations. The

acquisition will be financed by internally generated funds but may also be aided by a bank loan or loans, "as may be necessary," it added.

In a separate disclosure on Monday, Raslag said it tapped Solenergy Systems Inc. as the onshore engineering procurement and construction (EPC) contractor for Raslag-4 at P204 million.

Pure & Pam, Inc. will install the 69-kV transmission line for the project at P35.09 million.

Pure & Pam will also construct the switching station for Raslag-4 at P26.90 million.

At the local bourse on Monday, shares in the company closed three centavos lower or 1.7% to end at P1.73 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

## SIM registration hits nearly 27 million a month after rollout, says DICT

THE Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) said 26.64 million subscriber identity module (SIM) cards have been registered as of Jan. 28, or a month after the registration law was rolled out.

"Based on records provided by the public telecommunication entities, the total number is 15.76% of the 168,977,773 million subscribers nationwide," the DICT said in its latest report.

PLDT Inc.'s Smart Communications, Inc. reported a total of 13,632,034 SIM cards registered, accounting for 20.05% of its 67,995,734 users.

Globe Telecom, Inc., on the other hand, reported 10,883,887 registered users, or 12.39% of its 87,873,936 subscribers.

Meanwhile, third telco player DITO Telecommunity Corp. reported a total of 2,121,594 SIM cards registered, or 16.19% of its 13,108,103 subscribers.

The telcos are "continuously improving the process to ensure a smooth registration experience for end-users," DICT Spokesperson and Undersecretary Anna Mae Y. Lamentillo said.

"As the deadline is set on the 26th of April 2023, we assure the public that SIM Registration will reach even the remote areas of the country," she added.

Smart said its customers may go to SM Supermalls across the country to register their SIM cards.

"As of Jan. 30, Smart booths and touch points offering assisted SIM Registration services for prepaid and postpaid subscribers have been deployed in 36 SM establishments from Cauayan, Isabela in North Luzon, all the way to General Santos, South Cotabato in Mindanao," the telco said in an e-mailed statement on Monday.

It said that eight more SM establishments will host Smart and TNT-assisted SIM regis-

tration booths in the next few days, bringing to 44 the total count of covered SM Supermalls.

Meanwhile, Globe said it has registered more than 11 million active prepaid SIM cards as of Jan. 30.

"We understand the importance of addressing the proliferation of scam and spam messages and have made it our priority to provide our customers with a seamless registration

process. We are committed to meeting the deadline and continuing our efforts to protect our customers from scammers and fraudsters," Globe said in a separate statement.

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**

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