

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,986.19

▼ 49.57 PTS.

▼ 0.7%

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BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P725.00 -P25.00 -3.33%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P7.30 -P0.20 -2.67%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P59.25 +P0.10 +0.17%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P12.88 +P0.38 +3.04%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P29.75 -P0.75 -2.46%	AP Aboitiz Power Corp. P38.05 +P1.25 +3.40%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P125.50 +P0.30 +0.24%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P110.00 —	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P18.26 +P0.10 +0.55%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P20.40 -P0.10 -0.49%
GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,170.00 +P20.00 +0.93%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P520.00 -P5.00 -0.95%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P218.00 -P0.60 -0.27%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P242.00 -P3.00 -1.22%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P54.15 -P1.85 -3.30%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P10.18 +P0.04 +0.39%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P59.60 +P0.10 +0.17%	MEG Megaworld Corp. P2.23 +P0.02 +0.90%	MER Manila Electric Co. P293.00 +P5.20 +1.81%	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P13.52 -P0.32 -2.31%
MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P4.05 -P0.15 -3.57%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P33.80 -P0.20 -0.59%	RLC Robinsons Land Corp. P16.20 +P0.58 +3.71%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P31.80 +P0.60 +1.92%	SM SM Investments Corp. P930.00 -P16.00 -1.69%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P105.00 +P5.00 +5.00%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P36.90 -P0.85 -2.25%	TEL PLDT, Inc. P1,457.00 +P29.00 +2.03%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P148.90 +P4.40 +3.04%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P33.50 +P1.70 +5.35%

Robinsons Retail posts 26.7% increase in profit

ROBINSONS Retail Holdings, Inc. (RRHI) recorded a 26.7% increase in its attributable net income to P5.74 billion in 2022 from P4.53 billion the year prior.

"The surge in profitability is underpinned by positive contributions from all business segments coming from category mix improvements and operating efficiencies," the company said in a disclosure to the stock exchange on Thursday.

"In 2022, our businesses directly benefited from the economy's gradual return to

normalcy, including back to face-to-face classes in schools, increased travel and tourism, and the first normal holiday season in two years," it added.

In 2022, the company booked a consolidated net sales of P178.82 billion, up by 16.6% from the P153.33 billion recorded in the previous year.

"This was driven by same store sales growth of 11.8% as well as new store openings," the company said.

Along with its topline and bottomline growth, the company also saw a 30.6% increase in

its full-year earnings per share to P3.85 amid its share buyback program.

Meanwhile, changes to its category mix and economies of scales enabled the company to post a gross profit of P42.22 billion, 19.8% higher than the P35.23 billion last year, it said.

RRHI's operating income grew by 43.3% to P8.68 billion in 2022 from P6.06 billion in 2021, which the company attributed to better operating leverage and various cost savings.

"We are pleased with our operating performance in

2022. Building on the momentum [from] last year, our company will continue to take advantage of the economy's return to normal," RRHI President and Chief Executive Officer Robina Gokongwei-Pe said.

"We will focus on improving store efficiency and increasing market coverage with more stores in the pipeline for 2023," she added.

On Thursday, shares in RRHI declined by 35 centavos or 0.59% to close at P58.50 apiece.

— **Justine Irish D. Tabile**



ROBINSONS Retail Holdings, Inc. saw its attributable net income climb by 26.7% amid positive contributions from all its business segments.

Roxaco Land to launch projects in Batangas, Tagaytay

A SUBSIDIARY of listed Roxas and Company, Inc. (RCI) will launch real estate projects in the Tagaytay to Nasugbu, Batangas corridor, banking on strong demand and accelerating prices for properties in the area.

"Roxaco Land Corp., a subsidiary of (RCI), ushered in 2023 with an aggressive expansion program in its real estate and hospitality units," the listed RCI said in a filing with the local bourse on Thursday.

Aside from the growing demand in the area, RCI said Nasugbu, Batangas has been identified as a prime destina-

tion and as an access point into Western Batangas from the metro.

The company also expects the planned extension of the Cavite-Tagaytay-Batangas Expressway and the emergence of the Cavite-Batangas Expressway alternative route to push the destination's growth as it will reduce the travel time from Metro Manila to Nasugbu to just over an hour.

"Roxaco resumed land development and construction of sold units in its low cost and mid-market open lot and housing projects in Nasugbu.

These were stalled during the pandemic but are back on track," the company said.

Meanwhile, in Tagaytay, Roxaco is set to launch a low-density development project called Anya Villa. This project will be targeting the higher-end segment.

"The success of the Roxaco-owned Anya Resort Tagaytay gave rise to a strong brand for boutique residential resort developments that can be replicated throughout the country's many prime tourist destinations," RCI said.

Aside from these, Roxaco is also planning to implement phased renovations in its hotels and targeted marketing programs to strengthen its customer proposition, as it welcomes the recovery of local travel and tourism.

"RLC is leveraging on the recovery of local travel and tourism, boosting occupancy levels in all of its budget hotels located in Metro Manila. Guests are returning and pushing bookings to near pre-pandemic levels," RCI said.

On Thursday, RCI shares closed at 55 centavos apiece, down by three centavos or 5.17%. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**



SN ABOITIZ Power signed a power supply deal with PetroGreen Energy Corp. and PetroSolar Corp. for its retail electricity supply arm.

SNAP signs supply deal with PetroEnergy units

RENEWABLE ENERGY company SN Aboitiz Power (SNAP) on Thursday said it signed a power supply deal with PetroGreen Energy Corp. and PetroSolar Corp. for SNAP's retail electricity supply arm, Magat-Res.

"This partnership between SNAP and our companies is a fulfillment of our shared commitment of supporting energy security for the country through renewable energy," Milagros V. Reyes, president of PetroGreen, said in a statement.

SNAP said it has secured 27.5-megawatt direct current (MWDC) from PetroGreen, the renewable energy arm of listed PetroEnergy Resources Corp. and 20-MWDC from PetroSolar, a joint venture of PetroGreen and EEI Power Corp.

"Partnerships and synergies are always in the market, but it is particularly exceptional when we do it with companies who share similar traits, and beliefs," said Joseph S. Yu, president and chief executive officer of SNAP.

SNAP is a joint venture of Scatec and listed Aboitiz Power Corp.

It is the owner and operator of the 112.5-megawatt (MW) Ambuklao and 140-MW Binga hydroelectric power plants in Benguet. It also owns and operates the 388-MW Magat hydroelectric power plant which is located on the border Isabela and Ifugao, and the 8.5-MW Maris hydroelectric power plant in Isabela.

Meanwhile, PetroGreen, through its subsidiaries, is the operator of five power stations using geothermal, wind, and solar energy. These power stations are the Maibarara geothermal power plant in Batangas; the 36-MW wind project with a planned expansion of about 14 MW in Nabas and Malay, Aklan; and the 70-MW-direct current solar project in Tarlac City.

On Thursday, shares in PetroEnergy closed 0.84% lower at P4.70 per share while shares in Aboitiz Power rose by 3.4% to close at P38.05 apiece. — **AEOJ**

Wawa-Calawis project to provide 518 MLD in additional water supply

MANILA WATER Co., Inc. targets to bring an additional 518 million liters per day (MLD) of water supply through the construction of Wawa-Calawis water supply system, the east zone water concessionaire said on Thursday.

"Through prioritizing construction of climate-resilient infrastructure in our current and future service improvement plans, we hope to continuously contribute to the administration's Build Better More program, at the same time, to the country's economic development," Jose Victor Emmanuel A. De Dios, president and chief executive officer of Manila Water, said in a statement.

Manila Water said its Wawa-Calawis water supply system is now 82% complete. The project aims to bring an additional supply to over one million customers it served in the areas of Antipolo City, Teresa and Baras.

In 2022, the company said it targets to spend P181 billion for its capital investments in the next five year for its water and wastewater projects.

These projects, which will be implemented starting this year until 2027, include the development of new water sources, infrastructure, and rehabilitation of its existing facilities.

Metro Manila and its adjacent provinces get 95% of their water supply from the Angat Dam.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System said last month that with the current population growth in these areas, it expects a water supply deficit by 2024 amid a lack of new water sources.

The east zone water concessionaire said its water security plan includes the Angat-La Mesa water system and the Laguna Lake water system, which would bring an additional 50 MLD of water supply for the areas of Jalajala, Baras, Morong, Cardona and Binangonan in Rizal.

"Manila Water recognizes the need for investing in infrastructure to ensure viable and reliable service to the public despite the inevitable challenges we are facing such as population increase, climate change, and disaster vulnerability," Mr. De Dios said.

Manila Water serves Metro Manila's east zone network, which is made up of Marikina, Pasig, Makati, Taguig, Pateros, Mandaluyong, San Juan, portions of Quezon City and Manila, and several towns of nearby Rizal province. — **AEOJ**

ACEN unit fully acquires Australia dev't platform

ACEN Corp., through its subsidiary ACEN Renewables International (ACRI) has fully acquired ACEN Australia.

In a regulatory filing on Thursday, ACEN said ACRI has completed the acquisition of UPC Renewables Asia Pacific Holdings Pte. Ltd. (UPCAPH) shares in ACEN Australia.

ACEN, the Ayala-led renewable energy firm, said the second and final tranche of ACRI's acquisition of ACEN Australia was completed on Wednesday,

making ACEN Australia a wholly-owned subsidiary of ACRI.

"Please be informed that on Feb. 1, ACRI and UPCAPH signed an Instrument of Transfer for the transfer to ACRI of UPCAPH's remaining 4,766 ordinary shares in ACEN Australia, formerly UPC-AC Renewables Australia," ACEN said in a statement.

ACEN Australia is the joint venture holding company of ACRI and UPCAPH for ACEN's energy projects and investments in Australia.

The acquisition would also result in ACEN's full ownership of the 521-megawatt (MW) New England solar farm project and the 520-MW direct current Stubbo solar farm in Australia.

The New England solar farm project is expected to start operating this year. Last month, ACEN announced the start of construction activities for the Stubbo solar farm project.

ACEN will also acquire ACEN Australia's projects that are currently in the pipeline, including

New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria, and South Australia.

In March 2022, the first tranche of the share acquisition was completed after ACRI, UPCAPH, and Anton Rohner, chief executive officer of ACEN Australia, separately signed instruments of transfer. This, transferred UPCAPH's 7,150 ordinary shares in ACEN Australia to ACRI.

Shares in ACEN closed 2.67% lower to end at P7.30 apiece on Thursday. — **A.E.O. Jose**

Globe subsidiary deploys fiber lines in South Luzon

GLOBE TELECOM, Inc.'s subsidiary deployed over 133,400 fiber lines as of end-2022 to cover more areas in Luzon.

Globe said in a statement on Thursday that a subsidiary of its wholly owned Asticom Group of Companies rolled out the fiber lines in Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Quezon, Mindoro, Palawan and Bicol.

"Asticom, together with all of our subsidiaries, exists for the improvement of Filipino lives. This includes efforts in helping our fellow Filipinos transition to digital, turning our country into a more connected nation," Asticom President and Chief Executive Officer Mharicar Castillo-Reyes said.

Fiber Infrastructure and Network Services Inc. (FINSI), only 15 months old since its launch, has already brought high-speed internet access to thousands of households across the country.

"FINSI will continue its work in connecting homes throughout the country. We aim to continuously grow to provide innovative services to our clients and serve more Filipinos," FINSI General Manager Marc Kerueillant said.

In line with the expansion, FINSI said it is seeking to hire more people and open up more opportunities for Filipinos, aiming to utilize their expertise in the telecommunications field. Aside from this, the company is seeking to also expand into the energy and infrastructure sectors as part of its continued growth.

FINSI is an engineering and tech solutions provider which also offers a range of services to its clients including project management, network and infrastructure management, quality and safety management and assurance, and consulting services.

Asticom is a Philippine-based shared services company under Globe which offers staffing solutions, general services, and information technology services.

Shares in Globe Telecom climbed by P20 or 0.93% to close at P2,170 each on Thursday. — **J.I.D. Tabile**