

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) 7,027.38 ▲ 41.19 PTS. ▲ 0.59%

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PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P732.00 +P7.00 +0.97%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P7.48 +P0.18 +2.47%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P58.05 -P1.20 -2.03%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P12.74 -P0.14 -1.09%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P29.40 -P0.35 -1.18%	AP Aboitiz Power Corp. P38.00 -P0.05 -0.13%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P126.00 +P0.50 +0.40%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P110.40 +P0.40 +0.36%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P17.90 -P0.36 -1.97%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P20.70 +P0.30 +1.47%
GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,128.00 -P42.00 -1.94%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P520.00 ---	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P218.00 ---	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P245.00 +P3.00 +1.24%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P56.25 +P2.10 +3.88%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P10.00 -P0.18 -1.77%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P59.80 +P0.20 +0.34%	MEG Megaworld Corp. P2.26 +P0.03 +1.35%	MER Manila Electric Co. P299.00 +P6.00 +2.05%	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P13.30 -P0.22 -1.63%
MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P3.97 -P0.08 -1.98%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P33.10 -P0.70 -2.07%	RLC Robinsons Land Corp. P15.74 -P0.46 -2.84%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P30.80 -P1.00 -3.14%	SM SM Investments Corp. P919.00 -P11.00 -1.18%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P116.40 +P11.40 +10.86%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P38.90 +P2.00 +5.42%	TEL PLDT, Inc. P1,472.00 +P15.00 +1.03%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P149.70 +P0.80 0.54%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P32.65 -P0.85 -2.54%

SEC warns against six investment-taking entities

THE Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has warned the public against investing in six companies — Webmining, Oyala, BKC Trading, Winvest, Mazama, and Meta Trade — as they have not secured a license to offer securities.

In an advisory, the SEC said Webmining has been enticing investors through social media in its six investment plans worth P500. Investors in Webmining are promised earnings of P10,950 for one year.

Oyala, through its website, said it has a “diversified port-

folio of business interest, including investments in retail, education, real estate, banking, telecommunications, water infrastructure, renewable energy, electronics, information technology, automotive, healthcare, management and business process outsourcing.”

Oyala has been offering three investment plans called Stable Products, Welfare Products, and Activity Products. Investments start from P370 to P100,000 in Stable Products, from P200 up to P777,777 in Welfare Products, and

from P317 to P287,977 in Activity Products.

Depending on their investment value, Oyala investors are promised to earn up to P2.04 million after 55 days.

Meanwhile, BKC Trading was found to have been offering investments for as low as P30,000 up to P1 million to earn 12% up to 36% rate of return within three to six months.

Winvest, on the other hand, is said to have been earning profits through Binance futures trading with a promise of up to 3.5% daily

return or up to 50% earnings in 14 days.

Winvest has been offering two types of investments — Starter Plan and Pro Plan — which start from P500 and can go as high as P100,000 per account.

Mazama’s application and website were also found to have been soliciting investments that investors can pay through GCash.

The investments are said to be placed in “ads machines” whose rent starts at P250 and goes as high as P1 million. Daily earnings in the ads machine may go as high

as P165,000 depending on the rented machine.

Meanwhile, Meta Trade was found to have been offering three types of investment plans with a minimum price of P500 that can go up to P100,000.

Investors in Meta Trade are promised 30% earnings after five days, 70% earnings after 10 days, and 400% earnings after 30 days.

Meta Trade investors are said to get a 5% referral bonus with uplines getting a P200 daily allowance, group sales commission, and unilevel commission.

The commission identifies the schemes offered by the six entities as a Ponzi scheme as monies from new investors are used in paying “fake profits” to prior investors.

In its review, the regulator found out that Webmining, Oyala, BKC Trading, Winvest, Mazama, and Meta Trade are all not registered as corporations nor as partnerships under the SEC and therefore are not authorized to solicit investments from the public. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**



Filipinos can visit Taiwan without visa until July 31

FILIPINO tourists can now travel to Taiwan, visa-free, until July 31 as long as their stay will not exceed 14 days, said budget carrier Cebu Pacific.

The airline is also encouraging Filipinos to fly to Taiwan as the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) protocols for inbound travelers are eased.

The new protocol no longer requires travelers to present a negative COVID-19 test result and proof of vaccination prior to arrival to Taiwan.

“However, those who test positive before their visit need to defer their flights for at least five days from their test date,” said Cebu Pacific.

The low-cost carrier currently flies the Manila-Taipei-Manila route daily. Taiwan is just a two-hour flight from the Philippines.

As of Dec. 10, 2022, Cebu Pacific increased the frequency of its flight on the Manila-Taipei-Manila route to seven times from the previous three times weekly.

Cebu Pacific said in its latest media briefing that it will be restoring its pre-COVID network and capacity in March.

At present, the carrier is operating 100% of its 34 domestic destinations while ramping up direct flights from Cebu and Davao.

For international flights, the carrier is seeking to restore 100% of its 25 international destinations in March.

As of December, the airline was able to restore 92% of its pre-pandemic system-wide capacity driven by the increase in its domestic and international routes.

In the same month, Cebu Pacific said it flew an average of 355 flights a day, which covers 34 domestic and 19 international destinations. The figure is equivalent to around 64,000 seats offered a day.

Meanwhile, the carrier is planning to have 10 brand new Airbus NEO (new engine option) aircraft delivered this year “to address growing capacity and travel demand.”

Of the 10 aircraft, three are A320neo, three are A321neo and the remaining four are A330neo. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

OUTLIER

UnionBank shares rise on earnings report, PSEi re-entry

SHARES in Union Bank of the Philippines (UnionBank) rose last week when the Aboitized bank reported its full-year earnings and ahead of its return to the Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) after 14 years.

Data from the PSE showed UnionBank ranked second in value turnover with P4.08 billion worth of 42.31 million shares changing hands from Jan. 30 to Feb. 3.

The Aboitized-led bank shares finished at P96 apiece on Friday, inching up by 2.7% from its P93.50 close last Jan. 27. For the year, the stock has risen by 11.5%.

Rastine Mackie D. Mercado, research director at China Bank Securities Corp., said UnionBank’s price movement was mainly driven by its impending inclusion in the main index.

“While many anticipated [UnionBank]’s inclusion, the formal announcement was made after the market close last [Jan. 27], hence funds/investors had to work to rebalance their portfolios by [last] week,” Mr. Mercado said in an e-mail.

He added that the bank’s fourth-quarter performance was stronger on an annual basis although its “bottomline performance was relatively flat despite the strong growth in revenues (as driven by its acquisition of Citi’s consumer business effective August 2022).”

In a press release last week, UnionBank said its net income reached P12.7 billion last year, or nearly flat from the P12.578-billion net profit in 2021. Its revenues rose by 16% to P52.2 billion from P45.1 billion in the same period in 2021.

Revenues mainly came from net interest income and fee-based income, which compensated for the absence of trading gains, the bank said.

The listed bank’s acquisition of the consumer banking business of Citigroup, Inc. in the Philippines was completed in August last year. It was val-

ued at P55 billion.

The takeover covers Citi’s local credit card, unsecured lending, deposit, and investment businesses, as well as Citicorp Financial Services and Insurance Brokerage Philippines, Inc.

Meanwhile, the PSE said in a statement last week that DMCI Holdings, Inc. and UnionBank will be replacing Megaworld Corp. and Robinsons Land Corp. in the PSEi beginning Feb. 6.

The move comes after the bourse operator’s index review for 2022. To be included in PSEi means a listed company must be among the top in terms of liquidity and market capitalization.

Companies considered for inclusion also need a free float level of at least 20% of their outstanding shares. Relevant financial criteria as well as eligibility for early inclusion are also considered by the PSE in the index review, PSE said.

“We think market reception to the earnings news was lukewarm as investors monitor the ongoing impact of the Citi consumer business acquisition to financial performance,” Mr. Mercado said.

“Revenues saw strong growth, but operating expenses grew at a steeper pace [which is] likely in relation to the acquisition, so how that dynamic change is something that investors will monitor moving forward,” he added.

Traders and investors should consider UnionBank given its improving visibility on the acquisition’s impact on its financials, Mr. Mercado said.

“Investors will likely monitor continued growth in net interest income, net interest margins, and nonperforming loans, considering the higher proportion of consumer loans to its total book, and impact of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas’ cumulative rate hikes.”

Mr. Mercado pegged support and resistance levels at P91.80 and P100.00, respectively. — **Abigail Marie P. Yraola**

Payoneer seeks stronger partnerships with IT-BPO sector

CROSS-BORDER payments platform Payoneer is seeking collaborations with the local business process outsourcing (BPO) industry in a bid to strengthen the latter’s growth.

“I think it’s really important to bring together all the different stakeholders that are involved in cross-border international business so we can interact, engage, and learn from each other on how to take the customer experience to the next level,” Payoneer Regional Vice President of South East Asia Miguel Warren said during a recent forum at the New Clark City in Tarlac.

“At Payoneer, it’s our goal to help customers grow internationally, to go global, and to be able to help them realize all the potential that tomorrow holds,” he added.

Rosario Cajucom-Bradbury, managing director of the Contact Center Association of the Philippines, said that the Philippines accounts for 40% of the global customer experience market in terms of headcount.

She added that areas outside of Metro Manila such as Iloilo, Pampanga, Angeles, Metro Clark, Bacolod, and Davao City are already being tapped for voice-based and transactional business process services.

“Our vision is to become the world’s number one experience hub for digitally enabled and customer-centric services while driving



inclusive and sustainable economic growth and social growth for the Philippines,” Ms. Cajucom-Bradbury said.

The local BPO sector posted a 10.6% increase in its revenue to \$29.49 billion last year, based on data from the Information Technology and Business Process Association of the Philippines (IBPAP). The IBPAP is eyeing to generate 1.1 million additional direct jobs by 2028.

Payoneer provides innovative solutions to help companies in the global digital economy. It serves over 2,000 top marketplaces and digital platforms. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

ROXACO LAND CORPORATION LAUNCHES NEW PROJECTS

Roxaco Land Corporation (“RLC”), a subsidiary of Roxas and Company, Inc. (“RCI”) ushered 2023 with an aggressive expansion program in its real estate and hospitality units.

RLC will launch land development projects in the Tagaytay to Nasugbu corridor, buoyed by strong demand and accelerating property prices.

The town of Nasugbu, Batangas has been identified by large infrastructure groups as a prime destination and access point into Western Batangas from Metro Manila, attracting locators and home buyers. The planned extension of the CTBEX toll road and the emergence of the CBEX alternative route will substantially reduce travel time from Metro Manila to Nasugbu to just over an hour. RLC 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.

In Tagaytay, plans are being finalized to launch the Anya Villa Project, a low density offer that targets the higher end segment of the property market. The success of the RLC-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.

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. RLC is implementing phased renovations of its hotels as well as targetted marketing programs to strengthen its customer proposition.