

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,602.17

▲ 65.81 PTS. ▲ 1%

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BusinessWorld

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P666.00 +P32.00 +5.05%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P6.42 +P0.16 +2.56%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P51.20 -P1.15 -2.2%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P12.64 -P0.16 -1.25%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P28.50 +P0.15 +0.53%	AP Aboitiz Power Corp. P36.75 -P0.50 -1.34%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P127.00 +P3.00 +2.42%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P101.50 -P4.00 -3.79%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P13.68 +P0.12 +0.88%	DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P11.00 -P0.12 -1.08%
EMI Emperador, Inc. P20.35 -P0.10 -0.49%	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,850.00 +P2.00 +0.11%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P500.00 -P1.00 -0.2%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P213.20 +P12.20 +6.07%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P225.20 +P2.20 +0.99%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P52.45 +P1.75 +3.45%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P9.99 -P0.01 -0.1%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P58.50 +P1.30 +2.27%	MER Manila Electric Co. P300.40 -P7.00 -2.28%	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P11.34 +P0.28 +2.53%
MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P3.63 +P0.08 +2.25%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P32.70 +P0.50 +1.55%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P30.25 +P0.05 +0.17%	SM SM Investments Corp. P905.00 +P5.00 +0.56%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P106.90 -P1.60 -1.47%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P34.00 —	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,350.00 -P9.00 -0.66%	UBP Union Bank of the Philippines P85.30 +P0.40 +0.47%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P146.80 +P5.80 +4.11%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P27.30 +P0.15 +0.55%

Alternergy, bank fears seen to set tone for IPOs

By Adrian H. Halili

UPCOMING market listings could be influenced by Alternergy Holdings Corp.'s initial public offering (IPO) last Friday along with investor sentiments over the banking crisis abroad, analysts said.

During its market debut, Alternergy shares hit a high of P1.30 per share before closing at P1.28 apiece, unchanged from its set listing price, to raise P1.62 billion.

The renewable energy developer is the first company to hold an IPO this year, offering 1.15 billion in primary common shares with an over-allotment option of 115 million shares.

AP Securities, Inc. Equity Research Analyst Carlos Angelo O. Temporal said in a Viber message that due to circumstances abroad, investors might turn choosy.

"Investors are likely to be selective in the upcoming IPOs, prioritizing growth industries and quick retail plays," Mr. Temporal said.

He added that investors might prioritize immediate profits to maintain adequate buying power as listed shares are priced at a bargain.

"Cautious sentiments [are] likely to linger due to rising fears of a recession abroad amidst the global banking turmoil. This was confirmed when the [US Federal Reserve] acknowledged the issues and labeled it as a threat to the US economy," Mr. Temporal said.

Meanwhile, Mercantile Securities Corp. Head Trader Jeff Radley C. See said Alternergy's performance would set the tone for the next IPOs this year.

In a media briefing on Friday, Alternergy President Gerry P. Magbanua said that the company in for the long run as several projects

are slated for completion in the next three to five years.

"We don't look at it on a day-to-day basis but rather we look at it on a long-term basis because the value of the company is really based on the projects in the next three to five years," Mr. Magbanua said.

"We hope we could successfully launch all of these projects [within] the timeframe and we'll see the value of the stock at that point," he added.

Globalinks Securities and Stocks, Inc. Head of Sales Trading Toby Allan C. Arce said in a Viber message that Alternergy opened below its IPO price as investors were anxious and just wanted to cash out.

"But it did stage a recovery to close flat, back at its IPO price," he said.

Mr. Arce said Alternergy's performance was mainly caused by investor sentiments amid issues over global financial stability.

"Though its maiden performance was far from stellar as many would have hoped, there were positives that [Alternergy] gained from its IPO," Mr. Arce said.

UPCOMING IPOs FOR THE YEAR

Upton International Corp. will be next to hold its IPO on April 3, which could raise up to P1.95 billion for the information technology retailer.

In its final prospectus, the company stated that it plans to sell about 625 million common shares with an over-allotment option of 62.5 million shares. These are priced at P2.40 apiece.

Upton said that it plans to use IPO proceeds to open 250 stores this year within the National Capital Region and key cities in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Its offer period is slated from March 21 to 27.

Likewise, property developer OviaLand, Inc. has recently sub-

mitted for regulatory approval its intention to raise up to P2.22 billion in an IPO to fund ongoing and future real estate projects.

The company stated in a press release that it intends to offer up to 396 million common shares, which include 336 million primary common shares, 24 million secondary common shares, and an over-allotment option of up to 36 million secondary common shares. Its proposed IPO could be offered up to P5.60 per share.

SB Capital Investments Corp. was tapped as the sole issue manager, lead underwriter, and sole book runner for the offering.

Additionally, Razon-led Prime Infrastructure Capital, Inc. announced its intention to launch its IPO this year after postponements last year, Reuters reported.

It plans to offer up to 1.93 billion shares, which include an

over-allotment option, priced at up to P14.60 per share.

The proposed offering could bring P27.72 billion in proceeds, which the company can use to finance its energy, water, and sustainable fuels businesses.

Bounty Agro Ventures, Inc. has also stated its intention to list later this year to raise up to \$400 million to \$500 million, Bloomberg reported.

Meanwhile, Citicore Renewable Energy Corp. stated in February that it was also planning to go public this year to fund \$4 billion in solar power projects over the next five years.

Earlier in the year, the Philippine Stock Exchange said that it was targeting 14 IPOs this year, 11 of which are said to be companies and real estate investment trusts or REITs that will list on the main board and three on the small, medium, and emerging board.

SM Prime expands commercial footprint with SM Offices' FourE-Com Center



(L to R) David Zaballero, Arquitectonica Director; Harvey Sy, SM Prime Planning and Design; Hans Sy Jr, SM EDD President; Alexis Ortiga, SM Commercial Properties Group Head; Lee Meng Kong, SM Prime Engineering; Erickberth Calupe, Property Management

SM Prime Holdings, Inc. (SM Prime), one of the largest integrated property developers in Southeast Asia, expands its premium office portfolio with the launch of FourE-com Center, the latest Pre-LEED Gold certified office building in the vibrant SM Mall of Asia Complex. "We are expanding our office portfolio on the back of our growth momentum and optimism on the continued recovery of the real estate industry. This is supported by return-to-office policies, take-up of office spaces driven by e-commerce, BPOs and data centers, and demand for innovative and sustainable office solutions that necessitate growth in the real estate sector," said Alexis Ortiga, Vice President for Commercial Properties Group of SM Prime.

SM Offices is building resilient future-ready offices and is increasing its domestic foothold with leasable spaces in strategic locations across the country. Its latest development, FourE-Com Center, is designed by multi-awarded and globally renowned architectural firm and master planner, Arquitectonica. Known for their design innovations with the use of materials, color, and geometry, Arquitectonica's vision for FourE-Com Center is inspired by crystal formations, with three adjacent rhombic towers sprawling down from a landscaped sky garden podium.

Offering over 100,000 square meters of leasable area spread across three towers of 15 floors each, FourE-com boasts of a courtyard podium on the fifth floor, that is poised to become a premier dining destination. It is envisioned to carry a variety of mid-to high-end restaurants catering to diverse food cravings and entertainment. This sky garden also doubles as a communal plaza that promotes healthier living by providing a venue to respite and refresh one's mind, while overlooking the majestic Manila Bay horizon.

Following on the heels of the E-Com Series of office buildings and other SM Prime

properties, FourE-com Center is dedicated to optimizing business operations while minimizing the impact on the environment, by integrating ESG-sensitive strategies from construction to operation. The building's sustainable design features include a double-glazed glass curtain to allow natural light to permeate into office spaces, use of LED lighting, water-saving fixtures and aerators, pressure-operated escalators, and recycled water for irrigation. Other building elements also include bike racks, shower rooms, and inter-connected elevated walkways to encourage reduction in carbon footprint. Expanding its portfolio of sustainable office buildings is SM Offices' contribution to SM Prime's vision of building innovative and sustainable developments. SM Offices sets a high bar for its office buildings. By adhering to strict standards and securing the coveted and most widely used green building rating system, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, SM Offices validates that its office buildings are efficient, cost-effective, and better for tenant-partners and their employees, and the environment. Among SM Offices' LEED-certified buildings are the ThreeE-Com Center in the Mall of Asia Complex, Mega Tower in the Ortigas CBD, Aura Tower in BGC, and North Towers in Quezon City.

"We continue to build green buildings with world-class amenities and sustainable features that provide an inspiring work environment for our tenant-partners and stakeholders," Ortiga added, highlighting SM Offices' tenant roster which includes multinational and local companies in e-commerce, financial services, information technology, telecommunications, logistics, and retail. The addition of the newest Pre-LEED certified FourE-Com Center solidifies SM Prime's thrust for master planned office spaces and innovations that are designed to provide ideal work environments for its tenant-partners.

RLC expects to maintain take-up of residences

Robinsons Land Corp. (RLC) is expecting this year's take-up of residential units to be as strong as last year's record despite geopolitical risks and interest rate hikes.

"Last year was actually a record year for Robinsons Land, just speaking for the Residences, it was our highest take-up ever in history. This speaks well about the reopening of the economy, the confidence of people not just in the company but in the industry as a whole," said John Richard B. Sotelo, senior vice-president and business unit general manager of RLC Residences, said in a media briefing last week.

"We expect it, cautiously, to be as strong this year. Obviously, there are some risks and headwinds, geopolitical risks and interest rates going up, but I think at the basic level the demand is still there," he added.

Mr. Sotelo said developers working with the government also helped in securing the growth of the property market along with the move by its partners to take a "slow and responsible approach to not overbuild in certain areas, diversify, and go across all spectrums."

Meanwhile, Mr. Sotelo said he expects the effect of rising interest rates to be felt more in the second half of 2023.

"So far, we are not seeing the full impact of rising interest rates yet, I'm sure we will feel it maybe in the second half of the year but not enough, I believe, that would drastically slow down the market," he added.

According to Mr. Sotelo, the slowdown resulting from the rise in interest rates might be offset by market demand and the sector's strength.

"But currently with what has been happening, we don't think it's

going to substantially impact," he said.

However, he added property companies would need to manage their portfolio and spending as expenses continue to go up.

Meanwhile, Mr. Sotelo said RLC Residences would continue building up its core market as it tries to have more offerings in other segments.

"Obviously, we are seeing faster growth in certain segments. One of them would be the premium luxury segment and we are trying to have offerings at that level but we will continue to build our core, so we will continue to have offerings at the mid to mid-high segments," he said.

Mid to mid-high segments consist of product offerings with price points starting from P5 million, said Mr. Sotelo. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

MIAA readies next phase of terminal assignments

THE Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) will begin the second phase of its schedule and terminal assignment rationalization (STAR) program in April as part of its plan to make Terminal 2 of Ninoy Aquino International Airport an all-domestic facility.

"With this move, we expect a significant increase in Terminal 2's capacity from 7.5 million to 10 million passengers a year — 20% to 25% more than its current rate," said MIAA General Manager Cesar M. Chiong.

Under the program, all international flights will be reassigned to Terminals 1 and 3, which have a wider selection of food and retail stores for duty-free shopping.

The MIAA expects the program to improve its manpower deployment in Terminals 1 and 3 which will allow the regulator to assist the customs, immigration, and quarantine offices.

Starting April 16, Jetstar Japan, Jetstar Asia, Scoot, China Southern Airlines, and Starlux Airlines will be transferred to Terminal 3.

Philippine Airlines to and from Singapore, Ho Chi Minh, Hanoi, and Phnom Penh will be moved to Terminal 1 start-

ing April 16, while all of its international flights are expected to be moved to Terminal 1 by June 16.

On June 1, flights of Ethiopian Airlines and Jeju Air will be transferred to Terminal 3.

"While the MIAA works on further expanding the capacity of Terminal 2, domestic operations of Cebu Pacific will remain in Terminals 3 and 4 for the meantime," the MIAA said.

The third phase of the program will cover the transfer of all domestic flights of AirAsia Philippines to Terminal 2 starting July 1.

"The STAR program is a well-studied undertaking. We met with affected airlines and stakeholders to make sure they come up with their readiness plan as part of these changes. We advised them to get in touch with their affected passengers so they can inform them of the new terminal assignments," said Mr. Chiong.

The MIAA is requesting the passengers' understanding of the minor inconveniences they may encounter during the transition even as it plans to make it seamless. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

OviaLand projects premium-affordable home sales to rise

PROPERTY developer OviaLand, Inc. is expecting an increase in demand for premium-affordable home products this year, its top official said, citing buyers who have become more discerning.

"The demand for premium-affordable products is going to rise because the market is now more discerning," OviaLand President and Chief Executive Officer Marie Leonore Fatima Olivares-Vital told *BusinessWorld* last week before announcing the company's plan to hold an initial public offering (IPO) of shares.

"We describe our market as educated, hard-working and aspirational. The [rise] of influencers, social media and just the desire to uplift and upgrade makes home buyers more aspirational. So, we believe that the market for our unique and premium products is going to be strong," she added.

Family-owned OviaLand calls its product offering "premium-affordable," which is between P2 million and P4 million price points. "This is the household income of about 60,000 to 100,000," Ms. Olivares-Vital said. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

FULL STORY



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