

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,583.68

▲ 43.44 PTS.

▲ 0.66%

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023

BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P633.00 +P7.00 +1.12%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P6.00 -P0.03 -0.5%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P54.30 +P0.70 +1.31%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P12.94 +P0.44 +3.52%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P25.95 -P0.45 -1.7%	AP Aboitiz Power Corp. P37.25 +P0.35 +0.95%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P144.60 +P6.60 +4.78%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P109.00 +P1.00 +0.93%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P11.90 ---	DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P9.80 -P0.22 -2.2%
EMI Emperador, Inc. P20.85 -P0.05 -0.24%	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,725.00 +P21.00 +1.23%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P480.00 +P18.00 +3.9%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P219.00 +P0.20 +0.09%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P219.00 -P0.20 -0.09%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P49.25 +P0.25 +0.51%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P10.02 +P0.04 +0.4%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P58.40 +P0.15 +0.26%	MER Manila Electric Co. P330.00 ---	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P9.25 +P0.10 +1.09%
MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P4.26 ---	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P32.75 +P0.35 +1.08%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P27.40 ---	SM SM Investments Corp. P888.00 -P10.00 -1.11%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P105.60 -P0.20 -0.19%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P33.90 +P0.30 +0.89%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,210.00 -P4.00 -0.33%	UBP Union Bank of the Philippines P83.80 -P0.15 -0.18%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P144.50 +P3.00 +2.12%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P29.25 +P0.45 +1.56%

DITO set to launch postpaid, enterprise products

DITO Telecommunity Corp. is set to launch postpaid and enterprise product offerings by June this year, company officials said on Thursday.

"In June, we are launching our postpaid plans. That's going to affect this significantly. In June, we are going to enter the enterprise business. We will be offering things to companies, small enter-

prises — so this P7.2 billion that's nothing to what's coming," DITO Chief Administrative Officer Adel A. Tamano said.

"You haven't seen anything yet. Last year, we earned P7.2 billion — that's just our prepaid," Mr. Tamano said at a media briefing.

In entering the postpaid and enterprise market, one of the telco's "edge" will be its afford-

ability, DITO Chief Technology Officer Rodolfo D. Santiago said.

"There is a lot of technology that we are using to help provide customers value for money. We are expecting that potential clients see us as much more reliable and cheaper," Mr. Santiago said, citing the company's cloud software.

DITO has an auditing commitment to allot P27 billion for

capital expenditure (capex) this year to increase its coverage. This would bring the company's cumulative capex under its commitment to the government to P230 billion by the end of the year.

"Our committed capex is P27 billion. To be very accurate, it may increase or decrease based on the need of the network. Mysense is we will reach that," Mr. Tamano said.

According to Mr. Santiago, the company is approaching 77% to 78% coverage, which is close to the target for its technical audit that will happen on July 8.

"Our target for our fourth technical audit that will happen on July 8 is 80% coverage. We're at around 77%-78% so we just need 2%," he added.

In 2022, the telco's parent firm DITO CME Holdings Corp. booked a threefold increase in revenues from contracts with customers to P7.28 billion from P2.19 billion in the previous year.

DITO CME's net loss last year widened to P11.24 billion from P9.67 billion in 2021. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

Now Corp. taps Cisco for nationwide 5G network

NOW Corp. and Now Telecom Co., Inc. have moved to transform the group into a digital service and mobile telecommunications provider with its tie-up with Cisco International Ltd.

"Now Group is determined to bring about true 5G and National Broadband Network (NBN) technologies in the Philippines, together with its partnership with the US Government," Now Corp. Chairman Mel V. Velarde said in a press release.

"Cisco, being a technology leader, will definitely play a significant role in enabling Now's network with best of class technologies," he added.

Through the alliance, listed telco Now will be able to roll out advanced 5G solutions that are expected to benefit its enterprise customers in the manufacturing, logistics, port operations, banking, and business process outsourcing industries.

"Given the ongoing digitization of businesses, mobile carriers will require

the advanced capabilities of 5G networks such as high speed, low latency, reliability, and dynamic provisioning," said Sanjay Kaul, president of service provider for Cisco in the Asia Pacific and Japan region.

"Through our partnership with [Now], we can support their network infrastructure's transition into this new era of digitization by harnessing the potential of 5G technology," he added.

The tie-up will help Now in customizing its end-to-end solutions to better meet the needs of its customers.

"Overall, this partnership between Now and Cisco brings together the strengths of the parties, combining Now Telecom's local market knowledge and customer relationships with Cisco's global reach and expertise in providing advanced networking solutions," the company said. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

Maynilad, Manila Water move to augment supply

MAYNILAD Water Services, Inc. said it is accelerating its supply augmentation measures to deliver 163 million liters per day (MLD) of additional water supply.

"As these supply augmentation projects gradually come on stream over the course of the year, we should be able to generate more water supply for distribution to customers," Maynilad President and Chief Executive Officer Ramoncito S. Fernandez said in a statement on Thursday.

Mr. Fernandez said the company's supply augmentation measures are intended to cushion the impact of any supply shortage or constraints brought by the El Niño phenomenon, which is forecast by the latter part of the year.

The west zone water concessionaire said these measures include the reactivation of 45 deep wells across its service area and the commissioning of two modular plants in Cavite.

Maynilad said it would also tap additional cross-border points with Manila Water Co., Inc. and further ramp up the construction of an auxiliary filtration system at its Putatan water treatment plant.

The company expects that an estimated 700,000 customers would benefit from the additional water supply.

Separately, Manila Water has also announced its supply augmentation measures in preparation for El Niño to ensure uninterrupted water supply.

Jose Victor Emmanuel A. De Dios, president and chief executive officer of Manila Water, said the company has committed to ensuring 24/7 water supply by maximizing the 100-MLD output of its Cardona water treatment plant.

The east zone water company has also assured the standby operation of deep wells that can yield up to 115 MLD, and the operation of its 15-20-MLD Marikina portable water treatment plant.

Manila Water serves Manila's east zone network, which comprises Marikina, Pasig, Makati, Taguig, Pateros, Mandaluyong, San Juan, portions of Quezon City and Manila, and several towns of nearby Rizal province.

Maynilad serves the cities of Manila, except portions of San Andres and Sta. Ana. It also operates in Quezon City, Makati, Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas, and Malabon. It also supplies the cities of Cavite, Bacoor, and Imus, and the towns of Kawit, Novelleta, and Rosario, all in Cavite province.

Metro Pacific Investments Corp., which has a majority stake in Maynilad, is one of three Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., the others being Philex Mining Corp. and PLDT Inc.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has an interest in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**



SCOTT GRAHAM/UNSPASH

SEC studies higher fines for late, non-filing of annual financial reports

THE Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is considering an increase in the fines and penalties imposed on corporations for the late and non-filing of their annual financial statements and general information sheet, it said in a media release on Thursday.

In its proposed guidelines, the commission will raise penalties by 20% from the base penalty per offense. Penalties will be imposed on a per report and per year basis, with a monthly fine added on top of the base fines for continued violations until the requirements are submitted by the company.

The SEC said penalties for corporations that filed their reportorial requirement late could range from P5,000 to P27,000 with an additional fine of P500 up to P1,000 per month depending on their retained earnings.

Penalties for non-filing of reports could range from P10,000 to P54,000. A monthly fine will also be imposed ranging from P500 to P1,000.

For foreign companies, a fine of up to P54,000 and P45,000 may be imposed on stock and non-stock corporations for late filings,

respectively. For non-filing of financial statements, the corresponding fine could go as high as P90,000 and P45,000.

"The scale of penalties will be based on the retained earnings for domestic stock corporations, fund balance for domestic non-stock corporations, and accumulated income for foreign stock corporations," the SEC said.

Additionally, companies may also be fined P20,000 for the violation of Memorandum Circular No. 2, series of 2023.

"Memorandum Circular No. 2, s. 2023, provided regulated entities opportunity to settle their fines and penalties at a reduced rate to encourage compliance with reportorial requirements," the SEC added.

The regulator may also declare a company under delinquent status after three consecutive failures to submit its requirements or intermittently after five years.

"A fourth offense may also constitute a revocation of a corporation's registration if it has been given reasonable notice regarding its delinquent status," it said. — **Adrian H. Halili**

PXP's net loss widens to P6 million

PXP Energy Corp. saw its attributable net loss for the first quarter widen to P6.08 million from P2.73 million in the same period last year on lower margins from its Galoc operations and higher interest expense.

In a stock exchange disclosure, PXP said its revenues for the quarter declined by 5% to P17.87 million from P18.81 million a year ago.

This came after the one completed lifting of about 136,087 barrels at \$81.4 per barrel versus the 144,897 barrels from one lifting priced at \$84.1 per barrel previously in Service Contract (SC) 14C-1 Galoc.

The listed oil and gas company said costs and expenses rose by 9.9% to P22.41 million from P20.40 million, driven by higher petroleum production costs along with general and administrative expenses.

PXP said the increased petroleum costs in SC 14C-1 Galoc went up to P10.94 million in the first quarter compared with P9.44 million a year ago. Other expenses increased by 4.6% to P11.47 million from P10.97 million.

Last month, the Department of Energy affirmed that the period from Oct. 14, 2020 until April 6, 2022 will be credited back to SC 72 and SC 75.

PXP told the stock exchange that once the force majeure is lifted, both service contracts will retain the equivalent remaining terms of the respective subphases before Oct. 14, 2020.

PXP holds a 50% interest in SC 75 located in northwest Palawan. Its subsidiary Forum Energy Ltd., in which PXP holds a direct and indirect interest of 79.13%, has a 70% participating interest in SC 72, also in northwest Palawan, through its wholly owned subsidiary Forum (GSEC 101).

On March 29, PXP said that the Energy department had granted its request to place SC 74 under a technical moratorium from Sept. 13, 2022 to Sept. 13, 2024.

This will allow PXP and its joint venture partners to conduct further studies and establish appropriate technology needed to increase the production rate and recoverable reserves from the Linapacan B field that will eventually "warrant economically viable production."

At the local bourse on Thursday, shares in the company fell by seven centavos or 1.12% to end at P6.18 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Meralco launches PIXL tech to access substations remotely

LISTED power distributor Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) has launched its digital twin laboratory named Powertech Innovation and eXperience Lab (PIXL) which uses real-world data to create simulations.

"This is to improve further the way we deliver reliable electricity, and this is, of course, through technology," said Joe R. Zalardriaga, Meralco's spokesperson and vice president for communications, in a media briefing on Thursday.

PIXL uses a virtual world rendering studio and metaverse where the company can assess and manage its substations in real time.

The studio contains 10 short-throw high-definition projectors, a 360-degree projection wall, LED lights, and extended reality devices such as Microsoft HoloLens and Oculus VR headset.

The technology has been installed in 16 of Meralco's 133 substations and business centers, which give extended reality previews of different vital facilities.

Rocky D. Bacani, first vice-president for information, communication, technology,

and transformation, said that the company can explore the substation sites within the studio and can see the actual components installed.

"The way we want to use PIXL is like a studio where you can teleport to any location you want and be able to experience that in a digital reality," he said.

"As a leader in the energy industry, Meralco continuously invests in new technologies that will enhance our business operations to deliver consistent excellent service," he added.

The company aims to share the technology as a "co-innovation initiative" with the academe, regulators, and other distribution utilities in the country.

Meralco's controlling stakeholder, Beacon Electric Asset Holdings, Inc., is partly owned by PLDT Inc. Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has an interest in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**