

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,469.42

▼ 10.21 PTS.

▼ 0.15%

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023

BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P648.00 +P1.00 +0.15%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P5.99 -P0.03 -0.5%	AEV Aboltiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P51.55 -P0.65 -1.25%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P12.56 +P0.08 +0.64%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P27.05 -P0.25 -0.92%	AP Aboltiz Power Corp. P37.00 -P0.50 -1.33%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P130.20 +P0.20 +0.15%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P101.50 +P1.65 +1.65%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P12.38 -P0.16 -1.28%	DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P10.78 -P0.54 -4.77%
EMI Emperador, Inc. P21.00 +P0.05 +0.24%	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,798.00 +P6.00 +0.33%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P485.00 -P15.00 -3%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P211.00 +P1.00 +0.48%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P212.20 -P4.00 -1.85%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P49.35 +P0.35 +0.71%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P9.99 +P0.01 +0.1%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P58.35 +P0.05 +0.09%	MER Manila Electric Co. P318.00 +P2.00 +0.63%	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P9.45 +P0.10 +1.07%
MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P3.77 +P0.06 +1.62%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P32.50 +P0.15 +0.46%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P29.30 +P0.30 +1.03%	SM SM Investments Corp. P890.00 -P9.00 -1%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P105.50 ---	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P32.85 -P0.15 -0.45%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,260.00 +P9.00 +0.72%	UBP Union Bank of the Philippines P84.90 -P0.10 -0.12%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P143.10 +P1.10 +0.77%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P28.60 ---

Telcos struggle to meet SIM registration deadline

SMART Communications, Inc., the wireless subsidiary of PLDT Inc., said on Wednesday that extending the registration period for subscriber identity modules (SIM) is needed to give subscribers more time to obtain government-issued identification cards (IDs).

"While we have led in the number of registrations to date with about 46% of our total number of subscribers already registered, which is higher than industry average, we see the need to give subscribers more time to secure the government IDs required to register their SIMs," said Catherine Y. Yang, first vice-president and head of group corporate communications of PLDT and Smart.

Smart released a statement announcing its plan to submit a formal letter of request to the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and the Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT) to extend the deadline, currently set for April 26, of the SIM registration process.

Globe Telecom, Inc. said on Tuesday that the low count of registrations was due to the shortage of government-issued IDs.

The Ayala-led telco has proposed expanding the acceptable forms of identification for registration and the implementation of conditional registration.



MIGUEL DE GUZMAN/PHILIPPINE STAR

"I think these suggestions could be reasonable," DICT Assistant Secretary for CyberSecurity and Upskilling Jeffrey Ian C. Dy told *BusinessWorld* on Wednesday.

"What we can really do is to talk with the telecommunication companies, and if they have suggestions, they can write a position letter and send it to our office addressed to the Secretary," he added.

"Maybe we can expand the identification cards that can be presented. I also think school IDs could be included with the aid of the registration form."

According to Mr. Dy, the DICT, NTC, and representatives of the telecommu-

nication companies are set to have a meeting on Friday.

The DICT, under Republic Act 11934 or the SIM Registration Act, has the prerogative to extend the SIM registration process for another 120 days.

"There is no policy yet for extension. It is currently being discussed and we are mindful of the April 26 deadline vis-a-vis the very low adoption or registration statistics," Mr. Dy said.

At the same time, he expressed concern that if the department extends the registration deadline, unregistered subscribers may become more complacent.

"If we will extend it, perhaps we will extend it for a short period of time but we want to avoid complacency. We are still discussing it, we will have to discuss it too with the NTC," he added. According to the DICT's latest records on April 11, 66.22 million SIMs have been registered, representing 39.41% of the total number of subscribers in the country.

Of the total registered SIMs, 32.93 million were from Smart, 28.33 million from Globe, and 4.95 million from DITO Telecommunity Corp.

Meanwhile, Terry L. Ridon, public investment analyst and convener of think tank InfraWatch PH, said that the government should extend full liberality to the public and allow the extension of SIM registration beyond its current deadline.

"However, without new rules relaxing registration requirements, the documentary requirements in both law and implementing rules should be maintained," Mr. Ridon said.

He added that Congress should look at the ongoing results of SIM registration "if it is achieving its purpose."

"Currently, the public continues to receive spam texts, particularly from online gaming outfits based in the Philippines. If SIM registration were in the least bit successful, there should be no SMS spams by now," he said. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

Manulife

Single Pricing Investment Funds of Variable Life Insurance Contracts

Fund	Unit Price		
	Current Week	April 11, 2023	Previous Week April 4, 2023
Peso Secure Fund	1675	1674	1674
Peso Diversified Value Fund	1852	1855	1855
Peso Growth Fund	2,824	2,848	2,848
Peso Dynamic Allocation Fund	0.991	0.996	0.996
Peso Target Distribution Fund	0.758	0.759	0.759
Peso Cash Fund	1,040	1,039	1,039
Peso Wealth Optimizer 2026 Fund	0.920	0.924	0.924
Peso Wealth Optimizer 2031 Fund	0.881	0.887	0.887
Peso Wealth Optimizer 2036 Fund	0.889	0.876	0.876
Powerhouse Fund	0.838	0.843	0.843
Emperor Fund	0.946	0.951	0.951
USD Secure Fund	1,576	1,506	1,506
USD Asia Pacific Bond Fund	1,060	1,052	1,052
USD Global Target Income Fund	0.725	0.725	0.725
USD ASEAN Growth Fund	1,586	1,561	1,561
USD Asia Pacific Property Income Fund	0.813	0.809	0.809
PHP Asia Pacific Property Income Fund	0.827	0.828	0.828
PHP Tiger Growth Fund	0.852	0.863	0.863
USD Tiger Growth Fund	0.596	0.572	0.572
PHP Global Preferred Securities Income Fund	0.832	0.899	0.899
USD Global Preferred Securities Income Fund	0.777	0.779	0.779
PHP US Growth Fund	1,021	1,038	1,038
USD US Growth Fund	0.881	0.890	0.890
PHP Global Health Fund	1,046	1,036	1,036
USD Global Health Fund	1,013	0.997	0.997
PHP Global Multi-Asset Income Fund	1,009	1,015	1,015
USD Global Multi-Asset Income Fund	0.969	0.970	0.970

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

Manulife

Dual Pricing Investment Funds of Variable Life Insurance Contracts

Fund	Unit Bid Price		
	Current Week	April 11, 2023	Previous Week April 4, 2023
Peso Bond Fund	2,857	2,855	2,855
Peso Stable Fund	2,811	2,815	2,815
Peso Equity Fund	2,183	2,191	2,191
Peso Balanced Fund	1,016	1,021	1,021
Peso Target Income Fund	0.774	0.776	0.776
U.S. Dollar Bond Fund	2,170	2,157	2,157

Fund	Unit Offer Price		
	Current Week	April 11, 2023	Previous Week April 4, 2023
Peso Bond Fund	2,901	2,898	2,898
Peso Stable Fund	2,854	2,858	2,858
Peso Equity Fund	2,145	2,163	2,163
Peso Balanced Fund	1,031	1,037	1,037
Peso Target Income Fund	0.796	0.798	0.798
U.S. Dollar Bond Fund	2,203	2,190	2,190

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Manulife China Bank

Single Pricing Investment Funds of Variable Life Insurance Contracts

Fund	Unit Price		
	Current Week	April 11, 2023	Previous Week April 4, 2023
Peso Secure Fund	1,674	1,672	1,672
Peso Diversified Value Fund	1,823	1,826	1,826
Peso Growth Fund	2,751	2,775	2,775
Peso Dynamic Allocation Fund	0.988	0.993	0.993
Peso Target Distribution Fund	0.752	0.754	0.754
Peso Cash Fund	1,007	1,005	1,005
Peso Wealth Optimizer 2026 Fund	0.866	0.869	0.869
Peso Wealth Optimizer 2031 Fund	0.823	0.829	0.829
Peso Wealth Optimizer 2036 Fund	0.803	0.809	0.809
Powerhouse Fund	0.839	0.843	0.843
USD Secure Fund	1,490	1,462	1,462
USD Asia Pacific Bond Fund	1,037	1,031	1,031
USD Global Target Income Fund	0.731	0.731	0.731
USD ASEAN Growth Fund	1,542	1,537	1,537
Chinabank Dollar Fixed Income USA Fund	1,003	1,001	1,001
USD Asia Pac Fund	1,189	1,194	1,194
USD Asia Pacific Property Income Fund	0.815	0.812	0.812
PHP Asia Pacific Property Income Fund	0.837	0.836	0.836
PHP Tiger Growth Fund	0.857	0.869	0.869
USD Tiger Growth Fund	0.574	0.580	0.580
PHP Global Preferred Securities Income Fund	0.888	0.895	0.895
USD Global Preferred Securities Income Fund	0.785	0.786	0.786
PHP US Growth Fund	1,002	1,019	1,019
USD US Growth Fund	0.876	0.886	0.886
PHP Global Health Fund	1,051	1,040	1,040
USD Global Health Fund	1,016	1,000	1,000
PHP Global Multi-Asset Income Fund	0.976	0.983	0.983
USD Global Multi-Asset Income Fund	0.958	0.960	0.960

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Manulife China Bank

Dual Pricing Investment Funds of Variable Life Insurance Contracts

Fund	Unit Bid Price		
	Current Week	April 11, 2023	Previous Week April 4, 2023
Peso Bond Fund	1,950	1,942	1,942
Peso Stable Fund	1,790	1,835	1,835
Peso Equity Fund	1,897	1,897	1,897
Peso Balanced Fund	0.930	0.937	0.937
Peso Target Income Fund	0.748	0.762	0.762
U.S. Dollar Bond Fund	1,455	1,516	1,516

Fund	Unit Offer Price		
	Current Week	April 11, 2023	Previous Week April 4, 2023
Peso Bond Fund	1,930	1,972	1,972
Peso Stable Fund	1,817	1,863	1,863
Peso Equity Fund	1,832	1,916	1,916
Peso Balanced Fund	0.924	1,002	1,002
Peso Target Income Fund	0.753	0.774	0.774
U.S. Dollar Bond Fund	1,477	1,539	1,539

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EEI board approves P1 billion more investment in unit

LISTED construction company EEI Corp. (EEI) on Wednesday said its board of directors had given the green light for an additional investment of P1.29 billion to be made to EEI Ltd.

In a disclosure to the stock exchange, EEI said the investment to its wholly owned subsidiary will provide funding for both its ongoing and future projects.

EEI is primarily engaged in construction of power generating facilities, oil refineries, chemical production plants, rails, ports, expressways, and high-rise towers.

EEI Ltd. was formed to expand the company's construction business overseas.

Last month, EEI's another wholly owned subsidiary, EEI Power Corp., through a consortium with Soosan ENS Co. Ltd., Soosan

Industries Co., Ltd. and Mpalad Power Corp., was one of the seven qualified bidders for the 165-megawatt Casecan hydroelectric power plant in Nueva Ecija.

State-led Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) previously said that it had trimmed the number of qualified bidders for the Casecan hydroelectric power plant to seven from the initial 14.

PSALM is the agency tasked to privatize state power assets. It said earlier that the asset, which has a limited water impounding area, is being privatized on an "as is, where is" and cash basis.

At the local bourse on Wednesday, shares in EEI declined by two centavos or 0.73% to end at P2.72 per share. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Emperador bullish for 2023 after prior year's growth amid challenges

EMPERADOR, Inc. announced on Wednesday that its net income for 2022 had increased slightly to P10.1 billion from P10 billion in the previous year, attributed to a rise in sales in its brandy and whisky segments.

"Despite posting a relatively flat net profit last year, the company still managed to show profitability amid disruptions in global logistics and high inflation rates," the company said in a statement.

"This can be attributed to the diversity of Emperador's product portfolio, with its wide array of iconic and sought-after whisky and brandy products that are available in over 100 countries worldwide," it added.

Revenues for 2022 totaled P62.8 billion, up 12.3% from P55.9 billion the previous year.

"We achieved top line growth to end the year with a banner performance in 2022 despite the challenges posed by high inflation, and supply chain and logistics issues," Emperador President and Chief Executive Officer Winston S. Co said.

He also said that the company's international business remained robust despite last year's volatility, driven by high demand for its whisky segment.

"We look forward to an even better performance in 2023," Mr. Co added.

The company reported that its whisky segment performed well last year due to increased sales of its single malt whiskies in major global markets, particularly in Asia, North America, and Europe. The recovery of travel retail also contributed to the segment's performance.

Emperador is a global spirits conglomerate focused on brandy and whisky. It owns Whyte and Mackay and other brands including Fundador Brandy, The Dalmore, Jura, and Tannavulin single malt Scotch whiskies. The company is listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange and Singapore Securities Exchange.

Emperador shares closed 0.24% higher at P21 apiece on Wednesday. — **Adrian H. Halili**



RLC targets millennials with 4th building in Sierra Valley Gardens

ROBINSONS Land Corp.'s (RLC) residential division, RLC Residences, announced on Wednesday the launch of its fourth condominium building in Sierra Valley Gardens along Ortigas Avenue in Cainta, Rizal.

"[The] fourth building [has the goal of] empowering more young professionals to make their smart move through real estate investment," RLC Residences said in a statement.

Citing a study conducted by online property portal Lamudi, RLC Residences said that there has been a rise in the number of millennials searching for condominiums online.

"This age group is now entering their prime years for home buying and has an increased

desire to manage their finances through investments that can generate income," it said.

The Sierra Valley Gardens offers city views, access to amenities, and proximity to daily necessities, according to the company.

The high-rise residential condominium project features "well-spaced studio, one-, and two-bedroom units with balcony options."

The latest building in Sierra Valley Gardens offers millennials the opportunity to invest in one of its units for as low as P4 million, the company said.

The units in the condominium project range from 22 to 66 square meters, offering a range of options based on space requirements.

"These units are equipped with smart home features including Smart Lock, Audio-Video Intercom, Smart Switch, and Infrared Emitter — all offering a high level of convenience, energy efficiency, security, cost savings, increased home value, and sustainability," RLC Residences said.

The company noted that the Sierra Valley Gardens previously won the Best Sustainable Residential Development award at the DOT Property Southeast Asia Awards 2022, held in Bangkok, Thailand.

At the same time, the company said its Sierra Valley Gardens offers numerous indoor and outdoor amenities intended to assist residents in achieving their professional, fitness, and wellness

objectives. These include a three-level clubhouse, function rooms, game room, fitness center and dance studio, work/study area, lap pool, jogging trail, and landscaped areas, among others.

"In designing Sierra Valley Gardens, we envisioned a property that millennials will be proud to call their smart investment," RLC Residences Marketing Head and Chief Integration Officer Karen Cesario said.

"That's why we incorporated all these features, because these are helpful in ensuring that this asset will exponentially grow with them in the coming years, until such time that Sierra Valley Gardens is fully built and ready to live in," she added. — **Adrian H. Halili**