

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,672.69

▲ 47.61 PTS.

▲ 0.71%

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023

BusinessWorld

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P636.00 -P3.00 -0.47%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P5.97 -P0.04 -0.67%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P56.00 +P1.25 +2.28%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P13.80 ---	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P27.50 +P0.85 +3.19%	AP Aboitiz Power Corp. P38.00 ---	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P142.00 -P2.00 -1.39%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P110.00 +P2.40 +2.23%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P11.74 -P0.06 -0.51%	DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P9.86 +P0.05 +0.51%
EMI Emperador, Inc. P20.85 -P0.05 -0.24%	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,720.00 +P20.00 +1.18%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P487.00 +P9.00 +1.88%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P217.00 ---	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P225.60 +P0.60 +0.27%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P51.20 +P0.50 +0.99%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P10.10 -P0.06 -0.59%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P59.40 +P0.80 +1.37%	MER Manila Electric Co. P334.20 -P4.80 -1.42%	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P9.52 +P0.17 +1.82%
MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P4.41 -P0.02 -0.45%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P33.10 +P0.50 +1.53%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P27.60 +P0.60 +2.22%	SM SM Investments Corp. P920.00 +P25.00 +2.79%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P104.70 -P1.50 -1.41%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P33.95 ---	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,201.00 -P3.00 -0.25%	UBP Union Bank of the Philippines P83.00 +P0.10 +0.12%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P145.50 -P1.50 -1.02%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P28.75 -P0.20 -0.69%

ACEN secures contracts for Australia solar farms

ACEN Corp. has secured 20-year service contracts for its solar projects in Australia at a price that protects it from low wholesale electricity prices, the Ayala-led energy company said on Tuesday.

In a stock exchange disclosure, ACEN said its unit in Australia bagged the long-term energy service agreements (LTESAs) for its two solar projects at the New South Wales (NSW) government's first renewable energy and storage auction.

"The LTESAs help encourage investment in the renewables and storage capacity necessary to accelerate the transition to clean, reliable and more importantly, affordable power for Australians," ACEN Australia Chief Executive Officer Anton Rohner said.

ACEN Australia is the platform representing ACEN's renewable energy assets in Australia. The

energy service agreements are for ACEN Australia's 720-megawatt (or 936-MW direct current) New England solar project and 400-MW (520 MWdc) Stubbo solar project.

The contracts were secured through the NSW government trustee's inaugural tender for renewable generation and long-duration storage.

"The LTESAs offer the rights to access a minimum price for generation projects over a 20-year time frame, which protects investors like us from the risk of unexpectedly low wholesale electricity prices," Mr. Rohner added.

Once fully operational, the New England and Stubbo solar projects can supply power to about 435,000 households, helping the NSW government in reaching its target of 50% emissions reduction by 2030.



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"Our focus is on ensuring that we develop projects that offer the right mix of benefits and opportunities for NSW and Australia at large," said Eric T. Francia, president and chief executive of ACEN, as he commended the government "for its commitment to deliver better value not just to NSW electricity consumers but to project proponents like ACEN as well."

The energy company said the long-term commercial value of LTESAs will accelerate Australia's transition to renewables.

To date, ACEN Australia has around 1-gigawatt (GW) capacity under construction worth \$1 billion and around 8-GW capacity in the development pipeline in Australia.

At the local bourse on Tuesday, shares in the company fell by four centavos or 0.67% to end at P5.97 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

SMPC studies natural gas, plans diversified portfolio

SEMIRARA Mining and Power Corp. (SMPC) is planning to diversify its portfolio and considering a shift to liquefied natural gas (LNG), the company's top official said.

"We expect to expand our power projects and maybe even shift to LNG if and when [the] situation arises that makes this shift a good business opportunity," Isidro A.

Consunji, chairman and chief executive officer of SMPC, said during the company's virtual annual stockholders' meeting on Tuesday.

Mr. Consunji said Calaca in Batangas province is an ideal site for power plants that run on natural gas as well as coal. SMPC has operations in Calaca through its subsidiary SEM-Calaca Power Corp.

"The question is really just an issue of business viability but physically and technically, there is no reason why SMPC cannot go to LNG," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Consunji has ruled out a plan to transfer DMCI Mining Corp. — the mining unit of DMCI Holdings, Inc. — to SMPC.

"We've studied the proposed transfer of DMCI Min-

ing from DMCI Holdings to Semirara, however, our finance people concluded that the cost involved in such transfer will make it very expensive," he said.

He added that determining a fair price for both sets of stockholders has also been difficult.

"The ability to determine a fair price for both sets of stock-

holders — DMCI and Semirara — is extremely difficult considering the fact that bulk of the mining assets of DMCI Mining are not fully permitted. So, it will probably not happen anymore," Mr. Consunji said.

At the stock exchange on Tuesday, shares in SMPC ended 60 centavos or 2.22% higher to P27.60 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**



LANDING of Globe's submarine fiber cable in Placer, Masbate.

Globe saves energy as it transitions to fiber optics

GLOBE Telecom, Inc. said it has saved a total of 84,288 kilowatt-hours of energy after it migrated its site backhaul from using microwave antennas to fiber optic cable solution.

"The move lessens power consumption since most long-haul microwave sites are composed of multiple big antennas and outdoor units that contribute to higher power consumption," Globe said.

The initiative is also seen to boost Globe's network capacity to higher bandwidth, which will support the increasing demand for data in the Philippines. To date, the company has been able to convert 151 of its sites.

The company said that it will expand the initiative through more site conversions and exploring other microwave solutions and equipment that are sustainable and have lower power consumption and footprint.

"We are dedicated to creating a sustainable future through technology. Our conversion of microwave radio sites to fiber optic cable is a step towards

reducing our carbon impact while ensuring backhaul efficiency," said Gerhard Tan, director for network strategy and technology enablement at Globe.

Last week, the company said that by the second quarter, its broadband service Globe at Home will have a recyclable and upcyclable packaging design for its fiber product as part of its goal of shifting 100% of its modem packaging to recyclable material by end-2023.

"By closely engaging our vendors, we are able to make this significant move with our partners and collectively create a more sustainable value chain," said Jepay Vallejo, assistant vice-president for product management at Globe at Home Broadband Business.

To date, it has deployed over 9,000 green network solutions since it started the initiative in 2014 and has put in investments in electric vehicles (EVs) through the launch of employee EVs and electric scooters. It currently has 25 key sites operating on renewable energy through power purchase agreements. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

RFM net income falls nearly 60%

RFM Corp. registered an attributable net income of P135 million in the first quarter, down 59.6% from P332 million last year, due to the company incurring higher expenses.

The company's top line increased by 10.3% to P4.3 billion during the quarter from P3.9 billion reported the prior year.

In the three-month period, RFM's gross profits went down by 15.7% to P1.13 billion from the P1.34 billion recorded the previous year. Its direct costs and expenses were higher by 23.4% at P 3.16 billion from P2.56 billion a year earlier.

The company's selling and marketing expenses climbed by 8.26% to P747 million in the three months that ended March from P690 million. General expenses decreased by

27.9% to P172 million from P197 million the previous year.

RFM is mainly involved in two segments: its institutional business, which manufactures and processes wheat, flour and flour products; and its consumer segment, which manufactures and sells ice cream, pasta, milk, juices, and margarine.

The company is known for brands such as Selecta Moo, Sunkist Orange Pulp, Vit-water, Selecta Magnum, Selecta Cornetto, Selecta Paddle Pop, White King All-Purpose Flour, Fiesta Spaghetti, and Royal Spaghetti.

On Tuesday, its shares declined by 0.31% or a centavo, closing at P3.24 apiece. — **Adrian H. Halili**

Medilines posts 53% net income growth, remains 'bullish' this year

MEDILINES Distributors, Inc. recorded P214 million in core income for 2022, up 53% from the previous year driven by higher revenues, the listed medical equipment distributor said on Tuesday.

In a disclosure, the company said revenues increased 24% to P1.9 billion mainly due to the distribution and delivery of its cancer therapy devices totaling at P1.1 billion. Its linear accelerator devices were delivered to major hospitals in the Philippines.

"We are happy with our 2022 results which is a banner year for the company," Medilines President and Chief Executive Officer Patricia V. Yambing said in a statement.

Medilines said that its dialysis segment saw a 76% year-on-year growth on the back of an increase in its distribution.

"The expansion of its dialysis consumables line of products is one of the pillars of Medilines' growth strategy," the company said.

Sales of its diagnostic imaging equipment grew by 5% to P306 million as imaging devices were distributed to multiple healthcare facilities.

"We remain bullish with the industry for this year, and we believe that we are in the right position to take on more opportunities as we sustain our leadership in the medical equipment and

consumables distribution market," Ms. Yambing added.

Meanwhile, the company is planning on participating in the government's plan to improve healthcare facilities and expand dialysis wards in state-owned hospitals.

"Our focus remains on business strategies that will deliver profitable and sustainable growth over time. We are looking at a steady growth in 2023, as the government implements its Philippine Health Facility Development Plan," Ms. Yambing said.

Medilines shares increased by 3.39% or two centavos to close at P0.61 each on Tuesday. — **Adrian H. Halili**

Fruitas swings to profitability with P82-M net income

FRUITAS Holdings, Inc. reported on Tuesday a consolidated net income of P82.36 million in 2022, a reversal of its net loss of P16.32 million incurred in the prior year.

The company's attributable earnings reached P77.24 million, turning around from the net loss it previously reported the prior year.

"The exceptional performance of the entire Fruitas Holdings Group in 2022 inspires [us] to do even better in the coming years," said Fruitas President and Chief Executive Officer Lester C. Yu in a disclosure.

Revenues increased by 63.6% to P1.8 billion from P1.1 billion the previous year driven by higher same-store sales growth during the year.

"Despite having just over 770 stores as of end-2022, compared to more than 1,000 stores as of end-2019, [Fruitas] already achieved 92.5% of 2019 pre-pandemic revenues in 2022," the company said.

It said that revenues for 2022 did not include contributions from its newly acquired restaurant brand Ling Nam, which was completed in March 2023. The acquisition included Ling Nam's trademark, recipes, equipment, store improvements, and inventory from the previous owner.

Fruitas' earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization amounted to P287 million, more than double the P131 million booked the previous year.

"We were able to unlock the value of [Balai Ni Fruitas Inc.] via listing. We expect all Fruitas brands to perform better this year and we will strongly invest in our recent acquisitions, Balai Pandasal and Ling Nam, to achieve our growth targets," Mr. Yu added.

Balai debuted on the Philippine Stock Exchange in 2022 with 1.49 billion primary and secondary shares listed on the small, medium, and emerging board at P0.70 apiece.

On Tuesday, Fruitas shares closed unchanged at P1.12 each. — **Adrian H. Halili**