

*Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)*

6,588.90 ▲ 65.75 PTS. ▲ 1%

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023  
**BusinessWorld**

**PSEI MEMBER STOCKS**

<b>AC</b> Ayala Corp. P670.00 +P14.00 +2.13%	<b>ACEN</b> ACEN Corp. P6.03 +P0.03 +0.5%	<b>AEV</b> Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P55.70 +P0.70 +1.27%	<b>AGI</b> Alliance Global Group, Inc. P13.88 +P0.08 +0.58%	<b>ALI</b> Ayala Land, Inc. P26.50 +P0.30 +1.15%	<b>AP</b> Aboitiz Power Corp. P37.90 +P0.30 +0.8%	<b>BDO</b> BDO Unibank, Inc. P136.40 +P0.60 +0.44%	<b>BPI</b> Bank of the Philippine Islands P104.10 +P1.40 +1.36%	<b>CNVRG</b> Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P11.76 +P0.06 +0.51%	<b>DMC</b> DMCI Holdings, Inc. P9.73 -P0.07 -0.71%
<b>EMI</b> Emperador, Inc. P20.95 +P0.15 +0.72%	<b>GLO</b> Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,721.00 +P20.00 +1.18%	<b>GTCAP</b> GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P495.00 +P20.00 +4.21%	<b>ICT</b> International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P201.00 +P1.00 +0.5%	<b>JFC</b> Jollibee Foods Corp. P226.00 +P3.40 +1.53%	<b>JGS</b> JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P49.80 +P1.20 +2.47%	<b>LTG</b> LT Group, Inc. P10.18 +P0.19 +1.9%	<b>MBT</b> Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P59.00 +P0.20 +0.34%	<b>MER</b> Manila Electric Co. P322.80 -P0.60 -0.19%	<b>MONDE</b> Monde Nissin Corp. P8.79 +P0.35 +4.15%
<b>MPI</b> Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P4.43 -P0.02 -0.45%	<b>PGOLD</b> Puregold Price Club, Inc. P32.10 -P0.40 -1.23%	<b>SCC</b> Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P27.95 -P0.15 -0.53%	<b>SM</b> SM Investments Corp. P930.50 +P6.00 +0.65%	<b>SMC</b> San Miguel Corp. P105.00 ---	<b>SMPH</b> SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P33.40 +P0.40 +1.21%	<b>TEL</b> PLDT Inc. P1,219.00 +P12.00 +0.99%	<b>UBP</b> Union Bank of the Philippines P80.00 -P0.50 -0.62%	<b>URC</b> Universal Robina Corp. P153.00 +P1.50 +0.99%	<b>WLCON</b> Wilcon Depot, Inc. P27.75 +P0.60 +2.21%

# Business units drive GT Capital's 52% profit rise

GT CAPITAL Holdings, Inc. booked a consolidated net income of P6.64 billion in the first quarter, up 52% from P4.4 billion a year ago, driven by contributions from its business units, it said on Tuesday.

"Our first-quarter financial results show all our operating companies sustaining the high growth momentum of the previous year," GT Capital President Carmelo Maria Luza Bautista said in a statement.

"With expectations of a more stable macroeconomic environment, less value chain disruptions, and resurgent consumption, our outlook remains positive for the rest of the year," he added.

The company's banking unit Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.

(Metrobank) saw its net income jump by 31.3% to P10.5 billion, translating to a 13.1% return on equity, higher than the 10.3% last year. Net interest income rose by 28.8% to P24.9 billion on the back of a 12.5% increase in loans and a 54-basis-point hike in net interest margin to 3.9%.

"Metrobank's solid performance in the first three months of the year reflects our continued efforts to capture opportunities of a growing economy while we strive to keep our balance sheet strong against risks of volatile market conditions," Metrobank President Fabian S. Dee said.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. (TMP) more than doubled its consolidated net income for

the quarter to P4.5 billion from P2.1 billion in the same period last year. Consolidated revenues jumped 28% to P53.7 billion from P42.1 billion previously.

In the first quarter, TMP's retail vehicle sales increased by 21% to 45,205 units. Although lower than the market growth of 27% to 95,270 units, the company cornered an overall market share of 47.4%.

"TMP has clearly shown a strong performance for the first quarter. The continuing normalization of supply chains has seen the market and Toyota sales volumes expand," GT Capital Auto and Mobility Holdings, Inc. Chairman, Vince S. Socco said. "Demand for motor vehicles remains robust in line with the

sustained high levels of economic recovery. As well, the return of consumer loan financing is further spurring vehicle purchases."

GT Capital's property unit Federal Land, Inc. saw its first-quarter consolidated net income decline by 8% to P286 million from P311 million the prior year, while revenues fell by 7.1% to P2.6 million from P2.8 million in the same period last year.

Reservation sales rose by 71% to P6.2 billion due to sales from The Seasons Residences and the Grand Hyatt Residences in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

The company's associate Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) booked a consolidated core net income of P4.3 billion in the first

quarter, up 38% from P3.1 billion a year ago, after its business holdings recorded better results.

Manila Electric Co. contributed P4.2 billion or 75% of MPIC's net operating income for the quarter, followed by Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. with a share of P1.3 billion or 23%, and Maynilad Water Services, Inc. with P1.1 billion or 19%.

GT Capital's other businesses — light rail, healthcare, agribusiness, real estate, and fuel storage — incurred a total net loss of P967 million.

A consortium of companies, which includes GT Capital, had recently submitted a tender offer to buy out the 36.6% minority shares in MPIC amounting to a tender offer price of P4.63 per share.

The company would spend about \$70 million for an additional 2.9% stake in MPIC. If realized, its stake in MPIC would increase to 20%.

Meanwhile, AXA Philippines recorded a consolidated net income of P708 million, up 66% from P426 million the prior year, driven by improved margins and net investment income.

Its consolidated life and general insurance gross premiums fell by 23.2% to P6.3 billion from P8.2 billion last year, as investors remain cautious due to market uncertainties.

On Tuesday, GT Capital shares surged 4.21% or P20 to close at P495 each. — **Adrian H. Halili**

## FDC posts 'solid recovery' as businesses' earnings surge

FILINVEST Development Corp. (FDC) on Tuesday reported a surge in attributable net income to P2.2 billion in the first quarter from P874.2 million due to the robust performances from all its businesses.

"We are pleased with the solid recovery of FDC having seen an acceleration in earnings across all the business units," said FDC President and Chief Executive Officer Lourdes Josephine Gotianun-Yap.

"We expect to sustain this momentum moving forward given the continuous improvement in business activity in the country despite some macroeconomic headwinds. The consistently high domestic demand driven by strong household consumption should bode well for our businesses that are strongly focused on the middle market," Ms. Gotianun-Yap added.

FDC's consolidated revenues for the quarter grew by 34% to P20.7 billion, while cost and expenses rose by 27% to P17.3 billion.

Banking and financial services unit East West Banking Corp. tripled its net income for the period to P1.5 billion. Its net interest income rose by 17% to P6.1 billion, fuelled by a 19% expansion in lending activities led by credit cards along with auto and key salary loan segments. Its noninterest income more than doubled to P1.7 billion during the January-to-March period.

The company's real estate segments Filiinvest Land, Inc. and Filiinvest Alabang, Inc. reported a total net income of P1 billion, up 10% from P920.6 million in the same period last year. This was propelled by a 20% growth in mall and rental revenues to P1.8 billion.

Residential revenues reached P2.9 billion, up 4% due to construction progress, while office leasing inched up by 2% to P1.1 billion during the quarter.

FDC Utilities, Inc. booked a 25% increase in net income for the period to P614.3 million as its revenues grew by 25% to P3.3 billion. This was due to higher power rates at about P13.40 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) from P8.98 per kWh in the same period last year as the cost of pass-through fuel increased.

"[I] operates an aggregate 405-megawatt clean coal plant located in Misamis Oriental in Mindanao that services a diverse customer base composed of 14 mostly triple A distribution cooperatives and two industrial customers from the region," the company said.

Filiinvest Hospitality Corp. saw its net income more than double in the three-

month period to P685.9 million because of an increase in occupancy and room rates for its operations.

Filiinvest Hospitality's portfolio has approximately 1,800 rooms across seven hotels in seven cities and five regions under the Crimson and Quest brands. It had recently acquired Timberland Highlands Resort in Rizal.

Meanwhile, the company said that it is allocating P35 billion for capital expenditures this year, half of which will be earmarked for its real estate and hospitality units.

The balance will be set aside for "investments in new ventures such as renewables, water and other urban solutions."

FDC shares on Tuesday slipped by 0.69% or P0.04 to end at P5.74 apiece. — **Adrian H. Halili**

## Megaworld to build 374-room Savoy Hotel in Pampanga township

MEGAWORLD Corp. said on Tuesday that it is set to build a 374-room hotel within its 35.6-hectare township development Capital Town in San Fernando, Pampanga.

The project will be the fifth property under the Savoy Hotel brand.

"Savoy Hotel Capital Town will be the first hotel property of Megaworld Hotels and Resorts in the North, and we are excited to bring the Savoy Hotel brand to the Pampanga capital as it is our award-winning hotel brand today," Megaworld Hotels & Resorts Managing Director Cleofe C. Albiso said in a statement.

"Having a hotel in Capital Town will surely boost local tourism in this historic city," Ms. Albiso added.

The 16-storey hotel will offer a variety of rooms ranging from Twin Suites, which measure up to 29 square meters (sq.m.); Queen Suites from 25 sq.m. to 30.5 sq.m.; Twin and Queen Suites both at 39 sq.m.; Junior Suites from 35 sq.m. to 39 sq.m.; and Executive Suites, which is sized up to 52.5 sq.m.

Among the amenities are four food and beverage outlets, including a specialty restaurant; a 112-seater all-day dining restaurant with alfresco areas; a Zabana bar and lounge; and a pool grill bar with outdoor dining that can accommodate 60 guests.

The hotel will also have gift shops and retail areas within the property.

A 160-person capacity ballroom will be built on the second floor with pre-function areas. Three function rooms will also be offered which can hold up to 108 people.

Other amenities include a fitness center, a kid's club, a pool deck with adult and kiddie pools, an activity lawn, outdoor landscaped areas, a reading nook, and a hammock yard or lounge area.

The company said the property's overall design is inspired by Neo-Baroque architecture, which "blends perfectly with the neoclassical design that Capital Town has long been known for."

"Inside, guests will be welcomed to an elaborate, high-ceiling lobby, reflecting Western Colonial and Industrial Style era-inspired interiors and details inspired by the Pampanga Sugar Development Company," it added.

The new hotel will be managed by Megaworld Hotels & Resorts, its 18th property in its portfolio. The company expects completion and opening of the project in 2028.

The group currently has about 7,700 hotel room keys in its portfolio, while 12 out of the 18 hotels are in operation. The other five are currently in its pipeline, this includes Savoy Palawan in San Vicente and Grand Westside Hotel in Parañaque City.

On Tuesday, Megaworld shares went up by 1.01% or P0.02 to close at P2.01 each. — **Adrian H. Halili**

## PetroEnergy unit to acquire two existing solar projects in Luzon

YUCHENGO-LED PetroEnergy Resources Corp. said its renewable energy arm PetroGreen Energy Corp. is set to acquire two existing solar power projects in Luzon.

In a regulatory filing on Tuesday, the company said that PetroGreen will take over the San Jose solar project in Nueva Ecija and the San Pablo solar project in Limbauan, Isabela.

Louie Mark R. Limcolio, assistant vice-president for legal and corporate of PetroGreen, said the term sheets for the acquisition were signed separately on April 19 with VMARS Solar Energy Corp. and BKS Green Energy Corp.

Mr. Limcolio said that the transaction will be finalized in the coming weeks.

Maria Victoria M. Olivar, vice-president for commercial operations of PetroGreen, said the San Jose project covers about 17.1 hectares while the San Pablo service contract covers 29.8 hectares.

"Thus, together the two projects can add as much as 60 MWdc (megawatts of direct current) capacity to [PetroGreen's] solar portfolio when they are fully operational which we target by 2025," Ms. Olivar said.

PetroGreen, through its subsidiary PetroSolar Corp., is the operator of the 50-MWdc and the 20-MWdc Tarlac-2 solar power facilities in Central Technopark, Tarlac City.

Currently, PetroGreen is developing the 27-MWdc Dagohoy solar project in Bohol and the 25-MWdc Bugallon solar project in Pangasinan.

PetroGreen has a 65% stake in Maibarara Geothermal, Inc., which operates the 32-MW Maibarara geothermal facility in Batangas; the 36-MW Nabasi wind power project in Aklan under 40%-owned PetroWind Energy, Inc.; and the 70-MWdc Tarlac solar power facility under 56%-owned PetroSolar. — **A.E.O. Jose**

## Sia-led DoubleDragon, MerryMart book double-digit income growth

TWO LISTED companies led by Edgar J. Sia II reported double-digit income growth for the first quarter while his listed real estate investment trust (REIT) posted a profit decline.

In a regulatory filing on Tuesday, DoubleDragon Corp. disclosed a 10.8% growth in consolidated net income for the three-month period to P520.09 million. Its consolidated revenues inched up to P1.72 billion.

"DoubleDragon continues to strengthen its position in preparation for the upcoming shift of tide to a fresh new cycle of economic boom years that should naturally follow after a major economic crisis," Mr. Sia said in a statement.

In a separate filing, listed retailer MerryMart Consumer Corp. recorded a 53% surge in net income during the January-to-March period to P18.98 million. Its revenues reached P1.75 billion during the quarter, up 46.1% from the same period last year.

The company said that it aims to generate about P120 billion in system-wide recurring consumer sales revenue from 1,200 branches nationwide by 2030. Its units are MerryMart

Express, MerryMart Market, MerryMart Grocery, and MerryMart Wholesale.

"MerryMart's subsidiary MM Consumer Technologies Corp. with MBOX Smart Lockers is the first in its consumer technology portfolio that is expected to add and complement to the ecosystem of the MerryMart Group," the company said.

Meanwhile, DDMP REIT, Inc. saw a 17.5% decline in its net income during the first quarter to P461.13 million from P558.9 million in the same period last year. Its top line declined 13.5% to P553.11 million from P639.37 million the prior year.

Mr. Sia said the group believes that companies showing their ability "to navigate very well the series of major economic crises, such as what we have all experienced, will be in a unique position to capture the extraordinary opportunities" that will present themselves "after all the chaos and once the fire has cleared and the smoke has settled."

On Tuesday, DoubleDragon shares rose 3% to P7.21 each, while MerryMart shares rose 0.82% to P1.23 apiece. DDMP REIT shares were unchanged at P1.30 each. — **Adrian H. Halili**

## AyalaLand Logistics' profit down 9% to P178 million as revenues dip

AYALALAND Logistics Holdings Corp.'s attributable net income went down by 9.4% to P178.12 million in the first quarter from P196.61 million in 2022.

In the three months ending March, the company's top line reached P702.44 million, down 18.7% from P863.9 million. Around P276.47 million came from rental revenues, 14.6% higher than the P241.18 million booked in 2022, while real estate sales declined

23.6% to P241.74 million from P316.21 million last year.

"Cold storage and commercial leasing performances improved in the first quarter this year versus a year ago," it said.

Revenues from cold storage during the quarter reached P40.19 million, a 44.4% increase from the P27.84 million booked a year ago, while commercial leasing revenues amounted to P147 million, 29% higher than the P113.6 million in 2022.

Cost and expenses were lower, amounting to P471.4 million in the first three months of the year, a 23.6% decrease from the P616.85 million recorded last year.

The company said it is expecting an acceleration in sales and to finish upgrades on its warehouse in Calamba in the second quarter.

"The company expects accelerated conversions of reservations and booking

industrial lot sales in the second quarter. On warehouse leasing, the full completion of the warehouse units' ongoing upgrade of ALogis Calamba is in May," the company said in its quarterly report.

In the first three months of the year, the company spent a total of P673 million on capital expenditures.

On Tuesday, shares of the company slipped by a centavo or by 0.35% to P2.86 each. — **J.I. D. Tabile**