

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,434.06

▼ 73.20PTS.

▼ 1.12%

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023

BusinessWorld

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P653.00 -P23.00 -3.4%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P5.70 -P0.12 -2.06%	AEO Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P54.15 ---	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P13.30 -P0.18 -1.34%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P24.00 -P1.00 -4%	AP Aboitiz Power Corp. P36.80 -P0.15 -0.41%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P140.50 +P0.90 +0.64%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P104.00 -P0.90 -0.86%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P11.02 +P0.18 +1.66%	DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P9.54 -P0.13 -1.34%
EMI Emperador, Inc. P21.40 ---	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,755.00 -P79.00 -4.31%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P493.00 +P5.80 +1.19%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P197.00 -P3.00 -1.5%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P234.60 -P0.40 -0.17%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P47.50 +P0.50 +1.06%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P9.36 -P0.14 -1.47%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P54.30 -P1.05 -1.9%	MER Manila Electric Co. P330.00 ---	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P8.16 +P0.04 +0.49%
MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P4.44 -P0.07 -1.55%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P29.55 +P0.05 +0.17%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P28.20 -P0.05 -0.18%	SM SM Investments Corp. P910.00 -P16.00 -1.73%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P105.00 ---	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P32.50 -P0.30 -0.91%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,238.00 -P32.00 -2.52%	UBP Union Bank of the Philippines P75.50 -P2.50 -3.21%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P141.00 ---	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P25.20 -P0.60 -2.33%

Rockwell Land maps expansion to provincial areas

ROCKWELL LAND CORP. is expanding its portfolio with the launch of three projects in key geographic locations, officials of the Lopez-led listed property developer said on Wednesday.

"With the promise of growing touch, we will build more communities this year. We are set to launch almost 200 hectares of development in three different cities," said Rockwell Land President and Chief Executive Officer Nestor J. Padilla during the company's annual stockholders' meeting.

One of the projects to be launched this year is a 2.85-hectare mixed-used community in Cebu, Mr. Padilla said.

"In the heart of Cebu, we will launch IPI Center by Rockwell a joint venture with the Wong and Castillo families of International Pharmaceuticals, Inc.," he added.

The Cebu development will also offer retail spaces for future residents.

The company aims to diversify its product offerings as it expands to key geographic areas, Rockwell Land Executive Vice-President and Chief Revenue Officer Valerie L. Soliven said.

"[We will be] cutting across all markets in the next few years," Ms. Soliven said. "We are excited to launch three new projects this year in Cebu, Laguna, and Batangas."

For next year, the company will expand its horizontal portfolio with the addition of the Rockwell brand in Bulacan and in Lian, Batangas, she said.

The company will be launching a 100-hectare horizontal community in Bulacan, which aims to promote wellness living.

"A thriving location north of Metro Manila, we can expect a hillside escape that promotes wellness living," said Mr. Padilla.

Additionally, Rockwell Land will introduce its first premium horizontal beach community in Batangas, with the first phase of residential lots to be launched by 2024.

The Batangas property is a beach development of about 100 hectares, with 700 meters of coastline and clear waters, spread across two natural coves.

"We hope to provide a new unique living experience for our core market, in a leisure environment just two hours from Manila," Mr. Padilla said.

During the first quarter, Rockwell Land reported an attributable net in-

come of P600 million, up 14.5% from P524 million in the same period last year.

The company's top line for the three months rose by 10.3% to P3.65 billion from P3.31 billion the previous year amid higher sales from residential developments, which contributed 73% to total revenues or P2.65 billion.

Rockwell Land is the real estate subsidiary of Lopez-led First Philippine Holdings Corp. Its shares fell by 3.52% or five centavos to finish at P1.37 each on Wednesday. — **Adrian H. Halili**

PT&T, Netlinkz tie up to offer Starlink products

LOCALLY listed Philippine Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (PT&T) has tied up with an Australian technology firm to bring Starlink products to its customers.

"This strategic partnership aims to empower businesses in remote areas with stable, high-speed internet, unlocking endless possibilities in the digital world," the company said in a stock market disclosure on Wednesday.

PT&T signed the partnership deal with NetLinkz Ltd. to bring Elon Musk's Space Exploration Technologies Corp.'s satellite-based internet service to Filipinos.

"We are thrilled to bring Starlink to the Philippines and offer our customers with

the need for connectivity with a reliable internet solution," said James G. Velasquez, president and chief executive officer of PT&T.

"Our partnership with Netlinkz allows us to provide high-speed internet access to areas where traditional broadband services are limited or unavailable," he added.

Through the partnership, customers in the Philippines may obtain the Starlink kit through direct purchase from PT&T.

Customers who are planning to avail are offered monthly plans with data caps ranging from 50 gigabytes to 6 terabytes with peak download speeds of up to 350 megabytes per

second (Mbps) and upload speeds of up to 40Mbps.

"We are proud to partner with PT&T to bring Starlink to the Philippines," NetLinkz Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer James Tsiolis said.

"This collaboration aligns with our mission to provide innovative and secure network solutions. We are excited to contribute to the digital transformation of the country, empowering Filipinos with advanced internet capabilities," Mr. Tsiolis added.

On Wednesday, shares in the company closed unchanged at 33 centavos each. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

AGI extends share buyback plan, allots P2 billion more

ALLIANCE Global Group, Inc. (AGI) has allocated another P2 billion for the extension of its share buyback program to reach a total of P9 billion, it said on Wednesday.

In a regulatory filing, the company said its board of directors had approved extending its buyback program up to April 2025 or an additional 12 months from the original ending date of April 8, 2024.

The Tan-led firm said the objectives of the program's extension remain the same — similar to its term set in October 2021 and extension in December 2022.

"The extension and the increase in the allocated amount are still geared towards enhancing shareholder value," the company said.

The company's share buyback program was initially set in 2021, earmarking an initial

P4 billion for AGI's common shares. It was extended in December last year with an additional allocation of P3 billion.

To date, Alliance Global has already bought back 596.85-million common shares which are valued at about P6.93 billion of the total P7 billion initially earmarked before the new extension.

AGI is engaged in property development, food and beverage manufacturing and distribution, quick service restaurants, and integrated tourism development.

The company's subsidiaries are Emperador Inc., Megaworld Corp., Travellers International Hotel Group, Inc., Golden Arches Development Corp., and Infracorp Development, Inc.

AGI dropped 1.34% or 18 centavos, closing at P13.30 per share on Wednesday. — **Adrian H. Halili**

PLDT Enterprise, PEZA promote Philippines as digital destination

THE Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) has partnered with the business-to-business arm of PLDT Inc. to support information and communication technology (ICT) industries and promote the country's digital ecosystem.

PLDT Enterprise said in a statement on Wednesday that its agreement with the PEZA seeks to promote the country's capabilities in becoming a digital hub in the global business market. The partnership will be supported by PLDT Enterprise's expertise and solutions.

PEZA Director General Tereso O. Panga said the partnership is part of the agency's efforts to lure more investments into the Philippines.

"We firmly believe in the Philippines' competitiveness in becoming a business destination for global investments. In doing so, we will continue with our mission to proactively pursue investment leads and seek out new opportunities to showcase the country's potential," Mr. Panga said.

Melvin Jeffrey Chan, PLDT Enterprise vice-president, said the partnership allows PEZA-certified companies to accelerate their businesses via the company's communication network.

"We aim to enhance the country's digital prowess while exploring opportunities to co-innovate with domestic and foreign investors," he said.

Meanwhile, PLDT Enterprise said it remains committed to enabling industries and pushing



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for digital transformation and automation in the country through its infrastructure.

"As part of our commitment to empower businesses, we continue to expand our reach as a solutions provider so we may be able to address the various needs of industries and contribute to the country's economic growth," PLDT Enterprise First Vice-President Vic Trias said.

PLDT Enterprise, the corporate business arm of PLDT, offers fixed-line, wireless, and ICT solutions that help business owners adapt to evolving technological needs by providing access to solutions that optimize efficiency, continuity, and connectivity, and enhance customer experience.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary Media-Quest Holdings, Inc., has a majority stake in BusinessWorld through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochove**

Repower Energy secures DoE nod for 200-MW wind projects

REPOWER Energy Development Corp. has secured clearance from the Department of Energy (DoE) to develop its 200-megawatt (MW) wind energy projects in Quezon province.

"We are pleased to expand our energy portfolio beyond run-of-the-river hydropower plants as it would allow us to contribute more towards our nation's sustainability goals," Eric Peter Y. Roxas, president and chief executive officer of Repower Energy, said in a media release on Wednesday.

The energy company said the development will cover two wind energy service contracts, which it said is in line with its ambition to provide clean energy to rural communities without electricity.

"Our wind farms will be built within the vicinity of our hydropower plants. This will allow us to maximize synergies in our operations and logistics, and tap into the transmission lines, switchyard, access roads and other infrastructure developments we own and are already built," Mr. Roxas said.

Repower Energy said the projects will cover about 2,592 hectares of land for the Silang Maragondon wind farm and around 2,025 hectares for the Pandan Labayat wind farm.

"The wind farms are also strategically located as they are facing the Pacific Ocean, allowing us to fully harness the sea breeze," Mr. Roxas said.

Repower Energy is aiming to expand its installed energy capacity by 1 gigawatt in the next five years. The com-

pany's energy portfolio is focused on hydropower projects.

The energy company, which is a subsidiary of Pure Energy Holdings Corp., has recently signed a memorandum of agreement with Austria-based Gugler Water Turbines GMBH to develop seawater pumped storage projects in the Philippines.

It plans to list on the Philippine Stock Exchange tentatively on July 24. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Alfamart opens first Pangasinan location to hit 1,500 stores

ALFAMART has opened its 1,500th store and first location in Pangasinan, the minimart chain of SM Markets said on Wednesday.

"We will continue to look for communities in need of access to basic food products in both urban and hard-to-reach places to make everyday shopping more convenient for the families living in these communities," said Alfamart Chief Operating Officer Harvey T. Ong in a statement.

The new store located near Urdaneta City's residential cluster is Alfamart's first branch within the province.

Alfamart has so far opened about 100 stores as it continues the minimart chain's goal to open 250 stores within the year.

The company said that the new store marks the 1,500th branch established since it opened its first concept store in 2014.

"In just six years, the super minimart concept has achieved significant scale by blending two grocery formats of a supermarket and a convenience store into one," the company said.

"This unique service enabled the company to provide everything one needs at home such as frozen meats, vegetables, seafood, and more, in order to truly serve the immediate needs of every community," it added.

Mr. Ong added the company had partnered with local lessors by renting their land or building space while partnering with local contractors for the construction of the stores.

"We provide opportunities for local product suppliers by carrying their products in Alfamart stores. Lastly, we provide employment opportunities to the local community members," he said.

Alfamart Philippines is a joint venture between the SM group and PT Sumber Alfaria Trijaya Tbk (Alfamart Indonesia), creating the minimart chain of SM Markets, the food retail brand of SM Retail, Inc. — **Adrian H. Halili**