

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,523.09

▲ 129.54 PTS.

▲ 2.02%

MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2023

BusinessWorld

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P635.00 +P20.00 +3.25%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P5.22 +P0.04 +0.77%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P54.20 +P0.25 +0.46%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P13.26 -P0.14 -1.04%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P24.70 +P0.30 +1.23%	AP Aboitiz Power Corp. P37.55 ---	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P140.00 ---	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P107.90 +P1.70 +1.6%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P11.16 +P0.36 +3.33%	DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P9.09 -P0.21 -2.26%
EMI Emperador, Inc. P21.50 -P0.05 -0.23%	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,759.00 +P44.00 +2.57%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P500.50 -P2.50 -0.5%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P206.00 +P6.30 +3.15%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P241.80 +P1.60 +0.67%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P46.80 +P3.80 +8.84%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P9.46 -P0.01 -0.11%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P55.00 +P1.60 +3%	MER Manila Electric Co. P329.00 +P3.00 +0.92%	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P8.10 +P0.50 +6.58%
MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P4.75 +P0.17 +3.71%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P29.60 ---	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P28.00 ---	SM SM Investments Corp. P929.00 +P19.50 +2.14%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P108.00 ---	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P33.90 +P0.90 +2.73%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,305.00 -P37.00 -2.76%	UBP Union Bank of the Philippines P75.00 +P0.50 +0.67%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P138.00 +P11.50 +9.09%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P25.35 +P0.05 +0.2%

Errant companies swamp SEC with amnesty filings

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) has noted a large number of companies filing for amnesty after failing to submit regulatory requirements, its top official said on Monday.

"We are very busy now with our amnesty program. We had to sort out schedules and processes *kasi ang daming nag-a-apply* (because there are plenty of applicants)," SEC Chairman Emilio B. Aquino told reporters

on the sidelines of a corporate event.

Of the 600,000 entities registered in the SEC, more than half are likely to be noncompliant with the agency's requirements, Mr. Aquino said.

"The ones which were [previously] complying was at 120,000, *naging* (which became) 240,000, and we are happy with [it]. But there is like 360,000 [which are not complying]," he added

Mr. Aquino said the SEC had given opportunities to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that were suspended for not filing regulatory requirements.

"SMEs normally their life expectancy *hindi umaabot ng* (do not reach) five years. A lot of them are already belly-up, but we gave them a chance, including those who have already been revoked and suspended," he said.

He said the securities regulator is also building an e-mail registry to disseminate the SEC's notices and advisories, through its MC28 submission portal.

"We are trying to get as many of our corporate entities connected with the SEC," he added.

The SEC previously extended the deadline for amnesty applications for late and non-filing of annual financial statements, gen-

eral information sheets, official e-mail addresses, and mobile phone numbers until June 30.

It said earlier that the deadline extension was due to the number of companies expressing interest in availing of the amnesty program apart from an overlap with the submission dates of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The commission also extended the deadline for submitting

companies' latest financial statements for up to 90 days from the date of payment.

An updated schedule of penalties and fines for noncompliance will be implemented on July 1 after the lapse of the SEC's initial deadline. Companies may be fined between P27,000 and P54,000, with an additional monthly fine of P500 up to P1,000 depending on their retained earnings. — **Adrian H. Halili**

IFC and First Balfour study EV system for industrial park

INTERNATIONAL Finance Corp. (IFC) and First Balfour, Inc. are partnering to explore the creation of an electric vehicle (EV) system in an ecozone.

"Under the agreement, IFC will help First Balfour conduct assessments and viability studies to develop a robust electric vehicle system in the First Philippine Industrial Park (FPIP), including charging infrastructure targeted to be powered completely by renewable energy," the IFC said in a statement on Monday.

FPIP is an industrial park with more than 140 locators employing around 70,000 employees. The ecozone is a joint venture of Lopez-led First Philippine Holdings Corp. and Japan-based Sumitomo Corp.

"FPIP has been looking at ways to create a stronger, more efficient transportation system within and outside the industrial park, in a manner that is inclusive and beneficial to locators, current transport service providers, and the nearby communities," according to the statement.

"By participating in the assessments and viability studies, it can also obtain deeper insights on movements inside the park to develop appropriate transport strategies and other approaches to achieve net zero carbon emissions in the future," it added.

IFC said that the existing technical expertise on EV adoption in the Philippines is "thin and successful business cases — especially those of significant scale — are few."

"A huge investment opportunity over the next decade, electric vehicles are critical in the fight against climate change and can help reduce emissions, lower transport costs, and create thousands of green jobs. So, developing an efficient and thriving e-mobility ecosystem is crucial for the Philippines to meet its climate commitments," IFC Country Manager for the Philippines Jean-Marc Arbogast said.

"The project will also help diversify FPIP and First Balfour's infrastructure services and hopefully bring in new market players and spur the evolution of the local electric vehicle segment in the country," Mr. Arbogast added.

First Balfour is the engineering and construction arm of First Philippine Holdings.

It has projects involved in renewable power and energy, transport infrastructure, and water infrastructure, among others. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Joacson**

Grab commits to livelihood plan despite restructuring

MYTAXI.PH, Inc., the company behind Grab Philippines, said the job layoff announced last week would not affect its commitment to provide 500,000 livelihood opportunities to Filipinos.

"The Philippines has always been an important market for Grab. We remain steadfast in our promise to create 500,000 livelihood opportunities in the Philippines and will continue to make progress on this by creating meaningful opportunities for everyday Filipinos and small businesses to earn a livelihood on our platform, whether as a driver-partner, delivery partner, or merchant partner," Grab Philippines Country Head Grace Vera-Cruz said in a statement.

Last week, the Singapore-based ride-hailing company's co-founder, Anthony Tan, announced Grab's restructuring

that will involve the laying off of 1,000 employees across its network.

Grab operates in Singapore, Malaysia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

"The restructuring exercise neither changes our investment commitment to the government, nor does it affect our ability to ably serve Filipinos. We are accelerating our efforts to ensure that this will come to fruition, as we unlock further economic empowerment through our robust ecosystem," Ms. Vera-Cruz said.

In a statement last week, digital advocates network Digital Pinoyos shed light on the transport network company's investment pledge.

"The news of the massive layoff set to be implemented by Grab will put into question their ability to deliver their

investment pledge," said Digital Pinoyos National Campaigner Ronald Gustilo.

"The government should also consider if the service quality for Grab's customer passengers and their drivers will get affected if the layoff will affect the operations of Grab Philippines," he added.

Grab Philippines expressed its commitment to "adequately compensate" those affected by the restructuring program through financial, professional, and medical support.

"We are aware that change may be incredibly challenging and we are prioritizing the welfare of the Grabbers who were affected by the restructuring exercise. We want to make sure that they have the runway during their professional transition," said Ms. Vera-Cruz.

In his letter to Grab employees, Mr. Tan said the support to be provided by

the company includes severance payment, goodwill payment of an ex gratia amount, encashment of unused accrued annual leave, GrabFlex credits, and maternity or paternity leaves.

"They are also entitled to a completion bonus for those who are required to provide transition support, repatriation support, and an option to keep their pre-assigned laptops," the company said.

The company said that it will also be extending medical insurance coverage for its laid-off employees until the end of the year.

"To help them to transition to their professional careers, Grab is providing development support in the form of free one-year access to LinkedIn Premium subscription and LinkedIn Learning, and access to sessions with a professional coach," it added. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

Shang Properties bullish on growth

LISTED property developer Shang Properties, Inc. expects real estate to remain a priority investment for Filipinos amid an improving economy, a company official said.

"We are very bullish on the property segment, economy-wise. The economy is doing good, people are looking for investments so they have money and they need somewhere to put it and properties are always the first choice for Filipinos," Shang Properties Executive Vice-President Jose Juan Z. Jugo told *BusinessWorld*.

His statement came after the company booked record growth last year in terms of take-up, revenues, and net income, which it is trying to replicate this year, Mr. Jugo said.

"The take-up is good. We are doing very well. We had the best year last year and hopefully, we will be able to break the records again this year," he said.

Asked about what he sees as the main growth driver, Mr. Jugo said: "Demand from all [property] segments."

In 2022, the company booked P3.63 billion in attributable net income, a 71.1% jump

versus P2.12 billion in 2021. Revenues last year rose by 71.9% to P7.86 billion from P4.57 billion in the previous year.

In the first quarter of this year, the company recorded a P1.14 billion net income attributable to shareholders, more than twice higher than P476.32 million a year ago.

From January to March, Shang Properties' revenues went up by 59.7% to P2.31 billion from P1.45 billion in the same period in 2022.

NEW QUEZON CITY DEVELOPMENT

The company is also planning the launch of its residential development in Quezon City by the third quarter of next year, said Mr. Jugo.

Last year, the company acquired a property near the ABS-CBN complex along Scout Bayoran and Sgt. Esguerra through bidding.

The new development will also be a residential property expected to have over 1,500 units, which Mr. Jugo said, is not yet final.

The new development will also have small units, similar to what the company will be launching this year — a condominium property called *Laya* in Pasig City. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

Repower Energy tests Quezon hydropower plant

REPOWER Energy Development Corp. is further expanding its renewable energy portfolio with the commissioning of its 5.8-megawatt (MW) Tibag run-of-river hydropower in Mauban, Quezon.

"We are pleased to mark the successful commissioning of our newest hydropower plant as this is another milestone for us in expanding our footprint in the renewable energy sector," Eric Peter Y. Roxas, president of Repower Energy, said in a statement on Monday.

The power plant, which is the company's seventh hydroelectric facility, is expected to generate about 40 gigawatt-hours a year.

"The Tibag hydropower plant will be a key asset in our goal towards uplifting the living standards of rural and under-electrified communities through clean, renewable energy," Mr. Roxas said.

The energy company also said its 1.4-MW Lower Labayat hydropower plant is expected to come online with the energization of the transmission line from the powerhouse in the coming weeks.

"Our commitment to sustainability is not just about clean energy nor limiting the possible adverse impact of our operations to stakeholders. It also extends to ensuring that communities will get to benefit from the farm-to-market roads we have built," Mr. Roxas said.

Repower Energy, a subsidiary of Pure Energy Holdings Corp. is planning to expand its installed energy capacity by 1,000 MW in five years, with its portfolio mainly focusing on hydropower projects.

The company, which plans to list on the Philippine Stock Exchange tentatively on July 24, is expected to raise about P1.15 billion through an initial public offering (IPO). — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Ayala Land signs up for P10-B bank loan

AYALA Land, Inc. (ALI) plans to raise P10 billion through a bank's lending facility, its finance chief said on Monday, after the listing of the company's fixed-rate bonds.

"Our next fundraising would be with our commercial banks. We want to execute on a few bilateral [loan facilities]," ALI Senior Vice-President and Chief Finance Officer Augusto Cesar D. Bengzon told reporters on the sidelines of the listing.

"We have already signed up for a P10-billion bilateral facility with one of the universal banks," he added.

The company's treasurer said the loan facility has a 10-year term. He did not identify the bank or where the loan proceeds will be used.

On Monday, the company

listed P15 billion worth of five-year and 10-year fixed-rate bonds due 2028 and 2033, respectively, on the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp.

Part of the funds raised from the bond offering will be for capital expenditure (capex) projects and re-financing activities, Mr. Bengzon said.

"Capex will be spread across our various business segments. Close to half would go to the residential segment, and about a quarter to our leasing businesses," he said.

The balance will be spread across other activities, including land acquisition and estate development. It set capital spending for the year at P85 billion.

ALI shares went up on Monday by 1.23% or 30 centavos to P24.70 apiece. — **A.H. Halili**

Alternergy takes RE firm

ALTERNERGY Holdings Corp. on Monday said its board had approved its subscription to a 60% stake in Liberty Solar Energy Corp.

In a regulatory filing, the listed company said Liberty Solar is a "potential" special-purpose vehicle to develop renewable energy (RE) projects.

Alternergy will subscribe to 975,000 common shares of Liberty Solar for a one-time payment of P975,000 in cash. It described the target company as "engaged

in the business of developing renewable energy resources."

Alternergy has committed to developing up to 1,370 megawatts of renewable energy sources such as onshore and offshore wind, solar, and run-of-river hydropower projects.

The company previously said that it would invest around P20 billion over the next five years in its renewable energy projects, which will include different emerging technologies. — **A.E.O. Jose**