ALI

Ayala Land, Inc.

P23.15

JFC

Jollibee Foods Corp.

P240.00

-5.12%

-P1.25

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,448.90

AP

Aboitiz Power Corp.

P37.00

+P0.35 +0.95%

JGS

G Summit Holdings, Inc.

▼1.44 PTS.

V 0.02%

BPI

Bank of the Philippine Islands

P105.00

MBT

Metropolitan Bank

-1.22%

P1.30

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023 **BusinessWorld**

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P620.00 +P5.00 +0.81%

EMI

Emperador, Inc.

P21.70

+P0.05 +0.23%

MPI

Metro Pacific Investments Corp

P4.44

+0.23%

+P0.01

ACEN **ACEN Corp.** P5.00

-P0.03 -0.6% **GLO**

Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,720.00 +P2.00 +0.12%

PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P28.20 +P0.20 +0.71%

GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, P486.00 +P1.00 +0.21%

AEV

Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc.

P56.50

SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P28.85 +P0.75 +2.67%

SM SM Investments Corp. P915.00 +P7.00 +0.77%

AGI

Alliance Global Group, Inc.

P13.00

ICT

nternational Container

P200.00

Terminal Services, Inc.

+3.01%

-P0.38

SMC San Miguel Corp. P107.00 -0.93%

P47.15 -P0.60 -1.26%

SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P33.55 +P0.05 +0.15%

LTG LT Group, Inc. P9.45 -P0.03 -0.32%

BDO

BDO Unibank, Inc.

P139.50

P0.50 -0.36%

TEL PLDT Inc. P1,340.00 +P54.00 +4.2%

P54.30 +P1.20 +2.26% **UBP** Union Bank of the

P1.85

P76.55

URC Jniversal Robina Corp P138.60

CNVRG

Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.

P10.74

MER

Manila Electric Co.

P332.00

-P1.40 -0.42%

-1.29%

MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P8.30 +P0.09 +1.1%

DMC

DMCI Holdings, Inc

P9.38

P0.01 -0.11%

WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P24.70 +P0.10 +0.41%

Shakey's sets P1-B capex, plans to build 335 stores this year

SHAKEY'S PIZZA Asia Ventures, Inc. announced on Tuesday that it is allocating P1 billion for capital expenditures (capex) this year to expand its store network.

The company aims to construct approximately 335 stores within the year, with the majority being Potato Corner outlets, Shakey's said in an e-mailed statement.

Previously, Shakey's acquired the assets and intellectual property of Potato Corner, a food kiosk operator.

In 2022, the company obtained full ownership of PC International Pte. Ltd., a Singaporean corporation that owned and operated the Potato Corner franchise brand.

"We will continue to expand: in fact, we have already opened quite a few stores this year," said Shakey's President and Chief Executive Officer Vicente L. Gregorio during the company's annual stockholders' meeting.

"But we also continue to fine-tune the business and unit economics to ensure we optimize profitability," he added.

The company's focus will be on further expanding its top brands, including Shakey's Pizza, Peri-Peri Charcoal Chicken and Sauce Bar, and Potato Corner, throughout the country.

The company, Mr. Gregorio said, is targeting further expansions of its flagship pizza brand, starting with Northern Luzon and then moving on to the Visayas-Mindanao area.

"On the other hand, Potato Corner continues to aggressively open and expand stores. We view this as an opportunity to contribute to the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) sector."

The company anticipates a 20% increase in both its top and bottom lines this year, driven by the reopening of the economy.

"We have already observed positive trends in the past two months, and we believe there is an opportunity for these trends to continue throughout the year," Mr. Gregorio said.

"As of now, we are on track to achieve at least a 20% increase in both our top and bottom lines," he added.

For the first quarter, the company reported a net income

of P200.78 million, more than double the P76.23 million recorded during the same period last year, thanks to sustained dine-in foot traffic.

Revenues for the first quarter surged by 94% to reach P3.14 billion, compared to P1.61 billion in the same period last

System-wide sales also rose by 88% to P4.2 billion for the threemonth period compared to the previous year.

By the end of March, the company had opened approximately 85 outlets, bringing the total number of stores in its portfolio to 1,506.

On Tuesday, Shakey's shares increased by 1.04% to P8.75 apiece. - Adrian H. Halili

Shang Properties building condominium complex 'Laya' in Pasig

LISTED property developer Shang Properties, Inc. is constructing a condominium complex in Pasig City called Laya, with a focus on young professionals and families, its officials said on Tuesday.

"This will be similar to our Rise Makati, which caters to young professionals and young families. It will have the same vibe," said Rose O. Morales, senior director for group sales at Shang Properties, during a media briefing.

"There will be 1,283 units for Laya with very flexible places. So, this can be for those who like to purchase it for a halfway home because they are working at Ortigas central business district," she added.

Joseph T. Brimer, sales director for broker channels at Shang Properties, said that the prices of the units at Laya will range from below P10 million for a studio unit to P40 million for a threebedroom unit.

The company did not disclose the projected sales value for the entire complex but mentioned that it aims to sell 200 units this year.

"There is something distinct about Shang Properties we don't release all the units immediately unlike the other competitors who release all of the units at the same time," Ms. Morales said.

"But in terms of sales takeup, for this year we are looking at 200 units but that's only because we are only releasing 200 units this year," she added.

The condominium is scheduled to have its soft launch in July, with its showroom set to open at Shangri La Plaza Mall by September.

The 67-floor residential property, located along Christian route in Pasig City, is projected to be completed by July 2028.

Laya is Shang Properties' eighth wholly owned residential property, excluding the two residential properties it holds under joint ventures.

REBRANDING

Also on Tuesday, the property developer announced its rebranding and unveiled a new logo in response to the evolving property landscape and changing demands of clients.

"Since we opened our first property in 1987, many things have changed. Demands have shifted, and our residents' priorities have evolved. To stay relevant, we must adapt and innovate," said Jose Juan Z. Jugo, executive vice-president of Shang Properties.

"If Shang Properties wants to be here and relevant over the next 20-30 years there has to be some sort of revolution, rebranding and changing the logo are just two ways, but we are also forced now to think about how to develop superior products," he added.

The company's new logo will still pay homage to its previous emblem. Its typeface has been updated to reflect a subtle tone of modern luxury and sophistication, while the crane, which is Shang properties' symbol, has been simplified to reflect a clean and streamlined look.

"Our new logo and rebranding efforts hope to establish Shang Properties as a leading brand in the premium real estate market. Our efforts also aim to position us as the country's most preferred premium residential developer," said Jayme T. Uy, marketing director at Shang Properties. Justine Irish D. Tabile

PAL expands fleet with purchase of nine aircraft

FLAG CARRIER Philippine Airlines (PAL) on Tuesday said it had closed a deal with European manufacturer Airbus S.E. for the acquisition of nine A350-1000 long-range aircraft.

The new planes will be utilized for nonstop flights from Manila various destinations in North America, including the East Coast of the US and Canada, the airline said in an e-mailed statement.

PAL already operates two A350-900 aircraft, and the addition of these nine planes will further strengthen its fleet, the flag carrier noted.

Each A350-1000 aircraft has a listed price of \$366.5 million, resulting in a total acquisition value of approximately \$3.3 billion, based on Airbus's 2018 price list.

"This order will see PAL operating one of the youngest and most modern widebody fleets in Asia," said Stanley K. Ng, president and chief operating officer of PAL.

"We selected the A350-1000 to give PAL the power to match capacity closely to predicted demand on both the very longest

routes to the North American East Coast but also on our prime trunk routes to the West Coast and potentially to Europe as well," he added.

 $The\,new\,air craft\,will\,use\,less\,fuel$ than older aircraft of a similar size which will help in the airline's aim of reducing its carbon emission.

Meanwhile, Airbus Chief Commercial Officer and Head of International Christian Scherer said that the sale is a strong endorsement of the aircraft type.

"This order is another strong endorsement of the A350 as the world's long-range leader. In terms of non-stop flying capability, efficiency and passenger comfort, it is proven to be best in class," Mr. Scherer said.

"It also brings significant reduction in emissions and an immediate contribution to industry sustainability goals. And in the larger widebody category, the A350-1000 has set a standard of its own, with the lowest operating costs and emissions for intercontinental service," he added.

Airbus is the leading supplier of the country's airlines, with its aircraft flying with AirAsia Philippines, Cebu Pacific, PAL. and PAL Express. These aircraft include the A320neos, A330neos and the long-ranged A350s.

aircraft, which used to be 98 prior to the pandemic. The nine brand new orders will bring the fleet count to close to 80, said PAL Spokesperson Cielo C. Villaluna in a Viber message.

"That will address the current need for more planes and widen our flight route network," Ms. Villaluna added.

SPARE PARTS

In an interview with Radyo Singko on Monday, Ms. Villaluna said that the new planes are an answer to the shortage of airplane spare parts globally which has led to flight delays and cancellations and passenger inconvenience.

"As a result of the supply chain issue we have several planes that are grounded. That is the challenge that we are facing right now," she said.

Aside from the acquiring new planes which are expected to be operational by a year and a half, Ms. Villaluna said that the airline is also looking at the restoration of parked aircraft.

"These are the aircraft that were parked over the last two to three years because of the pandemic when PAL had lower revenues and we had financial challenges. These are on lease arrangement so it was costly to maintain so they were parked for a while and now we are planning to restore them back to service," she added.

Ms. Villaluna also said that the supply chain is improving and that it's only that it comes in tranches.

Last week, the airline issued a statement to apologize to its customers for several flight cancellations.

On an average, unplanned cancellations over the past two weeks were 10 flights in combination of international and domestic travel, said Ms. Villaluna. - Justine Irish D. Tabile

Ayala group, Singapore firm to expand data center capacity by 5.2 megawatts

ST TELEMEDIA Global Data Centres (STT GDC Philippines) announced on Tuesday that it will expand the capacity of its three data centers by 5.2 megawatts to cater to the growing local demand.

The expansion encompasses the three existing data centers located in Makati, Cavite, and Quezon City.

These data centers are part of a collaboration among Globe Telecom, Inc., Ayala Corp., and Singapore-based ST Telemedia Global Data Centers, known as STT GDC Philippines.

"The ever-growing demand for digital services has underscored the necessity for the private sector to actively contribute to the nation's digital transformation," said Carlomagno E. Malana, president and chief executive officer of STT GDC Philippines.

"This capacity expansion is part of the commitment made to support the government's endeavors in delivering reliable and robust digital infrastructure to our fellow Filipinos," he added.

The data center company said that it is seeking to expand its operations to accommodate global hyperscalers and other customer segments, while also creating more job opportunities, particularly in the fields of engineering, facilities, and energy management.

Currently, the company operates five data centers in Metro Manila, with a combined capacity of 22 megawatts.

As part of its mission, STT GDC Philippines aims to construct sustainable and energy-efficient data centers and operate a portfolio with a total capacity of 150 megawatts.

In the previous month, the company unveiled its largest data center, STT Fairview, which is projected to have a total capacity of 124 megawatts.

It is expected to become operational in less than two years, specifically in the first quarter of 2025, with an initial capacity of 28 megawatts. — Justine Irish D. Tabile

Aboitiz to finish phase 1 of co-living space at LIMA Estate by yearend

ABOITIZ InfraCapital, Inc., the infrastructure arm of the Aboitiz Group, said on Tuesday that the construction of the first phase of its co-living space project at the LIMA Estate in Batangas will be finished by the end of the year.

The first phase of the co-living space project, or The Pods at LIMA, includes a 600-bed facility along with common areas, open spaces, a transport hub, and roofmounted solar panels, the company said in a statement.

"Construction is currently underway and is projected to be completed by the end of 2023," it added.

The co-living space project meets the housing needs of individuals employed by companies located in the commercial and industrial areas of LIMA Estate, according to the company. Currently, the workforce at LIMA Estate consists of 66,000 individuals.

"With The Pods at LIMA, we are pushing the boundaries of what could be done to help our locators within the Estate to ensure uninterrupted business operations and save transportation costs, as well as provide their employees with secure, comfortable, and sustainable housing," said LIMA Estate Vice-President for

Operations Clifford Academia. "We have always put a premium on creating thriving and self-sustaining communities that cater to the needs of various industries and businesses,"

At the same time, the company announced that the next phase of The Pods at LIMA project will commence construction next year, and operations are projected to start in 2025. This phase will include a facility with an ad-

ditional 2,700 beds. "As we continue to grow and welcome new locators and businesses to LIMA Estate, we are committed to providing exceptional service to our current and prospective users, while raising the standard of development in the countryside," said Rafael Fernandez de Mesa, LIMA Land president and Aboitiz InfraCapi-

tal Economic Estates head. "We will continue to prioritize sustainable and intelligent growth in all our operations in our effort to promote economic, social, and environmental progress in the Philippines," he added.

- Revin Mikhael D. Ochave