

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,647.56

▲ 34.06 PTS.

▲ 0.51%

FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2023

BusinessWorld

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P634.50 +P6.50 +1.04%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P5.43 +P0.03 +0.56%	AEV Aboltiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P53.65 -P0.05 -0.09%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P12.50 ---	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P27.40 +P0.40 +1.48%	AP Aboltiz Power Corp. P35.00 -P0.10 -0.28%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P148.70 +P2.40 +1.64%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P115.00 +P0.50 +0.44%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P10.64 +P0.06 +0.57%	DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P9.42 +P0.05 +0.53%
EMI Emperador, Inc. P20.90 -P0.05 -0.24%	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,890.00 ---	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P537.00 +P1.50 +0.28%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P208.20 +P2.20 +1.07%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P255.60 -P3.20 -1.24%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P43.80 -P0.50 -1.13%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P9.58 -P0.02 -0.21%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P58.20 +P0.95 +1.66%	MER Manila Electric Co. P345.00 -P6.20 -1.77%	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P8.90 +P0.18 +2.06%
MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P4.92 ---	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P29.80 +P0.10 +0.34%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P29.00 +P1.00 +3.57%	SM SM Investments Corp. P940.00 ---	SMC San Miguel Corp. P106.50 +P0.50 +0.47%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P33.30 +P0.20 +0.6%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,300.00 ---	UBP Union Bank of the Philippines P73.20 +P0.70 +0.97%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P133.00 +P2.00 +1.53%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P24.50 +P0.40 +1.66%

PSE warns of taxes on sale of suspended Holcim shares

TENDERED SHARES of Holcim Philippines, Inc. are subject to capital gains tax (CGT) and documentary stamp tax (DST) and not the standard stock transaction tax, the local bourse said, pointing to the continuing trading suspension of the cement maker's shares.

"Aside from the applicable tax rate, the shareholders have to facilitate all the documentary requirements, including the relevant tax clearance from the [Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR)], needed to transfer shares sold outside of the exchange," the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) said in a statement over the weekend.

BIR regulation requires every sale, barter, exchange or other disposition of shares of stock of a publicly listed company that is noncompliant with the minimum public ownership to be subject to CGT and DST, the exchange said.

Under Revenue Regulation No. 16-2012, a final tax of either 5% or 10% on the net capital gains would be imposed on every sale, barter, ex-

change or other disposition of shares for noncompliant companies.

The PSE said shareholders have to facilitate all the documentary requirements, including the relevant tax clearance from the BIR, needed to transfer shares sold outside of the stock exchange.

The deal resulted in Holcim's public float falling to 5.05% or below the 20% minimum requirement of the PSE.

Holderfin conducted a tender offer for 325.58 million of Holcim's issued and outstanding common shares at P5.33 apiece.

"[Holcim] now wishes to assign the responsibility of addressing this tax predicament to the exchange by informing shareholders that the matter can only be resolved if the suspension on its shares will be lifted by PSE," the exchange said.

"The PSE takes strong exception to this 'finger-pointing' attempt of the company. The lifting of the suspension is not a discretion or prerogative that can be exercised by PSE," it added.

Holcim said on Friday that the PSE had denied the company's request to lift the trading suspension due to it being noncompliant with the minimum public ownership requirement.

It said the purchase by Holderfin and the tender offer settlement will have to be effected outside the facilities of the PSE.

Holcim "strongly urged" shareholders who wish to participate in the tender offer to not tender their shares at the last minute "to allow sufficient time to correct any deficiency in their application." — **Adrian H. Halili**

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code or by typing the link https://rb.gy/vfiero

OUTLIER

Investors take profit on BPI earnings but lender's price remains unchanged

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS (BPI) saw short-term profit-taking last week with the release of its second-quarter earnings, analysts said, but closed at the same price.

Data from the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) showed a total of P997.20 million worth of 8.65 million shares were traded from July 17 to 21, making it the fourth most actively traded stock on Friday.

BPI's share price was unchanged week on week at P115 last Friday. For the year, however, the stock went up by 12.7%.

Analysts said BPI's stock had been performing in an "upward" trend since mid-June and investors were cashing in on its profit either due to the positive trajectory or due to Fed hike fears.

In a Viber message, Globalinks Securities and Stocks, Inc. Head of Electronic Trading Mark V. Santarina said that the earnings report last week pushed the stock to return to its closing price last week.

"The selling activity observed among some investors can be attributed to short-term profit-taking," he added.

In an e-mail, Cristina S. Ulang, research head at First Metro Investment Corp., noted the market's stance could be attributed to the upcoming Federal Open Market Committee meeting this week.

The widely expected rate hike this week by the US Federal Reserve might also be the last rate hike the Fed plans to take, former Fed chairman Ben S. Bernanke said.

Last Thursday, BPI announced its first-semester net income at P25.1 billion, up by 23%. On a quarterly basis, net income reached P13 billion, up 4.5% year on year.

Total revenues also went up by 13.8% to P65.6 billion.

Ms. Ulang said the bank's earnings were "just in line" with investors' expectations, adding that the market will probably moni-

tor whether the bank can maintain its earnings growth and return on equity leadership in the next months.

"Top banks have been displaying strong performance in recent months, and this trend is expected to persist due to favorable market conditions for the banking sector. Given its robust standing as the third-largest bank in the country, investors likely foresaw this positive report from BPI," Mr. Santarina said.

He placed his third- and fourth-quarter net income forecast for BPI at P12.972 billion and P13.4 billion, respectively.

For the year, he placed his net income forecast at P48.4 billion.

Analysts are expecting the bank to sustain its growth and to "rise in sync" with the market and other banks this year after it was backed by its strong financial performance.

"Its total assets have impressively grown by 8.9%, reaching P2.7 trillion, while total deposits expanded by 7.6% to P2.1 trillion, mainly driven by increased contributions from current and savings accounts. Over the short term, there is a possibility that the stock will consolidate within the range of 112 to 115," Mr. Santarina said.

Ms. Ulang said the bank's investment in tech can continue to sustain its growth for the rest of the year.

For the week, she placed BPI's support and resistance levels at P100 to P115.

While Globalink's Mr. Santarina gave his support and resistance levels for the bank at P111 and P118, respectively.

He added that the local bourse remains attractively valued compared with other neighboring markets, attracting more foreign investments and could lead to a promising outlook for BPI's performance and instilling investor confidence in the bank's continued growth. — **Bernadette Therese M. Gadon with Bloomberg**

Keeping children healthy with pediatric surgery



Dr. Chui Chan Hon



Health has always been a priority for all, especially in the early ages. For better growth and physical wellness among children, tracking your child's growth and development is a must in preparation for reaching succeeding developmental stages in his/her life. This can be done properly with pediatric care, which is now more consequential, especially during a critical period in his/her life.

For children, any underlying health condition that is not treated at an early stage may eventually have an impact on their growth and well-being. Nonetheless, these can be addressed through interventions tailored to kids, like pediatric surgery. According to senior consultant pediatric surgeon Dr. Chui Chan Hon, pediatric surgery refers to the treatment of children's conditions with surgical techniques and methods. Pediatric surgery covers people from birth until the age of 18.

Among the most common conditions among infants and children that can be addressed through surgery are congenital conditions and acute conditions such as infections, growths, or tumors.

Dr. Chui refers to congenital conditions as growth defects that children are born with. These conditions include defects in the gastrointestinal tract like atresia and Hirschsprung's disease.

Acute conditions, on the other hand, are the swellings, growths, tumors, or even cancers that

children may encounter later on. There are also acute conditions leading to infections in kids, such as infections of the intestines or appendices, that would also require surgical treatment.

With new developments in pediatric surgery, including subspecialization, minimally invasive surgery, and pediatric anesthesia, health conditions are now better identified, treated, and prevented among infants and children.

Pediatric surgeons are further updated and trained through subspecialization in order for them to properly identify and perform the treatment a child needs.

There has also been a great development in minimally invasive surgery, which allows pediatric surgeons to perform surgical operations on children with smaller cuts and wounds, which helps speed up their recovery.

Additionally, pediatric anesthesia has made great improvements, allowing children to receive anesthesia more safely. As a result, many pediatric operations can be performed as outpatient or ambulatory surgery, which doesn't require hospitalization.

Surgeons' ability to determine the best method for the patient is an important factor in successful surgeries. Dr. Chui listed three key factors that pediatric surgeons consider, namely the patient's condition; the child's age and needs, since some are more anxious and need extra care and attention

before, during, and after the surgery; and close coordination with the parents and adjusting to their needs.

Renowned globally, Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore has earned a reputation for its top pediatric expertise coupled with unwavering commitment to curing and attending to patients' health needs. Mount Elizabeth has set a standard for performing complex pediatric surgical conditions and treatments, thanks to its cutting-edge technology and skillful medical personnel who are committed to taking care of patients across ages, beginning with children.

"We have doctors in all subspecialties in pediatrics, and these are important personnel who can support the treatment of pediatric surgical conditions. Besides that, we have nurses, as well as the staff who are very familiar with and well-trained in managing pediatric patients," Dr. Chui further explained.

"In addition, we have very good new scanning machines that we acquired that have lower dosages of radiation in CT scans and many other types of imaging techniques as well," he added.

For inquiries, please contact Mount Elizabeth Hospital's patient assistance center located at G/F-B, Marco Polo Hotel, Meralco Avenue and Sapphire Street, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600; e-mail manila.ph@ihhealthcare.com or call 0917-526-7576. Follow them at [facebook.com/MountElizabethHospitalSSGPhilippinesOffice](https://www.facebook.com/MountElizabethHospitalSSGPhilippinesOffice).

Angkas expects better business as year-end seasonal demand nears

DBDOYC, Inc., the company behind the motorcycle ride-hailing application Angkas, is betting on good progress in the second semester amid seasonal demand towards the end of the year.

George Royeca, chief executive officer and co-founder of Angkas, described the "Ber" months as good for retail businesses "as a lot of people are out."

"Our [demand] seasonality is always good in the 'Ber' months so we are expecting good progress," he said in a chance interview, referring to the last four months of the year.

The positive outlook comes as the company's performance in the first half came out "good," Mr. Royeca said, adding that "all of the retail outlets are up now."

However, the wet season brings risks as fewer people book motorcycle rides when it is raining, he said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Royeca said the company is optimistic about using artificial intelligence (AI), especially in the transport segment.

"I think it helps us a lot. AI allows us to be able to do many more things," he said, citing repetitive tasks, analysis and keeping big data. "Now we are able to analyze bigger sets of data faster and quicker and I think it's all to machine learning and artificial intelligence."

"It is still the beginning and there's a lot of positive outcomes and results that we can expect from that. But we also have to be careful and take caution on how this is used. But at the very least for us we are very optimistic about AI," he added.

Motorcycles-for-hire services are operating under a four-year pilot study as Republic Act (RA) No. 4136, or the Land Transportation and Traffic Code, prohibits the use of two-wheeled vehicles for public transport.

At present, the government has limited the operation of motorcycle taxis to three companies: Angkas, Joyride, and Move It.

The proposed motorcycles-for-hire law, which will amend RA 4136, is pending at the committee levels in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**



PHILIPPINE STAR/CEO GUMBAN