

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,160.61 ▼ 65.17 PTS. ▼ 1.04%

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BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P598.00 +P3.00 +0.5%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P5.07 ---	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P47.25 +P0.15 +0.32%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P12.00 -P0.14 -1.15%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P28.10 -P0.15 -0.53%	AP Aboitiz Power Corp. P35.00 +P0.30 +0.86%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P140.50 -P2.30 -1.61%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P105.10 -P3.10 -2.87%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P8.63 +P0.11 +1.29%	DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P9.48 -P0.02 -0.21%
EMI Emperador, Inc. P21.20 +P0.05 +0.24%	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,825.00 -P45.00 -2.41%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P545.00 -P2.50 -0.46%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P204.80 -P0.20 -0.1%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P239.80 -P3.20 -1.32%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P36.40 -P1.15 -3.06%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P9.37 -P0.03 -0.32%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P54.75 +P0.05 +0.09%	MER Manila Electric Co. P344.40 +P1.20 +0.35%	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P6.60 -P0.10 -1.49%
MPI Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P5.10 ---	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P27.35 -P0.10 -0.36%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P31.80 -P0.05 -0.16%	SM SM Investments Corp. P825.00 -P10.00 -1.2%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P105.20 +P0.20 +0.19%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P29.60 -P0.75 -2.47%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,200.00 -P20.00 -1.64%	UBP Union Bank of the Philippines P70.90 -P0.60 -0.84%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P115.00 ---	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P21.45 -P0.55 -2.5%

Filinvest Land expects higher earnings this year

LISTED property developer Filinvest Land, Inc. (FLI) is bullish about its prospects for the rest of the year and expects profit growth for 2023 as the economy improves.

“The Philippines is growing, and we are optimistic that we will grow more unless there is anything happening outside of the Philippines. Here within the country, our fundamentals seem to be good,” said FLI Director Mi-

chael Edward T. Gotianun on the sidelines of the company’s launch event last week.

Asked about the prospects for the rest of the year, he said net income is expected to be better this year compared with a year ago despite economic headwinds.

FLI is the property development company of the Gotianun’s Filinvest group of companies.

In 2022, FLI recorded a 24% decline in net income to P2.8 billion from P3.8 billion the prior year.

Mr. Gotianun said this year’s growth drivers for FLI include the improving economic situation and surging investor interest.

“The economy is improving, and there seems to be a lot of interest,” he said. “Everybody is positive about the economy. However, our concern will be the outside, like China, with all their

problems going on now. You don’t know if there might be a spillover. We cannot control that. So, we just hope it does not spill over to us.”

In the first half, FLI booked a 15% surge in its attributable net income to P1.39 billion. Its total consolidated revenues and other income also rose by 8% to P9.92 billion on the back of growth from its residential and rental business segments.

“Business is good. So let’s hope that it stays good,” he added.

FLI President and Chief Executive Officer Tristaneil D. Las Marias previously said that the developer continued to achieve growth in its residential and rental business segments during the first six months of the year.

“We are pleased that our efforts led to satisfactory results as we continued to sustain our sales and marketing activities,” he said.

“We remain focused on meeting our customers’ needs as we target to further grow our business this year, with further residential launches planned in the second half,” he added.

As of Aug. 25, FLI shares were at 66 centavos apiece, down one centavo or 1.49% from its previous close of 67 centavos the day prior. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Jollibee Foods in no rush for Highlands Coffee IPO

JOLLIBEE FOODS Corp. (JFC) believes its Vietnamese coffee chain Highlands Coffee can be separately listed on the market, but it still has a few steps to go, said the finance chief of the listed quick service restaurant operator.

“We’re not in a rush. But at the right time, we believe that this brand can be spun off as a separate listed company,” JFC Chief Financial Officer Richard Chong Woo Shin said in a virtual media briefing last week when asked about a possible initial public offering (IPO) for the coffee brand.

“That remains as part of our strategy, but again, only at the right valuation that maximizes for our shareholders and at the right time as well,” he added.

Mr. Shin said the group had not expanded the brand into many countries, thus “there’s a few steps ahead of IPO.”

He added that there is room for growth for Highlands Coffee, which has a presence in Vietnam and in the Philippines.

“We have just under around 700 stores of Highland Coffee. The majority is in Vietnam, its home base,” he said, adding that in the Philippines it has around 40 stores that are run by a franchisee.

JFC has a controlling interest in Highlands Coffee as it has a 60% stake in the Super-

Foods Group, which owns the coffee brand.

Recently, JFC announced that it would bring Tiong Bahru Bakery and Common Man Coffee Roasters to the Philippines under a joint venture with Food Collective Pte. Ltd. to bolster its existing brands. JFC also owns The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf (CBTL).

Mr. Shin said during the briefing that the newly announced brands would not eat into the market of existing coffee brands since these cater to a different segment.

“Common Man will be a different expression of coffee in that it’s closer to what I would call the more premium barista coffee. That is what it is famous for. Therefore, we will not be cannibalizing or competing, if you will, with Highlands Coffee or CBTL. In fact, it’s a new segment,” Mr. Shin said.

For the first half, JFC’s attributable net income fell 13.9% to P4.39 billion versus P5.1 billion a year ago.

JFC’s store network surged by 5.1% as of June. The group has 6,617 stores worldwide, with 3,287 stores in the Philippines and 3,330 international stores across various brands.

As of Aug. 25, JFC shares were at P239.80 apiece, down P3.20 or 1.32% from its previous close of P243 the day prior. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Globe to launch eSIM for prepaid users in Q3

GLOBE TELECOM, Inc. targets to launch a prepaid eSIM by the third quarter, the company announced on Monday.

“By the end of this quarter, we will launch our leveled-up version of the eSIM because we recognize the opportunity and we can also monetize the convenience that eSIM can give our customers,” Darius Delgado, head of Globe’s consumer mobile business, said in a media release.

eSIM technology was first introduced to postpaid consumers in 2018, Globe said.

An eSIM is a digital subscriber identity module (SIM) that allows a user to activate a cellular plan without the physical SIM. Globe



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described it as an integrated SIM chip that is embedded in a mobile device.

“It is also going to restructure the way we operate because there’s less cost, it’s fully do-it-yourself. It’s really convenient for the customer,” Mr. Delgado said.

Globe said the technology would allow prepaid users to create several profiles using different mobile numbers on a single device.

The company also said its launch is in line with its sustainability agenda as the initiative minimizes the reliance on

physical SIM cards which are made of plastic.

“This, in turn, eliminates the need for new plastic materials and reduces waste generation and logistics. By opting for the eSIM, users are taking a step towards more responsible consumption behaviors, understanding that even small changes, when embraced collectively, can lead to significant positive impact on the environment,” Globe said.

Earlier this year, Globe committed to continue implementing climate action strategies such as working on innovative technology solutions to help combat climate change. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Swedish digital creative school maps Asian expansion

HYPER ISLAND Institute of Higher Education, a digital creative business school, aims to expand its services in Asia after it started offering its program in the Philippines.

“We are founded on the principle of learning by doing as a way to embrace technological developments,” Peachy Pacquing, managing director of Hyper Island, told *BusinessWorld* in a Zoom interview.

She said the school brings together the foundation and insights “from the world of behavioral science, adult development and creativity to design experiences, products and tools that will equip you to tackle the challenges of the future.”

Hyper Island has expanded its operations in Asia with the



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inclusion of the Philippines. It launched its programs in the country earlier this year.

Established in Sweden two decades ago, Hyper Island provides an unconventional way of learning, Ms. Pacquing said, adding that the institute now operates in the United Kingdom, Brazil, North America, and Singapore.

It aims to expand its operations in Asia with the hope of bringing its operations to India and Indonesia within this year.

“It was born because the Swedish government realized that the way they were doing education was no longer sufficient, or relevant and therefore there was a challenge to reimagine educa-

tion more than 20 years back,” Ms. Pacquing said.

In the Philippines, the global creative business school offers a digital management accelerator program, a master of arts in digital management, and business solutions.

“Let’s begin first with how we facilitate learning. First of all, we are in the business of adult education. So, the way we facilitate learning at Hyper Island [is] to develop critical thinking, a key deliverable of our education,” she said.

Ms. Pacquing said Hyper Island is introducing an alternative way of learning to bridge the gap between technology and human development. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Phoenix Petroleum expects lower oil prices in fourth quarter as stockpiles rise

LISTED independent oil firm Phoenix Petroleum Philippines, Inc. is expecting the prices of dated Brent to go down by the fourth quarter as oil stockpiles are seen to build up, an official said.

“We expect dated Brent prices to increase into the \$80s in the third quarter. But with stocks expected to start gradually building back in the fourth quarter, prices should then ease again,” Raymond T. Zorrilla, senior vice-president for external affairs of Phoenix, said in a Viber message.

Mr. Zorrilla said the company is hoping that the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) — the benchmark for local fuel products — will remain steady at \$80.

MOPS is the daily average of all trading transactions of diesel and gasoline reported by Singapore-based market wire service Platts of S&P Global, Inc.

Mr. Zorrilla said the company also wants to see the dollar-peso exchange rate stabilize within the range of \$54 to \$55 to help bring down local oil prices.

“Commercial crude and key product stocks have gradually declined from January and draws are set to over 2 million bpd (barrel per day) in July/August. That is deeper than our outlook from last month,” he said.

“However, prices have been eroding with sufficient supply to cover prompt needs and very

little interest by financial participants in oil,” he added.

In its short-term energy outlook, the Energy Information Administration (IEA) projected global oil production to increase by 1.4 million bpd in 2023 and by 1.7 million bpd in 2024.

“Rising global oil production in 2024 in our forecast keeps pace with oil demand and puts moderate downward pressure on crude oil prices beginning in the second quarter of 2024,” the IEA said.

Mr. Zorrilla said commercial oil inventories are set to “draw rapidly” in the third quarter, but “a skeptical market is waiting for visible signs before pushing prices higher.”

In the second quarter, Phoenix Petroleum incurred an attributable net loss of P1.097

billion, reversing its P143.48 million net income in the same quarter last year.

Revenues fell by 63.2% to P14.6 billion from P39.7 billion previously.

In March, Phoenix Petroleum signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Malaysian state oil firm Petronas for a joint exploration of downstream marketing business and associated technology solutions.

Under the MoU, the two companies will conduct a joint feasibility study on what will be the next phase of the partnership.

At the stock exchange on Monday, the company’s shares went down by P0.80 or 10.26% to close at P7 apiece. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**



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