

## Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,172.84

▲ 30.05 PTS.

▲ 0.48%

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

BusinessWorld

## PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

<b>AC</b> Ayala Corp. P602.00 -P10.00 -1.63%	<b>ACEN</b> ACEN Corp. P4.65 -P0.05 -1.06%	<b>AEV</b> Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P46.10 -P0.20 -0.43%	<b>AGI</b> Alliance Global Group, Inc. P12.46 -P0.06 -0.48%	<b>ALI</b> Ayala Land, Inc. P28.45 +P0.60 +2.15%	<b>AP</b> Aboitiz Power Corp. P32.10 +P1.35 +4.39%	<b>BDO</b> BDO Unibank, Inc. P133.00 +P2.00 +1.53%	<b>BPI</b> Bank of the Philippine Islands P107.50 -P1.00 -0.92%	<b>CNVRG</b> Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P9.00 ---	<b>DMC</b> DMCI Holdings, Inc. P10.18 -P0.18 -1.74%
<b>EMI</b> Emperador, Inc. P21.00 +P0.05 +0.24%	<b>GLO</b> Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,800.00 +P22.00 +1.24%	<b>GTCAP</b> GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P580.00 +P4.50 +0.78%	<b>ICT</b> International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P204.00 +P0.20 +0.1%	<b>JFC</b> Jollibee Foods Corp. P226.00 ---	<b>JGS</b> JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P35.95 -P0.40 -1.1%	<b>LTG</b> LT Group, Inc. P9.01 +P0.03 +0.33%	<b>MBT</b> Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P53.40 -P0.10 -0.19%	<b>MER</b> Manila Electric Co. P368.00 -P3.00 -0.81%	<b>MONDE</b> Monde Nissin Corp. P9.15 -P0.02 -0.22%
<b>MPI</b> Metro Pacific Investments Corp. P5.18 +P0.06 +1.17%	<b>PGOLD</b> Puregold Price Club, Inc. P28.70 -P0.15 -0.52%	<b>SCC</b> Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P35.00 -P0.05 -0.14%	<b>SM</b> SM Investments Corp. P827.50 +P23.50 +2.92%	<b>SMC</b> San Miguel Corp. P104.80 +P0.30 +0.29%	<b>SMPH</b> SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P30.00 -P0.20 -0.66%	<b>TEL</b> PLDT Inc. P1,165.00 +P11.00 +0.95%	<b>UBP</b> Union Bank of the Philippines P70.00 +P0.20 +0.29%	<b>URC</b> Universal Robina Corp. P114.90 +P1.40 +1.23%	<b>WLCON</b> Wilcon Depot, Inc. P21.00 -P0.25 -1.18%

## San Miguel says its power unit is still 'viable'



LISTED CONGLOMERATE San Miguel Corp. (SMC) said that the businesses of its power unit, San Miguel Global Power Holdings Corp. (SMGP), and its subsidiaries are still "viable" and are able to meet financial obligations.

"SMGP remained profitable in 2022, as it has been since it started operations in 2011, in spite of the rise of coal and other fuel prices to unprecedented levels," SMC told the local bourse on Monday.

The company said the unit's consolidated revenues of P221.4

billion and earnings before interests, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) of P42.32 billion are "both at par with results in prior years."

It said that this is due to the implementation of "various power plant operating cost optimization strategies combined with viable commercial arrangements with its existing bilateral customers."

SMC said that certain loan maturities this year have been refinanced and SMGP is currently closing a project financing arrangement for its battery

energy storage systems, which is expected to contribute to its revenues.

"SMGP remains confident of its ability to tap the local market as proven by its successful issuance of the P40 [billion] peso retail bonds," the company said.

Meanwhile, SMC said the unit is still on track with the development of solar-based power generation projects while remaining "fully compliant" with existing local and international requirements, laws, and regulations.

"To date, the Company and its subsidiaries, including SMGP, are fully compliant with and continue to comply with their financial obligations," it said.

As of June, it said SMGP had a combined installed capacity of about 19% of the national grid, 25% of the Luzon grid, and 7% of the Mindanao grid, with power supply agreements with distributors and other end users.

On Monday, SMC shares rose by 30 centavos or 0.29% to close at P104.80 apiece. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

## DFNN clears sale of offshore gaming subsidiary

THE board of listed gaming technology company DFNN, Inc. has approved the sale of an offshore gaming subsidiary to Vanguard Investments to streamline its operations.

In a stock exchange disclosure on Monday, DFNN said its board authorized on Sept. 22 the sale of its wholly owned unit Nico Bayan, Inc. to Vanguard Investments for P2 million. The listed firm said it has no relationship with Vanguard Investments.

Nico Bayan is in the business of developing software solutions.

"[This sale is] to streamline its current technology operations reporting thus focusing on revenue generation and optimizing wholly owned resources and improving overall profitability

under the main listed company," DFNN said.

"The manner of the acquisition shall be through a contractual arrangement," it added.

In 2019, DFNN incorporated Nico Bayan to expand the company's offshore gaming operations.

"The incorporation of Nico Bayan is intended to be used as a vehicle for the expansion of its offshore gaming operations," DFNN said in a previous disclosure.

Last week, the Senate Committee on Ways and Means recommended the gradual phase-out and the eventual termination of Philippine offshore gaming operators or POGOs from the country due to the negative social impact in communities where their operations are located.

In a separate disclosure, DFNN said that it added Nicholas Te to its board of directors.

"This strategic move is not only aimed at expanding revenue streams but also at aligning the company's organizational structure with the burgeoning opportunities in the technology sector," DFNN said.

"Mr. Te brings a wealth of expertise in cutting-edge technology solutions. And with the majority of our business pipeline deeply entrenched in pioneering technology, this strategic appointment underscores our commitment to staying at the forefront of technological advancements," the company added.

According to DFNN, Mr. Te has a Bachelor's Degree in Ma-

terials Science and Engineering from the University of California in Berkeley. He is an engineer at Tesla, Inc., which is owned by American billionaire Elon Musk.

In the first six months, DFNN recorded P41.8 million in net income, down 71.2% from P144.9 million a year ago as its consolidated cost and expenses rose 30.6% to P606.6 million.

The company attributed the higher cost and expenses to a surge in variable costs and other costs associated with the continued development of its interactive technology platforms.

Shares of DFNN at the local bourse were last traded on Sept. 22, when it closed unchanged at P3.08 apiece. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

## Filinvest Land bond offer gets top credit score, 'stable' outlook

THE proposed bond offering of listed property developer Filinvest Land, Inc. (FLI) has earned the highest issue credit rating and "stable" outlook from Philippine Rating Services Corp. (PhilRatings).

FLI said in a statement on Monday that its planned bond issuance — consisting of P10 billion, with a P2-billion oversubscription option — received a PRS Aaa credit rating as well as a stable outlook from PhilRatings. The offering has a maturity period of 3.5 years.

According to FLI, the proceeds from the bonds will be for capital expenditures and debt refinancing.

"Obligations rated PRS Aaa, the highest rating assigned by PhilRatings, are of the highest quality with minimal credit risk. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment to the obligation is extremely strong," FLI said.

"An outlook is an indication as to the possible direction of any rating change within a one-year period and serves as a further refinement to the assigned credit rating for the guidance of investors, regulators, and the general public. A stable outlook means the rating will likely be unchanged in the next 12 months," it added.

The offer is the first tranche of FLI's peso-denominated fixed-rate bond offering at an aggregate principal amount of up to P35 billion to be issued in tranches.

FLI President and Chief Executive Officer Tristaneil D. Las Marias said the rating reflects the company's "healthy fundamentals" and highlights its "constant focus on growth and financial sustainability."

"We are delighted to receive a PRS Aaa rating from PhilRatings for our proposed bond issuance... We are grate-

ful for PhilRatings' trust and confidence in Filinvest Land and aim to continue building the Filipino dream through our various property developments," Mr. Las Marias said.

The joint lead underwriters and bookrunners of the offering are BDO Capital and Investment Corp., BPI Capital Corp., China Bank Capital Corp., East West Banking Corp., First Metro Investment Corp., PNB Capital and Investment Corp., RCBC Capital Corp., and SB Capital Investment Corp.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.-Trust and Investments Group will serve as the trustee. This year, FLI will launch condominium and housing developments in Antipolo City, Taytay, Angono, Calamba City, Tanauan City, Trece Martires City, Bacoor City, Dumaguete City, and the Island Garden City of Samal.

The developer will also accelerate the development of its township projects in East Town in Cainta, Rizal; Timberland Heights in San Mateo, Rizal; Ciudad de Calamba in Calamba City, Laguna; The Wood Estates in Trece Martires City, Cavite; and Palm Estates in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental. These townships include residential, commercial, transportation, and school components.

For malls, FLI is currently building Marina Town in Dumaguete City which will open by end-2023, as well as new malls in Filinvest Mimosas+ Leisure City and Activa Cubao which will open by end-2024. These developments will expand FLI's retail portfolio by about 55,000 square meters in gross leasable area (GLA), bringing the company's nationwide retail GLA to 300,000 square meters.

On Monday, shares of FLI gained one centavo or 1.59% to close at 64 centavos per share. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

## ICTSI units receive large vessel in Mexico, Colombia

RAZON-LED International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI) said its units in Mexico and Colombia had received their largest ship, marking what it called an "operational milestone."

In a media release on Monday, ICTSI said CMA CGM Alexander Von Humboldt, a 396-meter-long vessel which it claims to be the first of its size to operate in Latin America, was received at Contecon Manzanillo S.A. (CMSA) in Mexico and Sociedad Puerto Industrial Aguadulce (SPIA) in Colombia.

"We have prepared for this moment in recent years, designing and sizing our terminal to be able to serve these ships. It is our obligation to ensure that Mexican foreign trade has competitive and efficient maritime logistics," José Antonio Contreras, chief executive officer of CMSA, said in a media release on Monday.

CMSA is ICTSI's business unit operating at Port of Manzanillo. The company said it is Mexico's gateway to the Pacific coast as it is strategically located at the largest industrial areas, making it closer to major consumer markets.

The arrival of the vessel signifies the company's capability to adapt to new ports and growing maritime dynamics, Alvaro Otero, general manager of SPIA, said.

SPIA is ICTSI's joint venture container terminal project with PSA International Pte Ltd. (PSA) in Buenaventura, Colombia.

Last week, the listed port operator announced that it is anticipating to complete the expansion of its port in Melbourne, Australia following the arrival of its new quay cranes from China.

ICTSI's unit, Victoria International Container Terminal (VICT) said the cranes are part of its 235-million Australian dollar expansion investment that will boost its capacity by up to 1.25 million 20-foot equivalent units.

The listed port operator currently operates over 30 terminals in 20 countries across six continents.

At the local bourse on Monday, shares in the company climbed by 20 centavos or 0.1% to end at P204 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

## Globe secures P15-B bank loan for the year's capex

GLOBE Telecom, Inc. has secured a P15-billion loan from Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co., the listed telecommunications company said in a regulatory filing on Monday.

The loan will fund part of the company's capital expenditures (capex) for the year, its debt refinancing and other corporate requirements, Globe said.

For the first six months of the year, the company said it had

invested about P37.7 billion in capex projects, lower than what it had spent a year earlier.

Its first-semester spending represents a 25% decline from the level in the same period last year. The company said it is expecting to reach about P71.5 billion or \$1.3 billion in spending by the end of the year.

Ninety percent of the company's capex spending was set aside

for data network rollouts to meet the growing data demand in the country, Globe said.

As of June, it said the company had built around 542 new cell sites and upgraded 5,087 mobile sites to LTE (long-term evolution), while also deploying 148,000 fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) lines.

Globe said that it had also built about 356 new fifth-generation

(5G) sites as it aims to expand 5G coverage in the country

Its efforts to deploy 5G sites have resulted in 5G outdoor coverage of 97.44% in the National Capital Region and 91% in parts of Visayas and Mindanao, the company said.

At the local bourse on Monday, shares in the company gained P22 or 1.24% to end at P1,800 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

## EEI to divest from BiotechJP

EEI Corp. is set to unload its stake in BiotechJP Corp., its subsidiary engaged in food manufacturing and therapeutic food products.

In a stock exchange disclosure on Monday, EEI said its board had approved the divestment of

its 60% interest or a total of about 181,815 common shares in BiotechJP.

It also noted that the company is still finalizing the terms and conditions of the sale.

Meanwhile, EEI announced the retirement of Ferdinand M.

Del Prado, its current senior vice-president and commercial division head, effective Dec. 31.

Earlier this year, the listed construction company said that the board of its parent firm — House of Investments, Inc. — had approved the sale of about

14.35% of EEI's common shares to Industry Holdings and Development Corp.

The transaction is part of the Yuchengco group's strategy to assess its business interests and consolidate its other businesses into House of Investments.

This development follows the company's announcement of the sale of its 20% stake in EEI to the Romualdez family-led firm RYM Business Management Corp. for P1.25 billion at P6.03 each of the 207.26 million common shares. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**