

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,142.90 ▼ 76.26 PTS. ▼ 1.22%

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BusinessWorld

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P615.00 +P4.50 +0.74%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P5.08 —	AEV Aboltiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P48.10 -P1.00 -2.04%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P11.56 -P0.10 -0.86%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P28.65 -P0.85 -2.88%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P129.40 -P1.90 -1.45%	BLOOM Bloomerry Resorts Corp. P9.92 -P0.07 -0.7%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P105.30 -P1.50 -1.4%	CNPF Century Pacific Food, Inc. P29.10 -P0.85 -2.84%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P9.25 -P0.35 -3.65%
DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P10.26 -P0.02 -0.19%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P20.80 —	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,800.00 -P14.00 -0.77%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P545.00 -P13.00 -2.33%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P207.20 -P2.80 -1.33%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P215.20 -P5.60 -2.54%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P38.00 -P0.05 -0.13%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P8.83 +P0.02 +0.23%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P51.85 -P0.70 -1.33%	MER Manila Electric Co. P379.00 +P3.40 +0.91%
MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P8.45 -P0.25 -2.87%	NIKL Nickel Asia Corp. P5.58 -P0.12 -2.11%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P28.90 -P0.35 -1.2%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P31.10 -P4.00 -11.4%	SM SM Investments Corp. P817.00 -P3.00 -0.37%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P102.70 -P1.30 -1.25%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P30.70 -P0.70 -2.23%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,217.00 +P11.00 +0.91%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P113.20 -P0.50 -0.44%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P21.95 -P0.05 -0.23%

SEC warns at least 298,000 firms at risk of being on delinquent list

THE Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has renewed its call for entities under its watch to avail of the agency's amnesty program as it named more than 298,000 ordinary corporations that risk being classified as delinquent.

In a notice posted on its website, the SEC told 298,335 corporations to apply for amnesty after they failed to submit their general information sheet (GIS) as required under Republic Act No. 11232 or the Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines (RCC).

The SEC previously announced that the deadline for its amnesty program had been extended until Nov. 6 from Sept. 30.

"Based on the records of the Commission as of Oct. 12, the corporations appearing in the attached list have failed to submit their GIS for three times consecutively or intermittently within a five-year period. In this light, they are advised to avail of the SEC amnesty program before they are placed under delinquent status pursuant to Section 177 of the RCC," the SEC said.



CHARLES FORERUNNER-UNSPASH

"Section 177 of the RCC provides that every corporation, domestic or foreign, doing business in the Philippines shall submit to the SEC annual financial statements and a GIS, among other reportorial requirements, annually and within such period as may be prescribed by the Commission," the corporate regulator added.

The SEC said that the corporations included in the list could avail of the amnesty program by filing an online expression of interest to avail of amnesty on or before Nov. 6, and the latest due annual financial statement and GIS on or before Dec. 4.

Recently, the SEC issued a list covering 22,403 ordinary corporations that are in danger of having their certificates of incorporation revoked after failing to submit their GIS within five years from the date of their incorporation.

Under Section 21 of the RCC, if a corporation does not formally organize and commence its business within five years from the date of its incorporation, its certificate of incorporation is deemed revoked as of the day after the fifth year.

"We reiterate our reminder to corporations to avail of the SEC amnesty program now, to avoid

getting their certificates of incorporation revoked, or to avoid being placed under delinquent status," SEC Chairperson Emilio B. Aquino said in a statement.

"Corporations' timely submission of their annual financial statement, GIS, and other reportorial requirements is vital in maintaining a healthy and vibrant corporate sector, as this helps us identify active versus inactive corporations, enhance and organize the commission's digital database, and protect the public from fraud," he added.

Launched in March, the SEC's amnesty program gives a reprieve for companies from the fines and penalties imposed due to the late or non-filing of their GIS and annual financial statements, and noncompliance with Memorandum Circular No. 28, Series of 2020.

Corporations that fail to avail of the amnesty program will also face higher fines, which will be implemented starting Nov. 7. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

OUTLIER

Uncertainties eclipse BPI's third-quarter net earnings growth

THE CAUTIOUS market sentiment amid the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict overshadowed Bank of the Philippine Islands' (BPI) third-quarter performance last week.

Data from the Philippine Stock Exchange showed nearly 5 million BPI shares worth P532.29 million changing hands from Oct. 16 to 20, making the stock the 11th most actively traded last week.

Shares in the Ayala-led bank went down by 2.2% week on week to P105.46 apiece on Friday from P107.87 per share last Oct. 13. Its shares, meanwhile, have risen by 3.4% since the Dec. 29, 2022 finish.

The bank's price action last week was negatively affected by the weakened overall market sentiment due to the ongoing geopolitical tensions and surge in US yields, Regina Capital Development Corp. Head of Sales Luis A. Limlingan said.

"The better-than-expected 3Q23 performance of the bank didn't significantly impact BPI's stock price, as it was overshadowed by the uncertainties brought about by the ongoing conflict between Palestine and Israel, as well as local and US yields," he said in a Viber message.

The ongoing conflict between Israel and the militant Palestinian group Hamas, which began in early October, escalated last week as Israel launched air strikes in response to the group's attacks.

The conflict has killed 1,403 Jews and 3,785 Palestinians as of Thursday and has drawn country leaders on opposing sides of the issue.

The worsening conflict may disrupt the global market and even cause an

economic recession if more countries get involved, said a Reuters report.

Due to this, stock prices fell across the board as investors remained wary of the conflict's impact on the global market.

Meanwhile, US bond yields surged following the US Federal Reserve's signals of keeping its policy rates "higher for longer."

The 10-year US Treasury note climbed for four straight days this week, reaching a 16-year high of 5%. It also saw a 37-basis-point jump this month causing investors to view government bonds from Asian countries as lesser in providing yields as compared with its US counterparts.

This led to weaker investor sentiment for Asian government bonds and a selling surge of regional bonds by foreigners amounting to \$3.7 billion from Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand, according to Reuters.

BPI's net profit surged by 33.3% annually to P13.5 billion in the third quarter, the bank said in a disclosure to the local bourse last week, bolstered by an 18.3% increase in the top line to P35.3 billion.

This brought the nine-month bottom line of the country's third-largest bank in assets to P38.6 billion, a 26.4% jump from the same period a year ago.

Mr. Limlingan expects the bank's performance to continue positively for the final quarter of the year, which is seen to register a "double-digit bottom-line growth."

He placed BPI's support and resistance prices this week at P104.60 (260-day moving average) and P109.10, respectively. — **Andrea C. Abestano**

More private sector investments seen needed in hotels to sustain Philippine tourism growth

THE private sector needs to invest more in hotel accommodations to support the growth of the country's tourism industry, according to real estate brokerage company Leechiu Property Consultants, Inc. (LPC).

"To sustain the growth in the Philippine tourism industry, there's a pressing need for greater private sector investment in additional hotel accommodations. Initiating these investments within the next year is critical to fortify international tourism beyond 2027," the company said in a statement over the weekend.

According to LPC, about 15,000 new hotel rooms are expected to be delivered within the next five years, primarily located in Metro Manila.

It added that more hotel projects are likely to be announced

in the coming months or years in line with the Department of Tourism's (DoT) target of 12 million international arrivals by 2028.

DoT figures showed that the country logged 4.005 million international arrivals as of Sept. 29, nearing its full-year 2023 target of 4.8 million foreign visitors.

Of the total international arrivals, 91.58% or 3.67 million were foreign visitors while the remaining 8.42% or 337,426 were overseas Filipinos.

Meanwhile, LPC projected that Panglao Island in Bohol could surpass Boracay Island as the country's premier tourism destination.

"In 2019, Panglao reached an impressive 1,581,904 visitors, coming close to Boracay's 2,034,599 arrivals during the same period. Given these promis-

ing figures, it's becoming increasingly likely that Panglao Island could surpass Boracay Island as the Philippines' premier tourism destination," LPC said.

Alfred Lay, Leechiu director for hotel, tourism, and leisure, said one advantage that Panglao has over Boracay is its larger size and capacity limits.

He added that ongoing developments in Panglao could increase land values in the area. Some of these are the proposed 50-hectare Panglao Shores project, the upcoming JW Marriott Hotel, the Cebu-Bohol bridge, and large-scale energy initiatives aimed at meeting Bohol's surging energy requirements.

"These developments have had a significant impact on land values, with Alona Beachfront properties now priced at approxi-

mately P80,000 to P120,000 per square meter, approaching the land values in Boracay's white beach area," Mr. Lay said.

LPC projected that tourist arrivals, flight capacity, and hotel occupancy rates across the global tourism industry could return to pre-pandemic levels by next year.

"Industry stakeholders should look out for certain trends that can greatly impact the Philippines in the coming year, including the relaxation of visa restrictions, persistent high airfares driven by escalating aviation fuel costs, ongoing inflation, a high-interest rate environment that may leave consumers with diminished purchasing power, and the return of business travel and MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions) events," LPC said.

— **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Iloilo City mayor backs waste-to-energy project

ILOILO CITY will seek the approval of its council for the P2.3-billion waste-to-energy (WTE) project proposed by a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) that is planned to power a desalination plant and help clear the city's landfill, the local government's chief said.

Speaking to reporters on Friday, Iloilo City Mayor Geronimo "Jerry" P. Treñas said the proposal had gone through the city's public-private partnership selection committee and is set to be submitted to the council on Nov. 3 for approval.

"The waste-to-energy [project] will be used to power the desalination plant, which is needed by the city," Mr. Treñas said.

The WTE process harnesses heat by burning waste at increased

temperatures. The generated heat is then used to make steam, which drives a turbine that creates electricity.

In June, the city government and MetroPac Water Investments Corp. (MPW), a wholly owned water infrastructure investments subsidiary of MPIC, signed a negotiated deal for the proposed Iloilo City Integrated Solid Waste Management Facility.

The proposed facility can process up to 470 tons of nonrecyclable wastes as potential fuel per day and produce around 2.4 megawatts of electricity.

MPW has a joint venture with Metro Iloilo Water District — the water distribution

utility that provides water for the city and nearby municipalities — called Metro Pacific Iloilo Water, which is created for the operation, rehabilitation, and maintenance of water distribution and wastewater management facilities of the water district.

"Once operational, then we don't have to develop another module for sanitary landfill. The last time the city constructed a module for sanitary landfill, the city spent, I think, P300 million," Mr. Treñas said.

The Iloilo City mayor said the proposal started in 2019 but had been delayed due to a "long gestation" period. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**



Vice President and Department of Education Secretary Sara Duterte meets with Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion to explore the possibility of incorporating entrepreneurship training to support or complement the Senior High School curriculum. Joining Concepcion at the meeting last October 17, 2023 were Go Negosyo's senior advisers.

FULL STORY



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