

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,078.03

▲ 88.76 PTS.

▲ 1.48%

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2023

BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P624.50 +P8.50 +1.38%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P5.45 +P0.07 +1.3%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P46.05 +P0.35 +0.77%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P10.70 -P0.06 -0.56%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P28.10 +P0.75 +2.74%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P130.00 +P2.00 +1.56%	BLOOM Blossberry Resorts Corp. P9.32 +P0.04 +0.43%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P100.00 +P0.95 +0.96%	CNPF Century Pacific Food, Inc. P28.80 +P0.15 +0.52%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P8.78 +P0.35 +4.15%
DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P9.22 +P0.04 +0.44%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P20.75 -P0.05 -0.24%	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,762.00 —	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P535.00 +P7.00 +1.33%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P209.00 +P4.00 +1.95%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P207.60 -P1.40 -0.67%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P37.15 +P1.20 +3.34%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P8.75 -P0.04 -0.46%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P52.35 +P0.35 +0.67%	MER Manila Electric Co. P352.00 -P3.00 -0.85%
MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P7.81 -P0.09 -1.14%	NIKL Nickel Asia Corp. P5.45 -P0.03 -0.55%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P27.65 +P0.05 +0.18%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P29.70 +P0.70 +2.41%	SM SM Investments Corp. P833.50 +P28.50 +3.54%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P102.40 -P0.60 -0.58%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P31.00 +P0.60 +1.97%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,245.00 +P6.00 +0.48%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P111.30 +P1.20 +1.09%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P20.05 -P0.35 -1.72%

Meralco's third-quarter income up 59% to P10.6B

MANILA ELECTRIC CO. (Meralco) registered a third-quarter reported net income of P10.55 billion, a 58.9% increase from the P6.64 billion a year ago, the listed power distributor said on Monday.

The company's consolidated core net income for the July-to-September period rose by 66% to P10.82 billion from the P6.52 billion posted in the previous year.

For the nine months to September, Meralco's reported net income reached P28.4 billion, up by 44% from P19.76 billion in the same period last year.

Consolidated core net income likewise rose by 53% to P30 billion from P19.61 billion a year ago.

Betty C. Siy-Yap, Meralco's senior vice-president and chief finance officer, said in a briefing that the "power generation continues to provide significant contribution."

The positive results largely came from the P13.4-billion income contribution of PacificLight Power Pte. Ltd Singapore and the P2.9-billion income shared by San Buenaventura Power Ltd. Co.'s coal plant.

Moreover, the P1.3-billion income contribution of Global Business Power Corp. thermal plants and the P72-million profit from MGen Renewable Energy, Inc. — the renewable

energy arm of Meralco Power-Gen Corp. — also contributed to the increase.

On the consolidated revenues for the January-to-September period, Ms. Yap said that the figure reached P335.2 billion, 6% higher than the P314.9 billion last year "due to higher volumes distributed and higher pass-through charges."

Ronnie L. Aperocho, executive vice-president and chief operating officer of Meralco, said in a briefing that energy sales went up by 4% to 38,164 gigawatt-hours (GWh) as of September from 36,553 GWh in the same nine-month period last year.

"We observed the sustained upward trajectory in the volume of energy sold throughout the nine-period across all customer segments," Mr. Aperocho said.

"While we expect this to continue for the rest of the year, we also remain mindful of the upward trend in power rates with the anticipated increase in Malampaya gas prices and the continuing supply reduction of this gas field," he added.

Meanwhile, Meralco said that the total costs and expenses during the period rose by 3% to P307.52 billion versus P297.30 billion previously.

Purchased power cost went up by 5% to P248.8 billion from P237.8 billion, which Meralco attributed to the depreciation of peso and higher costs of replacement power for the capacities terminated by the operators of Ilijan and Sual power plants.

"Given the robust performance of practically all of our businesses, it is likely that Meralco will deliver another year of record earnings consistent with its long arc of earnings growth these past 14 years," said Meralco Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan.

"Beyond our traditional role of providing power and services to our customers at affordable

rates, Meralco takes to heart our overarching mission of improving people's welfare, in coordination with, and with the support of government," he added.

At the local bourse on Monday, shares in the company lost P3 or 0.85% to end at P352 apiece.

Meralco's controlling stakeholder, Beacon Electric Asset Holdings, Inc., is partly owned by PLDT Inc.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has an interest in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Shelden Joy Talavera**

Turkish group buys bid papers for NAIA upgrade

A TURKISH airport operator has joined seven other entities that have bought bidding documents for a project that will upgrade the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), the Transportation chief said.

"There are eight possible bidders. Last week, there was one company from Turkey [that] bought the bidding documents. We are now in the process of [arranging] one-on-one meetings with them. We are responding to their questions, to their queries," Transportation Secretary Jaime J. Bautista said in a forum facilitated by the Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines on Monday.

The Department of Transportation (DoTr) identified the Turkish airport operator "Limak Group" as the latest potential bidder for the rehabilitation of the country's main international gateway.

"In the aviation sector, on top of the list of projects is the public-private partnership (PPP) for the rehabilitation, operation, optimization and maintenance of [NAIA]," Mr. Bautista said.

The DoTr earlier said it had conducted one-on-one meetings with four prospective bidders and was in the process of arranging similar discussions with the other entities.

"We are expecting that they will be able to meet our deadline to submit their proposal by Dec. 27. As far as the bidding is concerned, all of them will submit the best and final offer by December and after that, we will evaluate the bidding and award by the first quarter of 2024," Mr. Bautista said.

According to its website, Turkey-based Limak Group is engaged in infra-

structure, aviation services and energy businesses.

Established in 1976, it said that among the projects it is currently undertaking are the Istanbul New Airport Project, the 1915 Canakkale Bridge and the Malkara-Canakkale Motorway in Turkey, Kuwait International Airport, and Volgograd International Airport in Russia.

According to the DoTr, the other potential bidders eyeing NAIA's rehabilitation are Incheon International Airport Corp., San Miguel Holdings Corp., Manila International Airport Consortium, Cengiz Insaat Sanayi ve Ticaret A.S., GMR Airports International, Spark 888 Management, and Asia Airport Consortium.

NAIA's rehabilitation aims to decongest the airport by helping improve its annual passenger capacity to 62 million from the current 35 million.

The winning bidder for the airport upgrade is required to pay an upfront amount of about P30 billion and an annual payment of P2 billion, plus a share of revenue, the draft concession agreement said.

According to the NAIA-PPP concession agreement, the contract term for the project is 15 years, extendable by another 10 years. The project will be a rehabilitate-operate-expand-transfer arrangement, as provided for under the Build-Operate-and-Transfer Law.

The DoTr has set the deadline for bid submission on Dec. 27. It has said that it expects to announce the winning bidder by the first quarter of 2024.

In August, the government invited bidders for the P170.6-billion public-private partnership to modernize and operate the main gateway airport. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

DigiPlus net income climbs past P1 billion

LISTED digital gaming company DigiPlus Interactive Corp. said its attributable net income surged 134.9% in the third quarter carried by higher revenues and new digital games on its platforms.

In a regulatory filing on Monday, DigiPlus said its net income attributable to the equity holders of the parent company for the July-to-September period increased to P1.01 billion from P428.79 million last year.

DigiPlus said its revenues rose 143.6% to P7.01 billion from P2.88 billion a year ago led by a surge in retail game revenue, which jumped 154.2% to P6.80 billion.

The company's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) rose 123% to P1.3 billion in the third quarter.

For the nine months to September, DigiPlus said its attributable net income surged to P2.08 billion from P172.37 million a year ago.

"This was driven by the robust performance of its digital retail gaming segment, the launch of new game offerings combined with cost efficiencies achieved as the business continues to gain scale," DigiPlus said.

The company's EBITDA during the nine-month period rose 390% to P2.5 billion.

DigiPlus said its revenues nearly tripled to P16 billion due to higher user traffic in the company's flagship livestreaming bingo game under the BingoPlus platform and digital sports betting under the ArenaPlus platform, carried by "aggressive advertising and promotion efforts."

"The sustained growth momentum in our BingoPlus and ArenaPlus platforms combined with the promising prospects for our new game offerings put us in a strong position to capture the opportunities around digital entertainment," DigiPlus President Andy Tsui said.

Meanwhile, DigiPlus said it would launch new game offerings in the coming months such as a cards game.

"We continue to be positive about our growth trajectory as we execute on our vision to harness technologies to unlock new forms of entertainment for Filipinos that can be accessed anytime and anywhere," Mr. Tsui said.

In September, DigiPlus launched its livestreaming specialty game Color Game, which mirrors the traditional carnival game. Color Game is available on the BingoPlus and ArenaPlus platforms.

DigiPlus is a digital entertainment company that has over 20 million combined users in its BingoPlus and ArenaPlus platforms.

On Monday, shares of DigiPlus at the local bourse rose 11 centavos or 1.62% to P6.90 apiece. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

SM Prime reports 35% jump in net income to P10.7 billion

LISTED property developer SM Prime Holdings, Inc. posted a 35% increase in its consolidated net income on the back of higher revenues.

In a regulatory filing on Monday, SM Prime said its consolidated net income for the July-to-September period rose to P10.7 billion from P7.9 billion last year.

The company's third-quarter consolidated revenues increased 20% to P32.7 billion from P27.3 billion last year, while its consolidated operating income climbed 17% to P15.6 billion from P13.3 billion.

For the three quarters to September, SM Prime said it logged a 37% increase in its consolidated net income to P30.1 billion from P22 billion a year ago, led by higher revenues from its mall and residential businesses.

The company's consolidated revenues from January to September rose 26% to P92.6 billion from P73.7 billion, while its consolidated operating income increased 29% to P44.5 billion.

SM Prime said its mall business, which took up 57% of total consolidated revenues, posted a 37% increase in revenue to P52.5 billion from P38.2 billion last year.

The property developer disclosed that its mall rental income rose 29% to P44.8 billion from P34.7 billion while its cinemas, event ticket sales, and other revenues increased 120% to P7.7 billion from P3.5 billion.

SM Prime's primary residential business, led by SM Development Corp. (SMDC), posted a 10% increase in its nine-month revenue to P28.7 billion from P26.1 billion.

For the third quarter alone, SM Prime's primary residential business recorded a 20% increase in its revenue to P11.1 billion from P9.3 billion.

"SMDC's reservation sales reached P89.3 billion in first three quarters of 2023, 6% higher than last year's P83.9 billion," SM Prime said.

SM Prime's other businesses such as offices, hotels, and convention centers recorded a 33% growth in nine-month revenues to P9.5 billion from P7.2 billion.

The company's office business segment logged P4.9 billion in revenues, 14% higher than last year, while the hotels and convention centers business segment's revenues totaled P4.6 billion, 64% higher than a year ago.

"Our strategic operations over the past months provided us remarkable results this quarter, which we expect to lead us to a stronger full-year performance. I would like to thank our customers and partners for their continued support that aim to deliver convenience and comfort to everyone," SM Prime President Jeffrey C. Lim said.

Shares of SM Prime at the local bourse rose 60 centavos or 1.97% to P31 each on Monday. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

8990 Holdings profit rises 4% to P2.4 billion

LISTED property developer 8990 Holdings, Inc. said its attributable net income for the third quarter rose 4% on the back of higher revenues.

In a stock exchange disclosure on Monday, 8990 Holdings said its net income attributable to the equity holders during the July-to-September period increased to P2.42 billion from P2.32 billion last year.

The company's consolidated revenues improved 1.12% to P7.06 billion from P6.98 billion, led by a 0.59% jump in its real estate operations revenue to P6.97 billion.

Revenue from hotel operations also went up 34% to P64.31 million from P47.99 million.

For the three quarters to September, 8990 Holdings said its attributable net income declined 1.53% to P6.20 billion from P6.29 billion due to higher operating expenses.

The company's consolidated revenues improved 0.54% to P17.12 billion from P17.03 billion a year ago, as revenue from hotel operations grew 83.4% to P184.88 million.

Revenue from real estate operations fell 0.02% to P16.882 billion from P16.885 billion last year.

"The increase [in revenues] was mainly attributable to the increased sales in National Capital Region, Bulacan and Davao," 8990 Holdings said.

"8990 Holdings' sales primarily comprise revenues received from its sales of low-cost mass housing units and subdivision lots, medium-rise and high-rise building housing units, as well as revenues derived from its rental and hotel operations," it added.

The company's consolidated operating expenses rose 4.32% to P2.43 billion from P2.33 billion a year ago.

Through its various subsidiaries, 8990 Holdings is a property developer that has business interests in low-cost mass housing, medium-rise condominiums, and high-rise buildings.

The company's subsidiaries include 8990 Housing Development Corp., 8990 Luzon Housing Development Corp., 8990 Mindanao Housing Development Corp., 8990 Davao Housing Development Corp., 8990 Leisure and Resorts Corp., and Fog Horn, Inc.

Shares of 8990 Holdings at the local bourse dropped five centavos or 0.55% to P8.99 apiece on Monday. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

8990
HOLDINGS, INC.