Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) 6,131.32 ▲53.29 PTS. ▲0.87%

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023 BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC	Ayala Corp.	P623.00	-P1.50	-0.24%
ACEN	ACEN Corp.	P5.44	-P0.01	-0.18%
AEV	Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc.	P46.95	+P0.90	+1.95%
AGI	Alliance Global Group, Inc.	P10.68	-P0.02	-0.19%
ALI	Ayala Land, Inc.	P28.00	-P0.10	-0.36%
BDO	BDO Unibank, Inc.	P133.20	+P3.20	+2.46%
BLOOM	Bloomberry Resorts Corp.	P9.58	+P0.26	+2.79%
BPI	Bank of the Philippine Islands	P104.00	+P4.00	+4%
CNPF	Century Pacific Food, Inc.	P28.70	-P0.10	-0.35%
CNVRG	Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.	P9.00	+P0.22	+2.51%
DMC	DMCI Holdings, Inc.	P9.16	-P0.06	-0.65%
EMI	Emperador, Inc.	P20.80	+P0.05	+0.24%
GLO	Globe Telecom, Inc.	P1,770.00	+P8.00	+0.45%
GTCAP	GT Capital Holdings, Inc.	P545.00	+P10.00	+1.87%
ICT	International Container Terminal Services, Inc.	P210.00	+P1.00	+0.48%
JFC	Jollibee Foods Corp.	P210.60	+P3.00	+1.45%
JGS	JG Summit Holdings, Inc.	P37.60	+P0.45	+1.21%
LTG	LT Group, Inc.	P8.78	+P0.03	+0.34%
MBT	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.	P52.70	+P0.35	+0.67%
MER	Manila Electric Co.	P364.40	+P12.40	+3.52%
MONDE	Monde Nissin Corp.	P7.90	+P0.09	+1.15%
NIKL	Nickel Asia Corp.	P5.49	+P0.04	+0.73%
PGOLD	Puregold Price Club, Inc.	P28.15	+P0.50	+1.81%
SCC	Semirara Mining and Power Corp.	P29.95	+P0.25	+0.84%
SM	SM Investments Corp.	P829.00	-P4.50	-0.54%
SMC	San Miguel Corp.	P104.00	+P1.60	+1.56%
SMPH	SM Prime Holdings, Inc.	P31.05	+P0.05	+0.16%
TEL	PLDT Inc.	P1,230.00	-P15.00	-1.2%
URC	Universal Robina Corp.	P112.40	+P1.10	+0.99%
WLCON	Wilcon Depot, Inc.	P20.00	-P0.05	-0.25%

PLDT Q3 income down; year-to-date profit up 1.4%

PANGILINAN-LED PLDT Inc. reported P9.43 billion in attributable net income for the third quarter (Q3), down 12% from P10.71 billion a year earlier, amid a challenging economic environment.

Still, the company considers its showing for the period as robust, said Alfredo S. Panlilio, president and chief executive officer of PLDT, at the company's press briefing on Tuesday.

"We had a very good third quarter. For some reason, it is still very strong," he said, adding that the company recorded strong revenues for the period.

In the third quarter, the company's combined revenues rose by 1.9% to P52.32 billion from P51.35 billion in the same period last year.

Service revenues accounted for the bulk of the quarter's combined revenues at P50.50 billion, up 2.6% from P49.22 billion a year ago. Non-service revenues declined by 14.6% to P1.82 billion from P2.13 billion previously.

Cost and expenses declined by 1.6% to P38.25 billion from P38.87 billion a year earlier.

Year to date, the company saw its attributable net income climb by 1.4% to P27.88 billion from P27.50 billion a year ago as its service revenues reached a historic high, Mr. Panlilio said.

For the nine months to September, the company recorded combined revenues of P156.36 billion, up 2.8% from P152.13 billion in the same period last year, its financial report showed.

Service revenues contributed the biggest share, accounting for P149.75 billion, a 2.8% increase from P145.72 billion last year.

Non-service revenues rose 45.3% to P6.42 billion from P4.42 billion in the same period in 2022.

"Now more than ever, we are witnessing how the power of technology and digital services impact Filipinos' standard of living, with innovations bringing convenience, comfort, productivity, and security to improve overall quality of life. Our mission at PLDT is to enable our countrymen with the tools and connectivity needed to enhance their digital lifestyles," Mr. Panlilio said.

PLDT is optimistic about ending the year with a robust performance, said Manuel V. Pangilinan, its chairman, adding that he is positive that the company will be able to perform well amid a "tough economic environment."

"The company has done reasonably well against a tough inflationary environment, relatively high interest rates, and a slowing economic growth," he said.

For the nine-month period, PLDT's EBITDA or earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization increased to an all-time high of P78.36 billion from P75.52 billion last year, which translated to a margin of 52%.

"The 52% is we're pushing for more revenues for managing costs to sustain the EBITDA margin. We're targeting high. Hopefully, we can reach 54-55% by increasing revenues," Mr. Panlilio said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Pangilinan said that Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) is in talks with San Miguel Corp. (SMC) on a possible collaboration or a joint venture that will focus on tollways.

"Yes, we are looking at other areas where we can cooperate, for example in the case of tollways. If we manage to combine two tollways, I think it will be a candidate to list in the stock exchange and it will be a significant company," he said.

Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC) is the tollways unit of MPIC.

Last month, Ramon S. Ang, president and chief executive officer of SMC, was elected to the board of MPIC after making an indirect investment in his personal capacity.

Separately, a unit of MPTC — MPCALA Holdings, Inc. — announced that the 3.9-kilometer Silang (Aguinaldo) Interchange of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX) will open on Wednesday.

The interchange is deemed crucial in decongesting highways in Cavite as it is expected to cater to an additional 5,000 motorists per day.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has a majority stake in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Petron earnings rise 16% on sustained volume growth

PETRON CORP. reported a nine-month consolidated net income of P9.5 billion, a 16% increase from last year's P8.2 billion, driven by sustained volume growth.

In a regulatory filing on Tuesday, the listed oil company said its consolidated revenues fell by 6.9% to P587.3 billion from the P631.1 billion previously due to an oil price correction from "extraordinarily elevated levels" brought on by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"We are seeing consistent growth in all areas of our business. Our wide reach, superior product quality, and reliable service have allowed us to sustain our good performance throughout the year, and maintain or even strengthen our market share in high-demand sectors," Petron President and Chief Executive Officer Ramon S. Ang said.

Petron said its operating income reached P27 billion, up 64% from P16.5 billion last year, driven largely by strong volume growth, allowing it to "absorb the more than 50% increase in financing cost."

Nine-month sales volume increased 16% to 93.6 million barrels from 80.4 million barrels in the same period a year ago.

For Petron's Philippine operations, sales volume went up by 20% to 42.7 million barrels from 35.5 million barrels last year.

Meanwhile, Petron's sales volume from its commercial business jumped by 12% as of September as it secured sales agreements while renewing ties with major airlines and flag carriers throughout the period.

Retail sales from the Philippines and Malaysia increased by 8% driven by higher demand for Petron's gasoline and diesel products.

"For nine decades, we have been more than just a brand... we have stood strong as the industry leader, creating opportunities for success defined by our value of *malasakit* (concern)," Mr. Ang said.

Petron, which is also a leading player in the Malaysian market, has a combined refining capacity of nearly 270,000 barrels a day. The company operates about 50 terminals in the region and has around 2,700 service stations where it sells gasoline and diesel.

The company has yet to report financial figures specific to the third quarter.

On Tuesday, shares in the company closed at P3.25 each. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

Bloomberry income jumps 20% amid higher revenues

RAZON-LED Bloomberry Resorts Corp. logged a 20% rise in its net income for the third quarter as net revenues increased.

In a regulatory filing on Tuesday, Bloomberry said its consolidated net income for the July-to-September period rose to P1.9 billion from P1.5 billion in the same quarter a year ago.

Bloomberry Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Enrique K. Razon, Jr. said the third quarter showed the "resilience of the Philippine gaming market."

Consolidated net revenues in the third quarter jumped 8% to P10.9 billion, while consolidated earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) rose 15% to P4.2 billion.

Total gross gaming revenues (GGR) at the company's Solaire Resort Entertainment City dropped 0.5% to P13.3 billion from P13.4 billion last year, while VIP rolling chip volume, mass table drop, and electronic gaming machine (EGM) coin-in, logged P146 billion, P13.9 billion, and P91.2 billion, equivalent to year-over-year growth of 10%, 31%, and 7%, respectively.

"While volumes across all gaming segments continued to grow from the previous year, fluctuations in the VIP and mass tables hold rate led to marginally lower total GGR," Bloomberry said. "Despite the quarter's weaker economic climate, domestic gaming demand remained strong."

Bloomberry added that Solaire Korea's Jeju Sun Hotel and Casino posted P14.7 million in GGR in the third quarter, up P10 million from the previous quarter.

The company's consolidated non-gaming revenues during the third quarter rose 23% to P2.3 billion.

"During the quarter, we saw the resilience of the Philippine gaming market as gaming volumes in our mass tables and EGM segments continued to expand on a sequential and year-over-year basis, despite the quarter's weaker-than-anticipated economic climate," Mr. Razon said.

"These mass-oriented gaming segments as well as our hotel, food and beverage, retail, and other segments continue to perform well above their pre-pandemic run rates and are testaments to the strength of our domestic customer base," he added.

Bloomberry's nine-month consolidated net income grew 106% to P8.3 billion from P4 billion a year ago.

"After removing the impact of a P356.6 million one-time gain on sale from the disposition of an asset in the second quarter, consolidated net income would have increased by 97%," Bloomberry said.

Bloomberry said its consolidated net revenues climbed 33% to P36.5 billion while its consolidated EBITDA went up 48% to P15.4 billion.

The company's consolidated GGR increased 26% to P44.5 billion from P35.4 billion last year.

"VIP, mass table, and EGM GGR were P15.1 billion, P14 billion, and P15.3 billion, representing year-over-year growth of 29%, 14%, and 35%, respectively. Strong domestic demand continued to prop up mass tables GGR and EGM GGR to well above nine months 2019 levels at 114% and 125%, respectively," Bloomberry said.

Bloomberry's consolidated non-gaming revenues in the first nine months rose 42% to P6.4 billion.

Meanwhile, Mr. Razon said that Bloomberry is looking to capitalize on its Solaire Resort North in Quezon City, which is being constructed and is set for completion by March next year.

"With the opening of our second property next year, we aim to capitalize on this domestic strength. At this time, the construction of Solaire Resort North is on schedule to be completed by March 2024," Mr. Razon said. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

San Miguel beer unit reports 20% climb in 9-month income to P19B

THE brewing unit of Ang-led San Miguel Corp. (SMC) recorded a 20.2% increase in its nine-month consolidated net income to P19.4 billion due to higher domestic and overseas sales volumes.

In a statement on Tuesday, San Miguel Brewery, Inc. (SMB) said its consolidated revenues increased 9.4% to P108.3 billion from P99 billion a year ago, while its consolidated operating income climbed 8.5% to P24.1 billion.

"SMB posted strong results for the first nine months of the year, driven mainly by higher volumes from both domestic and international operations, and a more positive business environment," the company said.

According to SMB, its domestic beer volumes expanded by 4.3%, led by "dynamic brand campaigns, targeted sales programs and a sustained economic recovery that saw more markets reopening amidst the backdrop of rising inflation and living costs."

The company added that its international sales rose 8.9% due to the stronger performance of its export business, as well as growth in the Hong Kong and South China markets.

On Tuesday, shares of SMB's parent firm, SMC, rose P1.60 or 1.56% to P104 apiece. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

GSIS subscribes to Alternergy's preferred shares for P1.45 billion

STATE PENSION fund Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) has subscribed to P1.45 billion worth of perpetual preferred shares of Alternergy Holdings Corp., the listed renewable energy company said on Tuesday.

"We are deeply honored to have GSIS as a cornerstone investor in Alternergy," said Alternergy Chairman Vicente S. Pérez, Jr. in a media release.

He said the state agency's support would hasten Alternergy's rollout of its "triple play" portfolio of wind, solar and run-of-river projects, "in line with the mission of GSIS in sustainable nation building."

The company said the subscription is through its Perpetual Preferred Shares 2 Series A via a private placement.

Alternergy President Gerry P. Magbanua said GSIS' equity infusion "will significantly boost" the company's equity base as part of its medium-term capital-raising program after its initial public offering (IPO) in March.

The company previously said it had allocated P720 million from the IPO proceeds to the predevelopment of six renewable energy projects with 183 megawatts (MW) of capacity covering wind, solar, and hydropower sources.

"Our growing commitment to sustainability propels us to build a solid investment portfolio of renewable energy (RE) infrastructure projects. Alternergy's strong emphasis on RE complements and supports this commitment," GSIS President and General Manager Jose Arnulfo A. Veloso said.

The energy company said Investment & Capital Corp. of the Philippines (ICCP) served as the financial adviser and sole placement manager for the private investment.

The private placement is targeted this year subject to certain regulatory approval by the Securities and Exchange Commission, it said.

"We are proud and honored to continue to support Alternergy as an emerging renewable energy player, and very thankful to the GSIS for its continued support," ICCP Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Valentino S. Bagatsing said.

In October, Alternergy said that it had obtained shareholder approval for the reclassification of its preferred shares of about 1.48 billion in a move aimed at raising capital for various projects.

The shares will be subdivided into two classifications, namely: "Perpetual Preferred Shares 1" amounting to about 1.18 billion; and nonvoting "Perpetual Preferred Shares 2" for the remaining 300 million.

The 300 million shares are broken down into Series A, B, and C of 100 million perpetual preferred shares per series.

For the first half, Alternergy registered a consolidated net income of P38 million, reversing its P145.2 million net loss in the same period last year.

Alternergy is targeting to develop up to 1,370 MW of renewable energy sources such as onshore and offshore wind, solar, and run-of-river hydropower.

At the local bourse on Tuesday, shares of the company went up by two centavos or 2.41% to close at P0.85 apiece. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**