Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) 6,155.03 ▲ 23.71 PTS. ▲ 0.38%

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023
BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC	Ayala Corp.	P623.50	+P0.50	+0.08%
ACEN	ACEN Corp.	P5.30	-P0.14	-2.57%
AEV	Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc.	P47.60	+P0.65	+1.38%
AGI	Alliance Global Group, Inc.	P10.70	+P0.02	+0.19%
ALI	Ayala Land, Inc.	P29.15	+P1.15	+4.11%
BDO	BDO Unibank, Inc.	P134.50	+P1.30	+0.98%
BLOOM	Bloomberry Resorts Corp.	P9.44	-P0.14	-1.46%
BPI	Bank of the Philippine Islands	P104.30	+P0.30	+0.29%
CNPF	Century Pacific Food, Inc.	P29.00	+P0.30	+1.05%
CNVRG	Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.	P8.90	-P0.10	-1.11%
DMC	DMCI Holdings, Inc.	P9.17	+P0.01	+0.11%
EMI	Emperador, Inc.	P20.80	——	
GLO	Globe Telecom, Inc.	P1,775.00	+P5.00	+0.28%
GTCAP	GT Capital Holdings, Inc.	P538.00	-P7.00	-1.28%
ICT	International Container Terminal Services, Inc.	P209.40	-P0.60	-0.29%
JFC	Jollibee Foods Corp.	P219.80	+P9.20	+4.37%
JGS	JG Summit Holdings, Inc.	P38.20	+P0.60	+1.6%
LTG	LT Group, Inc.	P8.85	+P0.07	+0.8%
MBT	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.	P53.20	+P0.50	+0.95%
MER	Manila Electric Co.	P372.00	+P7.60	+2.09%
MONDE	Monde Nissin Corp.	P7.90	——	
NIKL	Nickel Asia Corp.	P5.45	-P0.04	-0.73%
PGOLD	Puregold Price Club, Inc.	P28.25	+P0.10	+0.36%
SCC	Semirara Mining and Power Corp.	P29.65	-P0.30	-1%
SM	SM Investments Corp.	P819.00	-P10.00	-1.21%
SMC	San Miguel Corp.	P103.00	-P1.00	-0.96%
SMPH	SM Prime Holdings, Inc.	P30.90	-P0.15	-0.48%
TEL	PLDT Inc.	P1,230.00	——	
URC	Universal Robina Corp.	P112.70	+P0.30	+0.27%
WLCON	Wilcon Depot, Inc.	P20.00	——	

ALI profit up on business lines' strong showing

LISTED property developer Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI) posted a 33% increase in its attributable net income for the third quarter amid higher revenues.

In a regulatory filing on Wednesday, ALI said its net income attributable to equity holders for the July-to-September period rose to P7 billion from P5.26 billion last year.

The company's total revenues during the third quarter rose 0.08% to P32.29 billion from P32.26 billion last year.

For the three quarters to September, ALI logged a 38% increase in its attributable net income to P18.4 billion led by a surge in the revenues of the company's various business lines.

"The strong performance of our various business lines in the first nine months of 2023 is a testament to the continuing resilience of the residential market and vibrant consumer activity despite ongoing macroeconomic challenges," ALI President and Chief Executive Officer Anna Ma. Margarita Bautista-Dy said.

Consolidated revenues during the period rose 15% to P98.9 billion.

"This positive trend, guided by our new focus on quality, people, sustainability, and growth, will enable us to strengthen our diversified portfolio and further enhance earnings," Ms. Bautista-Dy said.

According to ALI, its property development revenues improved by 4% to P57.2 billion because of higher residential completion, stable bookings, and office unit sales. Residential revenues increased 4% to P47.5 billion, while office-for-sale revenues climbed 31% to P2.8 billion.

However, the company's revenues from commercial and industrial lots dropped 8% to P6.9 billion.

"Residential sales reservations in the first nine months increased by 11% year-on-year to P85.9 billion. Third-quarter sales reached P27.6 billion, adding to the P58.3 billion sales generated in the first half," ALI said.

"The in-demand projects during the period were Alveo's Park East Place in Bonifacio Global City, AyalaLand Premier's Ciela in Carmona, Cavite, Arcilo in Nuvali, Laguna, Parklinks South Tower in Quezon City, and Avida Towers Makati Southpoint," it added.

In the third quarter, ALI launched five new projects valued at P4.4 billion. These are AyalaLand Premier's Ayala Greenfield Estates Parkside Terraces Tranche 2, Andacillo Tranche 5, and Lanewood Hills Phase 3 Batch 3; Avida's first mid-rise condominium offering in Nuvali; Solara Park Storeys; and Amaia's Scapes Cabuyao Sector 4.

These developments put ALI's total launches this year to 11 projects pegged at P36.3 billion.

ALI said its commercial leasing revenues grew 32% to P30.8 billion on the back of improving occupancy and rents.

Shopping center revenues rose 40% to P15.7 billion led by higher occupancy and rents due to healthy operations, while office leasing revenues increased 7% to P8.8 billion because of stable occupancy and higher rents from its business process outsourcing and corporate tenant base.

Hotel and resort revenues went up 62% to P6.3 billion as higher domestic business travel and local tourist activity boosted occupancy and room rates.

In September, ALI launched the 789-hectare Southmont Estate in Silang, Cavite, bringing its total count to 50 estates nationwide. The estate will have a P12 billion initial development cost.

"We will continue to focus on high-value market opportunities and meeting our operating targets to sustain our momentum for the year," Ms. Bautista-Dy said.

On Wednesday, shares of ALI at the local bourse improved by P1.15 or 4.11% to P29.15 each. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Century Pacific Food income up 12.6% on higher revenues

PO-LED Century Pacific Food, Inc. on Wednesday reported that its attributable net income rose by 12.6% for the third quarter due to higher revenues and better commodity prices.

In a stock exchange disclosure, the company said profits reached P1.43 billion, up from P1.27 billion the prior year.

"Amidst headwinds, we saw domestic consumer demand for our brands and products remain resilient, underscoring the relevance of affordability and accessibility," Century Pacific Food Chief Financial Officer Richard Kristoffer S. Manapat said.

"We focused our programs towards value-for-money offerings and innovations," added Mr. Manapat, who is also the company's chief risk officer and chief information officer.

The company saw a 6.6% jump on its top line to P17.14 billion from P16.08 billion the previous year, driven by a 14% growth in its branded segment.

The branded business is composed of marine, meat, milk, and other emerging segments. It comprises the majority of revenues, the company said, describing it as its "strategic growth driver" that caters predominantly to the domestic market.

"Apart from a high base in 2022, the OEM (original equipment manufacturer) business was beset by softer markets in light of global inflation. Nonetheless, on a quarterly basis, sales were largely sustained," the company said.

Its OEM tuna segment and coconut exports fell by 15% from last year.

"We also continued to benefit from a diversified, all-weather portfolio, which allowed us to deliver a consistent growth performance for both the top line and the bottom-line despite a complex operating environment, Mr. Manapat added.

For the nine-month period, Century Pacific Food's attributable net income climbed to P4.63 billion, 9.7% higher than P4.22 billion the previous year.

The company's revenues went up by 7% to P50.45 billion from P46.95 billion in the same period last year.

It said the rise was due to a 12% growth in branded sales amid better domestic demand for "consumer staples and value for money goods." — **Adrian H. Halili**

FULL STORY

Read the full story by scanning the QR code or by typing the link <https://bit.ly/3MylxwE>

SMC foods, beverage unit posts 4% earnings increase

LISTED San Miguel Food and Beverage Inc. (SMFB) posted a 4% increase in its nine-month consolidated net income to P27.5 billion due to stronger sales.

SMFB said in a regulatory filing on Wednesday that its consolidated revenues rose 6% to P276.7 billion as it "continued to overcome economic challenges in the first nine months of the year."

The San Miguel Corp. (SMC) unit's earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) also expanded by 4% to P48.3 billion.

"Despite the constantly evolving market conditions, we remain committed to delivering sustained growth and value to all our stakeholders. Our confidence is rooted in the strength of our product portfolio and operational capabilities," SMFB President and Chief Executive Officer Ramon S. Ang said.

"More importantly, SMFB's commitment to contributing to the nation's food security remains as strong as ever, reflecting our dedication to playing a key role in our country's growth and development," Mr. Ang added.

According to SMFB, its beer business logged a 9% growth in consolidated sales to P108.3 billion, carried by stronger demand in both domestic and overseas markets.

Domestic sales increased 9% to P96.3 billion, while international operations generated a 9% revenue growth, led by exports, Hong Kong, and South China markets.

The consolidated EBITDA of SMFB's beer business rose 12% to P29.4 billion, while its consolidated net income jumped 20% to P19.4 billion.

Meanwhile, SMFB's spirits business maintained its track record of another high sales volume with a 13% revenue increase to P38.9 billion "as a result of strategic pricing and effective promotions, among others."

The EBITDA of the spirits business grew 48% to P7.4 billion, while its net income had a 62% increase to P5.5 billion.

SMFB also reported that its food business held steady amid inflationary pressures with a P129.4 billion revenue.

"The company's outlook remains positive with anticipated cost benefits from declining raw material prices," SMFB said.

Shares of SMFB fell five centavos or 0.10% to P50.75 apiece on Wednesday. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

D&L Industries earnings slip 33%

LISTED D&L Industries, Inc. logged a 33% drop in its third-quarter net income due to lower sales.

In a regulatory filing, the company said its net income for the July-to-September period dropped to P552 million from P822 million a year ago.

The company's sales fell 27% to P8.49 billion from P11.58 billion last year.

Meanwhile, D&L Industries logged a 29% drop in its nine-month net income to P1.79 billion from P2.54 billion last year.

The company said sales fell 27% to P24.72 billion compared with P33.91 billion a year ago as the figure has yet to reflect the potential of the new Batangas manufacturing plant, which started operations and issued its first invoice in July.

"The drop in earnings was mainly due to the challenging business environment with the lingering effects of high inflation coupled with the incremental expenses related to the commercial operations of its Batangas plant," D&L Industries said.

D&L Industries' Batangas plant caters to the company's growing businesses in the food and oleochemicals segments. The facility is expected to also boost its capability to produce downstream packaging.

"While incremental expenses are more apparent at the start of operations of a new plant, we have confidence that this will be a huge benefit to the company, as what we have seen multiple times over the past 60 years," D&L Industries President and Chief Executive Officer Alvin D. Lao said.

"We believe that there has never been a more exciting time for D&L. Our Batangas plant will allow us to explore opportunities that were previously beyond our existing capabilities. With the new plant, we will open new markets, expand our range of higher value-added products, and deepen innovations that will further push our boundaries," he added.

Separately, Mr. Lao said in a virtual briefing that D&L Industries and its subsidiary, Chemrez Technologies, Inc., have an opportunity with the government's plan to increase the mandated biodiesel blend to 3% from the current 2%.

"Recently, there's been a lot of talk, even from the President himself, saying it's time to consider a 3% (biodiesel) blend. For us, that's going to be positive for volumes, for the industry in general. It makes a lot of sense," Mr. Lao said.

"Plus, relying less on fossil fuels means lower pollution. It's also better value-added for our coconut oil," he added.

Shares of D&L Industries at the local bourse rose one centavo or 0.16% to P6.30 apiece. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

EEI sells 60% stake in subsidiary for P50 million

EEI Corp. said its board had approved the sale of its stake in subsidiary BiotechJP Corp. for P50 million to Earthman Consulting & Development Corp.

In a stock exchange disclosure on Wednesday, EEI said it had executed a deed of assignment on Nov. 7 with Earthman, which is engaged in agricultural business.

The listed construction company is assigning its 181,815 common shares in BiotechJP, which accounts for 60% of the total outstanding capital stock, to Earthman.

The sale of its BiotechJP interest is part of EEI's exit from its noncore business, it said.

In September, EEI announced that it was finalizing the terms and conditions of its planned divestment from BiotechJP, which is into food manufacturing and therapeutic food products.

Last month, the company said its board approved P743 million in additional investments in a unit of its subsidiary EEI Ltd., which will fund the latter's current and future projects.

EEI is primarily engaged in the construction of power-generating facilities, oil refineries, chemical production plants, rails, ports, expressways, and high-rise towers.

At the local bourse on Wednesday, shares in the company shed one centavo or 0.18% to end at P5.49 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Manila Water places more than 5,000 km of water pipeline

MANILA WATER Co., Inc. has placed 5,418.90 kilometers (km) of water pipeline within its service area in Metro Manila and Rizal province as of the second quarter, the east zone water concessionaire said.

In a release posted on its website, the company said it had laid an additional 55.17 km on top of the 5,362.73 km of water pipelines it placed since September last year.

The company said that aside from pipelaying more distribution lines, it has also laid reliability lines and replaced old primary lines to ensure continuity of water service, especially in emergency situations.

It has also implemented automation of network distribution facilities, improvement of pressure management, and service pipe replacement program to ensure network efficiency while maintaining nonrevenue water level below 15%.

Manila Water laid and maintained 464.63 km of sewer lines — providing sewer service to 287,934 accounts or 29.64% sewer coverage for the entire east zone.

"Water supply and sewer network expansion is truly essential to meet the pressing population growth in the country," said Jeric T. Sevilla, Jr., Manila Water's corporate strategic affairs group head.

"And as we anticipate that the demand for clean and potable water and the need for efficient wastewater services will continue to increase in the coming years, we will continue to invest not only to grow our water and sewer network but also to ensure reliability of the system and continuity of service for our customers," he added.

On Wednesday, shares of Manila Water went down by 14 centavos or 0.81% to P17.12 apiece.

The water concessionaire serves the east zone network of Metro Manila, covering parts of Marikina, Pasig, Makati, Taguig, Pateros, Mandaluyong, San Juan, portions of Quezon City and Manila, and several towns in Rizal province. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**