

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,183.63

▼ 28.26 PTS.

▼ 0.45%

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023

BusinessWorld

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| AC Ayala Corp. P647.00 — | ACEN ACEN Corp. P4.88 -P0.02 -0.41% | AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P47.25 +P0.05 +0.11% | AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P10.40 -P0.10 -0.95% | ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P29.85 +P0.15 +0.51% | BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P129.40 -P0.80 -0.61% | BLOOM Bloomerry Resorts Corp. P9.76 +P0.16 +1.67% | BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P104.00 -P1.50 -1.42% | CNPF Century Pacific Food, Inc. P29.85 +P0.85 +2.93% | CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P8.00 -P0.07 -0.87% |
| DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P9.20 -P0.05 -0.54% | EMI Emperador, Inc. P20.80 — | GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,720.00 +P2.00 +0.12% | GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P564.00 +P1.00 +0.18% | ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P212.00 +P1.00 +0.47% | JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P227.00 -P3.00 -1.3% | JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P38.70 +P0.30 +0.78% | LTG LT Group, Inc. P8.98 -P0.11 -1.21% | MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P51.50 -P0.60 -1.15% | MER Manila Electric Co. P377.20 -P0.80 -0.21% |
| MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P7.75 -P0.16 -2.02% | NIKL Nickel Asia Corp. P5.12 -P0.05 -0.97% | PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P28.45 -P0.05 -0.18% | SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P28.00 -P0.20 -0.71% | SM SM Investments Corp. P829.00 -P26.00 -3.04% | SMC San Miguel Corp. P107.00 +P3.50 +3.38% | SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P31.70 +P0.20 +0.63% | TEL PLDT Inc. P1,246.00 +P6.00 +0.48% | URC Universal Robina Corp. P113.50 +P1.70 +1.52% | WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P19.90 +P0.10 +0.51% |

AEV, partner agree to buy Coca-Cola PHL for \$1.8B

By **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**
Reporter

CEBU-BASED conglomerate Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. (AEV) entered into a definitive agreement with Coca-Cola Europacific Partners Plc. (CCEP) to jointly acquire Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc. (CCBPI) from The Coca-Cola Co. (TCCC) for \$1.8 billion.

In a regulatory filing on Monday, AEV said the acquisition of CCBPI

is valued at \$1.8 billion on a debt-free, cash-free basis. CCBPI is the exclusive bottler and distributor of TCCC products in the Philippines.

Once closed, CCEP will own 60% of CCBPI while AEV will get the remaining 40%. The transaction is expected to close in the first quarter of next year.

"The proposed acquisition would build on AEV's portfolio diversification strategy to enter the branded consumer goods space. AEV is well positioned to support CCBPI's growth ambition due to the synergies which could be gen-

erated from AEV's other business interests in the country," AEV said.

"The proposed acquisition would also build on CCEP's successful expansion into Australia, Pacific, and Indonesia in 2021. Further updates will be provided in due course," it added.

AEV said the transaction is undergoing various customary closing conditions, including the approval from the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC).

The company also said the final cash consideration would be subject to cash, debt-like items,

and working capital adjustments at the completion of the transaction, while the shareholders' agreement between CCEP and AEV with comprehensive governance terms would take effect after the deal is closed.

In August, AEV announced its plan to jointly acquire CCBPI, in partnership with CCEP, which offers a "great opportunity to co-acquire an established, well-run business with attractive profitability and growth prospects."

Sought for comment, BDO Capital and Investment Corp.

President Eduardo V. Francisco said the move would help diversify AEV's revenue streams.

"It should help Aboitiz diversify its revenue streams as [its] power [unit] currently is so large. Aboitiz can also use its nationwide reach to obtain synergies with Coca-Cola," Mr. Francisco said in a Viber message.

"AEV is only 40% so they won't drive the business. It is their partner, CCEP, who will control and run it," he added.

The conglomerate recently said its power segment, Aboitiz

Power Corp., accounted for 70% of its overall P18-billion net income as of September this year.

Aside from the planned acquisition of CCBPI, AEV has an existing presence in the food business through subsidiaries Pilmico Foods Corp., Pilmico Animal Nutrition Corp., and Pilmico International Pte. Ltd.

FULL STORY

Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link < <https://bit.ly/47Hbnyv> >

PAL set to add more Manila-Toronto flights

FLAG CARRIER Philippine Airlines (PAL) will add more flights to its Manila to Toronto, Canada route starting on April 5 next year to meet growing demand.

In a statement on Monday, PAL said it would introduce a third weekly nonstop frequency on its Manila-Toronto route to cater to increasing demand to and from the Canadian east coast region.

PAL's Manila-Toronto-Manila routes will have the following schedule: PR118 Manila-Toronto (Wednesday/Friday/Sunday) leaving Manila at 04:35 p.m. and arriving in Toronto at 8 p.m. on the same day, and PR119 Toronto-Manila (Wednesday/Friday/Sunday) leaving Toronto at 11:30 p.m. and arriving in Manila at 3:45 a.m. (plus two days).

Currently, PAL's twice-weekly service departs every Wednesday and Sunday from Manila and Toronto.



PHILSTAR/EDD GUMBAN

"The resulting 50% increase in capacity aims to meet growing travel demand to and from the Canadian East Coast region, as part of a long-term investment by the Philippine flag carrier in developing business and tourist travel flows between Canada and the Philippines," PAL said.

PAL operates the Toronto route with the Airbus A350-900 which carries 295 passengers across a tri-class layout with 30 pas-

sengers in business class, 24 in premium economy, and 241 in economy.

"Our expansion of flights to Toronto highlights the importance of the Canadian market in the Philippine Airlines network. We want to make it easier for businesses to establish commercial relations, for Canadians to plan holiday trips to the Philippines, and for Filipino Canadians to visit their families back in the homeland," PAL Chief Commercial Officer Eric David Anderson said.

"Canada is among the top 10 sources of foreign tourists to the Philippines, with more than 180,000 Canadians visiting the Philippines during the first ten months of 2023. Additionally, the new frequencies will bolster connectivity between Southeast Asia and Canada via PAL's Manila hub," he added. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**



SNOWING/FREEPIK

FLI says 10-year retail bonds now completely paid

LISTED property developer Filinvest Land, Inc. (FLI) said on Monday that it had completed the payment of its 10-year fixed-rate retail bonds.

In a regulatory filing, FLI said the payment of the retail bonds reached a total of P2.7 billion.

"The bonds, which were issued by the company on Nov. 8, 2013 matured on Nov. 8, 2023," FLI said.

In a separate regulatory filing, FLI said it had also completed the payment of its three-year fixed-rate retail bonds with an aggregate amount of P6.34 billion.

"The bonds, which were issued by the company on Nov. 18, 2020 matured on Nov. 18, 2023," FLI said.

According to FLI, both bonds were paid through the company's paying agent, the Philippine Depository & Trust Corp.

FLI's nine-month attributable net income rose 22% to P2.44 billion. The company's total consolidated revenues and other income also improved 11% to P15.72 billion carried by growth from its residential and mall business segments.

Shares of FLI at the local bourse fell two centavos or 3.45% to 56 centavos on Monday. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Spain's Acciona eyes opportunities in building PHL desalination plants

SPANISH infrastructure company Acciona S.A. is exploring opportunities in building desalination plants in the Philippines amid the need to increase water supply, its director said.

"We are analyzing opportunities to see and definitely we are open [to] plans to build desalination plants in the Philippines. We have good partnerships," Rubén Camba, Acciona's director of infrastructure in Southeast Asia, told *BusinessWorld* on the sidelines of a project launch last week.

"We are open to explore — definitely — options," he said.

According to Mr. Camba, the water supply in the Philippines has "room for improvement because the population has [been] growing. There will be more water demand."

He is hopeful to see the construction of more dams and water treatment plants that will supply enough water to meet increasing demand.

"Apart from dams, apart from water treatment plants in the future, we foresee the need for desalination plants. That's something we [have] seen to be useful in the Philippines because it's an archipelago surrounded by sea," he said.

At present, the company has been awarded three water projects in the Philippines. These are the Putatan 2 water treatment plant in Muntinlupa, which was turned over to Maynilad Water Services, Inc. in 2020, and the Laguna Lake water treatment plant, which it built as part of a consortium with a capacity of 15,000 cubic meters per day.

In July, Acciona was tapped by Manila Water

Co., Inc. to build the second phase of its East Bay 2 drinking water treatment plant in a consortium with Prime Metro BMD Corp. and Santa Clara International.

Last week, the company, through its corporate foundation, launched the expansion of its "Light at Home" project, which will install 1,200 solar systems in Brgy. Teneguiban, an off-grid coastal village in El Nido, Palawan.

The project is in partnership with the Ayala Foundation and financial assistance from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation of about €569,657 or P34 million.

The initiative is also in collaboration with companies Ten Knots Philippines and AirSWIFT. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

SNAP, Napocor tie up to protect Benguet watershed area

NORWEGIAN-FILIPINO power company SN Aboitiz Power Group or SNAP has partnered with state-led National Power Corp. (Napocor) for the conservation of a 1,000-hectare watershed area in Benguet province.

Under the memorandum of agreement, the company will adopt the 1,000-hectare watershed area within a 2.5-kilometer radius of the Ambuklao and Binga reservoirs.

"The adoption of the watershed area will harmonize SNAP's watershed man-

agement programs to ensure greater conservation and protection of the Upper Agno River Watershed," the company said in a statement.

SNAP is a joint venture between AboitizPower Corp. and Norwegian firm Scatec.

The agreement covers forest fire protection, rehabilitation and restoration activities, agroforestry, and riverbank stabilization.

The signing was led by SNAP President and Chief Executive Officer Jo-

seph S. Yu and Napocor President and Chief Executive Fernando Martin Y. Roxas at the agency's head office in Quezon City.

According to SNAP, the agreement is aligned with Napocor's Energy Sector Carbon Sequestration Initiative for the rapid rehabilitation of open and depleted areas in its watersheds.

SNAP agreed to rehabilitate and maintain 50 hectares within the Upper Agno River Watershed, of which 20 hectares have been completed.

In 2008, Napocor turned over to SNAP the ownership and operation of the 112.5-megawatt (MW) Ambuklao and 140-MW Binga hydroelectric power facilities under the government's privatization program.

The dams and reservoirs remain under Napocor's ownership and management.

The two entities have been partners in watershed and environmental initiatives since the signing of a technical cooperation agreement in 2010. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

ACEN's retail electricity arm to supply renewable energy to Zuellig Pharma

AYALA-LED ACEN Corp. through its retail electricity unit inked a deal with Zuellig Pharma Corp. to supply renewable energy to the healthcare services provider's two major distribution facilities.

In a media release on Monday, ACEN Renewable Energy Solutions (ACEN RES) said that it would power Zuellig Pharma's Santa Rosa and Canlubang distribution centers in Laguna.

The company did not provide details on the capacity covered by the supply deal.

"ACEN is thrilled to join forces with Zuellig Pharma, a company that shares our robust commitment to sustainability. We are proud to support Zuellig Pharma by powering their operations with clean, renewable energy," said Roman Miguel G. de Jesus, ACEN's chief operating officer for Philippines operations.

According to ACEN, the partnership falls under the government's retail and open access or RCOA scheme.

Under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, qualified contestable customers, or end-users consuming at least 500 kilowatts a month, may choose their power suppliers through RCOA.

"The switch to renewable energy for two key distribution facilities in the Philippines is an important milestone for us, as we work towards reducing our

impact on the environment and our carbon footprint across our operations and supply chains," said Jannette Jakosalem, Zuellig Pharma Philippines market managing director.

"This is a clear testament to our dedication in combating climate change. We have a long-standing commitment to build a healthier and more sustainable future for all in Asia and will continue our efforts in making an impact on climate action," she added.

With the shift to 100% renewable energy from ACEN, the distribution centers combined will reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by 10,600 tons a year, ACEN said.

In the third quarter, ACEN reported an attributable net income of P2.33 billion, 20.1% higher than the P1.94 billion in the same quarter last year.

The company's gross revenues declined by 11.8% to P8.18 billion from P9.27 billion a year earlier.

To date, ACEN has around 4,200 megawatts of attributable capacity spread across the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, India, and Australia. The energy company is targeting to expand its renewable energy portfolio to 20 gigawatts by 2030.

At the local bourse on Monday, shares of the company went down by two centavos or 0.41% to close at P4.88 each. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**