

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,462.80

▼ 38.20 PTS.

▼ 0.58%

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2023

BusinessWorld

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P693.50 -P21.00 -2.94%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P4.16 +P0.01 +0.24%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P49.30 -P0.85 -1.69%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P10.00 +P0.25 +2.56%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P34.30 +P0.20 +0.59%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P128.60 -P1.40 -1.08%	BLOOM Bloomerry Resorts Corp. P9.79 -P0.01 -0.1%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P103.50 -P0.60 -0.58%	CNPF Century Pacific Food, Inc. P31.00 ---	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P8.49 +P0.23 +2.78%
DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P9.40 ---	EMI Emperador, Inc. P20.70 -P0.05 -0.24%	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,702.00 -P11.00 -0.64%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P573.00 -P7.00 -1.21%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P239.00 -P1.00 -0.42%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P247.00 -P3.00 -1.2%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P40.20 -P0.50 -1.23%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P8.85 -P0.09 -1.01%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P51.50 +P0.70 +1.38%	MER Manila Electric Co. P393.00 +P5.00 +1.29%
MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P8.15 -P0.22 -2.63%	NIKL Nickel Asia Corp. P5.14 +P0.09 +1.78%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P27.00 -P0.85 -3.05%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P29.50 +P1.15 +4.06%	SM SM Investments Corp. P889.00 -P15.50 -1.71%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P109.90 -P1.10 -0.99%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P33.40 +P0.30 +0.91%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,273.00 +P3.00 +0.24%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P115.70 +P0.70 +0.61%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P20.60 -P0.90 -4.19%

First Gen, Prime Infra sign LNG terminal lease

FIRST GEN Corp. and Prime Infrastructure Capital, Inc., through their subsidiaries, signed a 15-year lease agreement over the former's liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage and regasification terminal in Batangas City.

In a stock exchange disclosure on Wednesday, the Lopez-led energy company said the agreement was inked between FGEN LNG Corp. and Gas Aggregator Philippines, Inc. with the effectivity dependent "upon the satisfaction of a number of conditions precedent."

"The lease of the FGEN LNG Terminal will form part of Prime Infra's proposed gas aggregation strategy that will enable it to deploy a tolling business model, which will in turn allow it to leverage on its existing Malampaya project facilities and its expertise in the natural gas market," the company said.

Prime Energy Resources Development B.V., a subsidiary of Prime Infra, holds a 45% operating stake in the Malampaya

consortium. Gas Aggregator is a subsidiary of Prime Infra.

The Malampaya gas field, the country's sole natural gas provider, is expected to be depleted by 2027.

In May, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. signed an agreement with the representatives of the Malampaya consortium renewing Service Contract 38 covering the Malampaya gas field until 2039.

Prime Energy said last week that the planned expenditure in 2024 for the drilling of at least two deepwater wells in Camago

and Malampaya East fields is about \$187 million.

This includes the procurement of drilling equipment, subsea equipment and umbilicals, pipelines, and securing a drilling rig.

In June, First Gen and Prime Infra inked a memorandum of understanding for the proposed lease and operation of the LNG terminal.

Last week, First Gen said it had awarded a contract to TotalEnergies Gas & Power Asia Pte. Ltd. (TEGPA) for an LNG cargo after a successful tender.

TEGPA will supply an LNG cargo of around 154,500 cubic meters for delivery in early February 2024 to First Gen's subsidiary First Gen Singapore Pte. Ltd.

The cargo will be delivered by an LNG carrier, which will be unloaded into the storage tanks of the BW Batangas floating storage regasification unit (FSRU).

The FSRU is berthed at the First Gen Clean Energy Complex in Batangas City. The LNG will be used by FGEN's existing gas-fired power plants in the complex.

FGEN LNG has approximately 2,000 megawatts (MW) in operating gas assets composed of four gas-fired power plants, which are the 1,000 MW Sta. Rita power plant, the 500-MW San Lorenzo power plant, the 414-MW San Gabriel power plant, and the 97-MW Avion power plant.

At the local bourse on Wednesday, shares of First Gen went down by P0.26 or 1.51% to close at P17 apiece. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

Meralco's Pangilinan takes over SPNEC

MANUEL V. Pangilinan, chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), has taken over the Leviste-led SP New Energy Corp. (SPNEC) after the completion of a P15.9-billion investment.

In a regulatory filing on Wednesday, SPNEC said that MGEN Renewable Energy, Inc. (MGreen) had given the balance payment of about P8.89 billion to complete the acquisition.

Following the transaction, MGreen will own 15.7 billion common shares and 19.4 billion preferred shares in SPNEC, translating to a total voting interest of 50.5%.

MGreen is the renewable energy development arm of Meralco Powergen Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of Meralco.

Also on Wednesday, SPNEC said that its board of directors approved the appointment of Mr. Pangilinan as chairman, president, and chief executive of SPNEC, and Leandro Antonio L. Leviste as vice-chairman.

SPNEC also appointed Amanda Roselle A. Bengson as director, chief compliance officer, and corporate secretary; Pedro Emilio O. Roxas as independent director; Dominador M. Camu Jr. as chief operating officer; Anthony Matthew N. Co as assistant treasurer; and Jo Marianni P. Ocampo as assistant corporate secretary.



"All of us shareholders are extremely fortunate for this opportunity. We are optimistic that becoming the newest member of the MVP Group of Companies will help SPNEC grow even beyond what we have planned, for the benefit of all shareholders and other stakeholders," Mr. Leviste said.

Earlier, Solar Philippines Power Project Holdings, Inc. sold 1.6 billion shares of its secondary shares to Mr. Pangilinan's Metro Pacific Investment Corp. for P2 billion.

The two entities signed a deal to sell up to 7.4 billion secondary shares for up to P9.25 billion. Based on 50.1 billion shares outstanding, this would value SPNEC at P63 billion.

In October, MGreen signed an investment agreement with SPNEC and Solar Philippines to develop a solar and battery energy storage systems project.

Under the agreement, SPNEC will serve as the primary vehicle to develop 3,500 megawatts (MW) of solar panels and 4,000 MW of battery energy storage systems in Luzon.

Meralco has estimated the project cost of the solar projects that the parties intend to pursue to reach P200 billion.

"It's a big project. It has attracted a lot of interest from foreign investors because it's big. It's transformative for the Philippines," Mr. Pangilinan said.

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. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

ACEN acquires two firms under Yoma Micro Power

AYALA-LED ACEN Corp., through its subsidiary, took over two companies under Yoma Micro Power Pte. Ltd. to provide solar power to telecommunication towers as well as commercial and industrial sectors.

In a regulatory filing on Wednesday, ACEN said that Belenos Energy Corp. acquired YMP Telecom Power, Inc. and its affiliate YMP Industrial Power, Inc. on Dec. 22 by purchasing 100% of the outstanding shares held by Yoma.

The shares were bought at a price "less than 10% of the book value of ACEN," the company said.

Meanwhile, ACEN has also agreed to lend up to P200 million to YMP Telecom to fund the latter's development costs of certain energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

In July, the company said its executive committee had approved the proposed joint venture with the Norwegian Investment Fund and investment into YMP.

On its website, YMP described itself as a leading company in Southeast Asia engaged in distributed renewable energy that encourages telecom operators and tower companies to decarbonize.

The company designs, procures, installs, and maintains solar and solar-hybrid power plants to allow telecom companies to save on diesel, YMP said.

ACEN has approximately 4,430 megawatts of attributable capacity spanning the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, India, and Australia.

On Wednesday, shares of the company went down by five centavos or 1.2% to close at P4.10 apiece. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

Manila Water unit fined

MANILA Water Co., Inc. told the local bourse on Wednesday that its subsidiary Clark Water Corp. (CWC) paid a P1.06 million fine for violation of the Republic Act No. 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004 and its implementing rules and regulations on effluent standards.

The east zone concessionaire said the Pollution Adjudication Board-Department of Environment and Natural Resources (PAB-DENR) found 106 days of violation of effluent standards from July 7, 2020 to Feb. 23, 2022.

PAB-DENR imposed the minimum penalty of P10,000 per day.

The Philippine Water Act aims to protect the country's water bod-

ies from pollution from land-based sources.

"CWC has implemented necessary measures and has been compliant with the General Effluent Standards on the Oil and Grease Parameters since 2022," Manila Water said.

At the local bourse on Wednesday, shares of Manila Water went down by P0.24 or 1.3% or P18.16 apiece.

The water concessionaire serves Metro Manila's east zone network, which comprises Marikina, Pasig, Makati, Taguig, Pateros, Mandaluyong, San Juan, portions of Quezon City and Manila, and several towns of nearby Rizal province. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

Maynilad, JGC-Hitachi consortium to upgrade five wastewater facilities

MAYNILAD Water Services, Inc. has awarded a P998-million contract to the consortium of JGC Philippines, Inc. and Hitachi Asia, Ltd. to upgrade five of its sewage treatment plants (STPs) in Metro Manila.

The west-zone concessionaire said the project would ensure that the treated wastewater discharged by the STPs complies with the revised effluent standards of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

The STPs are those located in Bagbag, Congressional, Project 7, and Tatalon in Quezon City; and in Paco, Manila.

Maynilad has allocated more than P3 billion to upgrade 17 of its existing 22 STPs over the next five years.

The STP upgrade is part of the company's P178-billion wastewater manage-

ment spending plan from 2023 to 2046 in a bid to expand sewer coverage and manage pollution loading in bodies of water.

The company said that this will guarantee "adherence to legal requirements while enhancing customer service and protecting the environment."

Under a department administrative order released in 2021, the DENR updated the water quality guidelines for selected parameters based on the current classification of water bodies and their beneficial use.

Effluent standards have also been updated for selected parameters based on the perceived impact on the activities in the area and on the environment.

Maynilad serves Manila, except portions of San Andres and Sta. Ana. It also op-

erates in Quezon City, Makati, Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas, and Malabon.

It also supplies the cities of Cavite, Bacoor, and Imus, and the towns of Kawit, Noveleta, and Rosario, all in Cavite province.

Metro Pacific Investments Corp., which has a majority stake in Maynilad, is one of three Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., the others being Philex Mining Corp. and PLDT Inc.

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