

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,602.52 ▲ 103.64 PTS. ▲ 1.59%

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2024
BusinessWorld

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P725.00 +P19.00 +2.69%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P4.24 -P0.11 -2.53%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P49.90 +P0.90 +1.84%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P11.40 +P0.08 +0.71%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P34.80 +P0.55 +1.61%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P130.60 +P4.40 +3.49%	BLOOM Blossom Resorts Corp. P10.20 +P0.14 +1.39%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P104.00 +P0.50 +0.48%	CNPF Century Pacific Food, Inc. P31.00 ---	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P9.10 +P0.59 +6.93%
DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P10.00 +P0.08 +0.81%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P20.75 +P0.05 +0.24%	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,721.00 -P2.00 -0.12%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P601.50 +P4.00 +0.67%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P255.40 +P5.60 +2.24%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P256.00 +P1.40 +0.55%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P41.30 +P1.30 +3.25%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P9.00 -P0.08 -0.88%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P53.90 +P0.85 +1.6%	MER Manila Electric Co. P397.00 +P3.00 +0.76%
MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P8.57 +P0.02 +0.23%	NIKL Nickel Asia Corp. P5.18 -P0.07 -1.33%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P27.15 -P0.05 -0.18%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P29.90 -P0.40 -1.32%	SM SM Investments Corp. P880.00 +P1.00 +0.11%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P109.80 -P0.20 -0.18%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P33.70 +P1.45 +4.5%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,284.00 +P12.00 +0.94%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P122.00 +P2.10 +1.75%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P23.00 +P0.40 +1.77%

Meralco eyes bids for 660-MW power capacity



MANILA Electric Co. (Meralco) has started seeking bidders for 660 megawatts (MW) of capacity as it expects power demand to increase in the summer months.

In a statement on Thursday, the power distributor said the capacities up for bidding will cover its 260-MW peaking requirement and 400-MW baseload requirement this year.

Meralco's share price rose by 0.76% or P3 to close at P397 each.

The Department of Energy has issued a certificate of conformity for the interim power supply deals.

Meralco said the competitive selection process "considers the need for additional available capacities to augment supply to customers."

Under the setup, distribution utilities must choose the cheapest electricity supply through bidding. Bidders have until Jan. 15 to submit expressions of interest.

A pre-bid conference will be held on Jan. 22, while the deadline to submit bids for the 260-MW and 400-MW capacities was set for Feb. 26 and 27, respectively.

Last year, Meralco started seeking bidders for 1,800-MW and 1,200-MW baseload capacities. The 1,800-MW competitive selection process aims to find new suppliers for electricity that was supposed to be supplied by the two units of San Miguel Power Global Holdings Corp. — Excellent Energy Resources, Inc. and Masinloc Power Partners Co. Ltd.

Their contracts with Meralco were terminated in March after their power supply agreement application went past the deadline.

Excellent Energy and Masinloc Power were supposed to start delivering electricity by 2024 and 2025 after securing the supply contracts in 2021.

Six entities expressed interest in the bidding for the 1,800-MW capacity — GNPower Dinginin Ltd. Co., First NatGas Power Corp., SP New Energy Corp., Mariveles Power Generation Corp., Excellent Energy, and Masinloc Power.

Meanwhile, the 1,200-MW capacity is meant to replace the terminated power supply deals with South Premiere Power Corp., So-

lar Philippines Batangas Baseload Corp., and Sual Power, Inc., used to be called San Miguel Energy Corp.

The bid deadline for the 1,800-MW capacity was on Dec. 26, and Jan. 23 for the 1,200-MW supply.

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**

A Brown unit to start P700-million e-beam facility in March

A UNIT of listed A Brown Co. is expected to finish the construction of the country's first electron beam (e-beam) cold storage facility in Tanay, Rizal in March.

In a statement on Thursday, the company said unit Irradiation Solutions, Inc. would start commercial operations in March with the launch of the P700-million e-beam cold storage facility.

The facility is in the equipment installation and commission phase. Once completed, it has the capacity to decontaminate and sterilize 20,000 tons of food products and medical devices annually.

E-beam technology offers a cost-effective and safe method for treating goods, according to A Brown.

"E-beam technology is recognized for its environmental friendliness, leaving no chemical residues, and is scientifically proven effective in decontaminating food and sterilizing medical equipment," it said.

"The technology ensures high product throughput and stands as a sustainable alternative to traditional heat and chemical treatments," it added.

The construction of the facility is in line with Irradiation Solutions' vision of becoming a cornerstone for the Philippine economy, A Brown said. "It is designed to enhance the operations of local businesses and ensure product compliance with international export requirements."

Irradiation Solutions President Paul B. Juat remains optimistic despite delays in the facility's completion due to weather and supply chain disruptions, it said.

The facility started construction in April 2022, with commercial operations initially expected to begin by the third quarter of last year.

"Our team's resilience has kept us on track," Mr. Juat said. "We are confident that the completion of this project will significantly improve the Philippines' export capabilities. This is significant for the Philippine fruit and fisheries sector, which faces challenges in adhering to stringent international standards of product quality and safety."

A Brown Chairman Walter Brown said the facility would empower local businesses and help them tap foreign markets.

"We're looking forward to the operational phase of our facility," he said. "Our goal is to empower local businesses, helping them reach international markets more effectively. This facility is not just an investment in technology; it's an investment in the Philippine economy and its people."

Shares of A Brown, a real estate company with mixed-use, nature-themed developments in Mindanao and Luzon, gained 4.62% or three centavos to 68 centavos each. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

SEC warns public vs investing in OKPB and Goldia

THE Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has warned the public against investing in two entities that it said are not authorized to issue and sell securities in the Philippines.

In separate advisories posted on its website, the corporate regulator flagged One IKey Progress Booster, Inc. (OKPB) and Goldia by Shine, which are both registered with the commission.

The certificates of registration of the two entities only grant juridical personality but do not empower them to sell securities without an approved registration statement, the SEC said.

It added that people or groups claiming to represent Power Apps under the registration of OKPB were urging the public to invest by paying a P1,000 membership fee.

"Once registered, the member becomes part of the second business of OKPB which they refer to as 'quest,' whereby an investment of P5,000 will guarantee a return of 50% in just 15 days," it said. "There is no proof of the invested money. However, the names are written on the logbook with the corresponding amount invested."

The SEC said OKPB uses a scheme where investors could also invest P100,000 and earn 300% to 400% interest after five to 10 days.

"Investors were advised that the operation will only last until the end of this year, but assured the members that their shares will be transferred to a new company and that it will still earn but not as much as 50% of the investment made," the regulator said.

"Allegedly, this is to get away from paying big taxes to the Bureau of Internal Revenue," it added.

Meanwhile, the SEC said Goldia by Shine, which is under the registered license of Fujesan Distribution Corp., claims to be selling jewelry from Hong Kong and Bangkok at low prices.

The entity allegedly offers compensation plans with investments ranging from P20,000 to P300,000 with a promise of return of 5-8% monthly interest.

"The public is made aware that an investment contract, which is a kind of security, exists when there is an investment or placement of money in a common enterprise with a reasonable expectation of profits to be derived from the efforts of others, which is prominent in the scheme of Goldia by Shine," the SEC said. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Multiple plant trippings isolate Panay grid, NGCP renews call for whole-of-industry approach to stabilize supply

Grid operator NGCP renews its call for a whole-of-industry approach, including better energy resource planning, following the January 2 power outage due to tripping of multiple power plants which isolated Panay island from the rest of the Visayas grid.

"The unscheduled maintenance shutdowns of the largest power plants in Panay island was the primary cause of the power interruption. We emphasize the need for improved planning to ensure sufficient generation per island, with a well-balanced mix of fuels and technology," NGCP said.

In an earlier statement, NGCP reported that various power plants in Panay Island suffered multiple trippings on January 2, including PEDC Unit 1 and 2 (83 MegaWatts each), and PCPC (135MW), among others. With the tripping of 3 of the largest power generating units and the planned maintenance shutdown of PEDC Unit 3 (150MW), 451MW or 68.75% of the total 656MW in-land generation was lost to the Panay sub-grid.

Maintenance shutdowns and deration of plants outside the Department of Energy's (DOE) approved Grid Operating and Maintenance Program also contributed to the lack of power supply.

As of 9:30PM of January 2, only 4 out of 13 power plants are producing 40.3MW or 6.2% of the 83.5MW

demand of Panay island. The grid needs about 300MW to stabilize the system.

"We will be restoring loads conservatively, by matching loads to restored generation, to prevent repeated voltage failure. NGCP is ready to transmit power once it is available. The people must understand that we can only transmit power, we do not generate power," stated the company.

NGCP notes that the factors outlined in its letter to the Iloilo City government dated 11 May 2023 still exist as contributing elements to the power outage on 02 January.

In its letter, NGCP underscores the need to conduct a more robust resource optimization planning by policy makers, to ensure that solutions to power system concerns are approached from all angles, and the most efficient ones prioritized.

Given the configuration of the Panay sub-grid and its dependency on variable energy sources in Negros when it loses internally generated power, NGCP also noted the need to provide sufficient non-variable sources to stabilize the system. The company also included its Cebu Negros-Panay Stage 3 project (CNP3) as a contributing solution.

NGCP strongly recommends the review of the Philippine Grid Code to cater to renewable energy sources, particularly the effective use of emerging technologies such as energy storage systems, among others.

Perfetti Van Melle inks partnership with PCX to exceed plastic goals

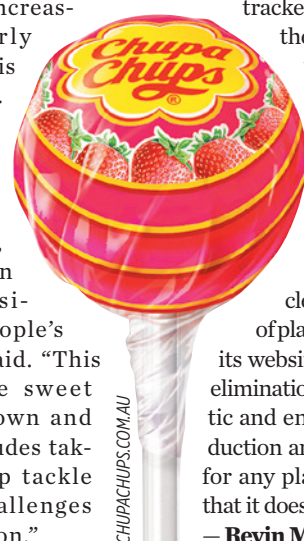
CONFECTIONERY maker Perfetti Van Melle Philippines has partnered with PCX Markets for an initiative that seeks to exceed the required plastic reduction goals of large companies under the Extended Producer Responsibility Act.

Perfetti Van Melle Philippines Managing Director David Roos on Thursday said the company, which produces brands like Mentos, Chupa Chups, and Fruit-tella, is on track to hit 50% more than the required target under the law.

"We want to continue exceeding these targets in the coming years," he said in a statement.

Under the law, big companies must recover or divert at least 20% of their plastic packaging footprint by end-2023, 40% by 2024 and increasing by 10% yearly until at least 80% is recovered by 2028.

"At Perfetti Van Melle Philippines, we believe that small moments and actions, when added up, can create a big, positive impact on people's lives," Mr. Roos said. "This goes beyond the sweet treats we are known and loved for and includes taking action to help tackle large societal challenges like plastic pollution."



Perfetti Van Melle Philippines has a plastic diversion program consisting of community impact, co-processing, recycling, upcycling, and other projects. It also seeks to help build a circular economy through social impact.

"Together with these plastic diversion initiatives, the company is focused on innovating its packaging materials to reduce plastic usage and find proper alternatives, creating even more value for Filipinos and safeguarding a better future," Mr. Roos said.

PCX Markets is a global marketplace for audited and traceable plastic waste recovery and responsible processing.

It activates an ecosystem of partners who collect, transport and responsibly process plastic waste, tracked and verified through the power of blockchain technology, while supporting communities on the ground with programs that improve livelihoods and scale up social impact.

PCX is working to clean up 80 years' worth of plastic waste, according to its website. "We encourage the elimination of unnecessary plastic and enable responsible production and waste management for any plastic that remains, so that it doesn't wind up in nature." — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**