

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,646.44 ▲24.43 PTS. ▲0.36%

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024
BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P679.00 +P19.00 +2.88%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P4.25 -P0.05 -1.16%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P48.50 +P0.55 +1.15%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P11.34 +P0.02 +0.18%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P34.10 +P1.10 +3.33%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P145.00 +P1.60 +1.12%	BLOOM Blossom Resorts Corp. P11.18 +P0.44 +4.1%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P110.60 +P0.20 +0.18%	CNPF Century Pacific Food, Inc. P32.95 +P0.95 +2.97%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P9.27 +P0.02 +0.22%
DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P10.74 +P0.04 +0.37%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P20.55 +P0.05 +0.24%	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,738.00 +P10.00 +0.58%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P665.50 +P6.50 +0.99%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P243.00 +P3.60 +1.5%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P254.00 -P5.00 -1.93%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P38.30 -P0.80 -2.05%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P9.50 ---	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P57.10 +P1.00 +1.78%	MER Manila Electric Co. P362.00 -P6.00 -1.63%
MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P8.81 +P0.13 +1.5%	NIKL Nickel Asia Corp. P4.84 +P0.01 +0.21%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P27.80 -P0.60 -2.11%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P31.00 -P0.80 -2.52%	SM SM Investments Corp. P900.00 -P23.00 -2.49%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P108.00 -P0.10 -0.09%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P34.25 +P0.55 +1.63%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,272.00 -P3.00 -0.24%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P111.50 -P1.00 -0.89%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P21.90 +P0.25 +1.15%

Aboitiz, partner get nod to buy Coca-Cola Philippines



THE ABOITIZ group and its partner Coca-Cola Europacific Partners plc (CCEP) have received approval from the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) to jointly acquire soft drinks giant Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc. for \$1.8 billion, the group's holding company Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. (AEV) said on Wednesday.

The PCC approved the transaction on Jan. 25, the listed holding company said in a disclosure to the stock exchange.

Aboitiz Equity Ventures will have a 40% beneficial ownership in Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, while CCEP will hold a 60% stake, the company also said.

Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines serves as the exclusive bottler and distributor of the products of US-based multinational corporation The Coca-Cola Co.

CCEP Aboitiz Beverages Philippines, Inc., incorporated in December, will acquire 100% of the share capital of

Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, according to the Aboitiz company.

Aboitiz Equity Ventures said that the Coca-Cola company in the Philippines "benefits from attractive profitability and growth prospects."

The transaction, the Aboitiz company said, aligns with its portfolio diversification strategy to enter the branded consumer goods spaces.

"The parties expect to close the transaction towards the end of February 2024

after receipt of the PCC approval and upon completion of the remaining conditions," it added.

The transaction was "based on an enterprise value of \$1.8 billion on a cash-free, debt-free basis which was arrived on a willing buyer, willing seller basis," the company also said.

Aboitiz Equity Ventures and CCEP, which is engaged in consumer goods manufacturing, selling, and distributing an extensive range of primarily non-alcoholic ready-to-

drink beverages, will acquire, through the holding company, 2,447,956,683 shares of class A common stock with a par value of P2 and 1,000 shares of class B common stock with a par value of P1.

In the first nine months of 2023, AEV reported a 16% drop in its net income dropped 16% to P18 billion from P21.4 billion in 2022.

Shares of AEV rose by 55 centavos or 1.15% to P48.50 apiece on Wednesday. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Rockwell Land eyes P5-billion loan to fund capex

ROCKWELL Land Corp.'s board has greenlit a P5-billion term loan facility as part of a plan to finance the company's capital expenditures (capex), the Lopez-led company said on Wednesday.

In a regulatory filing, the property developer said that the loan facility, with a term of up to seven years, is with Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.

"The proceeds of the loan will be used to fund capital expenditures, land acquisitions, and other investments," Rockwell Land said.

Rockwell Land is the real estate subsidiary of Lopez-led First Philippine Holdings Corp.



The company holds properties in the residential, office, retail, and leisure segments.

Some of the company's properties include Rockwell Center and Power Plant Mall in Makati, as well as Rockwell Business Centers in Ortigas and Mandaluyong.

For the January to September period, Rockwell Land recorded a 26% increase in its attributable net income to P2.52 billion from P2 billion in 2022.

The company's revenues increased by 6% to P13.33 billion compared to P12.47 billion.

Shares of Rockwell Land closed unchanged at P1.44 apiece on Wednesday. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**



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Manila Water unit inks supply deal with MCWD

THE Metropolitan Cebu Water District (MCWD) has secured a new water supplier through another subsidiary of Manila Water Co., Inc., the east-zone concessionaire said on Wednesday.

In a stock exchange disclosure, the company said that its subsidiary, Manila Water Philippine Ventures, Inc. (MWPV), has entered into a 10-year contract agreement with MCWD.

The deal is intended "for the supply and delivery of potable surface water, the company said.

The signed contract comes two months after the termination of bulk water supply contract between MCWD and Cebu Manila Water Development, Inc. (CMWD) following more than a decade.

CMWD is a joint investment of Manila Water Consortium, Inc. and the provincial government of Cebu.

In 2012, Manila Water entered into a joint investment agreement with the provincial government of Cebu for the development, operation, and maintenance of a bulk water system that will supply a minimum of 35 million liters per day (MLD) of potable water.

Meanwhile, MWPV said on Monday that it had reached out to the provincial government of Pangasinan to revive their terminated 25-year concession agreement.

The P8-billion agreement, intended to supply Pangasinan with 200 MLD of water, was signed in January 2022.

The bulk water project was supposed to create an infrastructure that will source water from Agno River using the riverbank filtration technology to increase water supply in the province.

Manila Water said that the "deemed mutually" terminated contract was due to "non-fulfillment of conditions" on the part of the provincial government of Pangasinan.

Shares of Manila Water gained 1.01% or 18 centavos to close at P17.98 each. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

PLDT board approves plan to invest P2B in Radius Telecom

PLDT Inc.'s board of directors has agreed to subscribe to 2.49 million shares in Radius Telecom, Inc., representing 34.9% of its equity interest for P2.12 billion, the Pangilinan-led company said on Wednesday.

In a stock exchange disclosure on Tuesday, PLDT said the proposed investment is a strategic move to expand its market share by leveraging Radius Telecom's fiber facilities.

Under PLDT's proposed investment, the company's board of directors approved the subscription to 2.49 million shares of common stock in Radius priced at P849.28 each, pending the execution of definitive agreements.

Radius Telecom provides data and internet services and offers cloud services to businesses and small and medium enterprises.

It is a wholly owned subsidiary of Paragon Vertical Corp., a unit of e-Meralco Ventures, Inc.

China Bank Capital Corp. Managing Director Juan Paolo E. Colet said PLDT is likely to fully acquire Radius Telecom.

"Radius will benefit from PLDT's extensive expertise in the broadband business. Depending on market dynamics, it's also possible that PLDT may fully acquire Radius down the road," Mr. Colet said.

Radius Telecom's fiber facilities include 150 enterprise buildings, over 200 residential

multi-dwelling units, and more than 200 villages.

"This is a strategic move for PLDT as it seeks to expand rapidly in the lucrative broadband market. We expect this deal to generate important synergies and cost efficiencies for both companies," Mr. Colet said.

"This equity stake allows PLDT to have a substantial influence on Radius Telecoms and aligns with a strategic move to fortify its market position," Globalinks Securities and Stocks, Inc. Head of Sales Trading Toby Allan C. Arce said in a Viber message.

This move could potentially lead to synergies by combining technological expertise, expanding service offerings, or enhancing customer experience, Mr. Arce said.

"PLDT can benefit from this extensive network by expanding its market coverage and improving its ability to serve both enterprise and residential customers," he said.

At the stock exchange on Tuesday, shares in the company closed P3 or 0.24% lower at P1,272 apiece.

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

Globe, British Embassy tie up to boost cyber-defense

GLOBE TELECOM, Inc. announced on Wednesday a partnership with the British Embassy in Manila to strengthen digital infrastructure defenses in response to growing cybersecurity concerns.

"Cybersecurity must be a top priority for both the United Kingdom and the Philippines in order to ensure the safety and security of our citizens and promote economic development and prosperity," British Ambassador to the Philippines Laure Beaufils said in a statement.

Philippine organizations faced around \$1 million in losses over the past year due to cybersecurity incidents, according to a reported by connectivity cloud company Cloudflare, Inc.

Cloudflare identified insufficient investment as the main challenge for the country in cybersecurity preparedness, while many firms consider cybersecurity a top concern.

Globe has invested roughly \$90 million in cybersecurity measures alone and an additional \$20 million to improve its blocking system and detection of spam and scam text messages, the telco said in a statement.

International cooperation and public-private partnerships are among the strategies identified to address cybersecurity concerns, according to the Ayala-led company.

"The commitment from Globe Group and the British Embassy to assist the Philippine government in its cybersecurity efforts emphasizes the global nature of cyber threats and the importance of collaborative approaches to address these challenges effectively," Globe said.

"The reason why scams and spam messages are so rampant now is because they (fraudsters) want to get customer data. And so we're impressing upon our customers and partners the importance of having the right cybersecurity culture and using the appropriate cybersecurity solutions," said Irish Salandanan-Almeida, chief privacy officer of Globe.

The company also said cybersecurity capacity building in the Philippines needs to be intensified to combat the increasing digital threats.

At the local bourse on Tuesday, shares in the company gained P10 or 0.58% to end at P1,738 each. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Ovialand eyes bigger IPO, awaits better market conditions

REAL ESTATE developer Ovialand, Inc. is considering a bigger initial public offering (IPO) but is waiting for more favorable market conditions before proceeding with its public listing, its president said.

"[It would be] more than what we had initially filed for. The initial filing was up to P2.2 billion. When we had to defer our IPO, we put all our efforts into still growing the company. So we have growth in 2023," Ovialand President and Chief Executive Officer Pammy Olivares-Vital told reporters on Jan. 29.

"We expect substantial growth again in 2024, so that number will most likely be changing," she added.

In June last year, Ovialand announced the postponement of its planned P2.2 billion IPO, citing poor market conditions.

Ovialand is currently observing the market's response to planned IPOs, including SM Prime Holdings' real estate investment trust (REIT) offer and ports tycoon Enrique K. Razon, Jr.'s Prime Infrastructure listing, Ms. Vital said.

The company will decide on its own listing plan based on the market conditions and the success of these offerings, she said.

"That's the advice we're getting from the bank that once those are going to be successful, then that's the signal that foreign investors are back, and we'll have a better chance of having a good IPO."

On Monday, Ovialand partnered with Takara Leben to bring more premium affordable homes to Filipino families. The partnership's first project will be the

6.5-hectare Savana South development in Laguna, which will have 657 homes that will generate P1.97 billion worth of sales over four years.

Ovialand and Takara Leben will establish a joint venture company to serve as project developer. The partnership also seeks to develop at least five projects within three years.

Ovialand has developments in Southern Luzon and Bulacan. Some of its developments include Savana, Santevi, and Sannera in Laguna; Caliya in Quezon; and Terrazza de Sto. Tomas in Batangas; as well as Seriya in Bulacan.

Established in August 1989, Takara Leben is a Japanese company involved in the development and sale of condominiums, leasing of real estate, and distribution of real estate. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**