

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,623.01

▼ 23.43 PTS.

▼ 0.35%

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024

BusinessWorld

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P678.00 -P1.00 -0.15%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P4.25 ---	AEV Aboltiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P47.95 -P0.55 -1.13%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P11.34 ---	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P33.65 -P0.45 -1.32%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P144.00 -P1.00 -0.69%	BLOOM Bloomerry Resorts Corp. P10.94 -P0.24 -2.15%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P112.50 +P1.90 +1.72%	CNPF Century Pacific Food, Inc. P34.10 +P1.15 +3.49%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P9.20 -P0.07 -0.76%
DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P10.74 ---	EMI Emperador, Inc. P20.45 -P0.10 -0.49%	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,733.00 -P5.00 -0.29%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P660.00 -P5.50 -0.83%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P243.00 ---	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P254.00 ---	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P39.00 +P0.70 +1.83%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P9.45 -P0.05 -0.53%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P56.90 -P0.20 -0.35%	MER Manila Electric Co. P357.00 -P5.00 -1.38%
MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P8.78 -P0.03 -0.34%	NIKL Nickel Asia Corp. P4.70 -P0.14 -2.89%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P27.65 -P0.15 -0.54%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P31.00 ---	SM SM Investments Corp. P893.00 -P7.00 -0.78%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P108.00 ---	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P34.05 -P0.20 -0.58%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,255.00 -P17.00 -1.34%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P110.20 -P1.30 -1.17%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P21.60 -P0.30 -1.37%

CREC gets approval for initial public offering

By **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**
Reporter

SAAVEDRA-LED Citicore Renewable Energy Corp. (CREC) has obtained the approval of the Philippines Stock Exchange, Inc. (PSE) for its planned P12.9-billion initial public offering (IPO).

In an e-mailed statement on Thursday, the renewable energy company said that PSE issued its notice of approval on Jan. 29, approving the listing of its up to over 10.04 million common shares.

The final price offer will be determined on March 6, with the offer period scheduled from March 11 to 15. The tentative list-

ing and the start of trading on the exchange are set for March 22.

CREC is set to offer up to 2.9 billion common shares at a maximum price of P3.88 apiece, including an additional 435 million outstanding common shares for overallotment.

"Proceeds from the IPO will be used to partially fund CREC's capital expenditures and pipeline development for solar energy plants and battery energy storage system (BESS), as well as general corporate purposes," the company said.

As of Sept. 30, the company had a total installed capacity of 285.1 megawatts across Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

CREC intends to add approximately one gigawatt of ready

to build/under construction solar energy capacity each year through 2027.

"The PSE's approval is subject to CREC's compliance with all PSE-mandated conditions and requirements," it said.

On Jan. 17, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) issued the pre-effective approval for CREC's IPO.

CREC President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Oliver Y. Tan has said that the company plans to spend around P35 billion in capital expenditures this year for renewable energy (RE) projects.

Sought for comment, China Bank Capital Corp. Managing Director Juan Paolo E. Colet

said that the market will closely watch CREC's IPO but ponder on "whether market conditions are conducive enough for successful IPOs."

"The performance of the CREC offering will help answer that," Mr. Colet said in a Viber message.

Globalinks Securities and Stocks, Inc. Head of Sales Trading Toby Allan C. Arce said that CREC's IPO may be well-received due to the growing emphasis on renewable energy in the country.

"Investors will scrutinize CREC's financial health, growth aspects, and past performance. A strong track record, sound financials, and a clear business strategy may enhance the IPO's

reception," Mr. Arce said in a Viber message.

CREC is the parent company of Citicore Energy REIT Corp. (CREIT), the country's first real estate investment trust listing focused on renewable energy. CREIT concluded its IPO in February 2022, which raised P6.4 billion.

On its debut, CREIT's shares closed at P2.84 apiece, higher by 11.37% than its IPO price of P2.55.

"I don't think this should be directly compared with CREIT because CREC has a different business model as a renewable energy developer whereas CREIT is basically a lessor," Mr. Colet said.

"CREC will try to attract an investor base that is willing to take

more risk for potentially higher returns versus the steady yield growth of CREIT," he added.

Mr. Colet noted, however, that the future growth of CREIT may depend on CREC because of "the expectation that the latter will provide the former with a pipeline of future asset infusions."

"I welcome the decision of CREC to tap the equities market to raise capital since RE projects are very much needed these days given that we are racing against time to address climate issues," PSE President and CEO Ramon S. Monzon said in a statement.

With its clearance of the first IPO for 2024, the PSE is expecting at least six IPOs this year.

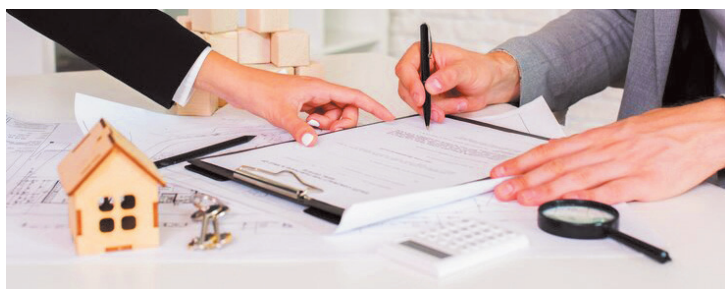
AbaCore board OK's sale of unit's Batangas property

THE board of listed holding company AbaCore Capital Holdings, Inc. has approved the proposed sale of its subsidiary's property in Mabini town, Batangas, for P307.19 million.

In a regulatory filing on Thursday, the company's board approved the planned sale of a 30,117-square-meter (s.qm.) property in Barangay San Juan, owned by its subsidiary Omnilines Logistics International Network, Inc. The property will be sold at P10,200 per sq.m., with a total contract price of P307.19 million.

The company is expecting a P227.47 million gross profit from the sale.

AbaCore Vice Chairman Antonio Victoriano F. Gregorio III



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said in an e-mail that the transaction aims to boost the company's profitability.

"The sale of a property owned by our subsidiary Omnilines Logistics International Network represents our continuing effective management of our portfolio, allowing the company to strengthen its bottomline and

provide value to our shareholders," Mr. Gregorio said.

"The transaction is part of our overall strategy to work with businesses that want to expand their presence in Batangas, or enter the market for the first time," he added.

Following the sale, Mr. Gregorio said that AbaCore is still

aiming to expand its property portfolio.

"AbaCore will continue to work with other entities to maximize the potential of our portfolio, and we aim to further add more properties investments that would provide the necessary investment returns and generate additional income," he said.

AbaCore is a holding company that has business interests in tourism, real estate, financial services, and energy. The company's nine-month net income surged to P383.3 million from P22.4 million in 2022.

On Thursday, AbaCore shares closed unchanged at P1.07 apiece. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

TV5 introduces RPTV free-to-air channel

PANGILINAN-LED TV5 Network, Inc. launched the RPTV free-to-air channel on Thursday, offering sports, news, and entertainment shows.

In a statement, TV5 said it is collaborating with MediaQuest Holdings, Inc. to serve as content providers for the RPTV Channel.

Shows on the channel include all Philippine Basketball Association games, the daily noontime show *EAT...Baluga!*, local comedy and action series and movies, *Live Sports*, the news and public service show of Ted Failon and DJ Chacha, and the *Wanted sa Radyo* program of Senator Rafael "Raffy" T. Tulfo.

"The birth of RPTV is aligned with our commitment to elevate the standards of entertainment, sports and public service broadcasting in the Philippines," TV5 President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Guido R. Zaballero said.

"Our goal is to create a comprehensive and engaging platform that caters to the diverse interests of every family mem-

ber. We believe in the power of entertainment to bring people together and RPTV is designed to be a one-stop destination for families seeking quality content," he added.

RPTV Channel is available on Channel 9 (analog), Channel 19 (digital terrestrial television), Channel 18.3 (DTT), and over 300 cable and satellite providers nationwide. It also streams live via the Cignal Play over-the-top media service app.

"We are excited to embark on this journey and contribute positively to the lives of viewers. RPTV is here to create memorable moments for families by becoming a go-to destination for quality and diverse content," MediaQuest President and CEO Jane J. Basas said.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has a majority stake in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Mastercard, Beep in contactless MRT, bus fare tie-up

MASTERCARD has partnered with AF Payments, Inc. (AFPI), the company that created beep cards, to enable tap-and-go payments for Mastercard cards on the Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (MRT-3 Line) and buses.

"This is expected to benefit millions of Filipino commuters in Metro Manila, enhancing smart mobility through initiatives that bring our transit systems in line with global transport standards," Beep President & Chief Executive Officer Jonathan Juan D. Moreno said in a statement on Thursday.

The partnership aims to boost contactless acceptance in the Philippines, he said. Cardholders will be able to tap their prepaid, debit, or credit Mastercard cards on public transport without having to purchase tickets.

Mastercard and AFPI will first launch a pilot program, rolled out in phases across MRT stations, Bonifacio Global City, and EDSA buses.

The two companies also hope to expand contactless payments acceptance across ferries and other modes of transportation in the future, and eventually across the country.

The program will be exclusively used in Beep's network and will introduce and expand open loop transit payments powered by Mastercard's payment solution, Mastercard Gateway said. — **Aaron Michael C. Sy**

MGreen signs contracts with Chinese firm for 2 solar projects

MGEN Renewable Energy, Inc. (MGreen) has awarded engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contracts to a Chinese company for its solar farm projects in Cordon, Isabela and Bongabon, Nueva Ecija.

MGreen signed the contract with SUMEC Complete Equipment and Engineering Co. Ltd. on Jan. 24, the company said in a statement on Thursday.

The contracts cover the construction of the 49 megawatt-alternating current (MWac) solar plant in Isabela and 18.75 MWac solar plant in Nueva Ecija.

The solar projects are targeted for commercial operation in the last quarter of 2024.

Both projects are among the winning bidders in the second round of green energy auction (GEA) of the Department of Energy.

The GEA program aims to promote renewables as a primary source of energy through competitive selection of renewable energy output.

MGreen is the renewable energy subsidiary of Meralco PowerGen Corp. (MGen), the power generation arm of listed electric distribution



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utility Manila Electric Co. (Meralco).

"SUMEC will be our strategic partner as we embark on the transformative journey towards realizing our vision of becoming a company at the forefront of renewable energy utilization," MGen President and Chief Executive Officer Jaime T. Azurin said.

"We hope that with the co-operation of SUMEC, we'll be able to deliver the project on time, on schedule, and within budget," he added.

MGreen has been operating three solar plants. These include the 55-MWac solar plant of PowerSource First Bulacan Solar, Inc. with PowerSource Energy Hold-

ings Corp. and the 68-MWac solar plant of Nuevo Solar Energy Corp. with Vena Energy's Pasuquin Energy Holdings, Inc.

The company is also operating the 75-MWac solar plant of PH Renewables, Inc. with Mitsui & Co.'s Mit-Renewables Power Corp. in Baras, Rizal.

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**

Basic Energy to conduct studies for 50-MW solar project in Pangasinan

BASIC ENERGY Corp. (BEC) is set to conduct distribution impact and asset studies for its potential 50-megawatt (MW) solar power project with its partner Pangasinan I Electric Cooperative (PANELCO I), the company said on Thursday.

In a regulatory filing, the listed energy company said it signed a memorandum of understanding with PANELCO I on Jan. 30.

The deal was to conduct a distribution impact study (DIS) and a distribution asset study (DAS) on the PANELCO I distribution utilities.

"The DIS and DAS are integral to optimize distribution networks and enhance reliability of PANELCO I's current infrastructure. Furthermore, the DIS and DAS also ensures seamless integration of renewable energy resources into

PANELCO I's infrastructure, integral to BEC's solar power project within the service area of PANELCO I," Basic Energy said.

The planned studies are aimed to assess the capability of PANELCO I's transmission systems and substations and to accommodate the solar power plant's production, the company said.

The two parties also seek to "gain insights into the current state of the transmission system, identifying requisite improvements for optimal performance aligned with the solar power plant's energy production."

The planned solar power project will come in two phases with the development of the 10 MW capacity and BESS on the first phase and capacity of around 40 MW on the second phase. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**