

## Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,807.82

▼42.34 PTS.

▼0.61%

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024

BusinessWorld

## PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

|  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>AC</b><br>Ayala Corp.<br>P715.00<br>+P15.00 +2.14%        | <b>ACEN</b><br>ACEN Corp.<br>P4.24<br>-P0.14 -3.2%         | <b>AEV</b><br>Aboltiz Equity Ventures, Inc.<br>P46.00<br>-P1.25 -2.65% | <b>AGI</b><br>Alliance Global Group, Inc.<br>P11.68<br>-P0.06 -0.51%     | <b>ALI</b><br>Ayala Land, Inc.<br>P34.55<br>-P0.35 -1%                                    | <b>BDO</b><br>BDO Unibank, Inc.<br>P150.80<br>-P2.80 -1.82%    | <b>BLOOM</b><br>Bloomerry Resorts Corp.<br>P11.70<br>+P0.20 +1.74% | <b>BPI</b><br>Bank of the Philippine Islands<br>P114.60<br>+P1.20 +1.06% | <b>CNPF</b><br>Century Pacific Food, Inc.<br>P35.45<br>-P0.55 -1.53%   | <b>CNVRG</b><br>Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.<br>P9.70<br>-P0.08 -0.82% |
| <b>DMC</b><br>DMCI Holdings, Inc.<br>P11.10<br>+P0.10 +0.91% | <b>EMI</b><br>Emperador, Inc.<br>P20.55<br>+P0.05 +0.24%   | <b>GLO</b><br>Globe Telecom, Inc.<br>P1,730.00<br>-P11.00 -0.63%       | <b>GTCAP</b><br>GT Capital Holdings, Inc.<br>P695.00<br>+P19.00 +2.81%   | <b>ICT</b><br>International Container Terminal Services, Inc.<br>P274.00<br>+P3.00 +1.11% | <b>JFC</b><br>Jollibee Foods Corp.<br>P257.60<br>-P3.80 -1.45% | <b>JGS</b><br>JG Summit Holdings, Inc.<br>P38.65<br>-P0.40 -1.02%  | <b>LTG</b><br>LT Group, Inc.<br>P9.60<br>+P0.01 +0.1%                    | <b>MBT</b><br>Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.<br>P59.10<br>-P0.10 -0.17% | <b>MER</b><br>Manila Electric Co.<br>P360.00<br>-P7.00 -1.91%          |
| <b>MONDE</b><br>Monde Nissin Corp.<br>P9.95<br>---           | <b>NIKL</b><br>Nickel Asia Corp.<br>P4.65<br>-P0.03 -0.64% | <b>PGOLD</b><br>Puregold Price Club, Inc.<br>P27.50<br>+P0.05 +0.18%   | <b>SCC</b><br>Semirara Mining and Power Corp.<br>P32.50<br>-P0.20 -0.61% | <b>SM</b><br>SM Investments Corp.<br>P900.00<br>-P15.00 -1.64%                            | <b>SMC</b><br>San Miguel Corp.<br>P108.10<br>+P0.10 +0.09%     | <b>SMPH</b><br>SM Prime Holdings, Inc.<br>P34.00<br>-P0.65 -1.88%  | <b>TEL</b><br>PLDT Inc.<br>P1,289.00<br>-P6.00 -0.46%                    | <b>URC</b><br>Universal Robina Corp.<br>P110.30<br>-P1.00 -0.9%        | <b>WLCON</b><br>Wilcon Depot, Inc.<br>P22.90<br>-P0.05 -0.22%          |

## DoE readies 4,399-MW green energy auction



THE Department of Energy (DoE) is set to issue in April the notice of auction and terms of reference for an estimated 4,399 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy capacity under the third round of its green energy auction (GEA-3) program.

"The DoE will conduct the third round of the GEA-3 this year as part of the department's push for increased utilization of the country's renewable energy resources and attainment of energy security and reliability," the Energy department said in a statement on Monday.

The third round of the green energy auction will cater to

non-feed-in-tariff (Non-FIT) eligible renewable energy (RE) technologies such as geothermal, impounding hydro, and pumped-storage hydro.

The GEA-3 will likewise cater to run-of-river hydro, which is a FIT-eligible RE technology, the DoE said.

Publication of the notice of auction, terms of reference, price determination methodology for Non-FIT eligible RE technologies, and green energy auction reserve price for run-of-river hydro is set for April 29.

The start of registration of qualified bidders will be May 13, to be followed by the an-

nouncement of qualified suppliers on July 4.

The auction proper will be on Aug. 21, and the notice of award for FIT-eligible RE technology is targeted for Sept 18.

The announcement of the award for Non-FIT RE eligible technologies is scheduled for Dec. 10.

Broken down, estimated capacities for Non-FIT eligible RE technologies are 699 MW from impounding hydro, 3,120 MW from pumped-storage hydro, and 380 MW from geothermal.

The DoE requires a delivery commencement period for impounding hydro and pumped

storage hydro from 2028 to 2030.

For geothermal, the delivery commencement period should be from 2024 to 2030, the DoE said.

"An estimated 200 MW of RE capacity from run-of-river hydro is expected to be auctioned, with a target delivery commencement period [from] 2026 to 2028," it added.

"Through the administration of the GEA-3, the DOE is not only paving the way for a more sustainable future but is also ensuring a transparent and competitive selection of RE facilities," the department also said. — **S.J.Talavera**

## SEC warns public vs Camacho Packaging, Reveal

THE Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has cautioned the public against investing in Camacho Packaging Supplies Trading and Reveal, saying that these entities do not have the necessary license to solicit investments.

In an advisory posted on its website, the corporate regulator flagged Camacho Packaging Supplies Trading/Camacho Trading and Camacho Packaging Supplies OPC.

The entity, allegedly engaged in newspaper and packaging trading, offers a 10% monthly payout for a minimum amount of P50,000 for old investors and a minimum amount of P100,000 for new investors, with a 12-month holding period.

"Though Camacho Packaging Supplies OPC is registered as a corporation, it does not

have the necessary secondary license from the commission to authorize it to solicit investments from the public," the SEC said.

In a separate advisory, the SEC said that Reveal Marketing/Reveal Marketing PH/Reveal Marketing Team PH are allegedly involved in an investment scheme called the shareholder's program, which offers various modes for the public to purchase shares and gain profits.

The program offers three levels that promise profits ranging from 20% to 130% depending on the period and investment amount.

"Reveal represents to be engaged in multi-level marketing intended to help the people to have an extra passive income through investments," the SEC said.

"The investment opportunity being offered by Reveal is a form of securities as the elements of investment contract are present in its investment offerings," it said.

The SEC said that Reveal Beauty and Wellness Digital Marketing OPC is registered as a one-person corporation, while entities Reveal Marketing/Reveal Marketing PH/Reveal Marketing Team PH are not registered either as a corporation, one-person corporation, or as a partnership.

Despite being registered, the commission said that Reveal Beauty and Wellness Digital Marketing OPC do not have the secondary license to solicit investments.

*BusinessWorld* sought comments from the two entities but has yet to receive a response as of the deadline. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

## PAGCOR says e-gaming sector yields P58.16B

THE COUNTRY'S electronic gaming sector generated P58.16 billion in revenues in 2023, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (PAGCOR) said on Monday.

"There was a phenomenal rise of over 90% in online gaming activities in 2023 compared to the previous year," PAGCOR Chairman Alejandro H. Tengco was quoted as saying in a statement.

Data from PAGCOR showed that the e-gaming sector recorded P58.16 billion in revenues in 2023, up by 92% from the P30.24 billion in the previous year. This comprises e-games, e-bingo, specialty games, and sports betting.

"The e-games contribution to 2023 gross gaming revenues (GGR) is also a new record, surpassing the previous high of P32.24 billion posted in 2019 before the

pandemic outbreak," PAGCOR added.

Mr. Tengco said that PAGCOR also recorded 1,000 licensed e-gaming sites last year, with more pending in the pipeline.

"Because of the policy changes implemented by the current management, there was a considerable increase in gaming sites. We also approved reductions in (licensing) rates that contributed to the spike in approved sites," he said.

"More policy tweaks — including further lowering licensing rates — and the growing integration of technology in gaming should allow the e-games sector to continue fueling the growth of the local gaming industry with its projected P61.75 billion in revenues in 2024," PAGCOR added. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**



## Unilever PHL aims to exceed GDP growth in sales

CONSUMER GOODS company Unilever Philippines is aiming to surpass the country's gross domestic product (GDP) growth in sales this year, focusing on core brands and product innovations, its chairman said on Monday.

Sales have always surpassed the GDP growth and may continue this year, Fredy S. Ong, chairman and chief executive officer (CEO) of Unilever Philippines, said during a briefing.

"Consistent with what our global CEO said that we have to deliver high-quality growth, definitely, Unilever Philippines will be counted on globally as one of the countries that will deliver high growth," Mr. Ong said.

"Our growth has always been above GDP, [and] that's what I can commit... you will see the official numbers from this year in April, but we will continue to deliver high growth," he added.

The Philippine economy grew by 5.6% in 2023, falling short of



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the government's full-year target of 6-7% and the 7.6% expansion in 2022.

Meanwhile, the Development Budget Coordination Committee is targeting GDP to grow by 6.5-7.5% this year and 6.5-8% from 2025 to 2028.

The main growth drivers, according to Mr. Ong, include the

company's established brands like Sunsilk, Creamsilk, Knorr, and Selecta Ice Cream, alongside its latest product innovations.

"What we intend to do is to invest heavily in our core brands, that's the first thing that we plan to do. The second one, we have to make our products the best in the category which means deliver-

ing the best benefits right to our consumers... and the third one, we should continue to innovate," he said.

"We plan to scale up all the innovation plants that's available to different countries, but we want to pick those that are relevant to the market. Innovation is new products, it's something that will help grow the category and hopefully upgrade people to premium portfolios," he added.

Mr. Ong also said that the Philippines continues to be among the top ten markets for Unilever globally, as emerging markets contribute to 58% of Unilever's global turnover.

"Emerging markets contribute to close to 60% of total Unilever global sales and the Philippines happens to be part of that group so our role is very important because we continue to drive growth for Unilever globally," he said. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

## ACEN gets backing from Australian Embassy for expansion plans

THE Australian Embassy in the Philippines has pledged support for energy company ACEN Corp. in exploring additional opportunities in Australia following the company's deal with the First Nations Yindjibarndi people.

"What ACEN and the Yindjibarndi group are doing is fully aligned with the strategic partnership between Australia and the Philippines," said Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Hae Kyong Yu in a statement.

"We are happy to collaborate and work together to ensure that the partnership is mutually beneficial and sustainable," she added.

Last year, ACEN partnered with the aboriginal group through Yindjibarndi Aboriginal Corp. to develop and operate large-scale renewable energy projects in Western Australia.

"The partnership is one of the largest indigenous-led renewable energy initiatives in Australia, with a focus on sustainable development and economic opportunities," the embassy said.

Under the partnership, ACEN and the Yindjibarndi group will be creating Yindjibarndi Energy Corp. to develop wind, solar, and renewable energy projects on Yindji-

barndi Ngurra, a 13,000-square kilometer area within the group's exclusive native title land.

"ACEN has established a solid footprint in Australia's renewable energy sector, contributing significantly to the country's clean energy transition and sustainability goals," the embassy said.

Prior to its partnership with the Yindjibarndi, ACEN had also partnered with another First Nations group — the Anaiwan people — in New South Wales after launching its New England solar project in March 2023. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

## Figaro Coffee income up 7%

LISTED food and beverage company Figaro Coffee Group, Inc. (FCG) recorded a 7% increase in its attributable net income to P194.75 million in the second quarter of its fiscal year ending June led by higher revenues.

FCG said in a regulatory filing on Monday that its revenues during the October to December period rose 42% to P145 billion from P102 billion a year ago.

In the first six months, FCG recorded a 7% increase in its attributable net income to P282.94 million from P265.11 million a year ago.

The company's system-wide sales rose by 36% to P2.79 billion from P2.05 billion last year, while revenues increased by 36% to P2.77 billion compared to P2.04 billion a year ago.

"This was brought about by the opening of 38 stores from July 1, 2023 which brought the total number of stores to 203 by end of December 2023," FCG said.

FCG said its gross profit also improved by 31% to P1.29 billion.

"Gross profit increased by 31% primarily due to the increase in volume from store expansion and opening, though the gross profit margin slightly reduce from 48.4% to 46.8% due to inflation for major raw materials during the start of 2023," the company said.

Meanwhile, FCG's operating expenses increased by 44% to P917.5 million from P635 million last year.

"Operating costs also increased by 44% as a result of the massive store opening activities during the year which resulted to increasing overhead costs," the company said.

Figaro Coffee has one subsidiary, Figaro Coffee Systems, Inc., through which it operates various brands such as Figaro Coffee, Angel's Pizza, Tien Ma's, and Café Portofino.

On Monday, FCG shares dropped by one centavo or 1.41% to 70 centavos apiece. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**