

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,558.63

▼49.73 PTS.

▼0.75%

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024

BusinessWorld

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P585.00 -P8.50 -1.43%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P5.00 +P0.43 +9.41%	AEV Aboltiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P37.00 -P1.35 -3.52%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P9.70 +P0.12 +1.25%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P28.20 +P0.20 +0.71%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P138.00 -P2.10 -1.5%	BLOOM Blossom Resorts Corp. P9.94 +P0.07 +0.71%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P124.60 -P2.30 -1.81%	CNPF Century Pacific Food, Inc. P33.50 ---	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P9.46 +P0.22 +2.38%
DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P10.78 -P0.02 -0.19%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P18.26 -P0.06 -0.33%	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,913.00 +P53.00 +2.85%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P649.00 +P9.00 +1.41%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P349.00 -P4.40 -1.25%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P222.00 +P2.80 +1.28%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P32.50 -P0.30 -0.91%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P10.00 -P0.02 -0.2%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P71.80 -P0.15 -0.21%	MER Manila Electric Co. P372.00 -P0.80 -0.21%
MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P11.70 -P0.06 -0.51%	NIKL Nickel Asia Corp. P3.95 -P0.09 -2.23%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P24.05 -P0.50 -2.04%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P31.90 +P0.35 +1.11%	SM SM Investments Corp. P866.00 -P21.00 -2.37%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P103.90 +P0.40 +0.39%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P27.10 -P0.10 -0.37%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,460.00 -P4.00 -0.27%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P109.20 ---	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P18.14 -P0.16 -0.87%

Banking, power, property boost FDC Q1 income to P2.9 billion

FILINVEST Development Corp. (FDC) saw a 36% rise in its first-quarter (Q1) attributable net income, reaching P2.9 billion from last year's P2.2 billion, driven by gains in the banking, power, and property sectors.

First-quarter total revenue and other income improved by 28% to P26.4 billion, FDC said in a statement to the local bourse on Wednesday.

Costs and expenses surged by 25% to P21.6 billion, it added.

Banking and financial services took up 36% of the conglomerate's first-quarter bottom line, followed by its power subsidiary at 29%.

The property business, composed of the real estate and hospitality segments, shared 21% of overall profit, while other businesses shared the remaining 14%.

"We are pleased with the strong financial results during the first quarter. We will push to

maintain the momentum as we strive towards the fulfillment of our long-term goal of sustained growth in earnings," FDC President and Chief Executive Officer Rhoda A. Huang said.

For the banking business, East West Banking Corp. recorded a 6% increase in net income contribution to P1.2 billion. Net interest income rose by 34% to P8.2 billion, led by the 19% expansion in lending activities led by credit cards, auto, personal, and salary loans.

Consumer lending was the bank's core product as it took up 81% of the total loan book, pushing net interest margin to 8.1%.

On the power segment, FDC Utilities, Inc. saw a 65% jump in net income to P1 billion on higher-than-expected energy sales volume and increased operational plant efficiency.

All units of its 405-megawatt Misamis Oriental plant were

fully contracted, facilitated by the energization of the Mindanao-Visayas interconnection project in the second half of 2023.

For the real estate business, Filinvest Land, Inc. and Filinvest Alabang, Inc. recorded 17% increase in income contribution to P704 million as residential sales jumped by 24% to P3.6 billion.

The surge in residential sales came from accelerated construction progress of the projects and the strong performance of medium-rise condominiums. Mall and rental revenues improved by 4% to P2 billion led by higher mall occupancy and foot traffic.

Meanwhile, hotel operations under Filinvest Hospitality Corp. (FHC) contributed P37 million to the conglomerate's first quarter net income.

FDC said that earnings came from the recovery of domestic tourism supported the increase in

occupancy and room rates across operating properties such as Crimson in Alabang, Boracay, and Mactan; Quest in Cebu, Clark, and Tagaytay; and Timberland Highlands in Rizal.

FHC has approximately 1,800 rooms across seven hotels in seven cities and five regions under the Crimson and Quest brands. It also has two 18-hole golf courses situated in Mimosa, Clark.

For 2024, FDC has earmarked P25 billion as its capital expenditure budget, of which 60% will go to real estate development.

Another 15% will be used to pursue renewable energy projects, 15% for the expansion of the hospitality business, and the balance for digitalization and other businesses.

On Wednesday, FDC stocks dropped by 0.17% or one centavo to P5.79 per share. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

SM Prime to open SM City Caloocan on May 17

SM Prime Holdings, Inc. said it will open SM City Caloocan on May 17, the first of four new mall openings planned for this year.

SM City Caloocan has over 94,000 square meters of gross floor area and three levels of mixed-use commercial space consisting of dining, shopping, and entertainment spots, SM Prime said in a statement to the stock exchange on Wednesday.

SM City Caloocan will be the company's 86th mall in the Philippines. It is also the third mall in Caloocan City and the first in the northern cluster of the city.

"With the opening of SM City Caloocan, we bring to the northern part of the city the same world-class shopping experience we offer in the southern part with our SM City Grand Central, opened just over two years ago," SM Prime President Jeffrey C. Lim said.

"We also hope to attract patrons from neighboring cities as we have more than 90,000 square meters of retail space curated to serve and cater to

the demands of highly urbanized residents of these communities," he added.

SM City Caloocan will open with over 90% of its space already lease-awarded.

Some of the brands in the mall include The SM Store, SM Supermarket, Watsons, Miniso, Surplus, Ace Hardware, SM Appliance, Crocs, Uniqlo, and BDO.

It will also have the SM Food Court, SM Cinema consisting of three regular cinemas, Wellness Space, Cyberzone, in-door amusement, and an air-conditioned Sky Plaza.

SM City Caloocan will have almost 1,200 parking slots, a public transport terminal, and an electric vehicle charging station at the third level.

For 2024, SM Prime is also scheduled to open SM City J Mall in Mandaue, Cebu; SM City San Fernando, La Union; and SM City Laoag.

SM Prime shares dropped by 0.37% or 10 centavos to P27.10 per share on Wednesday. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

MGen subsidiary to build LNG power plants in Singapore

PACIFICLIGHT Power Pte. Ltd. (PLP), a subsidiary of Meralco PowerGen Corp. (MGen), will build two liquefied natural gas (LNG) generating units in Singapore, aiming to supply 100 megawatts (MW) of electricity.

This comes after the company was awarded by the Energy Market Authority (EMA) the right to build, own, and operate power generation units to provide "fast start" generation capacity by the second quarter of 2025.

Fast start is a type of power-generating capacity that allows energy to be delivered immediately to the grid.

"PLP is pleased to be awarded the 25-year Fast Start contract for a 100-MW hydrogen-ready gas turbine that can be brought from standstill to full load within 18 minutes," PLP

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Yu Tat Ming said in a media release on Wednesday.

"This award marks a significant milestone for our company, and we are committed to delivering the project on time and reliably supporting the energy system," he added.

MGen President and CEO Jaime T. Azurin said that the development will contribute to MGen's drive for "more sustainable power generation as it transitions to low-carbon power generation such as LNG in the Philippines."

"MGen is proud of the development and recognition of PLP's capability to provide cleaner power supply to residents of Singapore," Mr. Azurin said.

EMA Chief Executive Ngiam Shih Chun said that the fast start generating units by PLP "will

bolster the reliability and security of Singapore's power system with the potential to switch to using hydrogen instead of natural gas in the future."

PLP is an 800-MW LNG power plant, and owned by FPM Power Holdings Ltd., a regional company that combines the joint expertise of MGen and First Pacific Co. Ltd.

MGen is the power generation arm of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco). 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**

DMCI Homes targets December 2027 turnover for 37-storey Fortis Residences in Makati City

CONSUNJI-LED DMCI Homes said its 37-storey Fortis Residences in Makati City is targeted for completion and turnover by December 2027.

As of April, construction of the residential tower has reached the sixth floor with an 18.32% completion rate, DMCI Homes said in a statement on Tuesday.

The mixed-use building adjacent to the property, One Fortis Plaza, which will offer office and

commercial spaces, is also currently under construction.

Fortis Residences offers one-, two-, and three-bedroom units ranging from 55.50 square meters (sq.m.) to 154 sq.m., with prices starting at P13.8 million.

The project is expected to generate P12.4 billion in sales, according to DMCI.

Situated along the 5.8-kilometer Chino Roces Ave., which spans from Makati to Taguig, the devel-

opment provides residents with proximity to main roads such as EDSA, Osmeña Highway, SLEX, and Skyway.

It is also close to the central business districts of Makati, Bonifacio Global City, Aseana, Entertainment City, Bay Area near Mall of Asia Complex, and Ermita Commercial District.

Amenities for open-area leisure activities include a play area, basketball court, and a fitness gym.

The condominium will also feature a sky lounge offering panoramic views of Manila Bay, Laguna de Bay, and a sky deck pool area.

DMCI said each unit will be equipped with essential appliances, including split-type air-conditioning units, cabinets, range hood, water heater for both restroom and kitchen faucet, and digital locksets. — **Aubrey Rose A. Inosante**

AREIT sees boost in Q1 income from acquisitions

AREIT, Inc. saw a 45% surge in its first-quarter (Q1) net income to P1.47 billion, attributed to its asset acquisitions.

"AREIT's first-quarter income was boosted by acquisitions which included the new One Ayala Avenue East and West Office Towers, Glorietta 1 and 2 Mall and Office buildings at Ayala Center Makati, MarQuee Mall in Pampanga and the Seda Hotel in Lio, El Nido," the company said in a statement to the stock exchange on Wednesday.

AREIT is the real estate investment trust of listed property developer Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI).

First-quarter revenue rose by 43% to P2.11 billion, while earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization increased by 45% to P1.51 billion.

The company has P88.6 billion worth of assets under management (AUM) consisting of malls, offices, hotels, and industrial land. Its overall occupancy rate stood at 96%.

On March 19, AREIT executed a deed of exchange with ALI and its subsidiaries, Greenhaven Property Ventures, Inc. and Cebu Insular Hotel Co., Inc., and Buendia Christiana Holdings Corp., involving the issuance of 841,259,412 primary common

shares at P34 per share in exchange for P28.6 billion worth of assets.

The assets are Ayala Triangle Gardens Tower Two, Greenbelt 3 and 5, Holiday Inn in Ayala Center Makati and Seda Ayala Center Cebu, and the 276-hectare land in Zambales for solar power plant operations.

Once approved by regulators, AREIT's AUM will reach P117 billion, quadruple the size since its initial public offering in August 2020.

AREIT shares rose by 0.15% or five centavos to P33.95 apiece on Wednesday. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**



AyalaLand Logistics opens Santo Tomas cold storage facility

AYALALAND Logistics Holdings Corp. (ALLHC) has opened its Alogis Artico Santo Tomas cold storage facility in Batangas.

Formally opened on May 3, Alogis Artico Santo Tomas is the company's first facility constructed from the ground up compared with previous facilities that were acquired, ALLHC said in an e-mailed statement on May 14.

ALLHC is a subsidiary of listed property developer Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI).

The new facility increases ALLHC's existing cold storage portfolio by 5,000 pallet positions, expanding the company's capacity to 15,300 pallet positions across four facilities. Additionally, the company operates cold storage facilities in Laguna and Cebu.

Powered by renewable energy, Alogis Artico is equipped with 16 cold rooms featuring temperatures ranging from 5°C to -25°C. The facility caters to various clients such as frozen meat, seafood, and chemical industries.

It is positioned within the Light Industry & Science Park III in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, and addresses the surging demand for cold storage solutions in the South Luzon region.

"We also aim to help address issues of food safety and security, and to support the country's growing cold chain sector and its

supply chain logistics. Moreover, we look forward to our latest development further energizing the city of Santo Tomas, and the whole of Batangas," ALLHC President and Chief Executive Officer Robert S. Lao said.

ALI President and Chief Executive Officer Anna Ma. Margarita B. Dy said the company aims to achieve a consistent double-digit growth for the cold storage space in the next five years.

"Using the strength of ALI's strategically located landbank and financial stability, we aim to be a major player in the cold storage space," she said.

"The team has high aspirations on what we can do to be a major player in the industry, and in the process, contribute to the country's goals of food security, and hopefully, also to bring down food prices as we improve distribution all around the country," she added.

Alogis Artico Santo Tomas will be registered with key government agencies such as the Board of Investments, National Meat Inspection Service, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and Bureau of Plant Industry to ensure adherence to regulatory standards.

On Wednesday, ALLHC shares declined by 0.5% or one centavo to P1.99 per share. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**