

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,659.99

▲ 52.77 PTS.

▲ 0.79%

THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024

BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P625.00 +P5.50 +0.89%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P5.00 -P0.01 -0.2%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P37.80 ---	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P9.10 -P0.15 -1.62%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P29.40 +P0.55 +1.91%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P136.50 +P0.50 +0.37%	BLOOM Bloomerry Resorts Corp. P10.84 +P0.04 +0.37%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P124.00 -P0.90 -0.72%	CNPF Century Pacific Food, Inc. P36.00 ---	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P10.70 +P0.60 +5.94%
DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P11.08 +P0.38 +3.55%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P18.20 +P0.10 +0.55%	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,006.00 +P17.00 +0.85%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P626.00 -P2.00 -0.32%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P351.20 -P2.80 -0.79%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P229.00 -P0.40 -0.17%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P31.80 -P1.25 -3.78%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P10.20 +P0.04 +0.39%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P68.45 +P0.90 +1.33%	MER Manila Electric Co. P374.80 ---
MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P11.36 +P0.36 +3.27%	NIKL Nickel Asia Corp. P4.32 ---	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P24.70 ---	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P33.80 +P0.80 +2.42%	SM SM Investments Corp. P895.00 +P28.00 +3.23%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P102.50 +P0.70 +0.69%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P28.70 +P0.50 +1.77%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,400.00 -P20.00 -1.41%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P107.00 +P2.60 +2.49%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P19.98 +P0.24 +1.22%

CREC sets lower final offer price for IPO at P2.70

SAAVEDRA-LED Citicore Renewable Energy Corp. (CREC) has finalized the price for its initial public offering (IPO) at P2.70 per share, down from its initial offer price of up to P3.88 per share.

The energy company is set to offer up to 1.79 billion common shares with an additional 267.86 million shares for overallotment, CREC said in a regulatory filing on Thursday.

It has rescheduled its planned P7.9-billion IPO from May 31 to June 7, with the offer period now set from May 20 to May 24.

"CREC should do well over time, and the discounted IPO price looks like a fair entry for investors. We are keen to see the performance of this IPO given the current tepid state of the local stock market," Chinabank Capital Corp.

Managing Director Juan Paolo E. Colet said in a Viber message.

He said that despite closing lower than its IPO at its market debut, OceanaGold Philippines, Inc. is now trading "well above that level," which could inspire investors in CREC.

"We remain optimistic about the prospects for renewable energy in the Philippines. Government

policies are supportive of the sector, and there is a growing market preference for clean and sustainable energy," Mr. Colet said.

Regina Capital Development Corp. Head of Sales Luis A. Limlingan said that "investors may want to consider this, given the success of the previous IPO. There may also be indications of potential growth following

the SM Group's recent entry, which accounts for less than a 30% stake."

SM Investments Corp. invested P5 billion in CREC's subsidiary Citicore Energy REIT Corp. (CREIT), the first real estate investment trust listing with a focus on renewable energy.

On its debut in 2022, CREIT's shares closed at P2.84

apiece, higher by 11.37% than its IPO price of P2.55.

For 2023, the company's attributable net income rose by 12% to P1.4 billion. Gross revenues grew by 31% to P1.8 billion, driven by the expansion of its green asset portfolio.

At the local bourse on Thursday, shares in CREIT went up by P0.01 or 0.35% to close at P2.84 each. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

Vista Land sets P30-billion capex budget for 2024

VILLAR-LED Vista Land & Lifescapes, Inc. on Thursday said it has allocated a capital expenditure (capex) budget of P30 billion for 2024, mainly for its expansion plans.

Vista Land President and Chief Executive Officer Manuel Paolo A. Villar said that 98% of the budget was allocated for the residential units' construction and land development.

"Land acquisition as well as investment properties construction will account for the remaining 2% of the budget," he said in an e-mailed statement.

The property developer saw an 11% jump in first-quarter net income to P3 billion.

First-quarter consolidated revenue improved by 11% to P10 billion. Real estate revenue climbed by 10% to P5 billion, while rental income rose by 13% to P4.1 billion.

The property developer launched a total of P10.1 billion worth of projects nationwide, while P7 billion worth of capex was expended during the first quarter.

"We will also continue to maximize our leasable space which is currently at 1.6 million square meters of gross floor area or over



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100 investment properties consisting of 42 malls, 56 commercial buildings and seven office buildings," Mr. Villar said.

"Our performance for the first quarter has been in line with our asset maximization strategy. Both our residential and commercial businesses registered growth for the quarter," he added.

Meanwhile, Vista Land Chairman Manuel B. Villar, Jr. said he is bullish on the property developer's growth this year.

"We look forward to 2024 as we will continue with our asset maximization and optimization strategy via our Vista Estates which now stand at 26 across the country. We remain

optimistic with the industry as we continued with our project launches which in turn delivered a 12% growth in our reservation sales to P20.8 billion for the quarter," he said.

"In addition to our existing strategy, we will also aim to solidify our foothold in the horizontal residential market with launches in several areas, specifically in the provinces. Having the widest geographic presence has been one of our strengths and now we have also expanded our offerings to include both horizontal and vertical residential products across the Philippines," he added.

As of end-March, Vista Land's total assets stood at P349.5 billion while equity reached P134.6 billion.

Vista Land is engaged in the residential and commercial property development business through units such as Camella Homes, Communities Philippines, Crown Asia, Brittany, Vista Residences, and Vista Malls.

On Thursday, Vista Land shares gained by 0.67% or one centavo to P1.50 each. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**



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MPTC unit taps DMCI for last segment of CAVITEX C5 Link

THE CAVITEX Infrastructure Corp. (CIC), a unit of Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC), has partnered with D.M. Consunji, Inc. (DMCI) for the construction of the remaining segment of CAVITEX C5 Link.

"This is a milestone for the CAVITEX C5 Link as it marks the construction of the last remaining segment. Soon, motorists will benefit from the entire 7.7-kilometer expressway stretching from CAVITEX R1 to C5 Road in Taguig," MPTC President and Chief Executive Officer Raul L. Ignacio said in a media release on Thursday.

CIC has signed a P3.3-billion agreement with DMCI for the construction of C5 Link Segment 3B, which comprises a two-kilometer, 3x3 lane stretch from the Kaingin area to the RSG Subdivision.

The construction of the remaining segment is targeted to be finished by the second

semester of the year and will be operational by 2025.

Under the contract signed by the two parties, DMCI will construct the roadworks, drainage, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire protection, sanitary systems, and toll plazas.

To date, CAVITEX C5 link's operational segments are Segment 3A-1 (C5 Link Flyover from C5 Road to Merville) and Segment 3A-2 (C5 Link Flyover Extension).

MPTC is the tollways unit of Metro Pacific Investments Corp., one of three key Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., the others being Philex Mining Corp. and PLDT Inc.

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. — **A.E.O. Jose**

SEC approves SM Prime's P100-B bond program

THE Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has approved the shelf registration of Sy-led property developer SM Prime Holdings, Inc. for up to P100 billion of fixed-rate bonds.

During a meeting on May 23, the Commission En Banc gave the green light for the registration statement of SM Prime's peso-denominated bonds, which can be offered in one or more tranches, the SEC said in a statement on Thursday.

The first tranche will consist of up to P20 billion of three-year Series V bonds, five-year Series W bonds, and seven-year X bonds, with an oversubscription option of up to P5 billion.

SM Prime is projecting to generate P24.72 billion worth of net proceeds assuming that the overallotment option of the offer's first tranche will be fully exercised. The proceeds will be used to refinance the listed company's debt and expand its property portfolio.

The bonds will be offered at face value from June 7 to 14, based on the offer's latest timeline sent to the SEC. These will be subsequently listed on the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp.

SM Prime tapped BDO Capital & Investment Corp. and Chinabank Capital Corp. as the joint issue managers for the offer. They will join BPI Capital Corp., East West Banking Corp., First Metro Investment Corp., Land Bank of the Philippines, and SB Capital Investment Corp. as joint lead underwriters and bookrunners. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

AllDay says income rises 10.2% on importation gains, expansion

PREMIUM SEGMENT supermarket operator AllDay Marts, Inc. reported a 10.2% increase in its first-quarter net income, reaching P97 million.

"AllDay's stable position through the first quarter can be credited to continuing gains from our importation and, in part, through our new minimarts," AllDay President and Chief Executive Officer Frances Rosalie T. Coloma said in a statement on Thursday.

First-quarter revenue rose by 1.1% to P2.47 billion from P2.44 billion last year.

Gross profit increased by 1.2% to P514 million, while earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization grew by 5.6% to P246 million.

AllDay leveraged its international selections and benefited from the recent opening of four new minimart locations, according to Ms. Coloma.

"We established a foothold in the communities of Camella East and Ponticelli in Bacoor, Maia Alta in Antipolo, and along Governor's Drive in Dasmariñas, and look forward to building on the elevated supermarket experience we have long bannered across the chain," she said.

On Thursday, AllDay Marts stocks fell by 2.16% or P0.003 to P0.136 apiece. — **R.M.D. Ochave**

Flexible cyber law, tech investment needed to fight threats — experts

ADDRESSING the rising cybersecurity threats in the Philippines requires a two-pronged strategy: implementing more flexible legislation and harnessing emerging technologies, according to experts.

"I know that fraudsters and even perpetrators also need a tool that could be used to move forward. Artificial intelligence (AI) has actually helped us a lot in ensuring that our space is safe," GCash Chief Risk Officer Ingrid Beroña said at the BusinessWorld Economic Forum 2024 on Wednesday.

GCash is focusing most of its budget on protecting its platform from breaches, she added.

She also noted that investing in technologies has allowed the company to successfully prevent cybersecurity breaches.

"What I can confidently say is [the value of cybersecurity incidents] is not even 1% of our daily transactions," she said.

"The most prevailing technology we have is AI. AI has helped us that our space is safe. We have a good relationship with local authorities and they are working with us to ensure that the space is secure," she added.

A law aiding companies and agencies in combating cybersecurity attacks will also need to be implemented, according to Alexander K. Ramos, executive director of the Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center.

"The way laws are set up now, once they are passed, a new threat has already emerged. We need more flexible laws that can address threats as they happen," he said.

In April, research group Capstone-Intel urged the Philippine Congress to pass a law enhancing the government's cybersecurity protocols and mechanisms.

This follows several incidents of cybersecurity breaches involving government websites.

For instance, the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) attributed the recent breach involving the Department of Science and Technology to the government's outdated network and slow procurement process.

The DICT said that the government's slow procurement process does not permit timely network upgrades, especially given that the information communications and technology landscape is constantly evolving.

Recall that the country is expected to face more cyberattacks as attackers are anticipated to take advantage of the expanding digital economy, the department said.

The Philippines' digital economy has been on the rise, with its value expected to reach as high as \$150 billion by 2030, mainly driven by e-commerce, accord-

ing to the e-Economy report issued by Google, Temasek Holdings, and Bain & Company last year.

While the government is responsive to cyberattacks, the Philippines needs policies that are "flexible" and adaptable to changes, especially since threat actors are growing sophisticated, Mr. Ramos said.

"We have laws passed within the past year to safeguard the digital realm, but we are still asking Congress for more," he added.

Last year, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. said the government is working to ensure the swift passage of cybersecurity laws.

Currently, Senate Bill (SB) 1365 or the proposed Cybersecurity Act is pending at the committee level. — **A.E.O. Jose**

