

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,371.75

▼ 39.66 PTS.

▼ 0.61%

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2024

BusinessWorld

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P598.00 -P17.00 -2.76%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P4.75 -P0.04 -0.84%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P37.00 +P0.85 +2.35%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P8.80 -P0.11 -1.23%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P26.50 -P0.30 -1.12%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P130.50 +P0.30 +0.23%	BLOOM Bloomerry Resorts Corp. P10.40 -P0.54 -4.94%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P120.20 -P0.60 -0.5%	CNPF Century Pacific Food, Inc. P35.85 ---	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P10.00 -P0.38 -3.66%
DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P11.08 -P0.02 -0.18%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P18.70 +P0.02 +0.11%	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,910.00 -P44.00 -2.25%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P610.00 +P5.00 +0.83%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P329.60 ---	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P216.00 -P5.00 -2.26%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P29.20 -P0.95 -3.15%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P10.20 -P0.04 -0.39%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P65.05 -P1.95 -2.91%	MER Manila Electric Co. P352.20 -P17.00 -4.6%
MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P10.92 +P0.02 +0.18%	NIKL Nickel Asia Corp. P4.10 ---	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P23.95 +P0.20 +0.84%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P33.00 +P0.10 +0.3%	SM SM Investments Corp. P885.00 +P15.00 +1.72%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P103.40 +P3.40 +3.4%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P26.05 -P0.50 -1.88%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,380.00 -P20.00 -1.43%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P105.00 -P0.30 -0.28%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P19.00 ---

Chemical Industries shifts to real estate, merges with 6 firms

CHEMICAL Industries of the Philippines, Inc. is changing its name to Uniholdings, Inc. and will merge with six companies as part of its shift to the real estate business.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) approved the name change on May 24, the company said in a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) on Wednesday.

The name change aligns with the proposed amendment of its business purpose to engage in property development, it said.

Chemical Industries, which started in 1959, manufactures, sells and distributes industrial chemicals and leases office space, according to its corporate profile on the PSE website.

The chemical segment makes and trades chemical products for water and sewage treatment and inorganic coagulants for the paper industry.

It stopped operating this segment since CAWC, Inc., CHEMPHIL Manufacturing Corp., and Kemwarter Phil. Corp. ceased operations.

In a separate disclosure on Thursday, the company said its board approved on May 29 the exclusion of Unioil Group, Inc. from a planned merger, as well as the continuation of the merger with six other companies. UniHoldings will become the surviving entity.

These are Adventure Properties, Inc., Citiworld Properties and Development Corp., Exquadra, Inc., Quantumlink Realty Corp., Buklod Realty Corp., and Rivertanks, Inc., Exquadra, Citiworld, Quantumlink, and Buklod are engaged in property leasing.

"After a careful review of the business plan of the company and its affiliates, the company has adopted the above resolutions to clearly delineate and define the

lines of businesses within the organization, with Uniholdings, Inc. focusing primarily on businesses related to real estate," it said.

The company will file the final merger articles and plan and other documents with the corporate regulator, Philippine Stock Exchange and other regulatory agencies, it added.

Uniholdings also changed its office address after the corporate name change.

"Chemical Industries deemed it best to transfer its principal place of business in view of the sale of the land and building where the previous principal office of the corporation was established," it said.

After the transfer of the principal office to Pasig City, the company would prioritize leasing activities, it added.

The company noted that in implementing the merger, all shares of capital stock of the absorbed compa-

nies issued and outstanding on the effective date of the merger would be canceled, subject to valuation confirmation and approval by the SEC.

In exchange for the net assets of the absorbed companies and the canceled shares of their stockholders, 61.98 million Uniholdings shares will be issued, it added.

In another disclosure, Chemical Industries said it expects its public float to go below the 10% minimum public ownership and 20% minimum for backdoor-listed companies.

"The company has been required to do a follow-on offering and hopes to raise the public float to a level compliant with PSE requirements, after the follow-on offer exercise," it said.

It is still finalizing the merger plan, which it would file with the SEC by next week, it added. —

Revin Mikhael D. Ochave



MEGAWORLDINTERNATIONAL.COM

Megaworld tapped by PEZA to develop and operate Arcovia City

THE PHILIPPINE Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) has signed a registration deal with Megaworld Corp., making it the developer and operator of the Arcovia City IT Park in Pasig City.

In a statement on Thursday, PEZA said its partnership with Megaworld would help boost efforts to make the country a premier investment hotspot in the region "with ecozones as drivers of growth and development."

"Megaworld's commitment to nation-building is evident through their active participation in the country's ecozone program," PEZA Director General Tereso O. Panga said in the statement.

"By establishing new zones, we can host global players in the information technology and business process management industries, thereby giving more opportunities to Filipinos," he added.

PEZA and Megaworld signed the agreement last week at the PEZA head office, according to the state investment promotion agency.

Megaworld oversees nine economic zones with 221 registered businesses that generate \$3.29 billion (P193 billion) in exports and 160,000 jobs.

Megaworld has spent P817.5 million on the horizontal development of the IT Park in Pasig City, which is part of the listed company's mixed-use development, PEZA said.

"We are optimistic that more business titans in the real estate development sector will follow Megaworld's lead and either establish or expand their portfolio in the government's ecozone program," Mr. Panga said.

Arcovia City is one of the two economic zones proclaimed by President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. this year, bringing the number of proclaimed zones under him to 13 with P4.86 billion in investments.

It aims to entice more local and international investors to bolster economic growth and create more jobs for Filipinos.

Megaworld shares lost 1.62% or three centavos to close at P1.82 each. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

ERC approves Alsons contract for power reserves

By **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**
Reporter

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission (ERC) has provisionally approved a deal that would allow Alsons Consolidated Resources, Inc. to implement its new contract for power reserves.

This came after its unit Western Mindanao Power Corp. said it might shutter its diesel power plant in Zamboanga City due to insufficient fuel supply. This could cause rotating brownouts in the city and nearby areas.

Western Mindanao Power had a nonfirm ancillary services procurement agreement with the National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP), which allowed it to provide power to the city.

The contract expired on April 25. The NGCP, however, awarded a new firm ancillary services procurement deal, which was put on hold pending ERC approval.

"This interim relief provides us the opportunity to implement a firm ancillary services procurement agreement contract awarded to Western Mindanao Power Corp. for dispatchable reserve, reactive power support and black start service," Alsons Deputy Chief Financial Officer Philip Edward B. Sagun said at the company's virtual annual stockholders' meeting on Thursday.

He added that once clarifications have been made with the ERC, Western Mindanao Power could continue providing electricity to support the "much needed grid stability" in the Zamboanga Peninsula.

Ancillary services are tapped by grid operators to support the transmission of power

from generators to consumers to maintain reliable operations.

"We are in the process of procuring the necessary fuel to ensure the uninterrupted operation of Western Mindanao Power Corp.," Mr. Sagun said.

Alsons Chairman Nicasio I. Alcantara in a separate statement said the company expects the increased power demand to continue given the Philippines' projected economic growth of 6-7% this year.

"We are committed to driving business growth by maintaining highly efficient plant operations, accelerating our project implementation and continuously seeking opportunities to expand our footprint," Mr. Alcantara said.

Alsons operates four power facilities with a total capacity of 468 megawatts, serving more than eight million people across 14 cities and 11 provinces in Mindanao.

Alternergy gets P2-billion loan to finance RE projects

ALTERNERGY Holdings Corp. on Thursday said it had signed a deal with BDO Unibank, Inc. for a P2-billion green corporate loan that will finance its renewable energy (RE) projects.

The company's board approved the financing, which can be increased to as much as P4 billion, on May 7, it said in a statement.

"As a green corporate loan, Alternergy demonstrates our commitment to sustainability by strictly adhering to

the international principles, guidelines and standards on green finance instruments," Alternergy President Gerry P. Magbanua said in the statement.

BDO acted as the lead arranger for the transaction, while Romulo Law acted as the lender's counsel and MVGS Law acted as the borrower's counsel.

"BDO has been a long-time partner to Alternergy over the years in building our portfolio as a pure-play renewable company," Mr. Magbanua said.

Alternergy said the loan is part of its capital funding strategy "to support the timely construction of its renewable power projects."

This includes the Tanay and Alabat Wind Power projects in the provinces of Rizal and Quezon, respectively, as well as the Solana Solar Power project in Hermosa, Bataan.

The three projects are expected to add up to 204 megawatts (MW) of capacity by the end of next year.

Its unit Alternergy Tanay Wind Corp. earlier obtained loans from Bank of the Philippine Islands and Security Bank Corp. worth P8 billion to fund the construction of its 112-MW wind project in Tanay.

Alternergy seeks to develop up to 474 MW of additional wind, solar and run-of-river hydropower projects in the next three years.

It shares fell by a centavo to P0.67 each. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

Cebu Air launches direct flights to Kaohsiung, Taiwan



CEBU Air, Inc. is expanding its international network by launching direct flights to Kaohsiung, Taiwan, it said in a statement on Thursday.

"With the growing interest among passengers to travel to new destinations, we hope that this launch will encourage them to add another destination to their itinerary or cross off one they've been looking to visit," Alexander G. Lao, Cebu Pacific president and chief commercial officer, said in the statement.

Cebu Pacific, which is operated by Cebu Air, will fly its Manila-Kaohsiung flights three times weekly on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays starting Aug. 16.

Kaohsiung is the budget carrier's second destination in Taiwan. It also flies to Taipei twice daily.

The airline said it would offer so-called piso seat sales on May 30 to June 13 for its Kaohsiung flights. The travel period must be from Aug. 16 to Oct. 25 this year.

The company's seat sale could go as low as P1 for the one-way base fare, excluding fees and surcharges.

Earlier, the company said it was planning to expand its international routes and increase flight frequencies to popular destinations in line with its \$12-billion aircraft order. Last week, it said it would announce its supplier for 100 narrow-body aircraft by June.

Cebu Pacific flies to 35 domestic and 24 international destinations in Asia, Australia, and the Middle East.

Cebu Air stocks closed 2% or 55 centavos lower at P27 each. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Pacific Online lone qualified bidder for PCSO e-lotto deal

PACIFIC Online Systems Corp. is set to secure a five-year lease with the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) for an e-lotto platform.

The company received a notice from the PCSO on Wednesday saying it had been chosen as the only qualified bidder for the contract for a web-based app for electronic lotto.

"As the single calculated bid, the submitted bid will be subjected to a post-qualification review by the PCSO's special bids and awards committee," Pacific Online said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange on Thursday.

"Should there be no issues raised during the post-qualification, it is expected that the PCSO special bids and awards committee will be issuing its notice of award," it added.

Pacific Online provides and manages online lottery systems, terminals and software for the Philippine gaming industry.

It has been providing technical and market expertise in the distribution of lottery products in the country in partnership with the PCSO for more than two decades.

Pacific Online shares fell by 1.03% or five centavos to close at P4.80 each. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**