

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,682.78

▲64.09 PTS.

▲0.96%

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024

BusinessWorld

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P621.50 +P1.50 +0.24%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P4.90 ---	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P37.35 ---	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P9.57 -P0.01 -0.1%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P29.70 +P0.30 +1.02%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P140.00 +P1.30 +0.94%	BLOOM Bloomerry Resorts Corp. P10.58 +P0.38 +3.73%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P126.60 +P3.60 +2.93%	CNPF Century Pacific Food, Inc. P35.00 +P1.20 +3.55%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P10.00 +P0.26 +2.67%
DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P10.70 +P0.02 +0.19%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P18.20 -P0.14 -0.76%	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,020.00 +P20.00 +1%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P648.00 +P18.00 +2.86%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P339.40 +P5.40 +1.62%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P230.00 +P4.00 +1.77%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P34.15 +P0.25 +0.74%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P10.16 +P0.10 +0.99%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P70.50 +P0.50 +0.71%	MER Manila Electric Co. P377.00 +P3.80 +1.02%
MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P11.26 -P0.24 -2.09%	NIKL Nickel Asia Corp. P4.46 +P0.40 +9.85%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P24.90 +P0.10 +0.4%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P32.20 ---	SM SM Investments Corp. P875.00 ---	SMC San Miguel Corp. P101.90 -P0.30 -0.29%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P29.20 ---	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,463.00 +P7.00 +0.48%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P110.60 +P1.60 +1.47%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P19.68 +P1.48 +8.13%

Metro Pacific's mWell expands digital healthcare product line

MWELL, the digital healthcare arm of Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC), announced on Monday its expanded line of digital healthcare products.

This includes the Mind Health Score feature and the new generation of mWell watches and rings.

"The number of hospitals in aggregate in this country is about 2,000 hospitals. We represent only about 1.2% in number... but that's still not enough to adequately cover the healthcare requirements of our people," mWell Chairman and MPIC Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Manuel V. Pangilinan said during the launch event.

Mr. Pangilinan said that this is why the company deploys technology to expand the reach of Metro Pacific hospitals and services.

"People's health actually determines the country's economic progress. We think that health is the basic right for all, equal to clothing, shelter, food, because health enables all of those things to be enjoyed," said mWell CEO and President and MPIC Chief Finance, Risk, and Sustainability Officer June Cheryl Cabal-Revilla.

The mWell application is an integrated platform that allows online consultation, daily health tracker, financial wellness, laboratory, pharmacy, home care and emergency quick response.

According to the company, the Mind Health Score feature serves as a "personal compass as you go on a self-guided journey towards enhancing emotional, social, and cognitive well-being."

The user can evaluate their thoughts, emotions, decisions, and goals with full awareness.

It also helps to understand the person's triggers to help reduce stress and even offers

a playlist featuring guided meditations for stress relief, relaxation, and better sleep.

The mWellness Score can also pull in data from both Apple Health and Google Fit.

Meanwhile, the mWell watches let users track their workouts, physical activities and overall wellness. The watch includes 100 exercise modes, heart rate, and blood oxygen.

"Paired with the mWell app, it allows app users to view daily mWellness Score based on exercise, light activity, sedentary time, and step count," the company said.

mWell also introduced its light and smart mWell ring that tracks sleep and important health metrics, including heart rate, heart rate variability, resting heart rate, and average oxygen saturation.

"Using the mWell Ring paired with the mWell app, one will be able to view Total sleep report, light sleep, deep sleep, rapid eye movement (REM) sleep — all in one tracker," mWell said.

The ring is built with Titanium and comes with a seven-day battery life. It is also water resistant, lightweight and scratch free.

In terms of prices, the Power Smart Watch and Prestige Smart Watch retail for P2,499 and P2,999, respectively.

The rings have a special introductory price of P8,999 with free shipping. The available colors are silver, black, and bronze, in sizes 6-13 inches.

Metro Pacific Health Tech Corporation (MPHTC) is a wholly owned subsidiary of MPIC.

MPIC is one of the three key Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., the others being Philex Mining Corp. and PLDT Inc. — **Aubrey Rose A. Inosante**

San Miguel nearing TPLEx Extension contract signing



SANMIGUEL.COM.PH

THE SAN Miguel Holdings Corp. (SMHC) may soon sign the contract for the Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEx) Extension, the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center said.

"The TPLEx is at the most advanced stage, we just finished the challenge process. They are supposed to sign (because) it has been awarded to them. The next step is after the contract award, contract signing," PPP Center Deputy Executive Director Jeffrey I. Manalo told reporters over the weekend.

In November, the National Economic and Development Authority board approved the comparative challenge for the TPLEx extension project, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said.

PPP Center said no parties have challenged the unsolicited proposal of SMHC. The company secured the original proponent status for the project in 2018.

"Without a challenger, the project may be awarded to the original proponent as early as March 2024. Otherwise, the project is expect-

ed to be awarded by May 2024," DPWH said.

It added that civil works of the TPLEx extension can then proceed, which will take five years to complete.

The TPLEx Extension project is a 59.4-kilometer four-lane toll road that starts from the last exit of TPLEx in Rosario, La Union, and terminates in San Juan, La Union.

Once completed, the TPLEx Extension project is expected to reduce travel time from Rosario to San Juan from 1.5 hours to around 40 minutes. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Alsons Dev eyeing to finish Narra Park Residences Avia in Sarangani by 2027

By **Aubrey Rose A. Inosante**

ALABEL, Sarangani — Alsons Development and Investment Corp. (Alsons Dev) has announced its expectation to complete its 13-hectare Narra Park Residences Avia in Sarangani by 2027.

The project is situated within the 121-hectare mixed-use Avia Estate in Alabel, the capital of Sarangani. This marks Alsons Dev's inaugural venture outside Davao City.

"When we introduced Avia Estate as our first project outside Davao City, our vision was to create a community similar to what we have done in Davao," said Jessa Mae D. Sisi, Alsons Dev assistant general-manager for sales and marketing, during a familiarization tour in Sarangani on May 18.

Ms. Sisi added that the property represents a promise of a new community for Alabel and the broader SOCCSKSARGEN (South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, and General Santos) area.

According to Alsons Dev Assistant General-Manager for Business Development in Sarangani & Gensan Operations Richlie Lyndon L. Magtulis, the decision to locate in Alabel instead of General Santos was motivated by the Alcantara Group's extensive investment in Sarangani, including the nearby Alsons Aquaculture Corp. facilities.

Alsons also considered the town's tourism potential, as the estate is situated along the Sarangani-Davao Del Sur Coastal Road, leading to Glan municipality, renowned for its pristine shorelines facing the Celebes Sea.



Mr. Magtulis said that the estate has allocated 80 hectares for residential use and 40 hectares for commercial purposes, while hinting at another residential project in the pipeline for the estate.

Aligned with this, some amenities and features of Narra Park Residences are modeled after Alsons' properties in Davao, such as the Northtown township.

The residences offer single-attached Bungalows with a 45.31-square-meter floor area, comprising two bedrooms, two toilets and a bath, and an allocated one-car garage. Meanwhile, the two-storey units span 63.22 square meters, with three bedrooms, two toilets and baths, a powder room, and provision for a two-car garage.

"The price of the units for Bungalow is currently at P3.6 million, and for two storeys, it's P4.7 million, with open lots priced at P30,000," said Senior Project Officer Sheena Mae D. Tanes, noting that 78 open lots are available for customization.

The 518 units range from 120 to 150 square meters.

Proximity to amenities includes a branch of Abba's Orchard Montessori schools and the 1800-square-meter Alabel Public Safety and Security Complex (APSSC).

The Sarangani provincial capitol, hospital, and national high school are also nearby.

APSSC, in collaboration with Alabel's local government unit (LGU), houses three government support facilities: a police station, fire station, and National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, ensuring public safety.

It was the second integrated emergency response facility constructed and donated by Alsons Dev, following the one in Davao.

"The LGU is going to provide manpower; we donated land and buildings," said Alsons Dev Sales Manager, ensuring that a minimum of five police personnel is on standby.

She also clarified that this incurs no expense to the LGU and only requires providing equipment and vehicles such as the firetruck.

Meanwhile, the 78 allocated open lots are expected to be occupied by "professionals, doctors, businessmen, and sole proprietorships."

Among the available amenities are the central park, hosting community-building activities, a swimming pool, a cabana, and a multi-purpose court.

Ms. Sisi also noted that buyers of the residences are a diverse mix, including families from GenSan, overseas Filipino workers, and some from Metro Manila with family ties in Sarangani.

Maya Bank and WeFund forge a P2.75-B loan channeling partnership to boost access to credit

Philippine digital banking leader Maya Bank and WeFund Lending Corporation, through Lightning Financing Company, have established a P2.75-billion loan channeling deal to significantly expand access to financial services for underserved communities.

This collaboration provides immediate access to capital to more creditworthy Filipinos and underscores the importance of responsible borrowing, thereby fostering financial empowerment. With this partnership, Maya and WeFund are making significant strides in bridging the economic divide, offering a lifeline of credit to underserved communities, and paving the way for their financial independence.

As a pioneer in digital financial services, Maya Bank is committed to transforming the economic landscape for Filipino consumers and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) through innovative offerings like savings and deposits. The loan channeling initiative with WeFund extends Maya Bank's mission to increase credit accessibility for the unbanked populations in the Philippines.

Angelo Madrid, President of Maya Bank, emphasized the collaboration's impact, stating, "We are proud to work with WeFund, and this initiative is a powerful step in getting more Filipinos banked through digital technology. This joint effort significantly expands the financial options available, helping to also promote better financial health, especially among the unbanked and underserved."

WeFund operates the JuanHand online lending platform, which has

already disbursed over P21 billion in loans, boasting a user base of over 7 million registered individuals. As it strives to cement its position as the country's leading fintech cash lending app, JuanHand remains steadfast in its commitment to provide immediate assistance by approving and disbursing loans in less than 5 minutes. With its focus on fair interest rates, stringent regulatory compliance, polite customer service, and user-friendly interface, JuanHand emerges as the trusted and preferred option for those seeking tech-driven financial solutions.

"We are honored to partner with Maya Bank, a company known for innovation and a pioneer in our country's digital banking industry. The collaboration enables us to positively impact the lives of millions of *Pinoys* who are underserved yet creditworthy. Having access to much-needed financial services is the start of financial empowerment and long-term success. Responsible borrowing will always be a tool for good, and we're proud to have Maya Bank support us in this noble endeavor," said Francisco "Coco" Mauricio, WeFund Lending Corp. and JuanHand's President and CEO.

This initiative between Maya Bank and WeFund sets the gold standard for a more inclusive and equitable financial landscape in the Philippines, advancing their goal of nurturing a financially empowered society.

*Download JuanHand app now via iOS Appstore and Google Playstore or visit www.juanhand.com.