

## Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,398.77

▼13.14 PTS.

▼0.2%

## PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

<b>AC</b> Ayala Corp. P577.00 -P5.00 -0.86%	<b>ACEN</b> ACEN Corp. P4.98 -P0.02 -0.4%	<b>AEV</b> Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P37.75 -P1.05 -2.71%	<b>AGI</b> Alliance Global Group, Inc. P8.72 +P0.06 +0.69%	<b>ALI</b> Ayala Land, Inc. P28.90 +P0.40 +1.4%	<b>BDO</b> BDO Unibank, Inc. P130.00 +P1.80 +1.4%	<b>BLOOM</b> Bloomerry Resorts Corp. P9.50 -P0.01 -0.11%	<b>BPI</b> Bank of the Philippine Islands P119.10 ---	<b>CNPF</b> Century Pacific Food, Inc. P33.10 +P0.95 +2.95%	<b>CNVRG</b> Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P11.50 ---
<b>DMC</b> DMCI Holdings, Inc. P11.10 -P0.04 -0.36%	<b>EMI</b> Emperador, Inc. P18.58 -P0.02 -0.11%	<b>GLO</b> Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,088.00 -P12.00 -0.57%	<b>GTCAP</b> GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P578.00 -P42.00 -6.77%	<b>ICT</b> International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P349.00 -P0.80 -0.23%	<b>JFC</b> Jollibee Foods Corp. P225.20 -P0.80 -0.35%	<b>JGS</b> JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P26.65 +P0.60 +2.3%	<b>LTG</b> LT Group, Inc. P9.61 -P0.14 -1.44%	<b>MBT</b> Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P66.25 -P1.30 -1.92%	<b>MER</b> Manila Electric Co. P369.80 +P3.80 +1.04%
<b>MONDE</b> Monde Nissin Corp. P9.50 +P0.10 +1.06%	<b>NIKL</b> Nickel Asia Corp. P3.71 ---	<b>PGOLD</b> Puregold Price Club, Inc. P24.20 ---	<b>SCC</b> Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P32.95 -P0.75 -2.23%	<b>SM</b> SM Investments Corp. P832.00 +P1.50 +0.18%	<b>SMC</b> San Miguel Corp. P100.40 +P0.10 +0.1%	<b>SMPH</b> SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P28.00 -P0.30 -1.06%	<b>TEL</b> PLDT Inc. P1,440.00 +P3.00 +0.21%	<b>URC</b> Universal Robina Corp. P108.40 -P2.80 -2.52%	<b>WLCON</b> Wilcon Depot, Inc. P17.70 -P0.20 -1.12%

## DoubleDragon's Sia: 2024 last chance for 8.008% retail bond

LISTED property developer DoubleDragon Corp. (DD) has set the interest rate for its forthcoming 3.5-year retail bond offering at 8.008% per annum.

"I personally believe that 2024 could be the very last year in my entrepreneurial journey that the retail public can participate with a retail bond priced at 8.008% coupon rate given that not only that DD is nearing the blue chip level of balance sheet but also the global high interest cycle is starting to shift to downward interest rate cycle," DD Chairman Edgar "Injap" J. Sia II said in a statement on Monday.

This retail bond offering represents the initial segment of DD's shelf-registered debt securities program, which totals up to P10 billion. The offering includes a principal amount of up to P3 billion,

with an oversubscription option of up to P3 billion.

DD said the offer period commenced on June 28 and will run until July 10, with listing on the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. scheduled for July 16.

According to its final prospectus dated June 27, the company anticipates generating over P5 billion in net proceeds assuming full exercise of the oversubscription option.

These proceeds are intended to partially finance the redemption of DD's P9.7-billion fixed-rate bonds issued in July 2017, as well as to cover overhead expenses including working capital requirements.

The 3.5-year retail bond offering has received a "PRS Aaa" rating with a stable outlook from the Philippine Rating Services Corp. (PhilRatings). This rating denotes minimal credit risk, and the stable

outlook indicates an expectation of the rating remaining unchanged over the next twelve months.

DD has engaged RCBC Capital Corp., Unicapital, Inc., and Development Bank of the Philippines as joint lead underwriters and bookrunners for the issuance.

"We are glad to tap the peso retail bond market again after over five years. We believe that the pricing of this DD retail bond offering at 8.008% will enable a wide range of people to avail of the good coupon rate for a Triple A-rated retail bond and given the minimum investment size of only P50,000," Mr. Sia said.

"On top of that, 8 is also believed by many to be an auspicious or 'swerte' (lucky) number and having two 8s in the coupon rate could be even more auspicious," he added.

For 2024, DD anticipates surpassing P100 billion in total equity for the first time.

The company also expects a strengthened balance sheet following the upcoming listing of its hotel subsidiary, Hotel101 Global Pte. Ltd., on the Nasdaq Stock Exchange in the United States.

Hotel101 Global will trade on Nasdaq under the ticker symbol "HBNB" following its execution of a binding definitive merger agreement with special purpose acquisition company JVSPEC Acquisition Corp.

Last year, DD saw a 23.25% increase in its consolidated net income to P15.93 billion as consolidated revenue climbed by 75% to P24.74 billion.

DD shares declined by 1.65% or 20 centavos, closing at P11.90 per share on Monday. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

## Globe raises P4.06B from tower sale to MIDC, Frontier

GLOBE Telecom, Inc. on Monday said it raised P4.06 billion through the sale of telecommunications towers to Miescor Infrastructure Development Corp. (MIDC) and Frontier Tower Associates Philippines, Inc.

The transaction included the sale of 140 towers to MIDC for approximately P1.68 billion, representing MIDC's acquisition of 1,669 towers, or 76.6% of the total 2,180 towers to be acquired, Globe said in a regulatory filing.

MIDC, a subsidiary of Manila Electric Co., specializes in the development, ownership, and management of communication infrastructure.

Additionally, Globe closed the sale of 187 towers to Frontier for P2.38 billion, advancing

Frontier's acquisition to 2,492 towers, or 70.6% of the 3,529 towers agreed upon.

Globe has agreed to sell a total of 5,709 telecommunication towers and associated passive infrastructure to MIDC and Frontier for P7.1 billion.

MIDC is set to acquire 2,180 towers for P2.6 billion, while Frontier will acquire 3,529 towers for P4.5 billion.

Proceeds from these transactions will be used for capital investment, debt repayment, and to strengthen its balance sheet, Globe said.

The company anticipates a post-tax gain of approximately P13.5 billion from these transactions.

Last week, Globe announced progress in its tower sales to PhilTower Consortium, with

1,148 towers, or 85% of the planned 1,350 towers, already acquired.

The telecommunications company signed an agreement with PhilTower for the sale of its towers and related passive infrastructure for approximately P20 billion.

For the first quarter, Globe reported revenue of P45.31 billion, a marginal increase of 0.6% from P45.03 billion in the same period last year.

Meanwhile, its attributable net income declined by 6.1% year on year to P6.81 billion, compared to P7.25 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year.

At the local bourse on Monday, shares in the company closed P12 or 0.57% lower at P2,088 apiece. — **A.E.O. Jose**

## CREC, SMC unit to boost solar energy capacity

CITICORE Renewable Energy Corp. (CREC) has formed a joint venture with SMC Global Light and Power Corp. (SGLP), the power arm of San Miguel Corp. (SMC), to build a 153.5-megawatt (MW) solar power plant in Mariveles, Bataan, the Saavedra-led solar power company said on Monday.

CREC and SGLP recently signed an investment and shareholders agreement to jointly develop, construct, and operate a solar power plant, the company said in a regulatory filing.

"The joint venture will add approximately 76.75MW to the company's attributable solar energy capacity," CREC said.

"The parties shall collaborate and cooperate in the financing, construction, ownership, operation, and maintenance of the plant through the subscription to a special purpose entity," it added.

SGLP, a wholly owned subsidiary of San Miguel Global Power Holdings Corp., the power arm of San Miguel Corp., intends to participate in a special purpose entity (SPE) for the project, subject to several conditions.

These conditions include: incorporation of the SPE; completion of CREC's due diligence on the SPE within 10 days after its incorporation; transfer of the solar energy operating contract from SGLP to the SPE with consent from the Energy department; CREC's subscription to the SPE; and execution of energy supply contracts, sublease agreements, and engineering, procurement, and construction contracts with the SPE.

Upon satisfaction of these conditions, both parties will subscribe to the SPE, with CREC initially owning 49% and SGLP owning 51% of the total issued and subscribed capital stock.

During the construction phase, CREC will subscribe to additional shares, resulting in an equal 50:50 ownership between the two companies.

Last month, CREC listed its P5.3-billion initial public offering consisting of 1.79 billion common shares, with a 10% overallotment option of up to 178.57-million secondary common shares at P2.70 apiece.

CREC aims to add one gigawatt (GW) of solar energy capacity annually to the Philippines energy mix, focusing on ready-to-build or under construction projects over the next five years, aiming for a total of around 5 GW by 2028.

First Metro Investment Corp. Head of Research Cristina S. Ulang said that the joint venture aligns closely with SMC's strategy to pursue additional joint ventures.

"Risk sharing is becoming more a feature of SMC's renewable energy expansion strategy," she said via Viber.

Regarding CREC, Ms. Ulang said that the joint venture "lightens up the capitalization and risk burden for them too."

"They both have the technology and benefit from tech know-how sharing and capabilities," she added.

At the local bourse on Monday, CREC shares in the company closed at P2.69 each. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

## Del Monte Pacific expects 'reduced' net loss in 2025, focuses on asset sales, cost cutting

DEL MONTE PACIFIC Ltd. (DMPL) on Monday said it saw a net loss of \$127.3 million for the fiscal year ending April 2024, a reversal from the prior year's net income of \$16.9 million, primarily attributed to decreased gross profit.

Looking ahead to fiscal year 2025, DMPL anticipates another net loss, albeit reduced, and is focusing on selectively selling assets, injecting equity through partnerships, rightsizing its workforce, and reducing fixed costs, it said in a statement to the stock exchange.

The company cited a 30.4% decline in gross profit to \$422.2 million from \$607 million, driven by inventory-related costs in its US operations and reduced pineapple supply in Asia.

Although sales increased marginally by 0.3% to \$2.42 billion, driven by higher US sales and increased fresh pineapple exports to China and South Korea, earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization plummeted by 59.6% to \$133.2 million.

Del Monte Foods, Inc., the company's US unit, contrib-

uted \$1.74 billion, or 72% of total sales.

Meanwhile, Del Monte Philippines, Inc., reported sales of P38.7 billion, a 5.6% decline in peso terms, due to lower pineapple harvests and increased interest costs stemming from higher interest rates and loan balances.

For the fourth quarter, DMPL's net loss widened to \$76.7 million from \$11.9 million a year earlier, attributed to lower gross profit and increased interest expenses.

The company has established a task force to enhance gross

margins, particularly in the US and across DMPL, starting in the second half of fiscal year 2025, despite ongoing high inflationary pressures, particularly in the US.

Initiatives include reducing inventory, minimizing waste and write-offs, cutting warehousing and distribution costs, consolidating manufacturing operations, enhancing planning through digitization, ensuring clear organizational accountability, and improving productivity for processed pineapple variety C74 over the next 12 to 24 months. — **R.M.D. Ochave**

## GT Capital Holdings names new CFO

GT CAPITAL Holdings, Inc. has named George S. Uy-Tioco, Jr. as its new chief financial officer (CFO), effective Monday (July 1).

Mr. Uy-Tioco, Jr. assumes the CFO position following the retirement of Francisco H. Suarez, Jr., GT Capital said in a filing to the stock exchange on Monday.

Before joining GT Capital, Mr. Uy-Tioco, Jr. served as the corporate finance head of ING Bank N.V. Manila Branch from June 2021 to March 2024.

Prior to that, he held the position of head of mergers and acquisitions at BPI Capital Corp. from 2013 to 2021.

"Mr. Uy-Tioco, Jr. has a proven, robust finance and investment background with over 25 years of

experience in investment banking, asset management, business development, and general management," GT Capital said.

"He has handled key transactions on mergers and acquisitions, and possesses invaluable financial advisory experience across various sectors, including banking, energy, and telecommunications, among others," it added.

GT Capital has interests in banking, automotive assembly, importation, dealership, and financing, property development, life and general insurance, and infrastructure.

On Monday, GT Capital shares dropped by 6.77% or P42, closing at P578 apiece. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

## MPTC, Singapore's GIC forge \$1-billion agreement for Indonesian toll road stake

METRO Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC) announced on Monday a "strategic investment cooperation" with its subsidiaries — PT Margautama Nusantara (MUN) and PT Metro Pacific Tollways Indonesia Services (MPTIS) — and its partner Singapore's GIC Pte. Ltd. to acquire a 35% stake valued at approximately \$1 billion in Jasamarga Transjawa Tol (JTT), a subsidiary of PT Jasa

Marga (Persero) Tbk, Indonesia's state-owned toll road operator.

"JTT is a network of 13 toll roads in the provinces of West Java, Central Java, and East Java," MPTC said in a statement.

"The combined 676-kilometer long road is considered Indonesia's crown jewel that allows the efficient flow of 850,000 vehicles daily across Indonesia's economic powerhouse of Java Island," it added.

MPTC also said the addition of JTT toll roads is expected to further boost its portfolio to 1,130 kilometers connecting various economic zones in the Philippines and Indonesia.

"This deal fortifies MPTC's goal to expand in Southeast Asia and enhance our infrastructure portfolio. This expansion in Indonesia aligns well with our commitment to improve our regional

presence in toll road operations," said Rogelio L. Singon, MPTC president and chief executive officer.

In 2023, GIC acquired a 33% stake in MPTC's MUN for \$209.9 million. Consequently, MPTC ownership in MUN decreased to 60.3%, although it retains the majority share. MPTC concurrently collaborated with GIC in the joint bidding process for JTT.

MPTC is the tollway 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 Media-Quest Holdings, Inc., has a majority stake in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **A.E.O. Jose**