Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) 6,753.12 ▲41.07 PTS. ▲0.61%

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024 BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC	Ayala Corp.	P594.00	+P14.00	+2.41%
ACEN	ACEN Corp.	P4.85	+P0.07	+1.46%
AEV	Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc.	P35.65	-P0.15	-0.42%
AGI	Alliance Global Group, Inc.	P9.00	+P0.10	+1.12%
ALI	Ayala Land, Inc.	P31.60	-P0.30	-0.94%
BDO	BDO Unibank, Inc.	P145.60	-P2.60	-1.75%
BLOOM	Bloomberry Resorts Corp.	P8.52	-P0.05	-0.58%
BPI	Bank of the Philippine Islands	P129.00	——	
CNPF	Century Pacific Food, Inc.	P33.65	+P0.65	+1.97%
CNVRG	Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.	P11.14	+P0.02	+0.18%
DMC	DMCI Holdings, Inc.	P11.20	+P0.02	+0.18%
EMI	Emperador, Inc.	P18.60	+P0.02	+0.11%
GLO	Globe Telecom, Inc.	P2,100.00	+P38.00	+1.84%
GTCAP	GT Capital Holdings, Inc.	P599.00	-P0.50	-0.08%
ICT	International Container Terminal Services, Inc.	P362.80	+P7.00	+1.97%
JFC	Jollibee Foods Corp.	P229.00	+P1.00	+0.44%
JGS	JG Summit Holdings, Inc.	P28.30	+P0.50	+1.8%
LTG	LT Group, Inc.	P9.59	-P0.08	-0.83%
MBT	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.	P68.95	+P2.05	+3.06%
MER	Manila Electric Co.	P381.00	+P6.40	+1.71%
MONDE	Monde Nissin Corp.	P9.30	+P0.11	+1.2%
NIKL	Nickel Asia Corp.	P3.55	+P0.05	+1.43%
PGOLD	Puregold Price Club, Inc.	P25.80	-P0.40	-1.53%
SCC	Semirara Mining and Power Corp.	P33.20	-P0.30	-0.9%
SM	SM Investments Corp.	P923.00	+P19.00	+2.1%
SMC	San Miguel Corp.	P99.50	+P3.00	+3.11%
SMPH	SM Prime Holdings, Inc.	P29.90	-P0.75	-2.45%
TEL	PLDT Inc.	P1,495.00	+P41.00	+2.82%
URC	Universal Robina Corp.	P117.50	+P0.50	+0.43%
WLCON	Wilcon Depot, Inc.	P18.00	+P0.10	+0.56%

Sangley airport developers get PCC nod

YUCHENGCO-LED House of Investments, Inc. said the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) has approved its joint venture for the Sangley Point International Airport (SPIA) project.

"We received the PCC Resolution today, which clears the transaction between the Provincial Government of Cavite and the consortium created by Cavitex Holdings, Inc. and House of Investments, Inc.," the company told the stock exchange.

In March of last year, the company notified the Securities and Exchange Commission that it had formally sought approval from the PCC for the proposed joint venture for the project.

The group hopes to develop the airport into an international hub that will meet future demand.

In February 2023, the SPIA consortium and the Cavite provincial government signed the joint venture and development agreement for the project's implementation.

House of Investments, along with other Philippine members of the consortium, including MacroAsia Corp., signed the development agreement with the Cavite provincial government.

Samsung C&T Corp., Munich Airport International GmbH, and Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd. are also involved in the project. Samsung C&T is the construction arm of South Korean tech giant Samsung.

The Cavite provincial government awarded the $11-billion project to the consortium in 2022.

By 2028, the consortium expects to complete the first phase of the project, which includes the first of the airport's four runways.

The second phase will include a two-runway system with facilities capable of handling at least 75 million passengers annually.

The National Government currently operates Cavite City's Sangley Point as a supplemental runway to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

TV5 shifting focus to entertainment to reach profitability

MEDIA conglomerate MediaQuest Holdings, Inc. said it has found a way to make TV5 Network, Inc. profitable.

"The only way for TV5 to make money is really to transform it into a full entertainment channel because the revenue is on the entertainment side," MediaQuest President and Chief Executive Officer Jane J. Basas told *BusinessWorld* on the sidelines of a recent launch event.

"We do see a path to profitability," she noted, adding that TV5 has not yet reached profitability due to current investments, including the transition from analog to digital TV.

TV5's current revenue market share is reported to be approximately 13% to 15%, based on recent board meeting data, according to Ms. Basas.

She also said that TV5's performance is "improving" and is expected to further advance following the premiere of the *Will to Win* variety show on July 14.

"TV5 is doing very well. We've never seen it perform as well as it is now, both on the top line and the bottom line," Ms. Basas said.

"That is really helped by the fact that we've been able to strengthen our programming grid, with *Eat Bulaga* and just a few days ago, we launched *Will to Win*," she added.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest, has a majority stake in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Maharlika eyeing co-investments with other sovereign, private funds

THE Maharlika Investment Corp. (MIC) is looking at the possibility of partnering with other funds interested in investing in the Philippines, its top official said on Monday.

"We envisage co-investing with sovereign wealth funds, and other private equity and institutional funds that are keen to invest in the Philippines," MIC President and Chief Executive Officer Rafael Jose D. Consing, Jr. told the *BusinessWorld* in a Viber message.

This, following the MIC's membership in the International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds (IFSWF), which is an England-based group of sovereign wealth fund managers. It also sets governance standards for the operation of funds globally.

Its membership in the group will allow the MIC to engage with more global investors and fund experts and "grants the Philippines access to a range of privileges, such as international recognition, networking, and peer learning opportunities," the Department of Finance said in a press release last week.

Other IFSWF members include the respective sovereign wealth funds of Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates, United States, France, Italy, China, Spain, and Australia, among others.

"As for our Associate Membership in the IFSWF, we are excited to collaborate with leading sovereign wealth funds worldwide, sharing knowledge and best practices to maximize our impact on the Filipino people and the global community," Mr. Consing said on Monday.

Last week, the MIC Board also approved the corporation's founding principles and framework for its overall mission, governance structure and high-level investment approach until 2028. Under Republic Act No. 11954 that created the Maharlika Investment Fund, the creation of the framework is required before the MIC can proceed with its investments.

Mr. Consing has said the MIC is looking to initially invest in energy security, resource development, healthcare, and digital connectivity. He said the MIC will announce its first investment before the end of the year.

The corporation's annual budget has yet to be finalized by the Department of Budget and Management. It is also in talks with the Governance Commission for Government-Owned and -Controlled Corporations and the Civil Service Commission on its organizational structure.

It is also looking to set up thematic sub-funds, or equity mutual funds that invest in equities tied to infrastructure, manufacturing, energy, and other sectors.

The MIC earlier said it is seeking to raise $1 billion for energy projects, one of its priority investment areas. The $1 billion may be raised through private equity and limited partnerships with other countries' sovereign wealth funds, Mr. Consing said.

The MIC chief also earlier said that they are in talks with government agencies to support the development of three economic zones in Luzon and Mindanao. These include an industrial ecozone north of Luzon, a medium-sized agri-industrial ecozone south of Metro Manila, and another ecozone in Mindanao. — **B.M.D. Cruz**

AboitizPower income down by 4% to P17.1B in first half

ABOITIZ Power Corp. (AboitizPower) reported a 4% decline in net income to P17.1 billion for the first half of the year, due to depreciation and interest costs from GNPower Dinginin units 1 and 2.

Core net income also decreased by 4% to P17.1 billion, excluding foreign exchange and derivative gains, the company said in a filing on Tuesday.

From January to June, earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) went up by 8% to P36.3 billion driven by higher generation margins.

"This also resulted in growth in beneficial EBITDA for the second quarter of 2024 at P19.9 billion, 6% higher than the P18.7 billion beneficial EBITDA in the same period in 2023," AboitizPower said.

Higher portfolio margins and the energization of the Cayanga and Laoag solar power plants contributed to a 10% increase in EBITDA earnings for the generation and retail supply business, reaching P33 billion.

Energy sold increased by 0.12% to 17,758 gigawatt-hours (GWh) from 17,736 GWh in the same period last year.

AboitizPower's distribution business EBITDA was P4.2 billion, a 16% decrease from P5 billion previously, mainly due to favorable timing of pass-through charges resulting from a sharp decline in fuel prices.

Energy sales increased by 9% to 3,256 GWh in the first half of 2024, compared with 2,983 GWh in the same period in 2023, driven by higher demand due to the El Niño phenomenon.

Energy sales to residential, commercial, and industrial customers increased by 17% and 6% year on year, respectively.

As of June, AboitizPower's total consolidated assets reached P503.4 billion, a 3% increase from P487 billion at the end of 2023.

In May, the company partnered with Thailand-based REPCO NEX Industrial Solutions to convert its conventional power plants into smart power plants. They aim to use data science and artificial intelligence to develop "digital twin technology" for the 300-megawatt (MW) Therma South Plant in Davao City and the 340-MW Therma Visayas Plant in Cebu. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

Shang Properties expects close to P50B in sales from QC project

LISTED luxury property developer Shang Properties, Inc. said it expects to generate close to P50 billion in sales value from its new two-tower Shang Summit residential development in Quezon City (QC).

"Our total sales value for the two towers is close to P50 billion based on current prices," Shang Properties Executive Vice-President for Commercial Maria Rochelle S. Diaz told reporters on the sidelines of a media briefing in Taguig City on Tuesday.

Ms. Diaz noted that the sales forecast is the highest for any Shang Properties project. The property will have its soft launch on Sunday.

Shang Summit units are priced at P280,000 per square meter, excluding value-added tax. The development is situated on a 6,000-square-meter lot in South Triangle, Quezon City.

"The project includes two towers. The first tower will have 1,020 units, and the second will have nearly 900 units, totaling almost 2,000 units available on the market," she said.

At 250 meters, Shang Summit will be the tallest residential development in the country and is the first residential project of Shang Properties in Quezon City.

The two towers are designed by the architectural firm P&T Group and the interior design firm FM Architettura.

The first tower is expected to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2030.

Shang Summit will feature amenities including a tropical swimming pool, a state-of-the-art fitness center, wellness facilities, co-working lounges, and extensive play areas for children. It will also include the Summit Lounge and Summit Gallery for relaxation and entertainment, and the Alcove, which will serve as quiet spaces for work or study.

"Shang Properties is committed to offering a luxurious living experience that caters to a wide demographic. Our vision with Shang Summit is to make luxury more accessible," Ms. Diaz said.

Additionally, Shang Properties announced that the North Tower of its Haraya Residences in Pasig City will open in the third quarter. Haraya North will feature one- to three-bedroom units ranging from 67 to 203 square meters, all with a unique loggia extending the living space.

Residents will have access to 2,500 square meters of outdoor amenities and 2,270 square meters of indoor amenities, including children's play areas, a swimming pool, and various communal spaces.

Haraya North is developed by Shang Robinsons Properties Inc., a joint venture between Shang Properties and Robinsons Land Corp. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Fiscal plan,
from S1/1

The National Government (NG) borrows from both foreign and domestic lenders to fund its budget deficit as it spends more than its revenues to support infrastructure projects and boost economic growth. The budget deficit in the January-May period widened by 24.06% to P404.8 billion.

"In time, if borrowings are not translated into growth, debt servicing could even divert public money away from supporting more infrastructure and productive activities in the future," Mr. Guinigundo said.

Economic managers are targeting 6-7% gross domestic product (GDP) growth this year.

Government debt hit a record high of P15.35 trillion at the end of May, according to the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr), which largely pointed to the weakening of the local currency against the greenback.

"Any form of public goods will require substantial amounts of funds. Hence, a good measure of how SONA should consider not just the type of public goods that will be delivered but also how the public will have to pay in order to acquire them," said Leonardo A. Lanzona, Jr., who teaches economics at the Ateneo de Manila University.

"In the face of substantial debts and huge budget deficits, this dream that the government will supply for all of this infrastructure and higher wages for government officials will be impossible," he said in an e-mail.

At a post-SONA briefing on Tuesday, Budget Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman said the department had set aside some P9.5 billion for the new medical allowance for government employees announced by Mr. Marcos.

The appropriation was allocated under the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund for 2025, she noted, adding that government workers will each receive a medical allowance as a subsidy to avail themselves of Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) benefits.

The allowance covers employees under National Government agencies, state universities and colleges, and government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs).

Ms. Pangandaman also said Mr. Marcos will issue an executive order detailing the four-tranche salary hike for government workers.

About P70 billion has been set aside under the 2025 National Expenditure Program to ensure the implementation of the first and second tranches, she said.

The last time government workers' salaries were increased was in 2023, she said, referring to the fourth and last tranches of the Salary Standardization Law of 2019.

At the post-SONA briefing, Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto said the government is targeting to double its revenue from nontax collections this year.

"Last year it was about P200 billion. This year, we will get about P400 billion... We are on track to hit our fiscal target for the entire year and that's roughly about P4.25 trillion," Mr. Recto said.

FULL STORY

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