

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)					7,417.25	▲164.93 PTS.	▲2.27%	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 BusinessWorld		
PSEi MEMBER STOCKS										
AC Ayala Corp. P695.00 +P5.00 +0.72%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P5.25 +P0.07 +1.35%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P38.15 +P1.15 +3.11%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P9.45 — —	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P37.20 +P0.90 +2.48%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P163.00 +P3.00 +1.88%	BLOOM Bloomerry Resorts Corp. P8.55 +P0.12 +1.42%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P139.20 +P6.70 +5.06%	CNPF Century Pacific Food, Inc. P39.90 +P0.90 +2.31%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P16.80 -P0.46 -2.67%	
DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P11.74 +P0.04 +0.34%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P18.78 +P0.06 +0.32%	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,292.00 +P2.00 +0.09%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P722.00 +P31.00 +4.49%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P414.00 +P10.60 +2.63%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P272.80 +P2.80 +1.04%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P27.40 +P1.20 +4.58%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P10.00 +P0.07 +0.7%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P79.45 +P1.85 +2.38%	MER Manila Electric Co. P435.00 +P18.00 +4.32%	
MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P10.30 -P0.02 -0.19%	NIKL Nickel Asia Corp. P3.66 +P0.03 +0.83%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P30.40 +P0.70 +2.36%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P33.80 +P0.15 +0.45%	SM SM Investments Corp. P991.00 +P21.00 +2.16%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P87.00 -P1.80 -2.03%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P32.80 +P0.60 +1.86%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,520.00 +P70.00 +4.83%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P102.50 +P1.50 +1.49%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P18.20 +P0.20 +1.11%	

MPT South plans P14-B capex for 2025 projects

EXPRESSWAY operator MPT South Management Corp. is allocating P14 billion for its 2025 capital expenditure (capex) budget to fund key projects slated for completion next year, the company’s president said.

“Despite the challenges we face in construction, such as the timely delivery of right-of-way and the recent typhoons, we are working around the clock to ensure the delivery of these vital infrastructure projects for the benefit of progress by the end of 2025,” Raul L. Ignacio, MPT South president and general manager, said during a briefing on Monday.

MPT South Vice-President for Finance Elnora D. Rumawak said that next year’s target capex is almost double this year’s P8-billion capex budget.

For this year, MPT South expects to end with a core net income of P1.4 billion, up by 16.7% from P1.2 billion in 2023, driven by toll revenue from toll rate adjustments approved in 2023.

The company also anticipates ending the year with total revenues of P3.4 billion, marking a 13.3% increase from last year’s P3 billion.

MPT South’s capex for 2025 will mainly be funded by a mix of internally generated funds and debts, Ms. Rumawak said.

“2025 is a promising year for us... With all the projects that we will complete, traffic will increase by around 33%,” Ms. Rumawak said.

For 2025, MPT South expects an average daily vehicle count of 344,514, marking a 32.6% increase from the current 259,815.

The company’s optimism for next year is driven by the completion of several key projects which will boost MPT South’s overall operations, Mr. Ignacio said, adding that MPT South’s growth will ultimately hinge on the timely completion of its key projects.

The completion of MPT South’s expressway network will bring its total road network to 67 kilometers by the end of



BW FILE PHOTO

2025, while also providing efficient services between industrial and commercial hubs, shortening travel time for motorists, the company said.

“We are quite confident of meeting our targets within 2025,” Mr. Ignacio said.

The Governor’s Drive Interchange of the Cavite-Laguna Ex-

pressway (CALAX) is among the projects scheduled for completion in 2025.

MPCALA Holdings, Inc., the concessionaire of CALAX, said previously that the portion of Governor’s Drive Interchange of CALAX has reached 25% completion and is on track to be opened by the first quarter of 2025.

Mr. Ignacio also said that other segments of CALAX and CAVITEX C5 Link like the Open Canal Interchange, Kawit Interchange, and C5 Link Segment 3B are all expected for commercial operations before the end of 2025.

MPTC is the tollways unit of Metro Pacific Investments Corp., which is 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. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

RE players seeking improvements in green energy auction program

By **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**
Reporter

RENEWABLE ENERGY (RE) leaders are seeking improvements in the green energy auction program (GEAP) to allow more energy players to participate actively.

At an energy forum organized by ING Philippines on Monday, SunAsia Energy, Inc. President and Chief Executive Officer Maria Theresa Cruz-Capellan said that the government should craft “a more sophisticated auction design.”

“Gas and pump storage and even geothermal needs a special kind of auction design because it is not the same as solar and wind...That kind of a market mechanism has to be more specific function design. I think we’re getting there,” Ms. Capellan said.

She said that the GEAP was designed to support and fit new green technologies.

“There has to be a more sophisticated auction design that will allow leaders in the energy sector to participate actively and see the signals as correct,” Ms. Capellan said.

The GEAP aims to promote renewable energy as one of the country’s primary sources of energy through competitive selection.

The Department of Energy (DoE) is set to stage two rounds of GEAP this year.

GEA-3 involves geothermal, pump-storage hydro, run-of-river hydro, and impounding hydro with a total capacity of 4,399 megawatts (MW).

Meanwhile, the DoE is also targeting to hold GEA-4 which involves renewable energy technologies and energy storage systems and liquefied natural gas technologies.

Ms. Capellan noted the “red flags” during the second round of GEA, which resulted in few takers and subscribed capacities.

To recall, the DoE blamed the low turnout of GEA-2 on concerns about transmission lines available for the projects and the low reserve prices on offer.

First Gen Corp. Vice-President and Head of Power Marketing, Trading & Economics Carlos Lorenzo L. Vega said that there was “a huge gap” during the previous round as the capacity offered was at more than 11,000 MW, but only over 3,000 MW were subscribed.

“Clearly, we welcome more off-take mechanisms. This will help the strategy in managing risks. Having said that, it is not without difficulty because you know, while it’s good to have more off-take mechanisms, the devil is really in the details,” Mr. Vega said.

While the company looks forward to geothermal being part of the next round of GEA, Mr. Vega said that the policy makers should put up proper “price signal.”

“We hope before we get to the tenth round, the DoE has already kind of sorted it out,” Ms. Capellan said.

GEA was first conducted in 2022 and attracted 1,996.3 MW worth of renewables, while GEA-2 was held in 2023, where 3,440.756 MW were awarded.

BW ONE-ON-ONE SMIC: Risk preparedness meets community gains

SM Investments Corp. (SMIC) is working to enhance the conglomerate’s preparedness for future risks while driving long-term benefits for communities and the environment, according to Timothy Daniels, SMIC consultant for investor relations and sustainability.

The conglomerate is dedicating 10% of its annual capital expenditure (capex) budget, primarily through SM Prime Holdings, Inc., to incorporating disaster-resilient features across its businesses, Mr. Daniels told Editor-in-Chief Cathy Rose A. Garcia during an episode of BusinessWorld One-on-One online interview series themed “The Reinvention of Business.”

“Sustainability is also thinking about the long-term risks, which a business should be thinking about. You have to pull back for a second and not get hung up on the frameworks,” he added.

For 2024, SMIC has allocated up to P115 billion in capex to support its expansion plans.

“We do look very long term, and we think we have a tremendous amount to contribute in the areas where we are experts. I think how we want to do it is to create win-win situations for everybody,” Mr. Daniels said.

He noted that the SM group’s companies each have their own sustainability initiatives.

“Every part of the group has sustainability things... Whether it’s looking at how to design energy-efficient buildings, how to prepare for disaster resilience or climate change, those are very property specific initiatives in SM Prime,” he said.

“In our retailing arm, it’s very customer-facing initiatives. We introduce more green habits and more green products into the country. In our banks, it’s how we create financial inclusion, and funding green and blue projects and renewable energy,” he added.

Mr. Daniels said incorporating sustainability features will pay off in the long term.

“When we look at the environment, it’s extra cost to design and build buildings that are energy efficient and disaster resilient. But we get it back by being more efficient operators,” he said.

“In the long term, we get it back by being prepared for when the worst things could happen. There isn’t a trade-off from our point of view between being responsible and being a successful business. Being a successful business means you think responsibly,” he added.

He said companies can benefit both shareholders and communities without losing profitability.

“A successful long-term company thinks about its stakeholders. It’s just a wise business decision to look after the people who make you successful. It’s a very practical thing that corporates should do to protect their own assets. If you do it right, you can also look after tenants, the communities around us, and we can

try to make sure that everybody is gaining from how we think about dealing with climate change,” Mr. Daniels said.

“One of the things you have to realize is it’s not a trade-off between doing good business and doing sustainable business. It’s actually the same thing. As a group overall, we have a very big role to play in creating modern development, in creating employment, in creating economic growth. That benefits so many people,” he added. — **Revin Mikhael Ochave**



TIMOTHY DANIELS

Petron Corp. lists P16.8B worth of shares on PSE

ANG-LED Petron Corp. has listed P16.8 billion worth of shares on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) following its recent follow-on offering, the oil company announced on Monday.

“We thank the investment community for their strong response and continued confidence in our company. Through their support, Petron remains a viable investment option and we are committed to making sure that we continue to grow and succeed, while being a partner in nation-building,” Petron President and

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Ramon S. Ang said in a statement.

The shares were offered from Sept. 5 to Sept. 13, consisting of 13 million preferred shares and an oversubscription option of up to four million additional shares, at a share price of P1,000 each.

Proceeds from the offering would be used to redeem the company’s Series 3A preferred shares, refinance maturing obligations, and fund general corporate purposes, including the purchase of crude oil inventory.

“These two successive oversubscribed offerings are clear testaments to the investor’s confidence in the company’s continued growth and profitability and investor’s positive perception of its management,” PSE President and CEO Ramon S. Monzon said during the bell-ringing ceremony.

The latest offering marks the second tranche of Petron’s shelf registration for up to 50 million preferred shares. In the first tranche, the company offered up to 22.5 million preferred shares.

Petron tapped BDO Capital & Investment Corp. as the sole issue manager. Bank of Commerce, BDO Capital, Chinabank Capital Corp., Philippine Commercial Capital, Inc., PNB Capital and Investment Corp., and SB Capital Investment Corp. have been designated as joint lead underwriters and joint bookrunners.

Meanwhile, East West Banking Corp., First Metro Investment Corp., and RCBC Capital Corp. were tapped as the selling agents for the offer. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**