Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) 7,280.24 ▲40.26 PTS. ▲0.55%

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2024
BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC	Ayala Corp.	P707.00	+P0.50	+0.07%
ACEN	ACEN Corp.	P4.91	+P0.05	+1.03%
AEV	Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc.	P34.95	+P0.75	+2.19%
AGI	Alliance Global Group, Inc.	P9.15	-P0.19	-2.03%
ALI	Ayala Land, Inc.	P33.60	+P0.10	+0.3%
BDO	BDO Unibank, Inc.	P160.00	+P3.00	+1.91%
BLOOM	Bloomberry Resorts Corp.	P7.70	+P0.01	+0.13%
BPI	Bank of the Philippine Islands	P145.50	-P1.70	-1.15%
CNPF	Century Pacific Food, Inc.	P42.00	+P0.05	+0.12%
CNVRG	Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.	P16.26	+P0.36	+2.26%
DMC	DMCI Holdings, Inc.	P11.22	+P0.02	+0.18%
EMI	Emperador, Inc.	P18.68	——	
GLO	Globe Telecom, Inc.	P2,166.00	+P66.00	+3.14%
GTCAP	GT Capital Holdings, Inc.	P701.00	-P21.00	-2.91%
ICT	International Container Terminal Services, Inc.	P415.00	+P2.00	+0.48%
JFC	Jollibee Foods Corp.	P270.00	+P5.00	+1.89%
JGS	JG Summit Holdings, Inc.	P24.50	-P0.05	-0.2%
LTG	LT Group, Inc.	P10.36	+P0.39	+3.91%
MBT	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.	P79.45	+P3.95	+5.23%
MER	Manila Electric Co.	P500.00	+P10.00	+2.04%
MONDE	Monde Nissin Corp.	P11.00	+P0.08	+0.73%
NIKL	Nickel Asia Corp.	P3.39	——	
PGOLD	Puregold Price Club, Inc.	P31.90	-P0.10	-0.31%
SCC	Semirara Mining and Power Corp.	P31.85	-P0.10	-0.31%
SM	SM Investments Corp.	P962.50	-P3.00	-0.31%
SMC	San Miguel Corp.	P88.80	+P0.10	+0.11%
SMPH	SM Prime Holdings, Inc.	P30.05	-P0.05	-0.17%
TEL	PLDT Inc.	P1,462.00	+P12.00	+0.83%
URC	Universal Robina Corp.	P100.00	——	
WLCON	Wilcon Depot, Inc.	P15.50	-P0.18	-1.15%

Uy seeks to advance $600-M air traffic control

COMCLARK Network and Technology Corp. is hoping to secure the original proponent status (OPS) next week for its $600-million unsolicited proposal to manage the country's air navigation, traffic, and control system, the company's top official said.

"Hopefully, let's wait until next week. I am just waiting. We are just waiting for them," ComClark Chief Executive Officer Dennis Anthony H. Uy told reporters on Tuesday when asked whether the company had secured the OPS for its unsolicited proposal.

The project has an estimated cost of P29.82 billion under a design, build, finance, and operate contractual arrangement, according to the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center.

The project is still under evaluation by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP).

PPP Center Executive Director Cynthia C. Hernandez said that while there is an unsolicited proposal for managing the country's air traffic control, the air traffic services-air navigation services project is also being considered for a solicited project.

This project involves the financing, design, construction, operations, and maintenance of air traffic services and air navigation services of the country's airspace and international airspace managed by the Philippines.

The proposal covers the construction, upgrading, and operation of air navigation services facilities, including Air Traffic Service (ATS) and Communications, Navigation, Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) facilities, the PPP Center said.

"We are taking over the existing CAAP operations. We will bring more technology and we will bring more consultant experts on how to improve our air traffic," Converge's Mr. Uy said.

COMCLARK Chief Executive Officer Dennis Anthony H. Uy
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Senator Rafael T. Tulfo has expressed his opposition to the proposal to privatize the operations of the country's communications, navigation, and surveillance/air traffic management system under the PPP scheme.

"The privatization of CNS/ATM functions poses serious national security risks and exposes us to foreign interference since private companies may be entered into through equity participation by nationalized investors, including big government-backed corporations in China," Mr. Tulfo said in a previous statement.

Mr. Tulfo said he would file a Senate resolution to investigate the proposal and explore other options to improve the country's air traffic control system without involving a private operator or removing government control.

Mr. Uy assured that security concerns are addressed as the company will collaborate with the Philippine Air Force.

"What about security concerns? The Air Force addresses the security concerns. Currently, our air traffic controller is operated by CAAP and with the Air Force. There will be no change, I am trying to bring separation for the regulation and operations," Mr. Uy said.

Transportation Undersecretary for Aviation and Airports Roberto C.O. Lim said that the Department of Transportation is considering either creating an independent agency or forming a joint venture with government corporations under a PPP scheme to privately manage and operate the Philippines' air traffic management system.

Currently, the World Bank and the International Finance Corp. are conducting a study on the management of the country's air traffic control.

The plan to create a separate entity to manage the country's air traffic control system will unload CAAP of its conflicting role, the Transportation department said, adding that it wants CAAP to focus solely on being a regulator. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

A Step Ahead: The Resilience and Transformation of SM's Business

In the late 1950s, a small shoe store called Shoemart opened in the bustling shopping district of Rizal Avenue in downtown Manila. While this is a well-known chapter in SM's history, few realize that one shoe brand—Parisian—grew alongside Shoemart, marking a significant milestone in the legacy of its founder, Henry Sy Sr.

Mr. Harley Sy, Executive Director of SM Investments and Co-Vice Chairman of SM Retail, shared this interesting piece of history. "Shoemart was established in October 1958 and my father's shoe brand Parisian for ladies was also established in 1958, born from his travels abroad in search of quality footwear for Filipinos. His obsession with shoes was well known; he believed that comfortable, well-fitting shoes should be an affordable aspiration for everyone," Mr. Harley recalled.

Shoe stores abroad visited by Mr. Sy in the 1950s

THE LEGACY OF PARISIAN

The name Parisian reflects Mr. Sy Sr.'s admiration for European craftsmanship, symbolized by the iconic Eiffel Tower that adorned the brand's original shoebox design. Mr. Harley described how his father's journey mirrors not only the evolution of a brand but also his growth as a retail visionary. "In his travels to Boston which was the shoe capital of the world then, he sought out shoe agents for showroom samples. It was daunting for him to navigate the shoe trading houses, speaking limited English. But many of them eventually started selling to my dad since he was buying in bulk. These were typically small sizes which would fit Filipino feet, leading to his shoe trading venture," he explained.

During the local industry's heyday in the 1950s and 60s, Mr. Sy Sr. engaged with Marikina's shoe manufacturers. Mr. Harley fondly recalled that he would hear from Tatang's people that his father would sample shoes at the Carriedo store after office hours from 10 o' clock in the evening to 12 midnight.

CRAFTSMANSHIP AND COMFORT

Mr. Sy Sr. had specific non-negotiables regarding the shoes he offered. It was during the 1980s that Mr. Harley worked with his father closely at the store and understood more about the anatomy of a shoe. To illustrate this vital lesson, Mr. Harley picks up his casual office shoes. He makes a reverse L sign with his thumb, index and middle fingers and inserts them just above the insole. "Look for the middle part of your finger. The counter of your shoe, or the back part that gives support, should end there at the middle part," he said as an indicator of shoe comfort.

"This was a learning experience that forged my appreciation for detail and hard work," he said.

"Tatang would closely look at the shape and fit of every shoe. He would even get a white- tipped drawing pencil or chalk and point to the parts of the shoe that needed to be corrected. These were very important," Mr. Harley said. "Comfort was paramount. My father had an innate ability to assess fit and quality. He could identify flaws just by looking at a shoe."

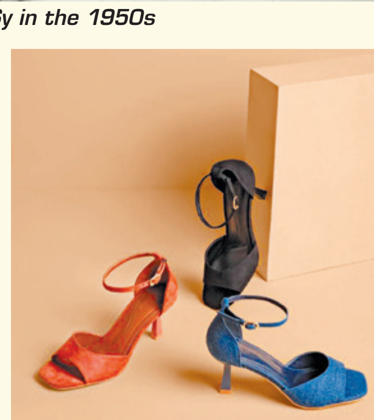
This meticulous attention to detail had been passed down through the generations and all the merchandisers learned from Mr. Sy. "Tatang had the eye of a master shoe craftsman, honed through years of listening to customers and nurturing his passion for shoes," Mr. Harley noted.

As Mr. Sy Sr. developed his shoe brand, he envisioned a transformation in retail. Inspired by the emergence of department stores and malls in the U.S., he was always a step ahead as he introduced innovations that laid the blueprint for SM's growth. "Shoemart was the first shoe store in Carriedo to have air conditioning, creating an inviting environment that drew customers in," Mr. Harley explained.

PARISIAN TODAY AND TOMORROW: ASPIRATION, ADAPTATION, AND EVOLUTION

Today, Parisian shoes and bags remain staples in all SM stores, continuously updated to reflect contemporary styles. Since its inception, the SM Store had sold millions of pairs of Parisian shoes.

Felanie Lim, Shoes and Bags Senior Vice President, elaborates: "We decided to expand Parisian to offer new, high-quality choices while maintaining attractive price points. With categories like Parisian Comfy, Parisian Plus, and our premium line, Parisian Limited, we adapt to evolving market demands." The brand currently boasts a diverse inventory of thousands of styles ensuring there's something for everyone.


Parisian Heeled Sandals

The relevance of the Parisian brand lies in its ability to inspire, adapt, and evolve. Mr. Harley emphasizes, "Innovation is key to staying relevant. The market is always changing, and we must evolve with it. Tatang was a constant innovator, reinventing himself—from shoes to department stores, malls, specialty stores and to what SM is today. We will continue to adapt to the market's aspirations."

The Parisian brand remains a testament to the enduring spirit of SM's business and poised to meet the aspirations of future generations. Anchored on its legacy of resilience, innovation, and dedication to its customer's needs and wants, Parisian continues to thrive, working constantly to be a step ahead in the industry.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THE COMPLETION of this transaction allows Megawide to focus on its property development and precast and construction solutions units.

Megawide completes airport operations exit, commits to strengthening infrastructure focus

MEGAWIDE Construction Corp. has completed the divestment of its equity stake in Mactan Cebu International Airport to Aboitiz InfraCapital, Inc. for P7.76 billion, fully exiting from the airport's operations.

The company divested its remaining 33.3% equity stake in Aboitiz GMR Megawide Cebu Airport Corp. (AGMCAC) to Aboitiz InfraCapital, the company said in a disclosure to the stock exchange on Wednesday.

This move gives Aboitiz InfraCapital full control of the airport. It follows the 2022 agreement where Megawide and its partner, GMR Airports International BV, executed a share subscription and transfer agreement with Aboitiz InfraCapital.

"On this date, (Megawide) assigned, sold, transferred, and conveyed, absolutely and irrevocably unto Aboitiz InfraCapital all of its remaining 2.64 billion outstanding capital stock in GMCAC to Aboitiz InfraCapital," Megawide said.

The completion of this transaction allows Megawide to focus on its property development and precast and construction solutions (PCS) units, Megawide President and Chief Executive Officer Edgar B. Saavedra said.

"Precast and Construction Solutions (PCS) unit — which serves as our unique competitive advantage against other industry players — and our other infrastructure projects, including the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX)," Mr. Saavedra said, highlighting the strategic shift towards enhancing the company's core business areas.

This final closing is also expected to free up Megawide's outstanding current liabilities while also boosting its liquidity position, the company also said.

Megawide is a listed construction and engineering company. It is the operator of PITX and is currently constructing Malolos-Clark Railway Package 1 and Metro Manila Subway Project Contract Package 104.

Earlier this week, the Philippine government and Aboitiz InfraCapital formally signed the contract for the operations and maintenance of the P12.75 billion Laguindingan International Airport.

The group is expected to take over the airport in Misamis Oriental in April next year.

Aboitiz InfraCapital also holds the original proponent status for the operations and maintenance of the P4.5-billion New Bohol-Panglao International Airport, which is currently undergoing a Swiss Challenge. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**