

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,528.79

▼ 10.23 PTS.

▼ 0.15%

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS									
AC Ayala Corp. P599.00 -P12.00 -1.96%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P4.00 +P0.05 +1.27%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P34.35 +P0.25 +0.73%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P9.00 -P0.07 -0.77%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P26.20 -P0.30 -1.13%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P144.00 -P1.70 -1.17%	BLOOM Bloomberry Resorts Corp. P4.58 +P0.08 +1.78%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P122.00 -P2.40 -1.93%	CNPF Century Pacific Food, Inc. P41.95 +P0.60 +1.45%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P16.14 -P0.14 -0.86%
DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P10.82 +P0.08 +0.74%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P18.06 +P0.02 +0.11%	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,184.00 +P84.00 +4%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P658.00 -P2.00 -0.3%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P386.00 -P4.00 -1.03%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P269.00 +P6.20 +2.36%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P20.55 -P1.05 -4.86%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P10.50 —	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P72.00 -P3.05 -4.06%	MER Manila Electric Co. P488.00 +P8.00 +1.67%
MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P8.60 +P0.39 +4.75%	NIKL Nickel Asia Corp. P3.49 +P0.29 +9.06%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P30.85 -P0.25 -0.8%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P34.90 +P0.50 +1.45%	SM SM Investments Corp. P899.00 +P17.00 +1.93%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P86.00 +P4.00 +4.88%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P25.15 -P0.15 -0.59%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,295.00 -P2.00 -0.15%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P79.00 -P0.50 -0.63%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P14.30 +P0.44 +3.17%

Digitalization may boost telco growth in 2025

By Ashley Erika O. Jose

Reporter

THE SURGING demand for connectivity, digitalization, and data center expansion would continue to boost growth, though muted, in the telecommunications and information and communications technology (ICT) sector in 2025, analysts said.

"We may see only single-digit revenue and earnings growth for the industry as a whole in 2025," Juan Paolo E. Colet, managing director at Chinabank Capital Corp., said in a Viber message on Sunday. "Rising demand for data, expansion of product offerings and contributions from segments like fintech and data centers are favorable drivers for positive performance, though at varying extents across the major players."

Jaynill Carl S. Manuel, a Seedbox Securities, Inc. equity trader, expects surging demand for robust connectivity and cloud-based services to drive the ICT sector's profitability.

"Consumers and enterprises alike are gravitating toward data-intensive applications ranging from high-speed internet and

5G (fifth generation)-enabled solutions to more sophisticated digital finance and cybersecurity offerings, and this trend should underpin revenue growth for major players," he said in a Facebook Messenger chat on Dec. 27.

"The profitability outlook for Philippine telecommunications and ICT companies in 2025 appears promising but faces several challenges that could impact growth prospects," Toby Allan C. Arce, head of sales trading at Globalinks Securities and Stocks, Inc., said in a Viber message on Friday.

PLDT Inc. posted a 2.4% increase in its attributable net income in the third quarter, driven by higher revenue that rose 1.98% to P53.36 billion from a year earlier. This brought its nine-month income to P28.07 billion, a 0.68% increase.

Listed fiber internet provider Converge ICT Solutions' attributable net income in the third quarter climbed 40.4% to P2.92 billion from a year earlier, while Globe Telecom, Inc.'s net income climbed 21.1% to P6.02 billion.

Meanwhile, DITO CME Holdings Corp., which operates DITO Telecommunity Corp., posted an attributable net income of P998.05 million during the pe-



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riod from a net loss of P4.29 billion a year earlier.

Sam Jacoba, founding president of the National Association of Data Protection Officers, said cyberattacks would continue to threaten ICT companies and their financial technology arms.

"Cyberattacks will continue and will focus on where the online assets are managed," he said in a Viber message on Sunday.

"Cyberattacks will continue to be a major hindrance in the public's acceptance of digitalization," Ronald B. Gustilo, national campaigner for Digital Pinoys, said in a Viber message.

Electronic wallet giant GCash earlier reported missing funds and unauthorized transactions for some of its users. GCash said these were due to its system reconciliation process.

Mr. Gustilo said hacking and data breaches hinder digitalization growth because many still view it as a risky path.

Mr. Arce said the continued digital transformation across sectors and the evolving consumer preference for digitalization suggest steady revenue streams for telecommunication and ICT companies.

PLDT through its wireless unit Smart Communications, Inc. and Globe have been expanding their 5G coverage in the country.

"Globe Telecom, for instance, is poised to benefit from ongoing 5G network expansion and its deepening investments in digital platforms," Mr. Manuel said.

But intense competition and technological evolution could be a problem for many companies. "Keeping pace with global technology trends requires significant capital investment, which could strain profitability," Mr. Arce said.

Mr. Manuel said PLDT should focus on further modernization of legacy infrastructure and leverage its fiber enterprise segments to sustain steady revenue, while DITO Telecommunity has an optimistic outlook driven by the expansion of its subscriber base.

"Converge ICT Solutions stands to remain a key contender in the

fiber broadband space, especially in underserved regions, although high capital expenditures for network rollouts will pose a challenge to profit margins," he said.

"Stringent data privacy regulations and heightened consumer awareness around cybersecurity will compel telecommunication and ICT firms to invest heavily in compliance measures and digital safeguards," Mr. Manuel said.

Mr. Colet said data centers would be a key driver for companies' positive performance in 2025.

PLDT through unit ePLDT, Inc. plans to build its next data center in Southern Luzon to position its 11th and largest data center, VITRO Sta. Rosa, as a data center hub while also maintaining a strong market presence in the data center business.

Meanwhile, ST Telemedia Global Data Centres Philippines has completed the structural framework of its 124-megawatt (MW) data center in Fairview, Quezon City, paving the way for its initial activation by the second quarter of 2025.

Converge ICT is also planning to open two data centers with a combined capacity of 13 MW in 2025.

Damosa to launch TRYP condotel in Samal in 2025

DAMOSA LAND, Inc. (DLI) will launch its condominium-hotel project under the TRYP by Wyndham hotel brand next year, according to its top official.

The condotel, which will be built on the island of Samal in southern Philippines, is slated for completion by 2027 or 2028, to DLI President and Chief Executive Officer Ricardo F. Lagdameo told *BusinessWorld*.

"We're only going to introduce it or launch it to the market hopefully by next year, but we're heavily into the planning stages," he said in a video interview.

The four-star condotel would feature about 100 rooms and cater to the mid- and luxury markets, Mr. Lagdameo said. "Development will start in the next two years. But we'll start offering it to the market hopefully by next year."

Mr. Lagdameo said Samal Island, which is about 17 kilometers from Davao City, is a major upcoming tourist destination in the Mindanao region. "If you want to go to the beach or on vacation, you'll do it on Samal Island. And it has been developing quite substantially over the last few years."

The expected completion of the Davao-Samal Bridge in 2027 is expected to increase access to Samal Island by tourists. It will also be Damosa Land's first condotel project and partnership with a foreign hotel brand.

TRYP, a unit of Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, has more than 100 hotels across 60



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cities in Asia, the US, and Europe. TRYP by Wyndham Samal will be the second TRYP hotel in the Philippines after TRYP by Wyndham Mall of Asia Manila in Pasay City.

Under the TRYP brand, the condotel would cater to the younger generation, particularly Millennials, Mr. Lagdameo said.

"If you look at their hotels, they're very tastefully done, but they're a little more hip,"

he said. "So it's not just a plain, ordinary business traveler hotel."

In May, Damosa Land signed a deal with PHINMA Microlot Hotels, Inc. to operate TRYP by Wyndham Samal Island.

Damosa Land is the property development arm of ANFLOCOR Group of Companies that specializes in the residential, township, mixed-use, office, commercial, and industrial segments. — **Beatriz Marie D. Cruz**

DDMP REIT to invest in high-growth properties

DDMP REIT, Inc. plans to invest in the long term in income-generating property assets that will provide competitive returns to investors, the listed company said in a 12-page filing outlining its three-year investment strategy sent to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

"The company will endeavor to acquire properties situated in high-growth areas, whether from the DoubleDragon Group or

third parties to cater to economic growth," the real estate investment trust company of listed property developer DoubleDragon Corp. said.

"DDMP REIT plans to add only mature real estate properties in its portfolio with stable cash flows," it told the bourse. "It considers adding future properties that yield higher capitalization, preferably higher than the existing properties."

DDMP REIT's portfolio consists of three office buildings with six towers at the 4.75-hectare DD Meridian Park mixed-use development in Pasay City.

The buildings in the company's portfolio include DoubleDragon Plaza that has four office towers, DoubleDragon Center East, and DoubleDragon Center West.

As of Sept. 30, DoubleDragon Plaza had a 70.81% occupancy rate, while DoubleDragon Cen-

ter West had 94.76% occupancy. DoubleDragon Center East had full occupancy.

DDMP REIT's net income fell 22.7% to P1.2 billion in the first nine months from a year earlier as revenue declined 18% to P1.53 billion. Rent income dropped 7.2% to P1.34 billion due to expired leases.

Costs and expenses rose 4.1% to P337.4 million due to higher taxes, licenses, and outsourced manpower services. — **RMDO**

SEC vows to sustain reforms

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) has vowed to sustain corporate and capital market reforms to support the country's growth.

"We are leaving 2024 with much needed changes implemented to enhance the business sector," SEC Chairman Emilio B. Aquino said in an e-mailed statement on Monday. "As we embark on our 89th year, we will remain steadfast in transforming the capital market to support the growth of a sound and dynamic economy."

The SEC said there were 49,432 company registrations from January to November, up 6% from last year and on track to a new record this year, led by its digitalization efforts.

"Looking back, the SEC has been relentless in its efforts to improve its services through digitalization and implementation of reforms that seek to create a conducive environment that will encourage businesses to incorporate and tap the capital market," Mr. Aquino said.

Market capitalization had increased 23.6% year on year to P209.12 trillion as of Nov. 30, according to the corporate regulator.

It said Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-labeled green, social, sustainable and other labeled bonds (GSS+) issued by Philippine companies from January to November rose seven times to P209.29 billion.

"This brings the value of outstanding ASEAN-labeled GSS+ issued as of end-Novem-

ber to P661.6 billion, representing a 46.27% growth from the same period last year," it said.

It also said it met its target this year of 888 companies that raised funds through public offerings of securities and crowdfunding.

The SEC also intensified efforts to boost investor protection and education. It had released 106 public advisories against unauthorized and illegal investment-taking activities and schemes by end-October. It also issued 18 cease orders against 42 entities and revocation orders against 24 groups.

The SEC filed criminal complaints against 68 people with the Justice department for violating the Securities Regulation Code and the Financial Products and Services Consumer Protection Act.

Meanwhile, the regulator launched digital initiatives to streamline government processes. These include the SEC Zuper Easy Registration Online and Electronic Submission Authentication Portal, which allowed applicants to register their businesses by allowing the digital authentication of documents.

The commission also formed the SEC Foreign Investment Registration Station green lane unit for the applications of companies under the Foreign Investment Act, as well as foreign and multinational companies. It had processed almost 16,000 applications as of November, it said. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**