

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,734.21

▼ 8.68 PTS.

▼ 0.12%

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024  
BusinessWorld

PSEI MEMBER STOCKS

<b>AC</b> Ayala Corp. P650.00 +P12.00 +1.88%	<b>ACEN</b> ACEN Corp. P3.99 -P0.01 -0.25%	<b>AEV</b> Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P33.55 -P0.80 -2.33%	<b>AGI</b> Alliance Global Group, Inc. P8.96 +P0.02 +0.22%	<b>ALI</b> Ayala Land, Inc. P29.15 +P0.15 +0.52%	<b>BDO</b> BDO Unibank, Inc. P155.20 ---	<b>BLOOM</b> Bloomerry Resorts Corp. P5.50 -P0.10 -1.79%	<b>BPI</b> Bank of the Philippine Islands P127.70 -P0.70 -0.55%	<b>CNPF</b> Century Pacific Food, Inc. P43.00 +P0.75 +1.78%	<b>CNVRG</b> Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P16.50 -P0.18 -1.08%
<b>DMC</b> DMCI Holdings, Inc. P10.80 +P0.02 +0.19%	<b>EMI</b> Emperador, Inc. P17.98 -P0.10 -0.55%	<b>GLO</b> Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,102.00 -P28.00 -1.31%	<b>GTCAP</b> GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P659.00 -P0.50 -0.08%	<b>ICT</b> International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P394.00 +P4.00 +1.03%	<b>JFC</b> Jollibee Foods Corp. P262.00 -P3.00 -1.13%	<b>JGS</b> JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P22.10 +P0.05 +0.23%	<b>LTG</b> LT Group, Inc. P10.08 -P0.04 -0.4%	<b>MBT</b> Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P76.30 ---	<b>MER</b> Manila Electric Co. P479.20 -P0.80 -0.17%
<b>MONDE</b> Monde Nissin Corp. P9.20 ---	<b>NIKL</b> Nickel Asia Corp. P3.02 -P0.03 -0.98%	<b>PGOLD</b> Puregold Price Club, Inc. P30.85 +P0.15 +0.49%	<b>SCC</b> Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P32.30 +P0.35 +1.1%	<b>SM</b> SM Investments Corp. P904.00 -P14.00 -1.53%	<b>SMC</b> San Miguel Corp. P87.75 ---	<b>SMPH</b> SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P26.45 -P0.15 -0.56%	<b>TEL</b> PLDT Inc. P1,360.00 +P18.00 +1.34%	<b>URC</b> Universal Robina Corp. P78.00 +P0.70 +0.91%	<b>WLCON</b> Wilcon Depot, Inc. P13.50 +P0.10 +0.75%

# Consunji group completes Cemex PHL stake acquisition

THE CONSUNJI group has officially entered the cement manufacturing business after completing the acquisition of a majority stake in listed cement producer Cemex Holdings Philippines, Inc. (CHP), with the deal priced at \$272 million (P15.96 billion).

Consunji-led companies DMCI Holdings, Inc., Semirara Mining and Power Corp. (SMPC), and Dacon Corp. finalized on Dec. 2 the purchase of Cemex Asian South East Corp. (CASEC), which owned 89.86% of CHP.

DMCI clinched a 51% effective stake in CHP, while Dacon Corp. and SMPC accounted for 29% and 10%, respectively, at the financial close of the transaction.

CHP is the fourth-largest cement producer in the country.

The deal signals the Consunji group's entry into the cement manufacturing sector.

DMCI and SMPC Chairman Isidro A. Consunji was named CHP chairman with the completion of the transaction, replacing Sergio Mauricio Menendez Medina.

"We are excited to welcome CHP into the DMCI group. This acquisition aligns with our core expertise in engineering and construction and dedication to contributing to the infrastructure development of the Philippines," Mr. Consunji said in an e-mailed statement on Tuesday.

DMCI Chief Finance Officer Herbert M. Consunji has been named CHP's president and chief executive officer, succeeding Luis Guillermo Franco Carrillo.

He will spearhead the cement manufacturer's turnaround efforts to further streamline operations and unlock synergies.

"Our priorities are to enhance the logistics network, optimize the product mix, manage production and operating costs, and leverage potential operating synergies within the DMCI ecosystem," Mr. Consunji said.

The Consunji group expects to grow its annual cement production capacity to 7.2 million tons by early 2025 once the expansion

plan of CHP-owned Solid Cement Corp. is completed.

Aside from Solid Cement, CHP also owns APO Cement Corp. The two companies have a total annual capacity of 5.7 million tons.

The acquisition is also expected to boost the DMCI ecosystem, with markets for coal, long-term contracted power capacity, fly ash, and cement products.

On Tuesday, DMCI shares rose by 0.19% or two centavos to P10.80 apiece; SMPC stocks climbed by 1.1% or 35 centavos to P32.30 each; and CHP shares dropped by 2.65% or five centavos to P1.84 per share. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

## 3% of cyber threats in region target PHL firms — study

THREATS targeting local companies continued to increase in the first half of the year, according to global cybersecurity company Kaspersky, with the Philippines accounting for about 3% of the online attacks recorded in Southeast Asia.

"As businesses and governments in the region continue to embrace digitalization to drive economic growth, their increased reliance on digital platforms broadens their attack surface," Kaspersky General Manager for Southeast Asia Yeo Siang Tiong said in a media release on Tuesday.

In the six months to June, Kaspersky said it had logged and blocked more than 26 million web threats in the Southeast Asian region, or an average of 146,944 web attacks daily.

Kaspersky said businesses in Southeast Asia face challenges as they navigate the booming digital economy, which can be exploited by cybercriminals.

The majority of the web-based or online threats in the region were recorded in Malaysia, which faced 19.62 million threats in the January-to-June period; Indonesia recorded a total of 3.2 million; while Vietnam and Thailand recorded 1.45 million and 1.06 million web attacks, respectively.

The Philippines ranked second to last in the region with 846,837 recorded threats, accounting for 3.25% of the over 26 million web attacks recorded in the first semester. Singapore, on the other hand, logged 574,292 attacks.

In a previous report, Kaspersky said web threats targeting Philippine companies reached a total of 1.69 million in the full year 2023, up from nearly 500,000 in 2022.

"This leads to more opportunities for cybercriminals to exploit vulnerabilities in unprotected systems, which can cause disruptions to supply chains,

financial institutions, and critical infrastructure such as healthcare and energy," Mr. Yeo said.

Ronald B. Gustilo, national campaigner for Digital Pinoys, said cybercriminals will always take advantage of any country's digital activity regardless of the strength of its digital infrastructure.

"The Philippines remains a good target for them because we are among the countries that are still catching up with the fast-paced development of digital technology," he said.

Kaspersky said increasing cyber threats damage productivity and make the public suspicious or mistrustful of digital technology, which in turn could lead to financial losses.

"While there has been a significant improvement compared to previous years, many Filipinos are still challenged with digital literacy, hence the high number of cybercrime victims," Mr. Gustilo said.

The Philippine digital economy is expected to maintain its growth trajectory, driven by e-commerce and the continued development of digital infrastructure, according to the e-Conomy SEA report by Google, Temasek Holdings, and Bain & Co.

It also said that the country's digital economy is projected to grow by 20% to \$31 billion in terms of gross merchandise value this year, making it the fastest-growing digital economy in Southeast Asia.

Mr. Yeo said that cybercriminals in the region are getting more sophisticated by leveraging tools like artificial intelligence and other technologies.

Kaspersky said that local companies must ensure continued vigilance and investments in strengthening their cybersecurity posture and must leverage technologies to help combat threats. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

## Ayala Land targets to finish Vermosa estate church by 2026

LISTED property developer Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI) expects to finish the construction of San Sebastian Church at its Vermosa estate in Cavite by 2026.

ALI recently held the groundbreaking ceremony for the church, which has a 500-person seating capacity, the real estate company said in an e-mailed statement on Monday.

Architectural firm Casas + Architects, Inc. will be the lead designer for San Sebastian Church, while the builder has yet to be announced.

"This partnership reflects our shared commitment to make a difference in the lives of our fellow Filipinos and provide a space for their spiritual well-being in the Cavite community," ALI Vice-President and Senior Project Development Head of Estates Group May P. Rodriguez said.

"As we break ground today, let this moment remind us of our shared mission: to foster communities where everyone can thrive," she added.

San Sebastian Church is poised to be a central gathering place for worship, reflection, and community events. It will feature various amenities such as facilities for weddings, seminaries, and parking spaces.

"Rooted in the principles of *aggiornamento*, the design of the San Sebastian Church in Vermosa aspires to transcend trends, offering a sacred space that reflects God's eternal presence. Casas' process focuses on creating an atmosphere that invites worship and evokes an experience of heaven on earth," Casas Architects Principal Architect Carmelo T. Casas said.

Vermosa is a 752-hectare estate that features facilities such as the Ayala Vermosa Sports Hub, AyalaMalls Vermosa, and the De La Salle Santiago Zobel Vermosa Campus.

The property spans the cities of Imus and Dasmarinas in Cavite. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**



### Philex Mining bags Best Mining Forest Award

**BAGUIO** — Philex Mining Corp., one of the oldest and largest copper and gold producers in Southeast Asia, recently garnered the Best Mining Forest 2024 Award, Exploration Category, during the testimonial dinner and awards night at the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual National Mine Safety and Environment Conference of the Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association (PMSEA) at the Camp John Hay CAP Convention Center, Baguio City. On stage to receive the award from Environment Assistant Secretary and concurrent Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) OIC-Director Michael Cabalda (leftmost) is Philex Mining Vice-President for Padcal Operations and Padcal Resident Manager Ricardo Dolipas II (third from right). Also present on stage were Forest Management Bureau OIC-Assistant Director Edna Nuestro (second from left) and Melissa Dee of Teresa Marble Corp. representing PMSEA (rightmost). This was the fifth time that the company received the award.

## Manila Water eyes higher discounts for low-income customers next year

MANILA WATER Co., Inc., the east zone concessionaire for Metro Manila, has announced plans to provide additional support for low-income customers next year.

"Manila Water... is gearing up to implement an enhanced lifeline program following consultations with the MWSS (Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System)," Patrick Lester N. Ty, chief regulator at MWSS Regulatory Office, said during a virtual public consultation on Tuesday.

The application-based discount program aims to extend further support to low-income Manila Water customers, particularly to members of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) whose monthly water consumption does not exceed 20 cubic meters.

"Once this enhanced lifeline program is approved, the concessionaire will start accepting and processing applications for the program this January 2025," Mr. Ty said.

He said that the proposed program is subject to finalization and submission to the MWSS Board of Trustees for review and approval.

Shoebie Hazel B. Caong, group director of Manila Water's East Zone Business Operations, said that customers under the program will enjoy a discount of 60% on the first 10 cubic meters of consumption.

Those who consume between 11 to 20 cubic meters will pay 40% less than the regular rate.

To qualify for the program, applicants must submit a valid identification card (ID) and certification of status as a 4Ps beneficiary, government ID, fully accomplished application form, NBI clearance, and proof of billing without overdue payments for more than 60 days.

"Together, we will ensure that this program is geared towards further safeguarding the rights of the consuming public to a continuous,



sustainable, and accessible supply of safe and affordable potable water and an environmentally safe sewerage system," Mr. Ty said.

Prior to the Enhanced Lifeline Program, Manila Water had been offering a "lifeline" rate for low-income residential households consuming 10 cubic meters or less per month, with a minimum charge of P83.14.

Manila Water serves the east zone network of Metro Manila, covering parts of Marikina, Pasig, Makati, Taguig, Pateros, Mandaluyong, San Juan, portions of Quezon City and Manila, and several towns in Rizal province. — **Shelden Joy Talavera**

**JOB OPENING**

**Company Name:** SAP Philippines, Inc.  
**Address:** 27F NAC Tower, 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Fort Bonifacio, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City 1634  
**Contact details of the Company:**  
Karolina Salim | karolina.salim@sap.com  
**Job Position:** HR Service Associate

**Job Description:**

- Effectively communicate and resolve questions or concerns raised by employees and managers
- Closely work with HR stakeholders to maintain a healthy level of partnership and collaboration
- Regularly audit and update content-related platforms such as the HR Knowledge Base and SAP One pages
- Support global and regional projects and initiatives which may be driven towards simplification, ticket prevention, process improvement, or automation
- Follows guidelines and policies in managing confidential data

**Basic Qualifications for the Position:**

- Bachelor's Degree or comparable experience
- Customer-oriented
- Thrives in a fast-paced and volume-driven environment
- Korean Language Proficiency equivalent to Level 6 or Native
- Excellent oral and written skills in both English and Korean
- 0-3 years of HR specialist/generalist experience

**Salary Range (monthly):** PHP 90,000 – PHP 100,000