

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,603.81

▲ 53.42 PTS.

▲ 0.81%

BusinessWorld

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2025

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P612.00 +P12.50 +2.09%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P4.10 +P0.13 +3.27%	AEV Abotiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P34.10 +P0.10 +0.29%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P8.83 -P0.16 -1.78%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P26.95 +P0.55 +2.08%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P145.00 +P0.50 +0.35%	BLOOM Bloomberg Resorts Corp. P4.86 +P0.17 +3.62%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P124.50 +P2.50 +2.05%	CNPF Century Pacific Food, Inc. P42.15 +P0.15 +0.36%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P16.52 +P0.38 +2.35%
DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P10.90 +P0.08 +0.74%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P18.08 —	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,164.00 +P8.00 +0.37%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P640.00 -P10.00 -1.54%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P399.40 +P0.40 +0.10%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P266.60 -P1.40 -0.52%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P21.00 +P0.65 +3.19%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P10.46 —	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P75.10 +P1.40 +1.90%	MER Manila Electric Co. P485.60 -P1.40 -0.29%
MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P8.40 -P0.20 -2.33%	NIKL Nickel Asia Corp. P3.27 -P0.07 -2.10%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P30.35 -P0.30 -0.98%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P34.85 +P0.25 +0.72%	SM SM Investments Corp. P908.00 +P9.00 +1.00%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P83.00 —	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P25.20 +P0.20 +0.80%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,313.00 +P15.00 +1.16%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P79.80 +P1.10 +1.40%	WLCON Wilcon Depot, Inc. P14.08 -P0.30 -2.09%
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Philippine energy companies upbeat as projects go online

By Sheeldeen Joy Talavera
Reporter

SOME listed energy companies are bullish for growth this year as power projects that are expected to go online provide additional power supply to the grid.

"The year 2024 was a wake-up call, not only for the energy sector but for the entire country," Antonio Miguel B. Alcantara, chief executive officer (CEO) at Alsons Power Group, told *BusinessWorld* in an interview. "The red and yellow alerts experienced across the country underscore the urgent need to enhance the Philippines' power supply, demand management and transmission reliability."

Last year, the Philippines' main grids were placed under 16 red alerts and 62 yellow alerts, leading to brownouts.

"At Alsons Power, we are optimistic that 2025 will be another remarkable year," Mr. Alcantara said.

The company is set to launch its first large-scale solar power plant as part of its plan to diversify its energy portfolio.

Alsons' power generation facilities are concentrated in Min-

dano. It has four power facilities with a combined capacity of 468 megawatts (MW).

Last year, the company started commercial operations of its first renewable energy project, the 14.5-MW Sigui Hydro Power Plant in Maasim, Sarangani.

"In Mindanao, the Department of Energy noted an adequate power supply outlook for the region," Mr. Alcantara said. "Nevertheless, there is a pressing need to enhance generation capacity to address the expected growth in energy demand over the coming years, as well as to account for the frequent provision of power to the Visayas."

Meanwhile, power distributor Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) cited the need to enhance its distribution network's resilience and smartness through grid modernization projects, storm-hardening program and continued investments in advanced technologies, Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer Ronnie L. Aperoch said.

This includes capital-intensive projects such as smart substations and the rollout of smart meters for Meralco's eight million customers.

"With an upbeat economic growth forecast for the Philippines for 2025, we are optimistic that this will be mirrored in Meralco's growth prospects, supported by our strategic efforts to invest, innovate and increase the value of the services that we deliver to our stakeholders, which include our customers and the country," Mr. Aperoch said.

ACEN Corp., the listed energy unit of Ayala Corp., expects a "better supply situation" this year as large thermal plants start operations, along with new renewable energy plants in the next 12 to 18 months.

"Given the variable nature of renewables, we need to step up efforts to integrate more energy storage into the grid," Eric T. Francia, president and CEO at ACEN, said in a Viber message.

The company has about 2,400 MW of renewable capacity in the Philippines, about 1,000 MW of which is under construction.

Mr. Francia said ACEN seeks to participate in the government's green energy auctions and build up capacity to support the company's retail electricity business.

"We aspire to further scale our renewable capacity in the Philippines by over three times

for the balance of the decade," he said.

Meanwhile, Alternergy Holdings Corp. sees 2024 as a "transformative year" as it managed to raise P20 billion in just 15 months as a listed company. This is expected to fuel the company's growth and lay the groundwork to achieve its target of 500-MW capacity by 2026.

Last year, the company started building its three projects — Tanay and Alabat Wind Power projects and Balsik Solar Power project. Construction of the Dupinga Run-of-River Power project and the first phase of Kiangan Run-of-River Power project continue.

"We are bullish at Alternergy as we aim for the complete construction of four of our wind, solar and hydro projects by the end of 2025," Vicente S. Perez, Jr., chairman at Alternergy, said in a Viber message.

The company is gearing up for the next phase of capital-raising to meet the equity needs of its project pipeline.

Energy projects covering 5,485.28 MW are scheduled to start commercial operations in 2025, according to data from Energy department.

OUTLIER

DigiPlus shares rise after winning license in Brazil

DIGIPLUS Interactive Corp. shares hit an all-time high last week after news that it had obtained a gaming license in Brazil.

The digital gambling company's stock rose 6.6% or P27.15 week on week to close at P28.95 each. A total of 10.92 million shares worth P309.8 million were traded on Jan. 2 to 3, making it the eighth-most active stock.

Local financial markets were closed from Dec. 30 to Jan. 1 for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

"Investors flocked to DigiPlus following its announcement of securing an online gaming license in Brazil," said Jemimah Ryla R. Alfonso, equity research analyst at Unicapital Securities, Inc. "With the official authorization from the Brazilian government in hand, DigiPlus is poised to break its own records."

He said Brazil's online casino market is projected to reach \$1.27 billion this year. A 1% slice translates to an additional \$12.7 million (P739 million) in revenue, he pointed out.

Brazil's online sports betting market is expected to hit \$850 million, and captur-

ing just 1% of that market means an extra \$8.5 million in revenue for DigiPlus, Ms. Alfonso said.

In a disclosure last week, DigiPlus said unit DigiPlus Brazil Interactive Ltda. had secured a gaming license to run sports betting and online gaming services in Brazil.

DigiPlus passed the qualification stage for the federal license on Nov. 21 after filing the application in August.

The company said it was expanding in Brazil, citing its population of more than 200 million and its potential as one of the fastest-growing gaming markets in Latin America.

The license allows it to operate land-based and online sports betting, electronic games, live game studios and other fixed-odds betting activities in Brazil.

The DigiPlus board also gave an initial P660 million to fund the license fees, minimum capitalization, financial reserves and other operational expenses as part of the Brazilian government's post-qualification process. — **Lourdes O. Pilar**

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code or by typing the link tinyurl.com/pjrnz5x

Golden Haven leads the nation as the largest developer of vertical memorial sanctuaries



For over 40 years, Golden Haven Memorial Parks has set the Golden Standard in memorial care, leading the industry with innovative, sustainable, and meaningful solutions. As the largest developer of vertical memorial sanctuaries in the Philippines, Golden Haven has embraced cutting-edge approaches to provide families with dignified spaces for remembrance.

Golden Haven's commitment to sustainability is reflected in its design philosophy, which maximizes space efficiency while ensuring that each memorial space preserves the serenity and reverence that families deserve. By focusing on vertical developments, Golden Haven reduces environmental impact, minimizes land use, and provides long-lasting memorial solutions that are both practical and respectful of the natural surroundings.

Golden Haven's portfolio includes several vertical memorial developments across its parks. Its flagship property, Golden Haven Las Piñas, features the iconic Pope John Paul II Columbarium Node, and its latest addition, the Memorial Alcove. The company's Cebu ph.

BW ONE-ON-ONE

Damosa Land bullish over Mindanao property market

By Beatriz Marie D. Cruz

Reporter

DAMOSA LAND, INC. is looking to expand in Mindanao through digitalization efforts and increased demand for "green" and sustainable projects, according to its chief executive officer (CEO).

"We're always trying to be innovative," Damosa President and CEO Ricardo F. Lagdameo told *BusinessWorld* in a Zoom interview. "We're trying to bring in new ideas that we learn abroad, and even just from projects in Metro Manila."

Mr. Lagdameo is a third-generation scion leading Damosa, the property development arm of Davao-based ANFLOCOR Group of Companies, which was founded by his grandfather, the late Antonio O. Florendo, Sr. Damosa specializes in mixed-use, residential, commercial, industrial and tourist properties.

He noted how their real estate developments have integrated sustainability features in the structure and in the overall design of their townships. "Our buildings are now green. We try to use less material, meaning less cement."

The Damosa Diamond Tower in Davao City has an Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies (EDGE) final certification for its environment-friendly features such as a green roof deck, solar power and rainwater harvesting.

Damosa properties also feature "sustainable communities," integrating practices such as urban farming.

"In our townships, we have an abundance of things just growing all over the place which are edible," Mr. Lagdameo said. "So, even when we turn over your house, you already have like a starter planter box where you can have things like vegetables and other produce."

On Sundays, local farmers are invited to Damosa's townships where they could sell their produce, he pointed out.

"We make sure that we're being responsible with the projects that we choose, how we build them and what's our contribution to the environment and the community," Mr. Lagdameo said.

The company also has a roster of younger members that help modernize its processes, such as digitalization.

Damosa has been marketing its projects through sales videos, virtual tours and mobile apps to reach more buyers. This has also helped streamline internal office processes, improving the company's operations.

The property developer is also looking at further expansion across northern Mindanao including in Cagayan de Oro to capture more investors.

"One of the questions that we always have is 'Is there an available market for all the developments we want to do? And when we look at our projects, we're not only looking at Davao City but we're looking at the neighboring cities as well,'" Mr. Lagdameo said.

Projects in Damosa's pipeline include the Bridgeport Park, Kahi Estates, Agriya Gardens and its condominium-hotel project under the TRYPO brand.

"Looking at 2025, it's going to be a busy year, but it will be another fruitful one."

Mr. Lagdameo cited optimism about the Davao property market mainly due to local infrastructure projects that are expected to drive up property prices.

These include the modernization of the Davao International Airport and the public bus rapid transport system.

Infrastructure development is also expected to improve mobility in the area, infrastructure development is also expected to improve mobility in the area,



RICARDO F. LAGDAMEO

Mr. Lagdameo said, adding that this would solve the province's growing traffic problem.

"Over the next few years, the properties that will be developed here will really benefit from all of that."

Another unique selling point of the Davao property market is its easy access to key areas like beaches and mountains, Mr. Lagdameo said.

"When you're in Davao City, you can actually invest in, say, a beachfront property that's very close to the city."

In contrast, in Metro Manila, one needs to drive to nearby provinces like Cavite and Batangas to access beachfront properties, he pointed out. "The range of products here is very diverse and you can get it all within the same city."

Mr. Lagdame