Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) 6,496.32 ▼15.25 PTS. ▼0.23%

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PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC	Ayala Corp.	₱613.00	+₱13.50	+2.25%
ACEN	ACEN Corp.	₱3.94	-₱0.02	-0.51%
AEV	Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc.	₱35.00	——	
AGI	Alliance Global Group, Inc.	₱8.80	-₱0.01	-0.11%
ALI	Ayala Land, Inc.	₱26.50	——	
BDO	BDO Unibank, Inc.	₱147.50	+₱1.60	+1.10%
BLOOM	Bloomberry Resorts Corp.	₱4.19	-₱0.16	-3.68%
BPI	Bank of the Philippine Islands	₱120.90	+₱0.10	+0.08%
CNPF	Century Pacific Food, Inc.	₱44.50	+₱1.00	+2.30%
CNVRG	Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.	₱16.00	-₱0.18	-1.11%
DMC	DMCI Holdings, Inc.	₱10.90	-₱0.08	-0.73%
EMI	Emperador, Inc.	₱17.90	-₱0.12	-0.67%
GLO	Globe Telecom, Inc.	₱2,300.00	+₱40.00	+1.77%
GTCAP	GT Capital Holdings, Inc.	₱600.00	-₱17.00	-2.76%
ICT	International Container Terminal Services, Inc.	₱399.00	-₱0.40	-0.10%
JFC	Jollibee Foods Corp.	₱262.40	-₱2.20	-0.83%
JGS	JG Summit Holdings, Inc.	₱19.58	-₱0.47	-2.34%
LTG	LT Group, Inc.	₱10.74	+₱0.24	+2.29%
MBT	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.	₱73.30	-₱0.25	-0.34%
MER	Manila Electric Co.	₱485.00	-₱0.80	-0.16%
MONDE	Monde Nissin Corp.	₱7.85	-₱0.05	-0.63%
NIKL	Nickel Asia Corp.	₱3.21	-₱0.07	-2.13%
PGOLD	Puregold Price Club, Inc.	₱29.70	-₱0.10	-0.34%
SCC	Semirara Mining and Power Corp.	₱34.75	-₱0.05	-0.14%
SM	SM Investments Corp.	₱870.00	-₱15.00	-1.69%
SMC	San Miguel Corp.	₱85.00	——	
SMPH	SM Prime Holdings, Inc.	₱24.10	-₱0.15	-0.62%
TEL	PLDT Inc.	₱1,325.00	-₱6.00	-0.45%
URC	Universal Robina Corp.	₱78.75	-₱0.40	-0.51%
WLCON	Wilcon Depot, Inc.	₱10.54	-₱0.48	-4.36%

New mining reporting rules in effect — PSE

NEW mineral reporting rules take effect today, Jan. 13, requiring mining companies to submit exploration results both quarterly and annually, according to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE).

The PSE said in a notice dated Jan. 8 that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) had approved the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the Philippine Mineral Reporting Code 2020 (PMRC 2020).

The IRR, which takes effect on Jan. 13, states that annual reports from mining companies must include exploration results, exploration targets, mineral resources, and mineral reserves.

The rules also say that quarterly reports must include any exploration results from that period.

"Only public reports that comply with the reporting standards under the PMRC 2020 and the guidelines under the PMRC 2020 IRR shall be accepted by the exchange for listing and/or disclosure purposes," the PSE notice said.

The IRR also mandates the disclosure of environmental, social, and governance considerations, which may be voluntarily included in the companies' technical reports until they are required to report using a reporting framework in accordance with international financial reporting standards (IFRS) S1, IFRS S2, and any future sustainability standards to be adopted by the SEC.

Meanwhile, the PSE said all public reports of covered entities submitted on or after Jan. 13 should comply with PMRC 2020 and its IRR.

The market operator added that there is a two-year transitory period for the submission of technical reports of all covered entities.

Companies are directed to provide technical reports on exploration results, exploration targets, mineral resources, mineral reserves, and metallurgical assessment and design to the PSE relevant to their mineral property within two years from the date of the IRR's effectivity.

However, the PSE said the two-year transitory period is not applicable to companies with capital-raising activities through the bourse.

"For these companies, technical reports that are fully compliant with the provisions of the PMRC 2020 IRR must be submitted to the exchange upon filing of the relevant listing application," the PSE said.

The value of the country's metallic mineral production for the first nine months of 2024 climbed by 3.17% to ₱195.92 billion, data from Mines and Geosciences Bureau showed.

"We fully support the PSE's mandate to uphold transparency and accountability among listed mining companies," Global Ferronickel Holdings, Inc. (FNI) President Dante R. Bravo said in a Viber message.

"Since FNI became public in 2014, we have ensured timely and comprehensive disclosure of exploration results, exploration targets, mineral resources, and mineral reserves as it aligns with our commitment to good governance, investor confidence, and responsible mining," he added. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

D&L Industries sees growth with easing inflation

D&L INDUSTRIES, Inc., a listed producer of specialty food ingredients and oleochemicals, sees a positive financial performance this year, citing easing inflation and increased spending due to the midterm elections.

"Looking forward, it's making us more optimistic this year with inflation much lower. Costs are much lower. There is more breathing room now for consumers. Hopefully, it means more money to spend and a better economy," D&L President Alvin D. Lao told reporters last week.

"Spending in the economy during a presidential election is much higher compared to a midterm election, but there is still an increase. As long as the economy is doing well, then we are a beneficiary," he added.

Full-year inflation averaged 3.2% in 2024, slower than the 6% in 2023. This marked the first time that full-year inflation fell within the central bank's 2-4% target since 2021.

In December, Philippine inflation accelerated to 2.9% from 2.5% in November. The Philippines will have its midterm elections on May 12.

Mr. Lao said D&L's profitability has been challenged by high inflation, which tempered consumer spending.

"If you look at how prices went up so much, especially during the pandemic, everything was very expensive. For consumers, their pockets were hurt. Rice prices really went up in the last two years," he said.

Mr. Lao said D&L could also benefit from the expected recovery of the country's tourism sector.

Department of Tourism (DoT) data showed that the country logged 5.9 million foreign arrivals in 2024, missing the government's target of 7.7 million, but higher than the 5.45 million in 2023.

Despite the lower foreign arrivals, the DoT reached a new high of ₱760.5 billion in tourism receipts last year.

Mr. Lao also said D&L is looking at the possibility of converting some of its other operations to meet the surging demand for biodiesel.

"The demand is quite strong," he said.

In October last year, the biodiesel fuel blend was raised to 3% on order of the Department of Energy. The blend will further increase to 4% by Oct. this year and to 5% a year after.

With the scheduled blend increase in October, Mr. Lao said orders from oil companies are expected to start increasing around two months before implementation.

D&L shares were last traded on Jan. 10 at ₱6 apiece. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

OUTLIER

Globe gains on int'l partnership, private 5G launch

GLOBE Telecom, Inc.'s shares rose last week following an international partnership and the launch of its private fifth-generation (5G) network for enterprises.

The telecommunications company was the 13th most actively traded stock last week, with 206,520 shares amassing ₱469.52 billion, data from the Philippine Stock Exchange showed.

Globe stock closed at ₱2,300 apiece on Friday, up 6.3% from the ₱2,164 finish on Jan. 3. To date, the stock climbed by 5.3% since its ₱2,184 close on Dec. 27, 2024.

Jasper Timoteo A. Ondap, equity analyst at Regina Capital Development Corp., said in a Viber message that Globe's heavy trading activity can be attributed to its business-to-business (B2B) 5G network rollout.

The Ayala-led company deployed the first private 5G network in the Philippines last week to accommodate secure connectivity among businesses.

"This milestone demonstrates our drive to provide cutting-edge connectivity solutions that cater to the varying needs of our clients," said Gerhard Tan, senior director and head of technology strategy and innovations at Globe.

The network was deployed at a Globe facility in Makati City, offering tailored, high-speed, and secure connectivity solutions for specific enterprise operations.

Jash Matthew M. Baylon, an analyst at First Resources Management and Securities, said that Globe's private B2B 5G network will be available to its clients at ports, mining, and manufacturing sectors, which could boost their operations and business flow.

"Investors were also optimistic about the company as it continued to improve its services to cope with the rapid evolution of digitalization," Mr. Baylon said in a separate Viber message.

Mr. Ondap also said that Globe's partnership with Ria Money Transfer bolstered its performance on the local bourse.

Electronic wallet platform GCash partnered with Euronet Worldwide, Inc. subsidiary Ria Money Transfer to serve Filipino remittance needs overseas.

Ria Money Transfer is a global cross-border money transfer platform, serving 160 countries.

The partnership enables customers using the Ria Money Transfer platform to send remittances directly to GCash wallets from users in the US, Australia, Europe, and Singapore, without the need for GCash overseas accounts.

"We're continuing to strengthen partnerships around key corridors so we can help Filipinos wherever they may be. We are also strengthening our presence in Ria money transfer stores all over the world as a sign of our commitment to grow with Ria," said GCash International General Manager Paul Albano in a media release on Tuesday.

Mr. Baylon said that GCash's initiative to strengthen its partnership may increase its presence globally and introduce its services to new users.

"The continued expansion globally by GCash may serve the rising number of overseas Filipino workers in terms of their remittances which may translate to higher earnings moving forward."

GCash services are currently available in 16 markets, including the US, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Australia, Canada, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, and Taiwan.

Globe owns 36% ownership interest in Mynt, the parent company of GCash.

"Mynt's increasing contribution to earnings and strong double-triple digit growth in its subscriber base across product offerings would ramp up GLO performance," said Mr. Ondap.

Mr. Baylon said that Globe's revenues will increase by 3-4%, mainly driven by its expansion plans and continued rollout of its 5G and LTE services, which may attract new users.

Additionally, Mr. Ondap said that simultaneous developments in the company have had a combined effect on Globe's performance.

"Valuation wise, when these announcements pan out and are executed, GLO is expected to ramp up its profitability and the market perceives it positively, hence, the increase of GLO's stock price of about more than 6% this week."

In the July-to-September quarter, Globe's consolidated revenues rose by 1.9% to ₱45.12 billion, from ₱44.27 billion.

Meanwhile, net income attributable to the owners of the parent company was up by 21.3% to ₱6.02 billion, from ₱5 billion a year ago.

Mr. Baylon pegged his support for the stock at ₱2,160 and resistance at ₱2,400.

Mr. Ondap pegged his support level between ₱2,180 and 2,100 a share, and resistance at ₱2,390 to high ₱2,400. — **Pierce Oel A. Montalvo**

Growth,
from S1/1

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) began its easing cycle in August, cutting interest rates by a total of 75 basis points (bps) last year. This brought the target reverse repurchase rate to 5.75%.

BSP Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr. has signaled further cuts this year, citing that there is "still room to ease."

Full-year inflation settled at 3.2% in 2024, in line with the BSP's own forecast.

It also marked the first time that annual inflation fell within the central bank's 2-4% target since 2021, when inflation averaged 3.9%.

Ms. Huang also noted "robust" remittance flows, which will help boost household spending.

Latest data from the central bank showed that cash remittances grew by 3% year on year to $28.3 billion in the January-October period.

"Despite ongoing fiscal consolidation, improved government revenue collection over the past decade has enabled sustained public spending on essential infrastructure to unlock long-term potential," she said.

Latest data from the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) showed the National Government's (NG) budget deficit stood at ₱1.18 trillion in the 11-month period. Revenues jumped by 15.16% year on year to ₱4.11 trillion.

"Additionally, the global demand for AI (artificial intelligence)-related electronic products is expected to boost merchandise trade, while services trade will benefit from the ongoing recovery in international tourism."

On the other hand, Ms. Huang flagged downside risks to the growth outlook.

"Increasing trade tensions, including the possibility of higher tariffs, could undermine merchandise trade performance," she said.

US President-elect Donald J. Trump, who is set to take office next week, has pledged to impose a 10% universal tariff as well as a 60% tariff on Chinese goods.

"Current account deficits since the end of the pandemic make the economy susceptible to exchange rate volatility, especially if there are unexpected monetary policy shifts by major developed country central banks."

She also noted how the country is vulnerable to climate shocks and natural disasters, which could lead to "significant economic and social losses."

A recent study by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) showed the Philippines could potentially lose 18.1% of its GDP by 2070 due to climate change under a high emissions scenario.

Meanwhile, the UN expects headline inflation to remain steady at 3% this year until 2026.

"Inflation in the Philippines has been relatively benign and is projected to remain within the central bank's target range in the near term," Ms. Huang said.

This year, the BSP expects inflation to average 3.3%. Its risk-adjusted forecast is at 3.4%.

The downtrend in inflation will be mainly driven by easing price pressures on food, she said.

"While inflation is not a major policy concern at the moment, inflationary pressures are unlikely to dissipate entirely... Potential higher tariffs from trading partners, disruptions to supply chains and trade routes, and climate-related disasters could reignite upward pressure on prices," Ms. Huang said.

DBP,
from S1/1

The new charter would also allow the state bank to conduct an initial public offering (IPO). However, Mr. De Jesus said DBP is unlikely to go for an IPO this year.

"Definitely not this year. Before you tap the markets, you want to increase the value, make sure it's run well."

The DBP will also be requesting for dividend relief this year, Mr. De Jesus said.

"We'll also seek that for this year. Every year. We've been doing that dividend relief for the past, I think six, seven years so we can build our capital. We seek that from Malacañang."

In 2023, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. signed an executive order exempting both banks from their dividend obligations as compensation for providing seed capital to the MIC.

LANDBANK: NO NEED FOR EXTENSION

Meanwhile, LANDBANK said it is not planning to request for an extension of regulatory relief.

"We have had a discussion before that the regulatory relief was actually good for two or three years and that was really viewed from our perspective as a buffer," LANDBANK President and Chief Executive Officer Lynette V. Ortiz told reporters on Friday.

She said there is "no need" for the relief extension amid the bank's sound financials.

"We have no need for that, and this is despite the ₱32 billion of dividends that we remitted to the government just last year. All of that was taken into consideration — ₱50 billion of Maharlika, ₱30 billion of dividends. And if you see the financials, of course, you still meet our Common Equity Tier 1 and CAR."

She also noted that the state bank made "decent" income this year.

"This year, we've also done a lot of assessments around risks, risk management. Our balance sheet is very prudent and so we've had to ensure that our risks, our provisions, are done well and sufficient."

"The numbers relative to the year before are slightly lower. But if you look at it line by line, our loans, our investments, remain very strong."

The bank is also looking to tap into the debt markets this year, with a special focus on sustainability.

"What we'd like actually is to really further grow our green portfolio, our sustainability portfolio, and we want to match it with bonds that are either green, blue, or sustainable," she added. — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**