

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,306.19

▲12.08 PTS.

▲0.19%

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025
BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P605.50 +P0.50 +0.08%	ACEN Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P32.60 —	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P32.60 —	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P6.18 -P0.02 -0.32%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P22.15 -P0.15 -0.67%	AREIT AREIT, Inc. P39.00 +P0.50 +1.30%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P163.00 -P2.00 -1.21%	BLOOM Bloomberry Resorts Corp. P3.53 -P0.13 -3.55%	BPI Bank of the Philippines Islands P135.00 -P1.00 -0.74%	CBC China Banking Corp. P90.00 +P2.90 +3.33%
CNPF Century Pacific Food, Inc. P39.00 -P0.85 -2.13%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P17.34 +P0.64 +3.83%	DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P11.48 +P0.08 +0.70%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P11.92 —	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P2,096.00 -P10.00 -0.47%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P510.00 —	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P393.00 +P12.00 +3.15%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P258.00 -P2.00 -0.77%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P17.94 +P0.22 +1.24%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P11.98 +P0.10 +0.84%
MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P72.75 +P0.30 +0.41%	MER Manila Electric Co. P503.00 -P5.50 -1.08%	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P7.02 -P0.18 -2.50%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P26.70 —	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P37.60 +P0.75 +2.04%	SM SM Investments Corp. P813.00 +P5.00 +0.62%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P83.25 -P0.55 -0.66%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P23.45 -P0.35 -1.47%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,363.00 +P3.00 +0.22%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P72.30 +P0.80 +1.12%
MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P72.75 +P0.30 +0.41%	MER Manila Electric Co. P503.00 -P5.50 -1.08%	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P7.02 -P0.18 -2.50%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P26.70 —	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P37.60 +P0.75 +2.04%	SM SM Investments Corp. P813.00 +P5.00 +0.62%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P83.25 -P0.55 -0.66%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P23.45 -P0.35 -1.47%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,363.00 +P3.00 +0.22%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P72.30 +P0.80 +1.12%

Actis invests \$600M for 40% stake in MTerra Solar

MGEN Renewable Energy, Inc. (MGreen), through its subsidiary SP New Energy Corp. (SPNEC), said global investment firm Actis Rubred (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. has completed a \$600-million transaction to acquire a 40% equity stake in MTerra Solar, MGreen's solar development platform.

"This landmark investment marks a major step forward in our mission to accelerate the clean energy transition in the Philippines. With MTerra Solar, we are reinforcing our commitment to delivering reliable, sustainable, and cost-effective energy solutions," Emmanuel V. Rubio, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of MGen and SPNEC, said in a media release on Monday.

"This collaboration with Actis and MGreen strengthens our ability to meet the country's growing energy demand while advancing a greener and more resilient energy future," he added.

The deal's closing follows the share subscription agreement signed in September last year between Terra Solar Philippines, Inc. — the project's developer and an SPNEC subsidiary — and Actis.

MGreen is the renewable energy arm of Meralco PowerGen Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco). The company holds a controlling stake in SPNEC.

With the signing of the subscription agreement, Actis will officially join the Filipino firms in developing and expanding MTerra Solar, which will include a 3,500-megawatt-peak solar farm and a 4,500-megawatt-hour battery energy storage system once fully commissioned.

MTerra Solar is a marker of what's possible in terms of scale and ambition with renewable energy in Southeast Asia. It represents the largest such project in this fast-growing region, and we're delighted to be partnering with MGreen and MGen to deliver this critical project and accelerate the Philippines' energy transition," said Rahul Agrawal, partner and head of energy for Southeast Asia at Actis.

Once completed, the P200-billion MTerra Solar is expected to provide clean energy to approximately 2.4 million households under a 20-year, 850-MW mid-merit power supply agreement with Meralco.



The first phase of the project is scheduled for commercial operations by 2026, with the second phase set for 2027.

A syndicate of the country's largest banks has committed around P150 billion in project financing.

MTerra Solar is part of MGen's pipeline of projects aimed at achieving an attributable renewable energy capacity of over 1,500 MW by 2030.

"MTerra Solar began as an ambitious project and is now moving toward making a meaningful con-

tribution to the government's target of having 35% of the country's energy sourced from renewables. Our collaboration with Actis is a pathway to achieving clean energy for Filipinos," said Manuel V. Pangilinan, chairman and CEO of Meralco.

UBS AG Singapore Branch served as financial advisor to SPNEC. Latham & Watkins and Picazo Law acted as international and domestic legal counsel to MGreen and SPNEC. Morgan Stanley served as financial advisor, while Milbank and SyCip Law acted as international and domestic legal counsel, respectively, to Actis.

Sought for comment, Juan Paolo E. Colet, managing director at China Bank Capital Corp., said Actis' investment "ensures that the necessary equity funding is in place to support the completion of the Terra Solar project."

"Actis brings well-regarded energy infrastructure expertise that will certainly help Terra Solar execute and manage this massive project," he said in a Viber message.

Meralco's controlling shareholder, Beacon Electric Asset Holdings, Inc., is partly owned by PLDT Inc. Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has an interest in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**



Telcos to see modest growth, sustain strong credit profile, says CreditSights

PHILIPPINE telecommunications (telco) companies are expected to see modest growth this year while maintaining a strong credit profile, driven by continued data and broadband expansion, according to financial research firm CreditSights.

"Overall, we are comfortable with the resilient credit profiles of both Globe and PLDT, underpinned by their leading mobile and broadband market positions in the Philippines," CreditSights said.

Pangilinan-led PLDT recorded a 21.4% increase in attributable net income for 2024, reaching P32.31 billion, fueled by all-time-high service revenue growth.

Consolidated revenue rose 2.8% to P216.83 billion from P210.95 billion in 2023, primarily driven by higher service revenues.

Telco core income, which excludes the impact of asset sales and losses from Maya Innovations Holdings, increased by 2.3% to P35.14 billion from P34.34 billion in 2023.

Meanwhile, Ayala-led Globe posted a full-year core net income of P21.50 billion for 2024, marking

a 13.6% increase from P18.92 billion in 2023.

Its consolidated revenue grew 2% to P165.02 billion from P162.33 billion a year earlier.

PLDT and Globe saw sluggish revenue growth last year, CreditSights said, adding that mobile data remained a key growth driver for both telcos, supported by evolving consumer data consumption habits and rising smartphone adoption.

CreditSights expects Globe and PLDT's credit metrics to grow modestly by about 0.1x to 0.3x this year.

Revenue and EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization) growth for both firms is expected to remain in the low-to mid-single digits, as competition in mobile and broadband intensifies with DITO Telecommunity Corp.'s expansion.

The financial research firm noted that tight competition in mobile and broadband will be mitigated by Globe and PLDT's data center revenues.

For instance, ST Telemedia Global Data Centres (STT GDC) Philippines' 33-megawatt (MW) data center is ex-

pected to be operational by mid-2025, while PLDT's VITRO Sta. Rosa was completed in 2024.

PLDT continues to explore options for selling a minority stake in its data center business.

The company previously engaged Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) for a potential sale of up to 49% of its data center business, but the deal was eventually dropped.

PLDT also ended negotiations with fund manager CVC Capital Partners for the sale of its data center unit.

To date, PLDT, through its subsidiary ePLDT, Inc., operates 11 data centers, including the 50-megawatt hyperscale data center in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

At the local bourse on Monday, PLDT shares rose by P3, or 0.22%, to close at P1,363 apiece, while Globe shares declined by P10 to P2,096 per share.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., holds a majority stake in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

In a resolution dated March 13, the ERC initially set the maximum installed generating capacity to the

SMC leads power generation with 22.44% market share — ERC

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission (ERC) said San Miguel Corp. (SMC) dominated the power generation sector with a 22.44% market share of the national grid as of end-2024.

SMC overtook Aboitiz Equity Ventures (AEV), the investment arm of the Aboitiz Group that controls Aboitiz Power, as the country's largest power producer in terms of installed generating capacity and market share, the ERC said in a statement on Monday.

Data from the ERC showed that SMC had the highest installed generating capacity nationwide at 6,079.6 megawatts (MW).

Broken down, the company had an installed capacity of 5,519 MW in Luzon; 180.67 MW in Visayas; and 379.89 MW in Mindanao.

AEV came in next with a total capacity of 5,894.5 MW, accounting for 21.75% share in the national grid.

Lopez-led First Gen Corp., a leading renewable energy producer, cemented its position as the third leading energy player with a market share of 13.22%, translating to 3,583 MW of capacity to the national grid.

Pangilinan-led power distributor Manila Electric Co. inched up as the fourth largest power producer by generating a total capacity of 1,467 MW, representing market dominance at 5.42%.

Lastly, Ayala Corp., a conglomerate which controls renewable energy developer ACEN Corp., accounted for 5.28% share in the generation sector with 1,431.3 MW of capacity to the national grid.

Under Republic Act No. 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, no company or related group can own, operate or control more than 30% of the installed generating capacity per grid and 25% in the national scale.

As the country's energy regulator, the ERC sets the caps for installed generating capacity and market share limitation annually, and may be adjusted as necessary, based on the maximum capacity of generation facilities.

In a resolution dated March 13, the ERC initially set the maximum installed generating capacity to the

national grid at 27,096 MW. This is higher than the 25,567.3 MW set for 2024.

For Luzon, the regulator has capped the installed generating capacity for Luzon at 19,419.6 MW, 3,383.9 MW for Visayas, and 4,292.6 MW for Mindanao.

Power companies cannot exceed a market share of 6,774 MW in the national grid. Generating firms are not allowed to go beyond 5,825.9 MW in Luzon, 1,015.2 MW in the Visayas, and 1,287.8 MW in Mindanao.

The commission noted that there are "certain industry developments" that have not been reflected in the data set. Once ready and available, the commission will update the caps set for the year.

"All individuals and entities subject to the MSL (market share limitation) are reminded to strictly comply with the prescribed limits and promptly report to the ERC within fifteen days of exceeding these limits from the start of occurrence, including the reasons for non-compliance," the regulator said.

SMC INCOME

In a related development on Monday, SMC announced a net income of P36.7 billion for 2024, compared with P44.7 billion in 2023.

"On a reported basis, net income stood at P36.7 billion, including foreign exchange adjustments," SMC said in an e-mailed statement on Monday.

Core net income rose 22% to P52.3 billion, while operating income increased 11% to P160.8 billion.

Consolidated revenue grew 9% to P1.6 trillion, driven by higher sales volumes in the power, spirits, and fuel and oil segments, along with contributions from the beer and infrastructure businesses.

"Our strong 2024 performance reflects strategic growth, operational efficiency, and disciplined execution. We remain focused on strengthening and making our businesses more efficient while driving sustainability and long-term growth," SMC Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ramon S. Ang said. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera and Kevin Mikhael D. Ochave**

FULL STORY



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