

Meralco eyes 35 MW for data centers this year

By **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**
Reporter

POWER DISTRIBUTOR Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) is aiming to supply approximately 35 megawatts (MW) of power to data centers this year amid rising demand for digital infrastructure. Over the next decade, or until 2035, the company aims to provide at least 850

MW for data center energization, Ferdinand O. Geluz, senior vice-president and chief revenue officer of Meralco, told *BusinessWorld*. “This expansion reflects the increasing demand for digital infrastructure and our commitment to delivering the necessary power solutions and service standards to support the sector’s growth,” he said via Viber. Meralco has partnered with various industry players, including the Data

Center Association of the Philippines, to better understand their need for a highly reliable and clean energy supply, he said. Data centers are mission-critical facilities for companies with significant data processing and storage requirements. Currently, key players in the data center industry include PLDT Inc. and ST Telemedia Global Data Centres Philippines (STT GDC). PLDT, through VITRO Inc., operates 10 data centers, while STT GDC has seven.

Meralco previously developed switching stations for the two companies to support the power needs of their hyperscale data centers. In 2023, the company energized hyperscale-ready data centers with an initial capacity of 22 MW, which can scale up to 180 MW. “Meralco’s support for data centers in the country aligns well with the current administration’s priorities under its socioeconomic agenda, particularly

in energy security and infrastructure development,” the power distributor said. Meralco’s controlling stakeholder, 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.

STT GDC Philippines goes fully renewable in data center operations

ST TELEMEDIA Global Data Centres (STT GDC) Philippines, a data center solutions provider, said its data centers are now powered by renewable energy. “Operating on renewable energy is a significant step forward, showcasing our determination to lead the way in sustainability best practices within the data center industry,” STT GDC Philippines President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Carlomagno E. Malana said in a media release on Thursday. STT GDC Philippines is a joint venture of Globe Telecom, Inc., Ayala Corp., and ST Telemedia Global Data Centres (STT GDC). All of its operational data centers in the country now run on renewables, STT GDC Philippines said, noting that this move is part of the company’s net-zero commitment.

“We aim to be a catalyst for positive change, inspiring others to embrace renewable energy and contribute to the global push for a low-carbon economy,” Mr. Malana said. The company said it has also adopted innovative energy solutions, including the use of rooftop solar for electric vehicle (EV) charging and EV operations. “STT GDC Philippines remains committed to environmental sustainability within its operations. This commitment is supported by continuous innovation in energy-efficient design, water conservation, and sustainable infrastructure development, guided by globally recognized standards,” it said. STT GDC Philippines has seven data centers in the Philippines with a combined IT load of 140 megawatts (MW), according to its website. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

Filinvest REIT, Filinvest Land sign deed of exchange for Festival Mall

FILINVEST REIT CORP. (FILRT) has executed a deed of exchange with its parent company and sponsor, Filinvest Land, Inc. (FLI), for the transfer of ownership of Festival Mall in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. The two companies executed the memorandum of agreement and the deed of exchange on March 5 as part of a P6.26-billion property-for-share swap transaction, FILRT said in a regulatory filing on Thursday. Under the transaction, FILRT will issue 1.63 billion shares at P3.85 each to FLI in exchange for the ownership of the 121,862-square-meter (sq.m.) main mall of Festival Mall. The addition of Festival Mall will increase FILRT’s total gross leaseable area by 37% to 452,310 sq.m. The deal expands FILRT’s portfolio into the retail mall segment. Previously, its portfolio consisted of 17 office buildings and 2.9 hectares of land leased to the owner and operator of Crimson Resort & Spa Boracay. Following the addition of Festival Mall, FILRT’s portfolio mix will comprise 67% offices, 6% hospitality, and 27% retail. FILRT signed new leases totaling nearly 29,000 sq.m. and renewed more than 42,000 sq.m. of expiring leases last year. The company posted a 6.3% decline in net income for 2024 to P1.63 billion, as revenue fell by 4.9% to P2.84 billion. Rental revenue dropped by 5.2% to P2.19 billion, while other income declined by 3.9% to P652.25 million. On Thursday, FILRT shares rose by 0.96% or three centavos to P3.17 apiece. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

SMIC says \$500-million bond gained recognition

SM INVESTMENTS Corp. (SMIC) said it received recognition at The Asset Triple A Sustainable Finance Awards 2025 for its \$500-million bond offering in 2024, which was named the Best Bond for Corporate in the Philippines under the Best Significant Deal category. “As we continue to diversify and expand across various sectors, this achievement further strengthens our strategy to drive long-term, sustainable growth for the company and its stakeholders,” SMIC Executive Vice-President for Treasury, Finance, and Planning Erwin G. Pato said in an e-mail statement on Thursday. “This recognition affirms the strength of our financial position and our unwavering commitment to growth. The successful execution of this landmark bond offering and the positive reception from investors reflect SMIC’s resilience and leadership in the market,” he added. The company’s \$500-million bond offering was the largest-ever five-year issuance by a Philippine corporation and achieved

the tightest-ever five-year issue spread by an unrated corporation in Southeast Asia. It also generated strong investor demand, with a final order book exceeding \$1.6 billion from 103 accounts. SMIC said it aims to continue strengthening its market leadership in key sectors, including retail, banking, and integrated property development. The conglomerate posted a 7% increase in net income for 2024, reaching P82.6 billion from P77 billion in 2023. Of the total net income, banking contributed the largest share at 49%, followed by property at 26%, retail at 18%, and portfolio investments at 7%. Consolidated revenue grew by 6% to P654.8 billion in 2024 from P616.3 billion the previous year. Last year, SM expanded its footprint with 619 additional retail stores, two new malls, and 73 new bank branches, with over 85% of its network located in the provinces. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

ATI deploys new cranes at Manila South Harbor

ASIAN TERMINALS, Inc. (ATI) said it has commissioned two ship-to-shore (STS) cranes to increase handling capacity and operational efficiency at Manila South Harbor, its flagship international container terminal. “The deployment of these two new cranes significantly boosts Manila South Harbor’s capacity and efficiency, allowing us to handle larger vessels and more cargoes, which directly benefit the Philippines as an emerging economic center in the region,” ATI Director William Khoury said in a media release on Thursday. ATI said the additional cranes at South Harbor will complement its 11 STS cranes, hybrid and conventional rubber-tired gantries, and other cargo-handling equipment.

The company said the cranes are critical to the modernization of Manila South Harbor and aligned with future market requirements. “This is well-timed with the scheduled completion of Manila South Harbor’s Pier 3 redevelopment, highlighted by its extended quay length to nearly 600 meters to accommodate more and bigger vessels deployed by ATI’s international carrier partners,” ATI said. The newly deployed cranes are Neo-Panamax cranes manufactured by Shanghai Zhenhua Heavy Industries. These are the largest among ATI’s existing quay-side equipment and are considered the biggest in the Philippines, with an outreach of 58 meters.

“In partnership with the government, we are lining up more investments in the coming years to future-proof our gateway terminals in Manila, Batangas, Cavite, and Laguna in support of the resilient and sustainable growth of the Philippine economy,” Mr. Khoury said. In 2024, ATI handled a total volume of nearly 1.6 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), marking a 4% increase from the previous year. The company said it is now capable of handling nearly 2 million TEUs in annual container throughput following the completion of its landside and seaside development projects, along with the deployment of new cranes. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**



Power Maintenance Updates

by **MERALCO** ADVISORY

The following are scheduled power interruptions necessary for the regular maintenance and upgrade of our power distribution facilities, to ensure the delivery of safe and reliable electricity to your areas. Rest assured that Meralco is doing everything to quickly restore your electricity according to schedule.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025
CAVITE (BACOR CITY)
BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM – PORTION OF CIRCUITS VERMOSA 41SVES AND 412VES
Portion of Molino Road from Daang Hari Road to near Avenida Rizal St. including Kaunlaran II Subd., Molino Homes I Subd. and Wood Estate Village II; Pulong Mabilog St.; Emilu’s Mart Inc., Macrolagic Diversified Technologies Inc., Statefields School Inc., Mercury Drugstore, University of Perpetual Help System DALTA – Molino Campus and Patio Jacinto Corp. in Bgys. Molino III & IV.
Portion of Daang Hari Road from Molino Road to and including Vista Mall in Bgy. Molino IV.
REASON: Line reconductoring and maintenance work, and installation and retirement of facilities along Molino Road in Bgy. Molino III, Bacoor City, Cavite.

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2025
LAGUNA (BIÑAN CITY) AND CAVITE (CARMONA CITY)
BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUITS SOUTHWOODS 412SOU AND 413SOU
Portion of Ecocentrum Blvd. from McDonald’s – Southwoods Ecocentrum to and including Splash Island and Colegio San Agustin - Biñan; Holland Park Condominiums, Tulip Gardens Condominium and Holland Park Clusters 3 & 4 Condominiums in Southwoods Center, Bgy. San Francisco, Biñan City, Laguna.
Portion of Road 18 from Road 7 to and including portion of Merifo Subd., Silmer Village and Juana Complex Subd. Phase 6 in Bgy. San Francisco, Biñan City, Laguna.
Portion of Southwoods Ave. from Ecocentrum Blvd. in Bgy. San Francisco, Biñan City, Laguna to Congressional Road including portion of Manila Southwoods Subd. Phases I, III & IV, Manila Southwoods Golf Villas and Manila Southwoods Golf Course in Bgys. Cabilang Baybay and City Proper in Carmona City, Cavite.
REASON: Installation of facilities in Southwoods Center, Bgy. San Francisco, Biñan City, Laguna.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025
QUEZON CITY (PROJECT 8)
BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALINTAWAK 57E
Portion of Personnel St. from Road 2 to and including Asset and Administration Sts. in GSIS Village, Bgy. Bahay Toro.
Portion of Assistant Road from Administration St. to Actuarial St. in GSIS Village, Bgy. Bahay Toro.
Portion of Records Ext. St. from Administration St. to and including Geronimo St. in GSIS Village, Bgy. Bahay Toro.
REASON: Line reconductoring work and replacement of poles along Personnel St. in GSIS Village, Bgy. Bahay Toro, Project 8, Quezon City.

BULACAN (BALIUAG CITY)
BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT CRUZ NA DAAN 314CND
Portion of San Roque Road from Shekinah Christian Church to Giron St. in Bgy. San Roque.
Portion of Giron St. from Leo’s Paint Shop to and including San Roque Hinukay Chapel and Bountiful Farm; Tiongsong St.; and Puroks 1 – 3 in Bgys. Hinukay and San Roque.
REASON: Line reconductoring work and installation of additional lightning protection devices in Purok 1, Bgy. San Roque, Baliuag City, Bulacan.

CAVITE (DASMARIÑAS CITY)
BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT ABUBOT 39XZ
The whole of Andrea Ville Executive Homes in Bgy. Salitran IV.

REASON: Line conversion work along Jose Abad Santos Ave. in Bgy. Salitran IV, Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11 – 12, 2025
QUEZON CITY (PAYATAS)
BETWEEN 10:30PM AND 11:00PM (TUE., 03/11/25) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:00AM AND 4:30AM (WED., 03/12/25) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT COMMONWEALTH 410COM
Portion of San Juan Bautista St. from Peñafrancia St. to and including San Vicente, Beatriz, San Lorenzo, Sagrada Corazon, Sto. Niño De Payatas, San Miguel Ext., San Gabriel, Milagrosa, Dinorado, Palayan, Elon, Fatima, Perpetual Help, Holy Family, Holy Trinity, Santo Niño and San Juan Evangelista Sts.
Portion of Ilang-Ilang St. from San Juan Bautista St. to and including Daisy and Saint Mary Sts.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (TUE., 03/11/25) AND 4:00AM (WED., 03/12/25) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT COMMONWEALTH 410COM
Portion of Lansones, San Isidro and San Juan Bautista Sts. from Payatas Road to San Lucas St. including Saint Joseph, San Pedro, Saint Mary, Lower Atis, Kaimito, Mangga and Langka Sts.
Portion of Saint Martin St. from Lansones St. to near San Lucas St.
Portion of Sto. Niño St. from Lansones St. to near San Juan Evangelista St.
Portion of Kalamiong St. from Lansones St. to near Acapulco St.
REASON: Line reconductoring work along Lansones and San Juan Sts. in Bgy. Payatas, Quezon City.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025
LAGUNA (STA. ROSA CITY)
BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 1:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT LISP 423ZQ
Portion of Mesaland Drive from Sta. Rosa – Tagaytay Road to and including Georgia Club Subd., Mesa Homes Village, La Residencia De Sta. Rosa Subd., Sonoma Subd., Fontamara Subd. and Belle Reve Subd. in Bgy. Don Jose.
REASON: Installation of poles and line reconductoring work along Mesaland Drive in Bgy. Don Jose, Sta. Rosa City, Laguna.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2025
MALABON CITY (POTRERO)
BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALABON 41YD
Portion of Banana Road and Doña Juana Rodriguez St. from University Ave. to near Industrial Ave. including Guyabano St.
REASON: Installation and replacement of poles, and line reconductoring work along Banana Road in Bgy. Potrero, Malabon City.

SATURDAY TO SUNDAY, MARCH 15 - 16, 2025
CAVITE (TERNATE; NAIG; MARAGONDON; GEN. EMILIO AGUINALDO AND ALFONSO)
BETWEEN 10:30PM AND 11:15PM (SAT., 03/15/25) AND THEN BETWEEN 12:45PM AND 1:30PM (SUN., 03/16/25) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT TERNATE 31ZO
Portion of Governor’s Drive and Antero Soriano Highway from Meralco – Ternate substation in Bgy. Poblacion, Ternate to PTT Gas station in Bgy. Timalan Concepcion, Naic including Villa Apolonia Subd. Phase I and Coastal Homes; Sitios Gulod, Gugo and Pobres Kanluran in Bgys. Timalan Concepcion, San Roque, Sabang, Muzon, Munting Mapino, Malainen Bago and Ibayong Silangan in Naic; Kataasan Homes and Ciudad Silangan Subd. in Bgys. San Miguel A & B and Tulay Silangan in Maragondon.
Portion of E. Riego De Dios St., Magallanes – Maragondon Road and Gen. Aguinaldo – Maragondon Road from Bgy. Poblacion, Maragondon to and including the whole town of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo; Bgys. Bucal 1, 2, 3 – B and 4 – A & B, Garita 1 – A & B, Mabato, Pinagsanhan and Maragondon Town Proper in Maragondon.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (SAT., 03/15/25) AND 1:00PM (SUN., 03/16/25) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT TERNATE 31ZO
Portion of Magallanes – Maragondon Road from Bgy. Poblacion, Maragondon to and including the whole town of Magallanes; Bgys. Layong Mabilog, Mabacao, Mabato, Talipusngo and Tulay Silangan in Maragondon.
Bgy. Kaytitinga II in Alfonso.
REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco – Ternate substation.

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