Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) 6,180.72 ▲33.28 PTS. ▲0.54%

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2025 BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC	Ayala Corp.	P591.00	+P28.00	+4.97%
ACEN	ACEN Corp.	P3.04	+P0.15	+5.19%
AEV	Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc.	P33.00	+P1.00	+3.13%
AGI	Alliance Global Group, Inc.	P6.08	+P0.08	+1.33%
ALI	Ayala Land, Inc.	P23.00	+P0.70	+3.14%
AREIT	AREIT, Inc.	P39.50	+P0.05	+0.13%
BDO	BDO Unibank, Inc.	P153.30	-P0.70	-0.45%
BLOOM	Bloomberry Resorts Corp.	P2.92	-P0.16	-5.19%
BPI	Bank of the Philippine Islands	P132.00	-P2.60	-1.93%
CBC	China Banking Corp.	P93.00	+P0.65	+0.70%
CNPF	Century Pacific Food, Inc.	P36.55	-P1.05	-2.79%
CNVRG	Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.	P18.56	-P0.42	-2.21%
DMC	DMCI Holdings, Inc.	P11.48	+P0.08	+0.70%
EMI	Emperador, Inc.	P13.08	+P0.18	+1.40%
GLO	Globe Telecom, Inc.	P2,244.00	——	
GTCAP	GT Capital Holdings, Inc.	P509.00	+P10.00	+2.00%
ICT	International Container Terminal Services, Inc.	P355.00	-P15.00	-4.05%
JFC	Jollibee Foods Corp.	P240.00	+P6.60	+2.83%
JGS	JG Summit Holdings, Inc.	P16.50	+P0.02	+0.12%
LTG	LT Group, Inc.	P12.18	+P0.18	+1.50%
MBT	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.	P73.00	-P0.60	-0.82%
MER	Manila Electric Co.	P550.00	+P22.00	+4.17%
MONDE	Monde Nissin Corp.	P7.23	+P0.23	+3.29%
PGOLD	Puregold Price Club, Inc.	P28.10	+P0.20	+0.72%
SCC	Semirara Mining and Power Corp.	P35.25	-P0.70	-1.95%
SM	SM Investments Corp.	P788.00	+P7.00	+0.90%
SMC	San Miguel Corp.	P81.65	——	
SMPH	SM Prime Holdings, Inc.	P24.00	+P1.20	+5.26%
TEL	PLDT Inc.	P1,271.00	-P13.00	-1.01%
URC	Universal Robina Corp.	P70.00	-P1.00	-1.41%

MPTC seeks to cut debt before listing next year

By Ashley Erika O. Jose
Reporter

METRO PACIFIC Tollways Corp. (MPTC) plans to go public next year after focusing on toll road expansion and debt reduction this year, its top official said.

"We are looking to do an IPO (initial public offering) sometime in the future," MPTC President and Chief Executive Officer Jose Ma. K. Lim told *Money Talks with Cathy Yang* on One News on Monday. "It is going to probably take a little more time, maybe the race will be a year from now."

Preparations for the IPO of Metro Pacific Investments Corp.'s (MPIC) toll arm had started, but the priority now is cutting its debt and completing projects, he added.

"We have some roads to finish," Mr. Lim said. "The connector road has about two more kilometers to be completed and we also have some access roads to build in Cebu to complement the bridge."

MPTC has allotted P35 billion for capital expenditures for various projects this year. The Governor's Drive Interchange of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (Calax) is among the projects scheduled for completion this year.

Calax is 95% finished, Mr. Lim said, adding that they are building the Cebu access roads to the airport to facilitate more traffic.

In 2024, MPTC said it was negotiating with Acciona SA for the expansion and upgrade of the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway.

Toby Allan C. Arce, head of sales trading at Globalinks Securities and Stocks, Inc., said the company's decision to target a 2026 IPO reflects a strategic response to its financial and operational standing.

"This timeline allows MPTC to address its debt obligations and prepare for market entry with stronger valuation," he said in a Viber message.

But he also cited the uncertainty surrounding the IPO given MPTC's planned merger with San Miguel Corp. (SMC).

MPTC Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan said the company had deferred merger talks with San Miguel to focus on fundraising activities to cut its debt. In March, the tollway company said it planned to sell 20% of its stake in MPTC to cut debt.

MPIC, which owns 99.9% of MPTC, earlier said MPTC accounted for most of its P64.99-billion short-term debt and the current portion of its long-term debt as of end-2024.

Mr. Arce said the planned IPO in 2026 would give MPTC the opportunity to strengthen its financial standing but could hurt its merger plans with San Miguel since the parties had also announced a plan to list the merged company.

"If MPTC lists independently before the merger is finalized, it might complicate future integration efforts, particularly in terms of shareholder alignment and regulatory compliance," he said.

More than awaiting better market conditions, MPTC's preferred timing is probably to provide a clear market for sister company Maynilad Water Services, Inc., which is also planning to list in the next two quarters, Juan Paolo E. Colet, managing director at China Bank Capital Corp.

"MPTC's IPO will be a price discovery exercise, so that might affect the sensitive negotiations around the valuation of the proposed merger with San Miguel's tollway business," he said in a Viber message.

He added that if MPTC decides to list ahead of its planned merger, San Miguel would likely infuse its tollway assets into the company.

MPIC is one of three key Philippine units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., alongside Philex Mining Corp. and PLDT, Inc.

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.

DMCI Homes 2024 net income dragged by weak sales

DMCI PROJECT Developers, Inc.'s (DMCI Homes) net income fell 31% to P2.8 billion in 2024 from a year earlier due to weak sales and fewer project launches.

Excluding one-time gains from land sales, the company posted a 35% decline in core net income to P2.5 billion, DMCI Homes said in a statement on Monday.

"The company recognizes revenue based on construction progress and buyer payments," it said. "Since it typically takes four to five years before a sale is recorded as revenue, the slowdown in project launches during the pandemic continued to affect the company's financial performance in 2024."

DMCI Homes is the property arm of Consunji-led DMCI Holdings, Inc.

Last year was a challenging year for the real estate industry, "but it allowed us to sharpen our focus," DMCI Homes President Alfredo R. Austria said in the statement.

Unit sales fell 22% due to soft residential demand.

The average selling price per unit rose 18%, while the price per square meter web up 8% on higher construction costs, the shift toward more premium and centrally located developments and the sale of larger units, it said.

DMCIHOMES.COM

DMCI Homes completed 11 buildings last year, from seven buildings in 2023.

"While our selling prices rose year on year due to rising construction costs and a shift toward more premium developments, they remain highly competitive given the quality and value we deliver," Mr. Austria said.

DMCI Homes said it has seven projects in the pipeline with an estimated sales value of P35 billion. The launch schedule will depend on market demand and conditions.

"We focused our efforts on strengthening our financial position, preparing for future launches and developing new products for underserved markets," Mr. Austria said. "As the market recovers, we are ready to roll out projects that offer strong value and quality."

DMCI Holdings stocks gained 0.7% or eight centavos to P11.48 each at the close of trading. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Golden MV earnings soar to P1T due to property valuation gains

VILLAR-LED property developer Golden MV Holdings, Inc.'s net income surged to P999.72 billion last year from P1.46 billion a year earlier, spurred by fair value gains on its properties.

Fair value gains on investment properties ballooned to P1.33 trillion from P59 million in 2023, the company told the Philippine Stock Exchange in a disclosure.

Revenue dropped 25% to P3.58 billion as real estate sales dropped 26% to P3.31 billion on the back of lower residential unit sales, it added.

Operating profit fell 29% to P1.22 billion on weaker residential sales, while cost and expenses dropped 23% to P2.36 billion.

Total assets rose to P1.37 trillion from P28.64 billion in 2023 due to higher property values. Total liabilities also rose to P355 billion from P14.03 billion due to increased deferred tax liabilities from fair value gains.

In September last year, Golden MV acquired Althorp Land Holdings, Inc., Chalgrove Properties, Inc. and Los Valores Corp., which collectively owns 366 hectares of prime land within the 3,500-hectare Villar City development.

The company earlier said the acquired companies would allow it to concentrate on the development of Villar City, a legacy project of businessman Manuel B. Villar, Jr.

Golden MV also announced in November last year that it would change its corporate name to Villar Land Holdings Corp. to reflect is diversifying business interests.

Villar Land Holdings will use the VLC stock symbol on the local bourse once the name change is finalized.

Golden MV has interests in the development and sale of memorial lots and columbarium facilities. It is also engaged in the residential development business.

Shares of Golden MV fell 2.5% or P60 to P2,340 each. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

SC affirms SEC power to accredit external auditors

THE SUPREME COURT (SC) has affirmed the power of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to accredit external auditors of companies that issue registered securities and own secondary licenses, reversing two decisions it issued earlier.

In a resolution promulgated on Jan. 28 and released on Monday, the full court upheld the validity of the rules that enforce Republic Act No. 8799 or the Securities Regulation Code and the revised SEC guidelines on accreditation of auditing firms and external auditors.

The tribunal reversed the rulings it issued in June 2022 and June 2023.

The rules impose accreditation requirements for external auditors of publicly listed companies, investment firms, as well as lending and financing companies, the SEC said in an e-mailed statement on Monday.

The case stemmed from a lawsuit filed by 1Accountants Party-List, Inc., which argued that the additional accreditation requirements restrained certified public accountants (CPA) from practicing their profession.

1Accountants said the SEC exceeded its mandate by issuing the regulations since the supervision, control and regulation of the accountancy profession has been delegated to the Board of Accountancy.

"The SC's resolution in favor of the SEC reversed earlier findings of invalidity and unconstitutionality of the subject regulations, as the high court emphasized the far-reaching implications of removing such accreditation," the SEC said in the statement.

The SC said the corporate regulator's authority to accredit external auditors is implied from its power to supervise the activities of persons, which include juridical and natural persons such as individual auditors of covered entities.


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It added that the accreditation requirement applies only to CPAs who are independent auditors of covered entities.

The SC likewise agreed with the SEC's view that other laws manifest the state's policy of allowing various regulators, such as those in the financial sector, to accredit external auditors.

"Hence, the SEC's accreditation of external auditors... is a logical extension of existing regulatory practices aimed at promoting consistency, efficiency and financial integrity across different sectors," according to the resolution.

"Centralizing the accreditation process under the auspices of the SEC will enhance regulatory oversight, streamline compliance requirements and reinforce investor protection within the securities market ecosystem," it added. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**