

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)					6,376.79	▼ 1.77 PTS.	▼ 0.02%	THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2025 BusinessWorld		
PSEi MEMBER STOCKS										
AC Ayala Corp. P582.00 +P12.00 +2.11%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P2.47 +P0.01 +0.41%	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P34.20 +P0.05 +0.15%	AGI Alliance Global Group, Inc. P9.32 +P0.94 +11.22%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P24.25 +P0.35 +1.46%	AREIT AREIT, Inc. P39.90 +P0.20 +0.50%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P155.80 -P1.60 -1.02%	BLOOM Bloomerry Resorts Corp. P5.00 -P0.05 -0.99%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P140.00 —	CBC China Banking Corp. P65.70 -P6.60 -9.13%	
CNPF Century Pacific Food, Inc. P41.00 +P1.15 +2.89%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P21.00 +P0.70 +3.45%	DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P10.60 +P0.16 +1.53%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P14.42 +P0.02 +0.14%	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,810.00 -P2.00 -0.11%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P600.00 —	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P409.00 -P2.00 -0.49%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P230.40 +P4.20 +1.86%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P19.40 -P0.54 -2.71%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P12.52 -P0.08 -0.63%	
MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P75.00 +P0.45 +0.60%	MER Manila Electric Co. P533.00 -P6.00 -1.11%	MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P7.21 -P0.01 -0.14%	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P33.90 +P1.80 +5.61%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P33.10 -P0.05 -0.15%	SM SM Investments Corp. P850.00 -P1.00 -0.12%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P79.00 -P0.50 -0.63%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P23.20 +P0.25 +1.09%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,250.00 +P4.00 +0.32%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P87.00 -P0.85 -0.97%	

# 22 generating companies told to explain below-capacity output

THE Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) has asked 22 generation companies (GenCos) to explain the “continued or frequent derating of their power facilities and units.”

In a statement on Thursday, the ERC said it issued separate notices to explain (NTEs) to the GenCos, requiring them to submit reports detailing the causes of the derating events affecting their generation facilities and units.

Derating refers to power plants generating electricity below their installed capacity.

“The Commission continues with its diligent monitoring of the reliability of our major power sources to ensure sufficiency of supply, which then affects affordability of power rates,” said ERC Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer Monalisa C. Dimalanta.

“The persistent derated state of certain plants is concerning and has prompted the Commission to formally seek an explanation from the GenCos.”

Among the firms issued NTEs were units of San Miguel Global Power Holdings Corp. (SMGP), Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), Aboitiz Power Corp. (AboitizPower), Semirara Mining and Power Corp. (SMPC), and First Gen Corp.

The ERC also issued NTEs to Excellent Energy Resources, Inc. and South Premiere Power Corp., joint ventures among sub-



BRENDAN O'DONNELL-UNSPLASH

THE ERC DIRECTED the GenCos to submit, within seven days from receipt of the letters, a formal explanation for the “frequent derating of their plants and units, or for persistently operating in a derated state.”

sidaries of SMGP, Meralco, and AboitizPower.

Explanations were also sought from SMGP units Masinloc Power Partners Co., Ltd., Mariveles Power Generation Corp., Malita Power Corp., Sual Power, Inc., and Angat Hydropower Corp.

AboitizPower units GNPower Dinginin Ltd. Co., AP Renewables, Inc., and SN Aboitiz Power-Magat, Inc. were also served notices.

Energy Development Corp. and First Gen Hydro Power Corp., subsidiaries of First Gen Corp., were likewise asked to explain.

The ERC directed the GenCos to submit, within seven days from receipt of the letters, a formal explanation for the “frequent derating of their plants and units, or for persistently operating in a derated state.”

The commission also instructed the companies to provide an action plan and timeline for restoring the affected generating facilities to their registered full capacities.

Last month, the ERC issued show-cause orders to 37 GenCos for failing to disclose their fuel costs, which the regulator uses to validate the reasonableness of their generation charges. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

## PSE reports 50% surge in stock market accounts in 2024

LOCAL stock market accounts rose by 50.1% to 2.86 million in 2024 from 1.91 million in 2023, driven by the growth in retail participation, the Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc. (PSE) said on Thursday.

Data from the Stock Market Investor Profile 2024 showed that retail accounts, which comprised 98.9% of total accounts, increased by 50.7% to 2.83 million from 1.88 million in 2023.

Institutional accounts, which made up 1.1% of total accounts, also rose by 12.1% to 32,284 from 28,806 a year earlier.

Local accounts reached 2.83 million, while foreign accounts totaled 29,876.

The PSE said the data was sourced from 121 active trading participants as of 2024.

Online accounts jumped by 62% to 2.47 million, accounting for 86.4% of total stock market accounts. Retail investors comprised 99.9% of total online accounts, based on data from 39 trading participants.

By gender, female retail investors accounted for 50.7% of the total, slightly higher than male investors at 49.3%.

Retail investors aged 30-44 made up 48.8% of the base, followed by those aged 18-29 at 26.5%, 45-59 at 17.4%, and those over 60 at 7.3%.

In terms of income, 82.4% of retail investors earned less than P500,000 annually, while 6.7% earned between P500,000 and P1 million, and 10.9% earned more than P1 million.

“Most retail investors work under the services sector, followed by industrial/manufacturing and professionals,” the PSE said.

The PSE also said that 84.9% of retail investors are locally employed, while 5% are unemployed, 3.6% are self-employed, 2.5% are overseas Filipino workers, 2.1% are students, and 2% are retirees.

Geographically, 49.3% of retail accounts were based in Metro Manila, 28.4% in the rest of Luzon, 10.9% in Mindanao, 10.8% in the Visayas, and 0.6% overseas.

Meanwhile, the report showed that the top foreign investors in the local bourse were Japanese (29.9%), Chinese (19.8%), and American (13%). — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

## AirAsia MOVE says price cap in works to follow CAB guidelines

AIRASIA MOVE, the online travel agency (OTA) of the AirAsia group, said it is working to implement a price cap on tickets sold on its platform in line with policies and regulations set by the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB).

“Technology is not very easy. We are first starting immediately with a cut-off point. My team will have to do it in two to three months to develop this technology to make sure that we are able to put limits by route,” AirAsia MOVE Chief Executive Officer Nadia Omer said in a media briefing on Thursday.

The development follows a meeting between AirAsia MOVE and the CAB after the Department of Transportation (DoTr) announced plans to file economic sabotage charges against the OTA for allegedly pricing fares at unreasonably high levels.

AirAsia MOVE is a platform that allows users to book flights, hotels, and other travel-related services.

Republic Act No. 776 authorizes the CAB to regulate air carriers, including the economic aspects of air transportation.

Ms. Omer said OTAs like AirAsia MOVE are not always fully aware of government-imposed fare ceilings, as this information is usually communicated directly to airlines.

“Many of the OTAs don’t know because it is mostly communicated to the airlines and if airlines do not commu-

nicate these exact ceilings by routes to their agents, there is no way to know,” Ms. Omer said, adding that fares are set by the airlines, not by OTAs.

She also said that ticket pricing on the AirAsia MOVE platform is automated and not controlled by the company.

“We do not do dynamic pricing because it is based on the demand. The higher the demand for something the higher the price goes, and a lot of the airlines already practice this,” Ms. Omer said.

The issue arose following complaints from Leyte Rep. Richard Frank I. Gomez, who booked one-way Philippine Airlines tickets from Tacloban to Manila via AirAsia MOVE at a cost of around P77,704 for two individuals.

According to data from the Transportation department, the same tickets booked directly through the Philippine Airlines website would have cost approximately P49,507 for two persons.

AirAsia MOVE has assured the government that it will cooperate to resolve the issue.

“We thank the CAB for giving us the opportunity to be heard at a proper venue in the observance of due process. The issue at hand has become a platform to proactively engage and educate stakeholders on how the supply chain works within OTAs,” Ms. Omer said. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**



PIXABAY

## Basic Energy advances Bolinao solar power plans

LISTED Basic Energy Corp. is set to begin processing the necessary permits for its proposed solar power project in Bolinao, Pangasinan, after securing a certificate from the government.

In a regulatory filing on Thursday, Basic Energy said the Department of Energy (DoE) granted the company a certificate of authority (CoA) for its proposed solar energy operating contract (SEOC) application for the Pangasinan solar project.

The CoA allows the developer to secure the necessary permits and tenurial instruments for the project.

It also grants the privilege to procure these requirements beyond the operating contract’s 25-year period.

Following the grant of the certificate, Basic Energy said

it will start obtaining approvals from relevant national agencies and local government units. This includes conducting a system impact study, which determines the adequacy and capability of the grid to accommodate the new connection.

The company has one year to fulfill its obligations under the CoA before the DoE issues the SEOC.

The planned solar farm is estimated to span approximately 37 hectares and is expected to generate at least 47 megawatts peak (MWp) of electricity based on a preliminary study.

The solar project is scheduled for completion and commissioning by early 2027.

Basic Energy aims to develop 500 MW of wind and 500 MW of solar energy projects by 2030. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

## Electricity rates for June still unsettled — Meralco

POWER DISTRIBUTOR Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) said electricity rates for June remain uncertain as the factors contributing to the overall charge are mixed.

“We are still waiting for all the final billings from our suppliers for the computation of power rates for the June billing period,” Meralco said in a statement on Thursday.

The company said initial information indicates a potential increase in transmission charges due to a possible uptick in prices in the reserve market.

Under the reserve market, the system operator buys power reserves to ensure the proper operation of the energy grid.

Meanwhile, Meralco is hoping the generation charge remains “flat-ish” and that there will be no significant movement in this month’s billing following the sharp decline in May.

“Should there be any increase, we hope that this could be mitigated by lower prices from the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) as announced by the spot market operator,” the power distributor said.

Data from the Independent Electricity Market Operator of the Philippines showed the average WESM price systemwide in May declined by 11.2% month-on-month to P4.01 per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

The lower spot price was attributed to a higher supply margin during the period.

For Luzon alone, power prices in the WESM decreased by 7.9% to P4.23 per kWh.

Generation charges, which cover the cost of power purchased from suppliers, usually account for more than 50% of the monthly electricity bill.

Transmission charges, meanwhile, refer to the cost of delivering power from suppliers to the distribution system and constitute around 3% of the bill.

Meralco is hoping that the continued implementation of the P19.96-billion refund, approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), will provide slight relief amid possible increases in other components.

The refund, which must be implemented within three years, translates to an average rate of P0.1189 per kWh.

In March, electricity rates declined by P0.7499 per kWh to P12.2628 per kWh from P13.0127 per kWh in April, driven by lower generation and transmission charges.

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. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**