

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

6,425.24

▲ 29.67 PTS.

▲ 0.46%

MONDAY, JULY 7, 2025

BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC

Ayala Corp.

P599.00

+P2.00 +0.34%

ACEN

ACEN Corp.

P2.66

+P0.06 +2.31%

AEV

Aboltiz Equity Ventures, Inc.

P34.80

-P0.15 -0.43%

AGI

Alliance Global Group, Inc.

P8.70

+P0.20 +2.35%

ALI

Ayala Land, Inc.

P27.80

+P0.60 +2.21%

AREIT

AREIT, Inc.

P41.10

-P0.05 -0.12%

BDO

BDO Unibank, Inc.

P155.70

+P0.70 +0.45%

BLOOM

Bloomerry Resorts Corp.

P4.39

+P0.10 +2.33%

BPI

Bank of the Philippine Islands

P127.00

+P2.30 +1.84%

CBC

China Banking Corp.

P66.75

-P0.25 -0.37%

CNPF

Century Pacific Food, Inc.

P39.70

+P0.20 +0.51%

CNVRG

Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.

P18.18

-P0.02 -0.11%

DMC

DMCI Holdings, Inc.

P11.10

—

EMI

Emperador, Inc.

P15.02

-P0.04 -0.27%

GLO

Globe Telecom, Inc.

P1,639.00

-P66.00 -3.87%

GTCAP

GT Capital Holdings, Inc.

P644.00

+P6.00 +0.94%

ICT

International Container Terminal Services, Inc.

P418.80

-P0.20 -0.05%

JFC

Jollibee Foods Corp.

P228.00

+P1.00 +0.44%

JGS

JG Summit Holdings, Inc.

P19.94

+P0.26 +1.32%

LTG

LT Group, Inc.

P12.86

+P0.18 +1.42%

MBT

Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.

P71.50

+P0.35 +0.49%

MER

Manila Electric Co.

P540.00

+P5.00 +0.93%

MONDE

Monde Nissin Corp.

P7.35

+P0.06 +0.82%

PGOLD

Puregold Price Club, Inc.

P36.30

+P1.15 +3.27%

SCC

Semirara Mining and Power Corp.

P32.95

+P0.15 +0.46%

SM

SM Investments Corp.

P880.50

-P4.50 -0.51%

SMC

San Miguel Corp.

P77.40

-P0.10 -0.13%

SMPH

SM Prime Holdings, Inc.

P23.75

+P0.20 +0.85%

TEL

PLDT Inc.

P1,250.00

+P10.00 +0.81%

URC

Universal Robina Corp.

P90.10

—

# DigiPlus shares rebound 15% on P6-B buyback announcement

DIGIPLUS Interactive Corp.'s board has approved a share buyback program worth up to P6 billion following a recent decline in the company's share price.

The share buyback program will be valid for a 12-month period and may be renewed, subject to board approval, the Tanco-led digital entertainment provider said in a disclosure on Monday.

DigiPlus said the share buyback program "underscores the company's strong balance sheet and commitment to maximizing long-term shareholder value."

It will be funded through the company's internally generated cash flows.

"The share repurchase program demonstrates our firm confidence in DigiPlus' long-term growth and solid fundamentals," DigiPlus Chairman Eusebio H. Tanco said.

"By strategically deploying our capital through this buyback, we are sending a clear signal that DigiPlus is committed to delivering sustainable returns to shareholders while remaining well-positioned to pursue expansion and innovation," he added.

On Monday, DigiPlus shares rose by 14.58% or P4.30 to P33.80



DIGIPLUS.COM.PH

apiece, following the share buyback announcement.

This was an improvement from Friday, when DigiPlus shares fell by 23.87% or P9.25 to P29.50 apiece.

DragonFi Securities, Inc. Equity Research Analyst Jarrod Leighton M. Tin said in a Viber message that DigiPlus announced the share buyback following a decline in its share price, which came amid the

filing of proposed legislation targeting online gambling.

"The move offered some relief to investors, with shares rebounding today. However, the buyback appears modest relative to the recent extraordinarily high trading activity. DigiPlus has been seeing P2 billion in daily value traded, meaning the program may only cover three trading days' worth of value traded," he said.

"Whether this helps ease selling pressure and stabilize volumes remains to be seen in the short term," he added.

"Like any other buyback, this sends a signal to investors that the company is willing to step in and support the share price," AP Securities, Inc. Research Head Alfred Benjamin R. Garcia said in a Viber message.

Lawmakers have recently filed bills in both chambers of Congress seeking to restrict or ban online gaming platforms, prohibit electronic wallet platforms from promoting gambling apps, raise the legal gambling age, and increase the minimum cash-in requirement.

Malacañang said on Monday that President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. supports measures aimed at curbing online gambling addiction among Filipinos.

Last week, the Department of Finance said it is considering the introduction of an online gaming tax and is also reviewing policy options to limit unrestricted access to digital gambling platforms.

DigiPlus operates the sports betting platform ArenaPlus, the digital bingo platform BingoPlus, and the online gaming platform GameZone. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

## Petron raises P32B from bond offering

PETRON CORP. said it raised P32 billion from its latest bond offering, citing strong investor demand ahead of the securities' listing on the Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp.

"The strong response underscores not only the success of another fundraising initiative but also the confidence investors have in our long-term vision. We are grateful for this trust and remain deeply committed to leading the charge when it comes to ensuring energy security and delivering quality petroleum products across the country," Petron President and Chief Executive Officer Ramon S. Ang said in a statement on Monday.

Petron said the offering raised a total of P32 billion, consisting of a P25-billion base offer and an oversubscription of P7 billion. The bonds were priced at the low end of the marketing range, according to the company.

"The issuance marks the final tranche of the company's P50-billion shelf registration approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)," it said.

The bonds, which will mature in five to 10 years, carry

annual interest rates ranging from 6.5945% to 7.3896%.

The offer period ran from June 24 to 30. Proceeds will be used to redeem the company's Series D and E bonds and to fund general corporate purposes, among others.

Petron tapped PNB Capital and Investment Corp. as the sole issue manager. Meanwhile, the Bank of Commerce, BDO Capital & Investment Corp., China Bank Capital Corp., First Metro Investment Corp., Land Bank of the Philippines, and Philippine Commercial Capital, Inc. served as joint lead underwriters and joint bookrunners for the offer. BPI Capital Corp., Development Bank of the Philippines, RCBC Capital Corp., and Security Bank Capital Investment Corp. acted as selling agents.

Petron held the largest share of the oil market at 24.9% as of June 2024, according to data from the Department of Energy.

The company, which operates the country's only remaining refinery in Bataan, also runs about 50 terminals in the region and has around 2,700 service stations where it sells gasoline and diesel. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**



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## EET bags phase 1 contract for exhibition center project in Pasay

LISTED construction company EET Corp. said it is preparing to construct the first phase of the P15.75-billion Philippine International Exhibition Center (PIEC) in Pasay.

This comes after the company received the notice of award from the Department of Public Works and Highways for the design and construction of the project's first phase, EET said in a regulatory filing on Monday.

"The Philippine International Exhibition Center is a massive project that is poised to make a meaningful contribution to the economy. It marks a pivotal milestone for all of us in EET, and we are honored and excited to support the government in bringing this vision to life," EET President and Chief Executive Officer Henry D. Antonio said in a statement.

The PIEC, planned for construction in Pasay Harbor City along Manila Bay, will have a gross exhibition area of 269,000 square meters and is projected to be the

largest exhibition and convention center in Southeast Asia.

The project is described as a key infrastructure initiative supporting the government's push to strengthen the competitiveness of the MICE sector, EET said, adding that its construction will contribute to trade promotion and tourism development, and is likely to attract foreign investments.

Phase 1 of PIEC includes the detailed engineering design as well as the design, foundation, and structural works of the project.

"It will serve both local and international events, boosting the country's presence in the world exhibitions arena. The issuance of the PIEC contract to EET highlights the government's drive for strategic infrastructure investments under the overall vision to bolster the Philippine economy," the company said.

At the stock exchange on Monday, shares in the company closed unchanged at P2.70 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

## DFNN says online gambling restrictions may backfire

LISTED gaming technology provider DFNN, Inc. said that restrictions on online gambling platforms might force lower-income players to turn to unlicensed platforms.

"Well-intended restrictions, if not carefully calibrated across distinct gaming formats, may unintentionally create incentives for certain segments of the population, particularly casual or lower-income players, to seek alternatives from unlicensed or offshore platforms," DFNN said in a statement on Monday.

"These grey market operations, which often exist beyond regulatory reach and with non-existent player safeguards, could undermine the very protections that the legislation seeks to reinforce," it added.

DFNN said it is important to consider the "operational diversity" across the gaming ecosystem, particularly the distinction between



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primarily digital platforms and legacy land-based establishments.

"As regulatory reforms are considered, we respectfully emphasize the importance of proportionality and precision in their application," it said.

DFNN said its gaming network operates under close regulatory supervision and adheres to strict compliance standards.

"These community-based outlets provide secure, supervised environments for responsible gaming, and continue to generate meaningful economic benefits such as job creation, local business partnerships, and direct fiscal contributions to their host communities," it said.

"We believe there is a valuable opportunity to strike the right balance: one that strengthens ac-

countability and social safeguards while preserving the viability of well-regulated, locally embedded operators that contribute positively to the national economy," it added.

Lawmakers recently filed bills to limit or completely ban online gaming platforms amid reports of growing addiction among Filipinos.

"These proposed changes aim to enhance consumer protection and mitigate propagating problematic gaming habits, objectives which DFNN fully supports," DFNN said.

DFNN is the parent of licensed gaming technology provider IEST, Inc. Through its subsidiaries and affiliates, DFNN holds licenses for electronic gaming machines, a sports betting exchange, and digit and pari-mutuel games with the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

DFNN shares were unchanged at P1.99 apiece on Monday. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

## Primelectric, Saudi firm team up for RE development

RAZON-LED Primelectric Holdings, Inc. (PHI) has entered into a partnership with Saudi Arabia-based energy developer ACWA Power to jointly explore renewable energy (RE) and energy storage opportunities in the Philippines.

"This partnership comes at a critical time as our regions require more resilient, reliable, and affordable power sources," PHI President Roel Z. Castro said in a statement over the weekend.

"Through this collaboration, we aim to explore projects that will stabilize power supply and harness the abundant renewable resources of the Visayas and Palawan," it added.

Under the deal, PHI will provide technical data and insights on potential power generation projects in the identified areas, while ACWA Power will lead the development, financing, and operation of viable projects.

The two companies will assess "the most viable" power generation options for Negros, Panay, and Palawan, aiming to optimize power costs while maximizing the potential of renewable energy and energy storage technologies.

PHI is the parent firm of distribution utilities MORE Electric and Power Corp., Negros Electric and Power, Inc., and Bohol Light Co.

Meanwhile, ACWA Power operates as a developer, investor, and operator in renewable

energy and green hydrogen. It is also the world's largest private water desalination company.

As of 2025, the company's portfolio includes 78.8 gigawatts of capacity, including projects with record-low solar tariffs.

"By bringing together ACWA Power's global expertise and Primelectric's deep understanding of the local market, we are not only fast-tracking the rollout of clean energy projects in this part of the Philippines but also driving technology transfer and contributing to long-term economic growth and community development," said ACWA Power Chief Investment and Development Officer Thomas Brostrom. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**