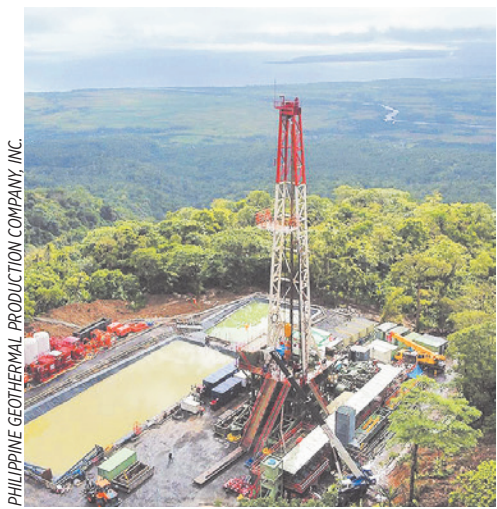




PHILIPPINE GEOTHERMAL PRODUCTION COMPANY, INC.

SMIC signals wider renewable energy push

SM INVESTMENTS CORP. (SMIC) is expanding its renewable energy portfolio through new geothermal projects and potential ventures in wind energy, its top official said on Tuesday.

In a media release, SMIC President and Chief Executive Officer Frederic C. DyBuncio said the company's energy arm Philippine Geothermal Production Company, Inc. (PGPC) is focused on expanding initiatives in geothermal energy.

"We are focused on geothermal energy production, which is baseload and runs 24/7. Production has been doing well, and with a new rig in place, we are building capacity to develop more sites," Mr. DyBuncio said.

At present, PGPC operates the geothermal steam fields in Tiwi, Albay, and MakBan in Laguna and Batangas. It is also advancing five new concession areas, including Mt. Malinao in Albay, where three wells have already been drilled.

In other businesses, Carmen Copper Corp., a unit of Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp., recently commissioned a 4.99-megawatt floating solar facility in Toledo City, Cebu.

SMIC also hinted at its prospect of exploring wind energy opportunities.

"At SM, we see renewable energy as both a responsibility and an opportunity to support the country's energy transition while building more resilient and sustainable businesses and communities," Mr. DyBuncio said. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

PHirst Park Homes enters Mindanao with P5.3-B GenSan township project

PHIRST PARK HOMES, the affordable housing brand of Century Properties Group, Inc. (CPG), is set to enter Mindanao with a P5.3-billion township project in General Santos (GenSan) City.

Located in Barangay Baluan, PHirst Park Homes GenSan is a 25-hectare master-planned community positioned to support the city's continuing growth, PHirst Park Homes said in a stock exchange disclosure on Tuesday.

Accessible through the Sarangani-Davao del Sur Coastal Road, PHirst Park Homes GenSan will feature about 2,000 move-in-ready housing units designed to meet the needs of growing families.

The project will offer two signature PHirst models: Amani, a townhouse with a floor area of 40 square meters (sq.m.) on typical lots ranging from 44 sq.m. to 60.5 sq.m.; and Dua, a single-attached unit with a 48-sq.m. floor area on a 77-sq.m. lot, with prices starting at P2.8 million.

Prices for the Amani townhouses will range from P1.8 million to P2.1 million, while Dua houses will cost around P2.8 million.

"PHirst's expansion in Mindanao, through PHirst Park Homes GenSan, directly reflects our unwavering vision to empower Filipino families with access to quality homes," PHirst President and Chief Executive Officer Ricky M. Celis said.

The township will include amenities that promote recreation and community interaction, as well as open spaces for accessibility and enjoyment, while ensuring a safe and secure environment, PHirst added.

"Staying true to its promise of 'a home in a park, and a park in a home' experience, the community showcases a harmonious balance of comfort, nature, and modern living," PHirst said.

Mindanao is emerging as a strategic economic hub due to ongoing infrastructure projects, making it an attractive real estate market, the

company said. It cited the upcoming Mindanao Railway Project, which is expected to connect major cities, streamline regional transportation, and enhance global connectivity.

"Such developments are opening new economic corridors and driving robust regional activity across provinces and key urban centers — making Mindanao one of the most attractive and promising markets in the real estate industry," it added.

PHirst also said rapid urbanization and the growing population highlight the urgency of addressing the country's housing backlog.

"With its upcoming entry into Mindanao, PHirst is well on track to build a strong footprint across all major regions in the Philippines — bringing the dream of homeownership closer to more Filipino families nationwide," the company said.

On Tuesday, CPG shares rose by 3.12% or two centavos to close at 66 centavos apiece. — **Beatriz Marie D. Cruz**



PHIRST PARK HOMES FACEBOOK ACCOUNT

MPower forges RE deal with The Peninsula Manila

MPOWER, the retail electricity arm of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), has signed a new supply deal to provide renewable energy (RE) to The Peninsula Manila, a five-star hotel in Makati City.

In a media release on Tuesday, MPower said The Peninsula Manila's transition to renewable energy marks a significant milestone in their 12-year collaboration.

"Our more than a decade of partnership stands as a testament to shared vision and service excellence. It even grows stronger with a renewable ener-

gy supply commitment," said MPower Head Redel M. Domingo.

"We are shaping the present with purpose, and now we move forward with confidence and unity towards sustainable progress," he added.

The development makes The Peninsula Manila the hotel group's second property in Southeast Asia, and fourth globally, to shift to renewable energy.

In 2021, The Peninsula Manila launched its Sustainable Luxury Vision 2030, which seeks to address operational areas that require immediate attention while generating a

positive impact on the environment and communities.

"This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to innovation and environmental stewardship," The Peninsula Manila Hotel Director Kevin Tsang said.

"By uniting, we are enabling cleaner, more efficient energy solutions that reduce carbon footprint and contribute to the global fight against climate change. Our partnership serves as a benchmark for responsible business practices and inspires others to pursue a greener world for our future generations," he added.

MPower serves contestable customers, including large corporations within Meralco's franchise area. It currently holds more than a 25% share of the Competitive Retail Electricity Market within Meralco's coverage.

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**

Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. and Mizuho Bank win prestigious Trade Finance Award for its cross-border deal

Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC) — the Philippines' leading toll road operator — and Japan-based banking giant Mizuho Bank have been recognized by The Asian Banker with the Best Corporate Trade Finance Deal in Asia Pacific for their successful execution of a landmark cross-border acquisition of a stake in Indonesia's Trans-Java Toll Road in November 2024.

To complete the deal, MPTC partnered with Mizuho Bank in navigating the intricacies of a multi-jurisdictional trade finance arrangement. One of the crucial requisites to the transaction was the issuance of a Standby Letter of Credit (SBLC) — which had to comply with strict regulatory requirements in both the Philippines and Indonesia.

Both parties demonstrated their expertise in handling cross-border compliance, ensuring the deal's successful and timely execution. They also managed the transaction's legal and operational complexities — including dual-language documentation and differing SBLC frameworks with strict timelines.

This highlights MPTC's move to expand its regional footprint and cement its commitment to improving mobility infrastructure across Southeast Asia.

"This recognition from The Asian Banker reflects MPTC's growing capability to execute inter-regional

In working with Mizuho, Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. demonstrates its capability to deliver world-class infrastructure solutions where seamless and sustainable mobility is increasingly vital.

strategic investments," said Emlyn Amaya-Apostol, AVP for Corporate Finance and Treasury of MPTC. "We are honored to be part of a transaction that sets a benchmark in corporate trade finance and infrastructure investment in Southeast Asia."

This milestone reinforces MPTC's role as a reliable partner in building critical infrastructure in the region. In working with Mizuho, MPTC demonstrates its capability to deliver world-class infrastructure solutions where seamless and sustainable mobility is increasingly vital.



Moving Progress and Expanding Regional Footprint Through Corporate Financing

From left: Mizuho Bank Manila Branch VP for Corporate Banking Juan Ramon Antonio "Moks" Gonzales and Deputy General Manager Jenny Lomboy with Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. AVP for Corporate Finance & Treasury Emlyn Amaya-Apostol and Assistant Manager for Treasury Diesa Lee A. Magbanua receive The Asian Banker award for Best Corporate Trade Finance Deal in Asia Pacific — recognizing the successful financing of the toll road giant's stake in Indonesia's Trans-Java Toll Road, which was fully completed in 2024.