## Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) 5,835.59 ▲17.53 PTS. ▲0.30%

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### PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| AC | Ayala Corp. | P459.00 | +P9.00 | +2.00% |
| ACEN | ACEN Corp. | P2.39 | +P0.04 | +1.70% |
| AEV | Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. | P27.60 | +P0.70 | +2.60% |
| AGI | Alliance Global Group, Inc. | P7.21 | +P0.13 | +1.84% |
| ALI | Ayala Land, Inc. | P20.60 | +P0.35 | +1.73% |
| AREIT | AREIT, Inc. | P41.80 | +P0.20 | +0.48% |
| BDO | BDO Unibank, Inc. | P134.20 | +P2.20 | +1.67% |
| BPI | Bank of the Philippine Islands | P104.00 | +P1.50 | +1.46% |
| CBC | China Banking Corp. | P47.95 | -P0.55 | -1.13% |
| CNPF | Century Pacific Food, Inc. | P39.00 | +P2.85 | +7.88% |
| CNVRG | Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. | P12.80 | +P0.38 | +3.06% |
| DMC | DMCI Holdings, Inc. | P10.10 | —— | |
| EMI | Emperador, Inc. | P15.40 | -P0.20 | -1.28% |
| GLO | Globe Telecom, Inc. | P1,445.00 | -P48.00 | -3.22% |
| GTCAP | GT Capital Holdings, Inc. | P525.00 | +P5.00 | +0.96% |
| ICT | International Container Terminal Services, Inc. | P525.00 | +P2.00 | +0.38% |
| JFC | Jollibee Foods Corp. | P199.70 | -P2.30 | -1.14% |
| JGS | JG Summit Holdings, Inc. | P23.15 | +P0.15 | +0.65% |
| LTG | LT Group, Inc. | P14.34 | +P0.08 | +0.56% |
| MBT | Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. | P68.00 | —— | |
| MER | Manila Electric Co. | P555.00 | -P11.50 | -2.03% |
| MONDE | Monde Nissin Corp. | P6.14 | -P0.16 | -2.54% |
| PGOLD | Puregold Price Club, Inc. | P37.75 | +P0.45 | +1.21% |
| PLUS | DigiPlus Interactive Corp. | P24.20 | -P0.40 | -1.63% |
| SCC | Semirara Mining and Power Corp. | P30.10 | —— | |
| SM | SM Investments Corp. | P714.50 | -P7.50 | -1.04% |
| SMC | San Miguel Corp. | P67.10 | +P1.60 | +2.44% |
| SMPH | SM Prime Holdings, Inc. | P21.80 | -P0.20 | -0.91% |
| TEL | PLDT Inc. | P1,132.00 | -P5.00 | -0.44% |
| URC | Universal Robina Corp. | P74.85 | +P0.70 | +0.94% |

# PHL conglomerates' P1.65-T renewable push to test capital discipline — S&P

PHILIPPINE CONGLOMERATES are expected to invest about $28 billion (P1.65 trillion) in renewable energy projects over the next decade as part of a broader $185-billion (P10.9-trillion) investment wave by leading business groups in the Philippines and Vietnam, according to S&P Global Ratings.

In a report released on Nov. 5, S&P said Philippine conglomerates are accelerating their shift toward renewable energy and other emerging sectors as their core businesses mature, positioning themselves for long-term growth.

S&P said the $185 billion combined investment is roughly 2.5 times the conglomerates' total capital spending in the past decade, underscoring the scale of the upcoming investment cycle.

"We estimate that over the next decade [the Philippine conglomerates] will invest up to $28 billion on renewable energy, or about 20% of their total capital expenditure (capex) plans. The development of renewable energy sources in the Philippines is gaining momentum due to generally supportive policies, with private players leading the way," S&P said.

By 2030, the country's top business groups could account for 40-50% of the Philippines' total renewable energy capacity, the report noted.

The study covered Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc., Ayala Corp., JG Summit Holdings, Inc., San Miguel Corp., and SM Investments Corp., which are among the country's largest publicly listed conglomerates by market capitalization. S&P Global Ratings said it does not rate these companies.

S&P said Philippine firms have demonstrated stronger financial discipline than their regional peers, financing about 55% of capital expenditures in the past five years through operating cash flows and divestments rather than debt.

This helped keep their average gross debt-to-EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization) ratio at less than one time in 2024, compared with about six times for major Vietnamese conglomerates.

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"Conglomerates in the Philippines and Vietnam are not starting from a weak position. Mature core operations and access to deep funding pools give the firms a credible shot at high-barrier sectors," S&P Global Ratings credit analyst Fiona Chen said in the report.

"Still, the scale and nature of these investments could push leverage beyond peer norms, raising questions about long-term capital structure and risk tolerance."

About 20% of Philippine conglomerates' capital spending is now allocated to renewable energy projects, S&P said, while another 13% goes to infrastructure and 12% to electric mobility. Investments in core businesses still account for more than half (54%) of total capital expenditure.

S&P said the Philippines' well-developed banking and bond markets and a diversified investor base have provided conglomerates access to longer-tenor and more flexible funding.

"The Philippines' more developed banking and bond markets, underpinned by a diversified investor base, allow for longer tenors and frequent issuances, which help spread out debt maturities," the report said.

**VIETNAM**

In contrast, Vietnamese conglomerates rely more heavily on short-term domestic debt, with about two-thirds of bonds maturing within one to three years, leaving them vulnerable to refinancing and liquidity risks.

S&P estimated that the four Vietnamese conglomerates covered in its study — FPT Corp., Hoa Phat Group Joint Stock Co., Masan Group Corp., and Vingroup Joint Stock Co. — will likely invest $80 billion in infrastructure over the next decade, primarily in high-speed railways and fossil-fueled power plants.

The report said capex in new ventures reached 40% of total spending in Vietnam and 30% in the Philippines as conglomerates ramped up diversification into infrastructure, renewable energy, and electric mobility.

However, S&P noted that many of Vietnam's new ventures remain loss-making, while Philippine firms still derive more than 80% of their net profit from core operations, highlighting stronger earnings resilience.

It added that governance and transparency remain crucial across both markets as conglomerates expand into multiple sectors. "Improving transparency is key to gaining a clearer view of obligations and cash flow, especially since large projects that span different parts of a group can create systemic risks because of crossholdings and guarantees," S&P said.

The credit watcher said the next decade will test the capital discipline, funding flexibility, and governance strength of conglomerates in both countries.

"How conglomerates in the Philippines and Vietnam resolve today's funding choices will not just shape their balance sheets but their capacity to invest in transformation, sustainability, and new markets," it said.— **A.G.C. Magno**

## Smart secures P2-B green loan for 5G network expansion

SMART COMMUNICATIONS, INC., the wireless arm of PLDT Inc., has obtained its first green loan worth P2 billion from Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. (Metrobank) to support the expansion of its fifth-generation (5G) network nationwide.

"This green loan is more than a financial milestone — it demonstrates Smart's participation in shaping a low-carbon digital future. By investing in energy-efficient technologies, we are pursuing business growth and efficiency, while being mindful of our impact on the environment," PLDT and Smart Chief Finance and Risk Management Officer Danny Y. Yu said in a media release on Thursday.

Smart said the proceeds will be used to fund upgrades and expansion of its network infrastructure aimed at improving operational efficiency and enhancing customer experience.

A green loan is a type of financing instrument that allocates proceeds exclusively for eligible projects that promote environmental sustainability.

5G technology is designed to handle higher data traffic at faster speeds while consuming less energy per gigabyte. It can also shift to low-energy modes and optimize power use, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

"Financing plays a key role in enabling the achievement of our business and sustainability goals and in our pursuit of initiatives that contribute to our long-term growth and create value for the planet and the future generations," PLDT and Smart Chief Sustainability Officer Melissa Vergel De Dios said.

The latest green facility follows PLDT's P2-billion social loan secured last year to expand its fiber network and a P1-billion green loan for network upgrades and expansion.

Smart is the wireless unit of PLDT Inc. Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of the PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has a majority stake in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**



# ICTSI income climbs 26% on higher cargo handling and port revenues

RAZON-LED International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI) posted a 26.27% rise in third-quarter attributable net income to $267.72 million, supported by higher cargo volumes and improved port revenues.

"ICTSI's diversified portfolio has enabled us to capture opportunities in dynamic markets...," ICTSI Chairman and President Enrique K. Razon, Jr. said in a stock exchange disclosure on Thursday.

"As we continue to invest in strategic expansions and pursue new opportunities across the Americas, Asia, and Europe, the Middle East, and Africa (EMEA), we remain committed to driving sustainable growth and innovation throughout our global network. Looking ahead, ICTSI is well-positioned to build on this momentum and deliver long-term value," he added.

Revenues for the three months ending September climbed 19.67% to $827.74 million from $691.70 million in the same period last year, even as gross expenses rose 12.73% to $356.61 million from $316.35 million.

For the January-to-September period, ICTSI's attributable net income increased 18.81% to $751.56 million from $632.58 million a year ago.

"ICTSI's excellent performance in the first nine months of 2025 is a testament to the strength of our global operations and the disciplined execution of our strategy," Mr. Razon said.

Consolidated revenues rose 16.42% to $2.34 billion from $2.01 billion in the same nine-month period last year.

Broken down by region, port operations in Asia accounted for the largest share with $985.63 million in revenues, followed by $919.70 million from the Americas and $432.46 million from EMEA.

ICTSI said its revenue growth was driven by tariff adjustments, increased volumes with a favorable container mix, and higher ancillary revenues from selected terminals.

In terms of volume, the company handled 10.69 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in the first nine months, up 11.35% from 9.60 million TEUs in the same period last year.

Asian ports handled 5.64 million TEUs, while ports in the Americas processed 3.05 million TEUs, and those in EMEA handled 2 million TEUs.

ICTSI attributed the increase in throughput to improved trade activity across all regions. Excluding the impact of new operations in Iloilo and Indonesia, as well as discontinued operations in Indonesia, consolidated volume would still have been up by around 11%, it added.

Capital expenditure reached $449.61 million in the first nine months, mainly allocated for ongoing expansion at Contecon Manzanillo S.A. (CMSA) in Mexico, terminal upgrades in the Philippines, upfront payments for a container terminal in Indonesia, and equipment acquisitions.

The company has earmarked $580 million in capital spending for this year to fund its new project in Batangas and the third-phase expansions of its terminals in Mexico and Manila.

At the local bourse on Thursday, ICTSI shares gained P2, or 0.38%, to close at P525 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**