

Globe Telecom plans P56B for AI-driven infra expansion

By Ashley Erika O. Jose
Reporter



FREEPIK/DC STUDIO

GLOBE TELECOM, Inc. said it is allocating P56 billion this year for network upgrades, infrastructure expansion, and data center investments as the listed telecommunications company expands the use of artificial intelligence (AI) across its operations and enterprise services.

"This year alone, we are looking at P56 billion being invested into infrastructure, network upgrades, together with co-investments with STT GDC (ST Telemedia Global Data Centres) for data centers," Globe Business Marketing Head Jonathan Cristobal told *BusinessWorld* on the sidelines of the BusinessWorld Economic Forum on Monday.

He said Globe Business, the enterprise arm of Globe Telecom, is increasing investments in AI-related capabilities and expects spending in the segment to continue over the medium term.

"Yes, I would have to say yes, at least in the context that we just had Candle, that is 2028 types of maturity. Investments are being made not in one go," he said.

Candle Cable is an 8,000-kilometer submarine cable system linking Japan, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and the Philippines. The system is designed with 24 fiber pairs and a total capacity of 570 terabits per second.

The consortium behind the project includes Meta Platforms, Inc., SoftBank Corp., IPS, Inc., NEC Corp., Telekom Malaysia Bhd., and PT XLSmart Telecom Sejahtera Tbk.

Globe is participating in the consortium as both an investor and landing party, with the cable planned to land at its Nasugbu cable station in Batangas, complementing another Philippine landing point in Baler.

The cable system is expected to support growing demand for cloud services, AI workloads, and enterprise digitalization across the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Cristobal said Globe is deploying AI across network operations and facilities management,

including applications aimed at optimizing energy consumption and improving efficiencies at cell sites.

He added that Globe Business is also expanding partnerships to provide AI-related solutions and accelerate enterprise adoption in the Philippines.

Separately, ST Telemedia Global Data Centres Philippines said it is evaluating additional sites for expansion amid rising demand for data center capacity, including AI-driven workloads.

STT GDC Philippines is a joint venture among Globe Telecom, Inc., Ayala Corp., and ST Telemedia Global Data Centres. The company operates seven data centers in the Philippines with a

combined information technology load of nearly 150 megawatts.

As of end-March, Globe's capital expenditure rose 51% to P12.74 billion as the company accelerated investments in network expansion and capacity upgrades.

The company previously said it is maintaining its full-year capital expenditure guidance at below \$1 billion.

Globe posted first-quarter attributable net income of P5.55 billion, down from P6.98 billion a year earlier, as the absence of one-off gains booked in 2025 and higher financing costs offset growth in revenues and core earnings driven by stronger data demand.

Shares in Globe fell P2 or 0.11% to close at P1,803 apiece on Monday.

Robinsons Land, ACMobility partner to expand EV charging network

ROBINSONS Land Corp. (RLC), the property arm of the Gokongwei group, has signed an agreement with ACMobility, the mobility solutions arm of Ayala Corp., to expand electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure across its properties nationwide under the GoCharge initiative.

Under the partnership signed, EV charging stations will be deployed across RLC's malls, offices, hotels, residential developments, and estates nationwide, the company said in a statement on Monday.

The rollout forms part of ACMobility's efforts to expand the country's EV charging network, while supporting RLC's sustainability and mobility initiatives across its developments.

The companies said the partnership aims to improve accessibility to EV charging infrastructure amid growing adoption of electric vehicles in the Philippines.

ACMobility currently operates the GoCharge network, which includes charging stations located in key cities and transport corridors nationwide.

RLC said the initiative is expected to support tenants, residents, office workers, and mall customers seeking access to EV charging facilities within its properties.

At the local bourse on Monday, RLC shares went down by 0.56% to P17.88 each. — **Alexandria Grace C. Magno**

Megaworld widens office leasing footprint in Bulacan, Bacolod, Davao

TAN-LED Megaworld Corp. is adding around 51,000 square meters (sq.m.) of office space across projects in Bulacan, Bacolod, and Davao as the property developer bets on sustained office demand in provincial markets amid the continued expansion of business process outsourcing and multinational firms outside Metro Manila.

"This focus on other key provincial markets helps ensure that businesses continue to enjoy the right environment to grow nationwide within integrated, self-sustaining communities," Francis D. Roxas, head of Megaworld Global Offices, said in a statement on Monday.

He said demand for office spaces remains high outside Metro Manila, with the company addressing this within its townships in Bulacan, Bacolod, and Davao.

In June 2025, Megaworld formally topped off Northwin Global Tower 1 within the 85-hectare (ha) Northwin Global City estate spanning Marilao and Bocaue, Bulacan.

Once completed, the 11-storey office tower will offer nearly 20,000 sq.m. of gross leasable area (GLA) and will be located near the upcoming New Manila International Airport.

Meanwhile, the four-tower No. 5 Upper East Avenue development is in the final stages of preparation within the 34-ha Upper East township in Bacolod, Negros Occidental.

The project, which will rise along the township's main avenue, is expected to add nearly 9,000 sq.m. of office space and generate around 10,000 jobs, particularly in the information technology and business process outsourcing sector, Megaworld said.

The development will also feature sustainability components such as roof gardens, LED lighting in common areas, dual-flush toilets, and double-glazed windows for heat insulation and energy efficiency.

In Davao, the 16-storey One Republic Plaza within the 11-ha Davao Park District township in Agdao, Davao del Sur, will offer around 24,000 sq.m. of office GLA upon completion.

Megaworld is targeting a 2028 completion for the project, which will include energy-efficient technologies, rainwater harvesting and treatment facilities, and provisions for electric vehicle charging.

All three office developments are targeted for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, with Northwin Global Tower 1 and One Republic Plaza set to become the first LEED-certified developments in their respective areas.

Megaworld currently operates nearly 90 office towers covering over 1.7 million sq.m. of office space nationwide.

In its 2025 earnings report, the company said office leasing revenues reached P14.9 billion, driven by new assets, rental escalations, lease renewals, and sustained demand from business process outsourcing firms and multinational companies.

Megaworld said it plans to further expand its office leasing footprint in townships located in Pampanga, Cavite, and Iloilo, among other areas.

Shares in Megaworld fell by one centavo or 0.48% to close at P2.08 apiece. — **Juliana Chloe A. Gonzales**

San Miguel signals continued investments despite headwinds

SAN MIGUEL CORP. (SMC) said it would continue investing in projects aligned with domestic growth despite a sharp decline in first-quarter (Q1) net income caused by the absence of one-off gains booked last year and foreign exchange losses.

"Our businesses performed well in the first quarter, supported by steady demand and the hard work of our teams across the group," SMC Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ramon S. Ang said in a statement on Monday.

"While global conditions remain challenging, we will stay disciplined in how we operate, serve our customers well, and continue investing where we can support our country's growth," he added.

For the first quarter, SMC reported a decline in consolidated net income to P22.5 billion from P43.4 billion a year earlier, mainly due to the absence of a P21.9-billion one-off gain from the partial sale of power assets in 2025, as well as foreign exchange losses booked in 2026.

Despite the lower bottom line, consolidated revenues for the January-to-March period rose 19% to P428.3 billion, driven by growth across the company's core businesses.

The increase was supported by higher fuel and oil volumes and movements in global oil prices, as well as additional contributions from the energy business and steady volume growth in the food segment.

Consolidated operating income climbed 31% to P59.6 billion, boosted by higher revenues and improved margins in the energy business, which helped offset margin pressure in Petron Corp.

SMC's food and beverage unit San Miguel Food and Beverage, Inc. (SMFB) reported a 2% increase in net income to P11.8 billion as revenues grew 4% to P103.1 billion.

The improvement was driven by gains in the food and spirits segments, steady performance from beer, and tight cost management.

San Miguel Foods reported revenues of P49.6 billion, up 7%, supported by growth in the feeds segment and steady demand for branded products such as Magnolia dairy, coffee, and Purefoods meats.

San Miguel Brewery, Inc. posted consolidated revenues of P36.8 billion, reflecting steady performance compared with the previous year. Domestic revenues reached P32.7 billion, supported by price adjustments amid volume and cost pressures, including higher excise taxes. Operating income held at P7.9 billion, while net income stood at P6.2 billion, aided by cost controls and continued investments in brand and channel initiatives.

Ginebra San Miguel, Inc. posted a 3% increase in revenues to P16.7 billion, with operating income at P2.8 billion and net income at P2.3 billion.

San Miguel Global Power Holdings Corp.'s net income slipped to P23.9 billion from the previous year, largely due

to the P21.9-billion gain from an asset disposal recognized in the first quarter of 2025. Revenues, however, increased 26% year on year to P53.6 billion, supported by output from five battery energy storage system facilities and power supply contracts for the Mariveles and San Roque power plants.

"Offtake volumes amounted to 6.5 million MWh, down 13% year on year, largely reflecting the deconsolidation of the Ilijan Power Plant and Batangas Combined Cycle Power Plant. Income from operations increased 163% to P28.1 billion, driven by topline growth, improved gross profit margins, and higher contribution from the BESS facilities," SMC said.

Petron posted a net income of P1.8 billion in the first quarter of 2026, down 56% from P4.0 billion a year earlier, following lower refining volumes in both its Philippines and Malaysia operations.

Operations at the Port Dickson refinery have been suspended since November 2025 after Tropical Storm Senyar damaged its product jetty, while Petron Bataan underwent planned maintenance. The impact of these interruptions was further compounded by rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

Revenues climbed 27% to P246.0 billion in the first quarter, lifted by stronger sales volumes and higher average Dubai crude prices, which increased to \$86 per barrel from \$77 per barrel a year earlier.

"Excluding trading transactions from the company's operations in Singapore, Petron recorded sales volume of 25.7 million barrels in the Philippines and Malaysia, 7% lower than the previous year's 27.6 million barrels, due to lower production. Operating income declined by 36% to P6.1 billion," the company said.

"Margins were squeezed by higher product costs, with the absence of refinery production in Malaysia and reduced output in the Philippines," the company added.

SMC Infrastructure recorded P10.4 billion in revenue in the first quarter of 2026, up 7%, driven by higher traffic and efficiency gains across its toll road network, with average daily vehicle volume rising 3% to 1.1 million. Operating income increased 12% to P6.0 billion as revenue growth outpaced higher costs.

SMC's cement business, which includes Eagle Cement Corp., Northern Cement Corp., and Southern Concrete Industries, Inc., posted P9.2 billion in revenue, a 3% increase, as stronger sales volumes offset softer pricing in a competitive market.

Growth was supported by wider demand, fewer imported shipments after anti-dumping duties took effect in February, and advance buying ahead of March price increases. Operating income came in at P1.7 billion, also up 3% from a year earlier.

On Monday, SMC shares rose 0.07% to P70 apiece. — **Alexandria Grace C. Magno**

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) 5,941.52 ▼ 35.25 PTS. ▼ 0.59% MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026 BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS									
AC Ayala Corp. P429.00 -P17.00 -3.81%	ACEN ACEN Corp. P3.15 ---	AEV Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P30.00 ---	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P15.22 -P0.16 -1.04%	AREIT AREIT, Inc. P39.50 +P1.15 +3.00%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P115.00 -P2.50 -2.13%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P89.30 -P1.05 -1.16%	CBC China Banking Corp. P55.20 +P0.40 +0.73%	CNPF Century Pacific Food, Inc. P29.00 -P0.75 -2.52%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P11.22 -P0.24 -2.09%
DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P9.68 +P0.11 +1.15%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P15.30 ---	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,803.00 -P2.00 -0.11%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P453.60 -P12.40 -2.66%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P800.00 -P5.00 -0.62%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P135.30 -P5.30 -3.77%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P26.45 -P0.05 -0.19%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P15.02 -P0.24 -1.57%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P65.50 -P0.20 -0.30%	MER Manila Electric Co. P636.00 +P6.00 +0.95%
MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P7.25 ---	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P46.65 +P0.80 +1.74%	PLUS DigiPlus Interactive Corp. P13.00 +P0.28 +2.20%	RCR RL Commercial REIT, Inc. P7.15 -P0.15 -2.05%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P26.95 ---	SM SM Investments Corp. P600.00 +P1.00 +0.17%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P70.00 +P0.05 +0.07%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P19.20 +P0.22 +1.16%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,229.00 -P16.00 -1.29%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P61.20 -P0.30 -0.49%