

| STOCK MARKET   | ASIAN MARKETS  | WORLD MARKETS  | PESO-DOLLAR RATES   | ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE  | WORLD CURRENCIES  | DUBAI CRUDE OIL   |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| <b>PSEI</b><br>OPEN: 7,094.78<br>HIGH: 7,125.40<br>LOW: 7,043.45<br>CLOSE: 7,124.80<br>VOL.: 3.348 B<br>VAL(P): 7,587 B<br>134.92 Pts.<br>1.93%<br>30 DAYS TO MARCH 10, 2022 | <b>MARCH 10, 2022</b><br>JAPAN (Nikkei 225) 25,690.40 ▲ 972.87 3.94<br>HONG KONG (Hang Seng) 20,890.26 ▲ 262.55 1.27<br>TAIWAN (TWSE) 17,433.20 ▲ 417.84 2.46<br>THAILAND (SET Index) 1,649.26 ▲ 5.62 0.34<br>S. KOREA (KSE Composite) 2,680.32 ▲ 57.92 2.21<br>SINGAPORE (STREIT Times) 3,243.45 ▲ 48.07 1.50<br>SINGAPORE (ALL ORDINARIES) 7,130.80 ▲ 77.80 1.10<br>MALAYSIA (KLC Composite) 1,580.53 ▲ 18.20 1.16 | <b>MARCH 9, 2022</b><br>Dow Jones 33,286.250 ▲ 653.610<br>NASDAQ 13,255.546 ▲ 459.995<br>S&P 500 4,277.880 ▲ 107.180<br>FTSE 100 7,190.720 ▲ 226.610<br>Euro Stoxx50 3,542.270 ▲ 153.270 | <b>FX</b><br>OPEN P52.120<br>HIGH P52.050<br>LOW P52.240<br>CLOSE P52.155<br>W.AVE. P52.155<br>VOL. \$1,208.40 M<br>SOURCE: BAP<br>7.50 CTVS<br>30 DAYS TO MARCH 10, 2022 | <b>MARCH 10, 2022 LATEST BID (0900GMT)</b><br>JAPAN (YEN) 115.960 ▼ 115.860<br>HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.820 ▼ 7.820<br>TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 28.316 ▼ 28.384<br>THAILAND (BAHT) 33.100 ▼ 33.120<br>S. KOREA (WON) 1,226.740 ▲ 1,231.890<br>SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.359 ▲ 1.363<br>INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 14,275 ▲ 14,345<br>MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 4.186 ▼ 4.185 | <b>MARCH 10, 2022</b><br>US\$/UK POUND 1.3158 ▲ 1.3124<br>US\$/EURO 1.1041 ▲ 1.0941<br>\$/AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR 0.7333 ▲ 0.7314<br>CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.2822 ▲ 1.2840<br>SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.9268 ▼ 0.9287 | <b>DUBAI CRUDE OIL</b><br>FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY<br><b>\$127.81/BBL</b><br>30 DAYS TO MARCH 9, 2022<br>\$4.87 |

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • MARCH 10, 2022 (PSEi snapshot on S1/2; article on S2/2)

| ICT    | P233.000     | SMPH   | P37.500      | ALI     | P36.700      | SM      | P908.000     | NIKL    | P8.430       | URC     | P110.900     | MBT    | P55.050      | BDO    | P126.900     | BPI    | P95.000      | CNVRG  | P24.000      |
|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|---------|--------------|---------|--------------|---------|--------------|---------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|
| Value  | P619,834,840 | Value  | P441,860,485 | Value   | P344,740,030 | Value   | P331,724,430 | Value   | P325,564,428 | Value   | P304,967,000 | Value  | P293,335,586 | Value  | P221,943,083 | Value  | P197,350,672 | Value  | P183,820,645 |
| P8.000 | ▲ 3.556%     | P0.500 | ▲ 1.351%     | -P0.500 | ▼ -1.344%    | P37.000 | ▲ 4.248%     | -P0.140 | ▼ -1.634%    | -P0.600 | ▼ -0.538%    | P1.300 | ▲ 2.419%     | P1.500 | ▲ 1.196%     | P1.750 | ▲ 1.877%     | P0.000 | — 0.000%     |

## FDI hits all-time high \$10.5B in 2021

By Luz Wendy T. Noble  
Reporter

NET INFLOWS of foreign direct investments (FDIs) reached an all-time high of \$10.518 billion in 2021, reflecting the improvement in investor sentiment as the global economy rebounded from the lows of 2020.

Data released by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) showed FDI inflows in 2021 were 54.2% higher than the \$6.822 billion seen in 2020 and surpassed the previous high of \$10.3 billion in 2017.

It also exceeded the central bank's \$8-billion projection for the year, and the \$8.671-billion inflows in 2019 before the pandemic.

In December alone, FDI net inflows surged by 59% to \$1.1 billion.

"The growth in FDI reflected continued positive foreign investor sentiment on the country amid expectations of a rebound in domestic economic activity and declining COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) reported cases, as well as the strengthening of the global economy," the BSP said in a statement.

Metro Manila and other parts of the country were under a more relaxed Alert Level 2 from November to December, allowing more businesses to operate at increased capacity during the holiday season.

Investors were more bullish on the Philippines after the passage of the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE) Act, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. Chief Economist Michael L. Ricafort said in a Viber message.

FDI, S1/9

## BSP to keep focus on supporting growth despite inflation risks

THE BANGKO SENTRAL ng Pilipinas (BSP) will keep its support for economic recovery, but assured it will act to address inflation risks when needed amid the volatility caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"The BSP remains focused on preserving monetary policy support as sustaining the economic recovery remains a priority," BSP Governor Benjamin E. Diokno said in a statement sent to reporters via Viber.

"At the same time, the BSP stands ready to respond to potential second-round effects arising from elevated inflation that can disanchor inflation expectations in keeping with our price and financial stability mandates," he added.

The Monetary Board raised its inflation forecast for the year to 3.7% from 3.4%, previously. This is still within the BSP's 2-4% target range. Mr. Diokno earlier warned that the increase in oil prices could cause inflation to breach the target in the second

quarter before slowing again in the next six months.

Aside from oil, the BSP said the Russia-Ukraine crisis may push wheat prices to rise, as both countries are major exporters of the commodity.

"The ongoing conflict could also cloud prospects for global trade and investment, as uncertainty spills over into financial markets through higher volatility and weaker market confidence," Mr. Diokno said.

The BSP called on the National Government to implement measures that will address the inflation risks and threats to economic recovery caused by the ongoing war in Eastern Europe. It noted that easing restrictions will allow more economic activities and boost market confidence.

Economic managers on Monday recommended to President Rodrigo R. Duterte that the entire country be shifted to Alert Level 1 to help strengthen the domestic economy.

Inflation, S1/9

## Meralco rates up in March

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS of Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) will see higher bills in March, as generation charges went up due to an increase in spot market prices and the peso depreciation.

In a statement on Thursday, Meralco said the overall rate for a typical household slightly inched up by P0.0625 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to P9.6467/kWh, from February's P9.5842/kWh.

A residential household consuming 200 kWh will see a P13 increase in the monthly power bill. Households consuming 300 kWh, 400 kWh, and 500 kWh, will see monthly bills rise by P19, P25, and P31, respectively.

"The overall increase in this month's power rates would have been higher if not for the implementation of an additional Distribution Rate True-Up refund," Meralco said, noting customers will see a total of P0.4684/kWh refund in their bills this month.

Meralco said the generation charge jumped by P0.2780 to P5.4737/kWh, as charges from the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) increased.

WESM charges rose by P13.4211/kWh in February due to higher demand and the scheduled maintenance outage of Quezon Power and First Gas-San Lorenzo plants. Lower dispatch from these two plants also drove up charges from Independent Power Producers (IPPs) by P0.1625/kWh.

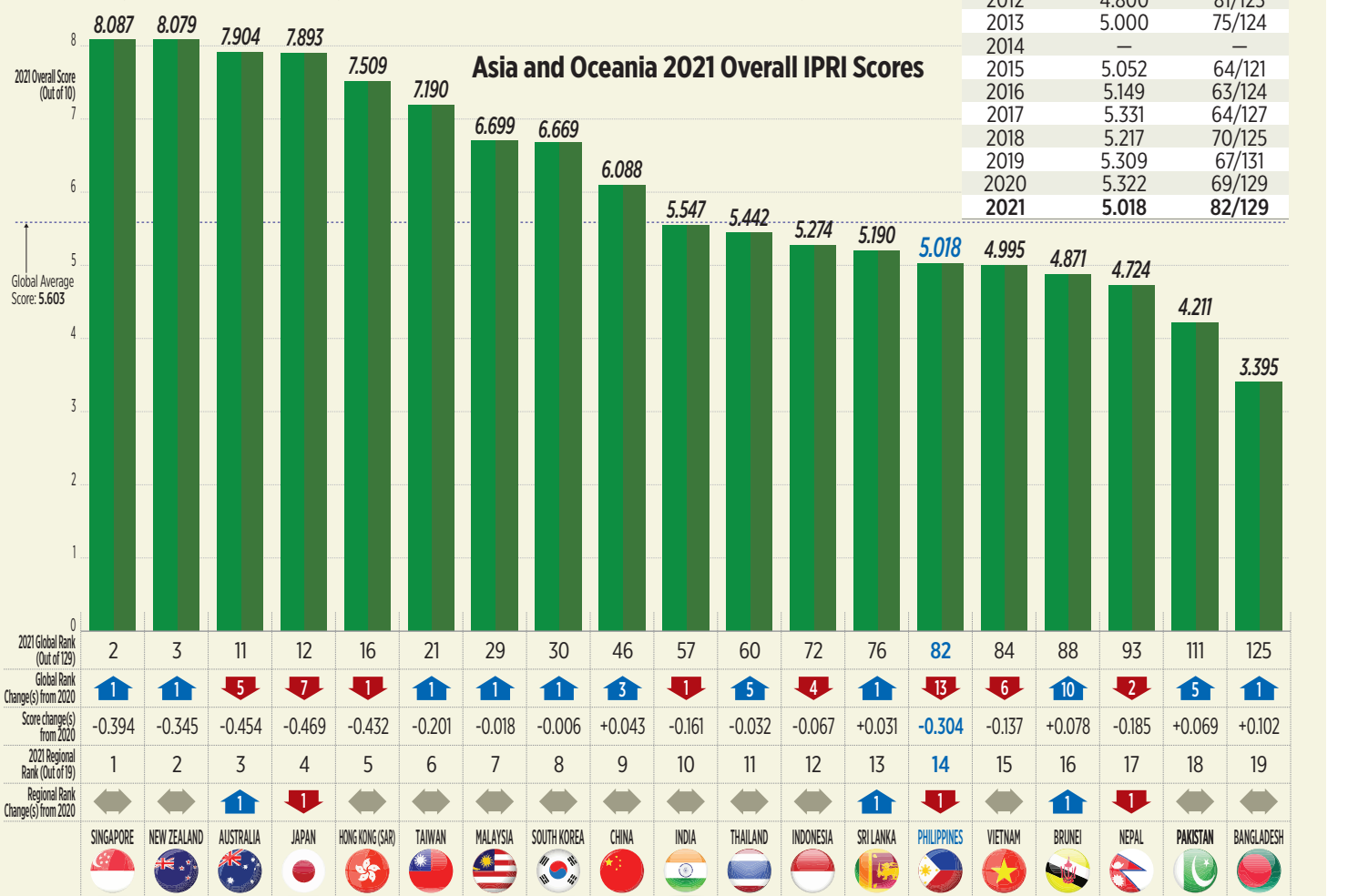
"Peso depreciation against the US dollar also contributed to the increase in IPP costs, since around 97% of these costs are dollar-denominated," Meralco said. — Marielle C. Lucenio

### FULL STORY

Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link [bit.ly/Meralco031122](http://bit.ly/Meralco031122)

## PHILIPPINES FALLS IN PROPERTY RIGHTS LIST

The International Property Rights Index (IPRI), produced annually by Washington, D.C.-based think tank Property Rights Alliance, measures the intellectual and property rights of more than 120 countries based on three components: legal and political environment, physical property rights, and intellectual property rights. The 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the report saw the Philippines drop by 13 notches to 82<sup>nd</sup> place out of 129 countries in 2021. Its IPRI score — scaled from 0 (lowest) to 10 (best) — decreased by 0.304 to 5.018, placing 14<sup>th</sup> out of 19 countries in the Asia and Oceania region.



### Philippines' Historical Performance

| Year | Overall IPRI Score | Overall Rank |
|------|--------------------|--------------|
| 2007 | 4.172              | 46/69        |
| 2008 | 4.200              | 48/70        |
| 2009 | 4.530              | 74/112       |
| 2010 | 4.545              | 77/119       |
| 2011 | 4.700              | 88/122       |
| 2012 | 4.800              | 81/123       |
| 2013 | 5.000              | 75/124       |
| 2014 | —                  | —            |
| 2015 | 5.052              | 64/121       |
| 2016 | 5.149              | 63/124       |
| 2017 | 5.331              | 64/127       |
| 2018 | 5.217              | 70/125       |
| 2019 | 5.309              | 67/131       |
| 2020 | 5.322              | 69/129       |
| 2021 | 5.018              | 82/129       |

### Top 5

| 2021 Global Rank (Out of 129) | Countries   | Global Rank Change(s) from 2020 | 2021 Overall Score (Out of 10) | Score Change(s) from 2020 |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1                             | Switzerland | ▲ 1                             | 8.148                          | ▼ 0.382                   |
| 2                             | Singapore   | ▲ 1                             | 8.087                          | ▼ 0.394                   |
| 3                             | New Zealand | ▲ 1                             | 8.079                          | ▼ 0.345                   |
| 4                             | Finland     | ▼ 3                             | 8.078                          | ▼ 0.576                   |
| 5                             | Luxembourg  | ▲ 4                             | 7.995                          | ▼ 0.247                   |

### Bottom 5

| 2021 Global Rank (Out of 129) | Countries  | Global Rank Change(s) from 2020 | 2021 Overall Score (Out of 10) | Score Change(s) from 2020 |
|-------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 129                           | Haiti      | —                               | 2.646                          | ▼ 0.009                   |
| 128                           | Venezuela  | ▼ 1                             | 2.670                          | ▼ 0.178                   |
| 127                           | Yemen      | ▲ 1                             | 2.985                          | ▲ 0.278                   |
| 126                           | Angola     | ▼ 1                             | 3.137                          | ▼ 0.225                   |
| 125                           | Bangladesh | ▲ 1                             | 3.395                          | ▲ 0.102                   |

### Philippines' Profile

|  | 2021 Score   | Score Change(s) from 2020 | 2021 Global Rank (Out of 129) | Global Rank Change(s) from 2020 |
|--|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Overall</b>                             | <b>5.018</b> | <b>▼ 0.304</b>            | <b>82</b>                     | <b>▼ 13</b>                     |
| <b>1. Legal and Political Environment</b>  | <b>3.673</b> | <b>▲ 0.026</b>            | <b>101</b>                    | <b>▲ 3</b>                      |
| Judicial Independence                      | 3.217        | —                         | 100                           | —                               |
| Rule of Law                                | 4.045        | —                         | 92                            | ▲ 1                             |
| Political Stability                        | 3.574        | ▲ 0.157                   | 106                           | ▲ 7                             |
| Control of Corruption                      | 3.853        | ▼ 0.057                   | 90                            | ▼ 2                             |
| <b>2. Physical Property Rights</b>         | <b>6.497</b> | <b>▼ 0.094</b>            | <b>66</b>                     | <b>▼ 6</b>                      |
| Perception of Physical Property Protection | 5.820        | —                         | 57                            | —                               |
| Registering Property                       | 8.831        | —                         | 85                            | —                               |
| Ease of Access to Loans                    | 4.840        | ▼ 0.283                   | 68                            | ▼ 16                            |
| <b>3. Intellectual Property Rights</b>     | <b>4.885</b> | <b>▼ 0.844</b>            | <b>70</b>                     | <b>▼ 10</b>                     |
| Perception of IP Protection                | 5.819        | —                         | 52                            | —                               |
| Patent Protection                          | 5.936        | ▼ 1.831                   | 44                            | ▼ 6                             |
| Copyright Protection                       | 3.600        | —                         | 65                            | ▼ 1                             |
| Trademark Protection                       | 4.185        | —                         | 107                           | —                               |

### NOTES:

- Score ranges from 0 to 10 in which 10 is classified as the highest value for a property rights system and 0 as the lowest (or most negative).

- The following are the three core components of the IPRI:  
1. Legal and Political Environment — the ability of a nation to enforce a *de jure* system of property rights. This component is comprised of four elements: judicial independence; strength of rule of law; political stability; and control of corruption.

2. Physical Property Rights — promotes people's confidence in a strong property rights regime's effectiveness to protect private property rights. It has three items: protection of physical property rights; registering property; and ease of access to loans.

3. Intellectual Property Rights — evaluates the protection of two major forms of intellectual property (IP) rights — patents and copyrights — from a *de jure* and a *de facto* perspective. This component has four items: protection of intellectual property rights; patent protection; trademark protection; and copyright protection.

SOURCE: PROPERTY RIGHTS ALLIANCE'S INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY RIGHTS INDEX 2021 (WWW.INTernationalPROPERTYRIGHTSINDEX.ORG)  
BUSINESSWORLD RESEARCH: MARIEDEL IRIISH U. CATILOGO  
BUSINESSWORLD GRAPHICS: BONG R. FORTIN



## Next administration urged to fix LGU tax rules

By Jenina P. Ibañez  
Senior Reporter

THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION should make more consistent taxation rules for local government units (LGUs) to address complications arising from the varying rates implemented by each unit, analysts said. Eleanor Lucas Roque, P&A Grant-Thornton tax advisory and compliance

principal, included such changes to the organization's list of priorities for the next administration.

"Reforms in the local government taxation particularly in the deadline for filing and payment and uniformity in rules for computing the taxable receipts (are needed)," she said in an e-mail.

Similarly, Tax Management Association of the Philippines President Fulvio D. Dawilan said local government units need to adopt nationally consistent standards and practices.

"The rule now is that each local government unit exercises the power to create its own sources of revenue. And that power is exercised by the respective Sanggunian of each LGU through the enactment of ordinances. That's not a problem," he said in an e-mail.

But each LGU imposes different tax rates.

"Because of the different rate, taxpayers tend to hop among LGUs giving the best rate. Similarly, the covered

taxable transactions/subjects differ from LGU to LGU," Mr. Dawilan said.

"LGUs also often quarrel as to which LGU has the jurisdiction to impose tax. And taxpayers are often confused as to which LGU it should be paying its local taxes."

There should be uniform registration and administrative processes among LGUs, he said.

Meanwhile, Ms. Roque said that the country's next leaders should push for

LGU tax, S1/9



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