

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL
<b>PSEI</b> OPEN: 6,907.97 HIGH: 6,984.90 LOW: 6,907.97 CLOSE: 6,984.90 VOL: 1.424 B VAL(P): 4.215 B 89.54 Pts. 1.29% 30 DAYS TO APRIL 13, 2022	<b>APRIL 15, 2022</b> JAPAN (Nikkei 225) 27,093.19 -78.81 -0.29 HONG KONG (Hang Seng) 21,518.08 143.71 0.67 TAIWAN (Weighted) 17,004.18 -241.47 -1.40 THAILAND (SET Index) 1,674.34 -41.2 -2.5 S. KOREA (KOSPI Composite) 2,696.06 -20.65 -0.76 SINGAPORE (STRIATS Times) 3,335.85 -6.37 -0.19 SYDNEY (All Ordinaries) 7,523.40 44.40 0.59 MALAYSIA (KLC Composite) 1,589.01 -6.69 -0.42 * CLOSING PRICE: * APRIL 12, 2022 ** APRIL 14, 2022	<b>APRIL 14, 2022</b> Dow Jones 34,451.230 -113.360 NASDAQ 13,351.079 -292.508 S&P 500 4,392.590 -54.000 FTSE 100 7,616.380 35.580 Euro Stoxx50 3,783.100 21.790	<b>FX</b> OPEN P52.100 HIGH P51.880 LOW P52.100 CLOSE P52.030 W.AVE. P51.975 VOL. \$1,195.25 M SOURCE: BAP	<b>APRIL 15, 2022 LATEST BID (0900GMT)</b> JAPAN (YEN) 126.350 125.860 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.844 7.843 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 29.111 29.042 THAILAND (BAHT) 33.610 33.680 S. KOREA (WON) 1,228.190 1,230.150 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.356 1.356 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 14,343 14,343 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 4.233 4.230	<b>APRIL 15, 2022</b> US\$/UK POUND 1.3058 1.3065 US\$/EURO 1.0806 1.0827 \$/AUSTRALIAN 0.7397 0.7418 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.2611 1.2598 SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.9425 0.9421	<b>FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$105.85/BBL</b> 1,200.00 1,100.00 1,000.00 900.00 800.00 30 DAYS TO APRIL 14, 2022 \$3.45

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S1/1-8 • 3 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • APRIL 13, 2022 (PSEi snapshot on S1/4; article on S2/2)

CTS P1.110 Value P606,547,510 PO.110 ▲ 11.000%	BPI P98.500 Value P277,628,827 PO.500 ▲ 0.510%	SM P872.500 Value P253,690,995 P7.500 ▲ 0.867%	EMP P17.100 Value P234,303,142 P3.080 ▲ 21.969%	CNVRG P29.950 Value P188,811,970 PO.950 ▲ 3.276%	BDO P128.500 Value P166,298,753 -P0.500 ▼ -0.388%	ALI P34.000 Value P160,374,600 PO.000 — 0.000%	SMPH P36.800 Value P128,124,995 PO.800 ▲ 2.222%	AC P768.000 Value P121,244,195 -P1.000 ▼ -0.130%	ICT P220.400 Value P120,385,648 P1.800 ▲ 0.823%
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## BSP to tweak rules on large exposures

THE PHILIPPINE central bank is proposing to amend the guidelines on large exposures for big banks and their subsidiaries, in an effort to improve credit concentration risk management.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' (BSP) proposed circular also outlines the regulatory reporting requirements for banks under the large exposures framework to ensure that risks will be properly monitored.

"BSP-supervised financial institutions (BSFIs) are expected to properly and accurately identify, measure, monitor, and control large exposures across books and operations in order to protect BSFIs' solvency from maximum losses resulting in sudden counterparty failure," the draft circular posted on the BSP website stated.

Under the proposed rules, an exposure is considered a large exposure if it is equal to or higher than 10% of a bank's eligible capital.

"Large exposures shall refer to exposures to a counterparty or a group of connected counterparties equal to or greater than 10% of covered banks/quasi banks' Tier 1 capital," the rules read.

This is a change from the previous definition of large exposure which was 5% of a lender's qualifying capital.

Tier 1 capital is defined as the core capital of a lender, which includes its disclosed reserves and equity capital. Meanwhile, the qualifying capital is part of Tier 2 which is a supplementary capital for banks.

The framework will be applicable for universal and commercial banks as well as their subsidiary lenders and quasi-banks.

The large exposure framework for universal banks and their subsidiaries will be implemented by Jan. 1, 2024, based on the transitory provision of the circular.

Stakeholders are given until April 29 to submit feedback on the draft regulation to the BSP.

The circular also set the criteria in assessing the economic interdependence of counterparties that have borrowings with banks to ascertain large exposure.

The BSP said banks should monitor whether 50% or more of a counterparty's annual gross receipt or gross expenditure came from transactions with the other party.

Rules, S1/5

## Banks need to keep close eye on play-to-earn game transactions, AMLC says

THE ANTI-MONEY Laundering Council (AMLC) wants financial institutions to ensure customer due diligence, especially those that serve as payment channels for play-to-earn games such as *Axie Infinity*.

While *Axie Infinity* itself is not under the supervision of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and not covered by the "dirty money" watchdog, AMLC Executive Director Mel Georgie B. Racela stressed that financial institutions are involved when players convert in-game tokens into fiat currency.

In games such as *Axie Infinity*, players receive cryptocurrency in exchange for playing the game. *Axie Infinity* players earn tokens known as smooth love potion (SLP).

"The payment channels used for the SLP tokens used in the game may include banks and electronic money issuers (EMIs). It must be remembered that banks and EMIs are covered persons and are, thus, required to conduct customer due diligence, keep records, and file covered and suspicious transaction reports (STRs)," Mr. Racela said in a Viber message.

"These covered persons, as payment and settlement fa-

ilitators, should closely monitor funds that pass through them (through the purchase or sale of such tokens) for possible links to dirty money and promptly file the corresponding STRs when appropriate," he added.

Around \$600 million worth of cryptocurrency linked to *Axie Infinity* was stolen from the Ronin Network, a blockchain network that allows users to transfer crypto in the game. It is said to be one of the largest cryptocurrency heists on record.

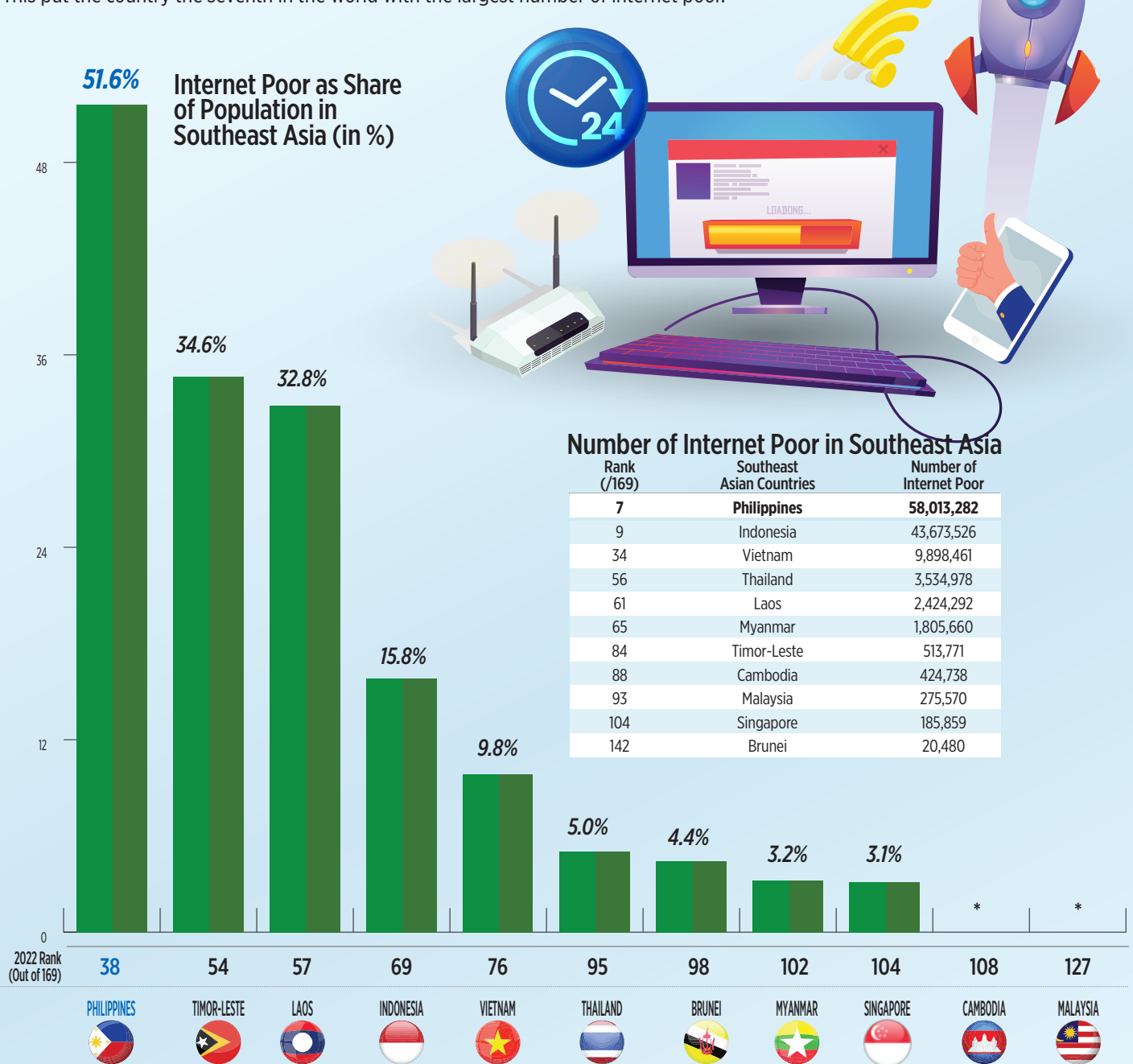
The US Federal Bureau of Investigation last week said their findings showed that Lazarus Group and APT38, both associated with North Korea, were behind the cybercrime. The Lazarus Group was also involved in hacking the Bangladesh central bank in 2016.

Meanwhile, Swarup Gupta, an industry manager at the Economist Intelligence Unit said the cyberattack showed how there are still gaps in ensuring decentralization for such platforms.

"The small number of validator nodes for the Ethereum sidechain, Ronin, and the even smaller number needed to approve a transaction, Play-to-earn, S1/5

## PHILIPPINES MOST 'INTERNET POOR' IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

More than half of the Philippine population are considered "internet poor" — or those who cannot afford a minimum package of mobile internet — according to the Internet Poverty Index by Austria-based data enterprise World Data Lab. Among 169 countries included in the index, the Philippines ranked 38<sup>th</sup> in terms of internet poor as share of the population. This translated to over 58 million Filipinos who cannot afford a 1-GB-per-month internet package. This put the country the seventh in the world with the largest number of internet poor.



### Number of Internet Poor in Southeast Asia

Rank (/169)	Southeast Asian Countries	Number of Internet Poor
7	Philippines	58,013,282
9	Indonesia	43,673,526
34	Vietnam	9,898,461
56	Thailand	3,534,978
61	Laos	2,424,292
65	Myanmar	1,805,660
84	Timor-Leste	513,771
88	Cambodia	424,738
93	Malaysia	275,570
104	Singapore	185,859
142	Brunei	20,480

### Top 10 Internet Poor Countries as Share of Population

Rank (/169)	Country	Share of Internet Poor (in %)
1	Burundi	96.6%
2	Madagascar	96.2%
3	Malawi	95.5%
4	Guinea-Bissau	93.8%
5	Venezuela	92.2%
6	Yemen	91.8%
7	Togo	89.9%
8	Central African Republic	89.7%
9	Rwanda	89.3%
10	Zambia	88.3%

### Top 10 Internet Poor Countries (Aggregate)

Rank (/169)	Country	Number of Internet Poor
1	Nigeria	103,015,076
2	India	100,601,680
3	China	93,176,827
4	Dem. Rep. of Congo	82,252,109
5	Brazil	78,503,533
6	Pakistan	62,542,187
7	Philippines	58,013,282
8	Tanzania	54,807,576
9	Indonesia	43,673,526
10	South Africa	38,213,241

**NOTES:**

\* less than 3%  
 The index is measured by how many people can and cannot afford a minimum package of mobile internet based on three assumed pillars:  
**Affordability (10% of total individual spending)** - The price of a mobile broadband service and is set with a person's total expenditure. The Internet Poverty threshold of affordability is set to a maximum of 10% of a person's total expenditure.  
**Quantity (1 GB per month)** - Factors such as download and upload speed, bandwidth, latency, 2G, 3G, and 4G coverage, as well as the number of servers per 100,000 inhabitants.  
**Quality (10 Mbps download speed)** - Amount of data that can be sent or received per theoretical user.

SOURCE: WORLD DATA LAB'S INTERNET POVERTY INDEX (HTTPS://WWW.WORLD-DATA-LAB.COM/INTERNET-POVERTY-INDEX)  
 BUSINESSWORLD RESEARCH: BERNADETTE THERESE M. GADON  
 BUSINESSWORLD GRAPHICS: CRECENCIO I. CRUZ

## Faster rollout of booster shots urged amid new coronavirus variants

By Revin Mikhael D. Ochave and Luz Wendy T. Noble Reporters

THE DISTRIBUTION of booster doses of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) vaccines should be accelerated in order to prevent new variants from driving another surge that may derail economic recovery, experts said.

Steven T. Cua, Philippine Amalgamated Supermarkets Association president, told *BusinessWorld* via mobile phone message last week that the group's member companies and their employees are being encouraged to get their COVID-19 booster shots as soon as possible.

"I am heavily campaigning to all our employees to get their booster shots. With P2 trillion in loans to partly address this pandemic with 27 million doses of vaccine about to expire and with such a

small fraction of the population availing of booster shots, this can hardly be described as a situation (that has been) well handled," Mr. Cua said.

Previous surges have been driven by COVID-19 variants, such as Delta and Omicron. New recombinant variants such as Omicron XE are being blamed for recent surges in other countries.

Mr. Cua said these new variants are a threat since they may hurt the retail sector's recovery from the pandemic.

"(New COVID-19 variants) most definitely will (be a threat). The road to recovery has been sidetracked time and again. The solution is right before us for the taking but the government and citizenry are failing to comprehend what it takes to move ourselves forward," Mr. Cua said.

ING Bank N.V. Manila Senior Economist Nicholas Antonio T. Mapa noted how previous surges necessitated the imposition of tighter restrictions. He said another COVID-19 surge could dampen

both consumer and business sentiment and eliminate the gains from the economy's gradual reopening.

"The economic recovery will be best maximized with lower levels of restrictions (as this allows the free flow of people and commerce) while virus mitigation also helps bolster business and consumer sentiment," Mr. Mapa said in an e-mail.

The government is targeting 7-9% economic growth this year, after the 5.7% expansion in 2021.

The ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) last week said the biggest threat to the Philippines' recovery is a possible resurgence in COVID-19 infections. Health experts have recently warned of a surge in COVID-19 cases after the May elections, citing the "waning immunity" of many vaccinated Filipinos who have not received a booster shot.

Booster, S1/5