

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL
<b>PSEi</b> OPEN: 6,741.95 HIGH: 6,839.27 LOW: 6,729.90 CLOSE: 6,822.32 VOL.: 0.890 B VAL(P): 7,000 B 96.18 PTS. 1.43% 30 DAYS TO MAY 30, 2022	<b>MAY 30, 2022</b> JAPAN (NIKKEI 225) 27,369.43 ▲ 587.75 2.19 HONG KONG (HANG SENG) 21,123.93 ▲ 426.57 2.06 TAIWAN (WEIGHTED) 16,610.62 ▲ 344.40 2.12 THAILAND (SET INDEX) 1,653.61 ▲ 14.86 0.91 S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE) 2,669.66 ▲ 31.61 1.20 SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES) 3,238.92 ▲ 8.37 0.26 SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES) 7,286.60 ▲ 103.90 1.45 MALAYSIA (KLSE COMPOSITE) 1,543.02 ▼ -3.74 -0.24	<b>MAY 27, 2022</b> Dow Jones 33,212.960 ▲ 575.770 NASDAQ 12,131.131 ▲ 390.481 S&P 500 4,158.240 ▲ 100.400 FTSE 100 7,585.460 ▲ 20.540 Euro Stoxx50 3,674.510 ▲ 46.730	<b>FX</b> OPEN P52.200 HIGH P52.160 LOW P52.330 CLOSE P52.310 W.AVE. P52.243 VOL. \$1,195.10M SOURCE: BAP	<b>MAY 30, 2022</b> LATEST BID (0900GMT) JAPAN (YEN) 127.270 ▼ 127.110 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.848 ▲ 7.849 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 28.918 ▲ 29.303 THAILAND (BAHT) 34.070 ▲ 34.110 S. KOREA (WON) 1,236.550 ▲ 1,251.990 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.366 ▲ 1.369 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 14,557 ▲ 14,575 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 4.364 ▲ 4.377	<b>MAY 30, 2022</b> US\$/UK POUND 1.2640 ▲ 1.2616 US\$/EURO 1.0765 ▲ 1.0727 \$/AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR 0.7189 ▲ 0.7160 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.2684 ▼ 1.2723 SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.9571 ▲ 0.9570	<b>FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY</b> \$112.35/bbl 114.00 109.00 105.20 100.80 96.40 92.00 30 DAYS TO MAY 27, 2022

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • MAY 30, 2022 (PSEi snapshot on S1/2; article on S2/2)

CNVRG	P26.050	SMPH	P38.000	ALI	P29.600	SM	P862.000	BDO	P130.100	MONDE	P15.800	AC	P701.000	MBT	P55.100	BPI	P97.500	ACEN	P7.170
Value	P926,600,670	Value	P646,141,045	Value	P411,310,035	Value	P318,420,375	Value	P272,897,003	Value	P271,018,258	Value	P247,793,820	Value	P237,696,022	Value	P199,909,997	Value	P197,052,049
-P0.450 ▼	-1.698%	P0.200 ▲	0.529%	P0.750 ▲	2.600%	P23.500 ▲	2.803%	P2.800 ▲	2.200%	-P0.880 ▼	-5.276%	P21.500 ▲	3.164%	P1.300 ▲	2.416%	P1.900 ▲	1.987%	P0.220 ▲	3.165%

# Senators urged to approve RCEP

By Alyssa Nicole O. Tan  
Reporter

THE PHILIPPINES could lose more than half of its import

and export markets if it fails to ratify a free trade deal among 15 countries in the region whose economic output accounts for 30% of global trade, economic managers told the Senate on Monday.

"If we don't join RCEP, we miss out on more than half of the Philippines export markets, and around two-thirds of the country's import sources," Department of Agriculture (DA) Director Bien A. Ganapin said during the Senate Foreign

Relations Committee hearing on Monday, noting that Philippine exports to Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) member-countries are at 50.4% of total trade, while imports are at 67.3% of total trade.

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and DA pitched the world's largest free trade agreement (FTA) in a list-ditch effort to push the trade deal's ap-

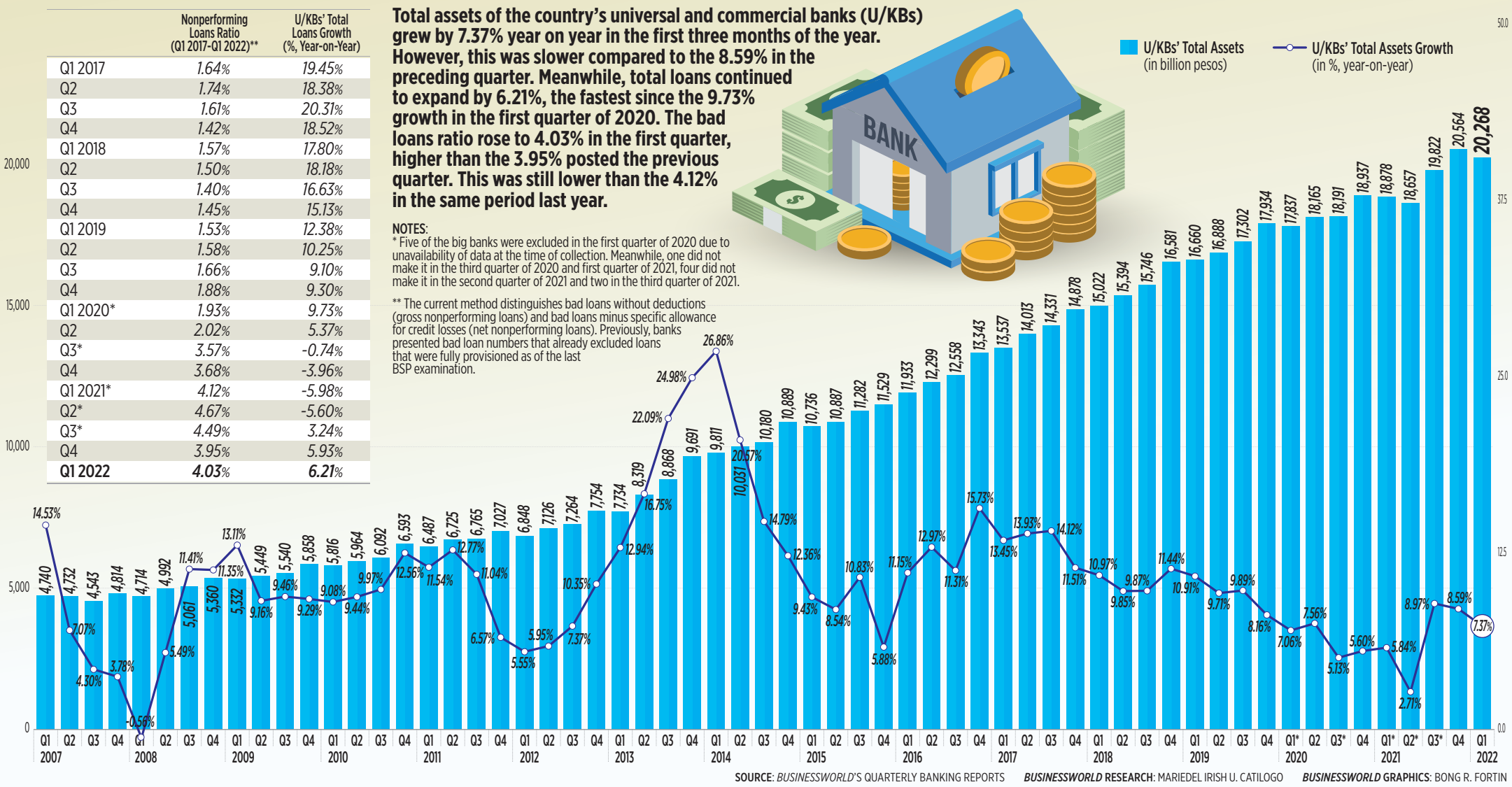
proval by the Philippine Senate. Senators tackled the RCEP during the plenary, but gave no assurance of its ratification before the last session of the 18th Congress adjourns this week. RCEP, S1/5

## BIG BANKS' LOANS EXPAND, ASSETS EASE IN Q1 2022

Total assets of the country's universal and commercial banks (U/KBs) grew by 7.37% year on year in the first three months of the year. However, this was slower compared to the 8.59% in the preceding quarter. Meanwhile, total loans continued to expand by 6.21%, the fastest since the 9.73% growth in the first quarter of 2020. The bad loans ratio rose to 4.03% in the first quarter, higher than the 3.95% posted the previous quarter. This was still lower than the 4.12% in the same period last year.

NOTES:  
\* Five of the big banks were excluded in the first quarter of 2020 due to unavailability of data at the time of collection. Meanwhile, one did not make it in the third quarter of 2020 and first quarter of 2021, four did not make it in the second quarter of 2021 and two in the third quarter of 2021.

\*\* The current method distinguishes bad loans without deductions (gross nonperforming loans) and bad loans minus specific allowance for credit losses (net nonperforming loans). Previously, banks presented bad loan numbers that already excluded loans that were fully provisioned as of the last BSP examination.



## PHL big banks' Q1 loan growth is quickest since the start of pandemic

THE first quarter saw the country's largest banks expand their loan portfolio at the fastest pace since the start of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic two years ago.

BusinessWorld's 1st Quarter Banking Report showed the combined loans of 45 universal and commercial banks (U/KBs) rose by 6.21% year on year to P9.93 trillion in the January-March period, faster than the 5.93% growth in the previous quarter.

It was the fastest expansion in eight quarters, or since the 9.73% growth recorded in the January to March period in 2020.

On the other hand, the combined assets in the first quarter jumped by 7.37% to P20.27 trillion in the first three months of 2022.

However, this pace was slower than the 8.59% growth logged in the previous quarter, but quicker than the 5.84% seen in the first three months of 2021.

The asset growth was the slowest in three quarters, or since the 2.71% posted in the second quarter of 2021.

In terms of profitability, the median return on equity (RoE) stood at 3.96%, inching up from 3.11% seen in the previous quarter and 3.89% RoE in the January-March period a year ago. The RoE or the

ratio of net profit to average capital measures the amount that shareholders make on their investments in a company.

Meanwhile, the nonperforming loans (NPLs) reached P394.63 billion in the first quarter, 6.19% higher from P371.65 billion in the fourth quarter of 2021. Compared with the first quarter of last year, bad debt rose by 9.05%.

This brought the NPL ratio — the share of soured loans to the total loan portfolio — to 4.03% in the first quarter, higher than 3.95% in the preceding quarter but still lower than the 4.12% in the January-March period in 2021.

Loan, S1/11

### FUEL PRICE TRACKER

(week-on-week change)

GASOLINE	
May 17	P0.40
May 24	P3.95
May 31	P1.70
DIESEL	
May 17	P3.10
May 24	P2.30
May 31	P1.20
KEROSENE	
May 17	P2.10
May 24	P2.40
May 31	P2.45

• May 31, 12:01 a.m. — Caltex Philippines  
 • May 31, 6 a.m. — Petron Corp.; Phoenix Petroleum; Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.; PTT Philippines Corp.; Seacol Philippines, Inc.  
 • May 31, 8:01 a.m. — Cleanfuel (Shaw Autogas, Inc.)

## Marcos names BSP official as DBM chief

PRESIDENT-ELECT Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos, Jr. is tapping another central bank official for his Cabinet, this time Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Assistant Governor Amenah F. Pangandaman to head the Budget department.

Mr. Marcos' spokesperson Rose Beatrix "Trixie" Cruz-Angeles said at a news conference on Monday that Ms. Pangandaman will be appointed as secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

Ms. Pangandaman served as DBM undersecretary and assistant secretary during BSP Governor Benjamin E. Diokno's stint as Budget secretary. Mr. Diokno has also been named Finance secretary.

In a statement, Ms. Pangandaman identified the modernization of the budget system and incorporation of sustainability principles in government spending as her key priorities under the Marcos administration.

"My team and I vow to work with the rest of the economic team and continue the policies and reforms that we have long fought for," she said. "We will strive to ensure prudent and transparent use of public funds in a way that allows us to regain lost ground while also uplifting the lives of the ordinary Filipino."

The DBM is responsible for the preparation of the national budget. The outgoing Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) has already said the proposed 2023 national budget is pegged at P5.268

trillion, representing 22.1% of gross domestic product.

Mr. Marcos earlier said he would work closely with the incoming 19th Congress for the speedy passage of the national budget, which analysts say would determine the strength of the Philippines' economic recovery.

Ms. Cruz-Angeles also announced information technology expert Ivan John Uy will head the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).

Mr. Uy had served as chair of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology under the administration of the late Benigno S.C. Aquino III.

Mr. Cruz-Angeles said Esperanza Christina G. Frasco, who was recently reelected as mayor of a town in Cebu province in central Philippines, would take over the Department of Tourism.

Ms. Frasco is the daughter of Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn F. Garcia, who promised a landslide win for Mr. Marcos and her running mate Sara Z. Duterte-Carpio during the campaign period. Ms. Frasco is currently serving as spokesperson for Ms. Duterte-Carpio.

Broadcaster Erwin T. Tulfo will head the Social Welfare department, Mr. Marcos' spokesperson said.

Mr. Tulfo is the brother of Raffy T. Tulfo, who secured a Senate seat in the May 9 polls. — Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

## ADB greenlights \$400-M loan for PHL capital development

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Monday said it has given the greenlight for a \$400-million policy-based loan to help the Philippines further develop the domestic capital market and increase financing for infrastructure projects.

In a statement, the multilateral lender said the loan will assist the Philippines' efforts to create an efficient domestic debt market, and boost institutional participation in the market, specifically insurance firms and pension funds.

ADB, S1/5

## DENR imposes moratorium on new applications for seabed quarry permits

THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has imposed a moratorium on the acceptance of new applications for special exploration permits or government seabed quarry permits.

The DENR issued Administrative Order (AO) 171-2022 on May 2 after President Rodrigo R. Duterte's directive to stop accepting applications for reclamation activities.

"The President directed the DENR and the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) to put on hold the acceptance of all new applications for reclamation projects in the country; and ensure that the pending applications strictly comply with all legal requirements," the order read.

Under the order, there will be a moratorium on the acceptance of all new applications for special exploration permit/government seabed quarry permits until another presidential directive is issued.

A copy of AO 171-2022 was published in a newspaper on Monday. It will take effect after 15 days.

Seabed quarrying refers to the process of extracting, removing and disposing of quarry resources found in offshore areas. It is usually considered for massive land reclamation projects.

The PRA approves bids and awards for contracts for government reclamation projects.

Quarry, S1/11