# Busines Busines Busines World

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL								
7250 7100 6650 6650 10.17 PTS. 6500 10.17 PTS. 6500 10.17 PTS. 6500 10.17 PTS. 6500 10.17 PTS. 6500 0.15% VOL:: 0.795 B VAL(P): 3.606 B	MAY 3, 2022 CLOSE NET %   Japan (Nikkei 225)* 26,818.53 4-29.37 -0.11   Hong Kong (Hang Seng) 21,101.89 412.50 0.06   Tanwan (Weighted) 16,498.90 4-93.28 -0.56   Thailand (SET Index) 1,651.16 -16.28 -0.98   S.Korea (Kse Composite) 2,680.46 -6.99 -0.25   Singapore (Straits Times)** 3,356.90 21.81 0.65   Synber (ALL ORDINARIES) 7,316.20 4-30.80 -0.42   Malaysia (Kise Composite) 1,60.43 3.12 0.20   Closing Price: **May 2,2002 ** April 29, 2022 **	MAY 2, 2022 CLOSE NET   Dow JONES 33,061.500 & 84.290   NASDAQ 12,536.017 & 201.377   S&P 500 4,155.380 & 23.450   FTSE 100* 7,544.550 & 35.360   EURO STOXX50 3,673.190 \$\$\scilent - 53.020\$   CLOSING PRICE : *APRIL 29,2022 \$\$\scilent - 4000	50.90 51.40 51.90 52.40 52.90 52.90 53.40 30 DAYS TO MAY 2, 2022 <b>FX</b> OPEN P52.250 HIGH P52.220 LOW P52.400 CLOSE P52.365 W.AVE. P52.297 VOL. \$840.70 M SOURCE : BAP	MAY 3, 2022 PREVIOUS   JAPAN (YEN) 130.120 129.890   HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.849 7.847   TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 29.547 29.520   THAILAND (BAHT) 34.500 34.390   S. KOREA (WON) 1,266.800 1,266.940   SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.385 1.385   INDONESIA (RUPLAH) 14,495 14,495   MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 4.352 4.352	MAY 3, 2022 CLOSE PREVIOUS   US\$/UK POUND 1.2530 ▼ 1.2574   US\$/EURO 1.0496 ▼ 1.0524   \$/Aust dollar 0.7094 0.7069 0.7069   Canada dollar/US\$ 1.2873 ▲ 1.2862   Swiss Franc/US\$ 0.9784 ▲ 0.9721	HUTUBES PRICE ON NEAREST 120.00 \$105.45/BBL 112.00 104.00 96.00 88.00 80.00 \$2.65 30 DAYS TO APRIL 29, 2022								
VOL. XXXV • ISSUE 200		WEDNESDAY • MAY	′ 4, 2022 • www.bworldoi	nline.com	S1/1-10	• 2 SECTIONS, 14 PAGES								
PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • MAY 2, 2022 (PSEi snapshot on S1/2; article on S2/2)														
ALI P32.100 MBT	P50.050 BDO P128.000 S	MPH P35.000 URC	P104.800 CNVRG P27.300	ACEN P7.400 TEL P1,86	5.000 JFC P220.000	GLO P2,274.000								
Value P268,436,815 Value F	233,422,694 Value P165,515,277 Va	lue P140,467,215 Value	P128,471,165 Value P118,315,360 V	/alue P112,959,658 Value P104,4	12,160 Value P101,360,268	Value P100,426,650								
P0.050 🔺 0.156% -P1.050	▼ -2.055% -P2.000 ▼ -1.538% PC	.000 — 0.000% P2.300	▲ 2.244% -P1.500 ▼ -5.208% P	0.180 🔺 2.493% -P1.000 ▼ -0	.054% P5.000 🔺 2.326%	P4.000 🔺 0.176%								

## **Duterte stops e-sabong operations**

#### By Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza Reporter

PRESIDENT Rodrigo R. Duterte said on Monday he will order the termination of online cockfighting operations in the Philippines, after earlier flaunting the hundreds of millions of pesos in government revenues generated from these games.

At the Cabinet meeting televised on Tuesday morning, Mr. Duterte said his order was based on the recommendation of Interior Secretary Eduardo M. Año, who was tasked to do a survey on the social costs of online cockfighting, also known as "e-sabong."

"The recommendation of Secretary Año is to do away with e-sabong and he cited the validation report coming from all sources," he said. "So it's his recommendation and I agree with it, it's good, so e-sabong will end."

Mr. Duterte's sudden decision to stop online cockfighting operations might force operators and their workers to go underground, according to policy analysts.

Stopping e-sabong operations abruptly without providing a clear stra-

tegic roadmap for affected sectors would likely force small-time operators and their workers to operate illegally, said John Paolo R. Rivera, an economist at the Asian Institute of Management.

"Just like the other gambling operations suspended, this latest decision might temporarily fail to totally disenfranchise operations," he said in a Viber message. "Other operators may continue operating underground...The unintended consequences of this sudden decision would kick in."

Jefferson A. Arapoc, an economist at the University of the Philippines (UP) Los Baños, said underground e-sabong operations are expected to flourish as the government has shown it is unable to regulate online activities such as scams and sex trafficking. E-sabong, S1/5

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Ŭ,	i 👘					5.50	7.75	6.63		0.03	6.63	7.75	6.63	6.63			4.34		Mozambique	105	<b>8</b>	3.72	-1.60
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	5.55	8.92	5.58	5.27	7.52	5.67	3.96	5.92	3.50	6.17	5.61	4.58	5.70	4.26	4.60	4.82	4.38 3.61	3.25 3.45	Every component score wa: 1 (min) and 10 (max). The o the equally weighted avera Judicial Independence: Bai indicator from the Executiv	ge of all s sed on the	ix compor e "judicial	nents: independ	dence"



Judicial Independence: Based on the "judicial independence" indicator from the Executive Opinion Survey of the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Dataset. Administrative Burden: Based on select scores from the de facto Transparency Index.

Trade Openness: Based on 2020 Online Services Index. Budget Transparency: Based on Open Budget Survey. E-Citizenship: Based on International Telecommunication Union's ICT Dataset as fixed broadband subscriptions (% population); Internet users (% population), and Internet World Stats (Facebook users as % of population). Freedom of the Press: Based on the Reporters without Borders' Press Freedom Index.

### Bulk prices surge to over 10-year high

#### **By Bernadette Therese M. Gadon** *Researcher*

NATIONWIDE BULK PRICES of general goods rose to their highest level in more than a decade in February due to higher fuel costs caused by the Russia-Ukraine war, latest preliminary data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed.

The country's general wholesale price index (GWPI) jumped 5.6% in February, from 4.6% in January and 2.5% in February 2021.

This was the highest index reading in more than 10 years or since the 5.8% growth recorded in December 2011. Year to date, the national GWPI averaged 5.1%, faster than the 2.3% in the same period in 2021.

The GWPI is used to monitor the wholesale trade sector and serves as a basis for price adjustments in business contracts and projects.

University of Asia and the Pacific Senior Economist Cid L. Terosa said the surge in bulk prices in February was mainly due to the spike in global oil prices after Russia invaded Ukraine.

"Higher global fuel and commodity prices due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict pushed prices higher. In addition, prices of housing, electricity, and water added upward pressure on prices in February," he said in an e-mail interview.

Global crude oil prices soared above the \$100-perbarrel mark after Russia began its invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24. Concerns over global supply contributed to the volatility in oil prices since Russia is the world's second-largest producer of crude oil.

#### Sustainable vehicles

PGA Cars' Future Now program continues to drive sustainable electric-powered mobility in the Philippines through the fully electric Porsche Taycan and Audi e-tron range. PGA Cars expressed support for SM Supermalls' rollout of electric vehicle charging stations in its malls. At the launch held at SM Aura Premier, SM Engineering and Design Development President Hans Sy, Jr. (left) and PGA Cars Chairman Roberto Coyiuto III reiterated their commitment to collaborative efforts designed to achieve a greener future.

#### WHAT'S INSIDE

THE WORLD US Supreme Court potential shock move on abortion sparks protests *S1/3* 

HEALTH YouTube, TikTok replace consultation: Students self-diagnose their mental health *S1/5* 

Prices, S1/5

#### A NEWSPAPER IS A PUBLIC TRUST



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### Next president needs to build on Duterte's reforms – economist

THE COUNTRY'S next president will need to build on the economic reforms started by the Duterte administration in order to sustain recovery from the pandemic, according to think tank GlobalSource Partners.

In a May 2 note titled "Is it game over?," GlobalSource Partners Philippine country analyst Romeo L. Bernardo said former Senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos, Jr. continued to enjoy a wide lead in the latest Pulse Asia survey. The same survey showed Vice-President Maria Leonor "Leni" G. Robredo was a distant second despite large crowds at her recent campaign rallies.

"For the economy to return to sustaining the 6-7% pre-pandemic growth rates, the next administration needs to build on the economic reforms of the Duterte government to attract private capital, whether in infrastructure or elsewhere," he said.

"Mr. Marcos, if he does win next week's vote, will need to quickly assure markets that he has a well-thought-out, cohesive plan. And just as important, an economic team that can competently implement it."

The Philippine economy grew by 5.7% in 2021, a turnaround from the record 9.6% contraction in 2020. The government is targeting 7-9% gross domestic product (GDP) growth this year.

While there appears to be no wild swings in price and flows in the financial markets that indicate apprehension about a Marcos win, Mr. Bernardo said "it is not clear that this has not already been fully priced in as a Marcos 2.0 has been looming for months now."

Mr. Bernardo identified some risks from a possible Marcos win at the May 9 polls, such as the former senator's lack of a clear economic plan for the country.

"To date, Mr. Marcos has yet to present a coherent economic program. His refusal to participate in debates, notwithstanding one-on-one challengers from other contenders, has left observers guessing whether it is safe to bet policy continuity under the new administration," he said, adding some do not expect any drastic changes under a Marcos presidency.

If he wins a "high majority" in the elections, Mr. Bernardo said Mr. Marcos may be encouraged to pursue "fiscally unsound measures" such as price stabilization measures for rice and oil.

Mr. Marcos Jr. earlier promised to bring down the prices of rice by P20-30 per kilogram should he win.

Another risk is Mr. Marcos's plan to continue the Duterte administration's aggressive infrastructure program.

"While the Duterte administration inherited substantial fiscal space from its predecessor, Mr. Marcos will not have that luxury, especially after considering continuing social supports needed for post-COVID recovery and managing the impact of high global commodity prices," Mr. Bernardo said.

Next president, S1/5