

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL
PSEi OPEN: 6,713.33 HIGH: 6,713.33 LOW: 6,530.04 CLOSE: 6,530.04 228.55 pts, 3.38% VOL: 0.661 B VAL(P): 6.018 B	JUNE 10, 2022 JAPAN (NIKKEI 225) 27,824.29 ▼ -422.24 -1.49 HONG KONG (HANG SENG) 21,806.18 ▼ -62.87 -0.29 TAIWAN (WEIGHTED) 16,460.12 ▼ -161.22 -0.97 THAILAND (SET INDEX) 1,632.62 ▼ -8.72 -0.53 S. KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE) 2,595.87 ▼ -29.57 -1.13 SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES) 3,181.73 ▼ -27.89 -0.87 SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES) 6,932.00 ▼ -87.70 -1.25 MALAYSIA (KLSE COMPOSITE) 1,493.95 ▼ -15.76 -1.04	JUNE 10, 2022 Dow Jones 31,392.790 ▼ -880.000 NASDAQ 11,340.024 ▼ -414.202 S&P 500 3,900.860 ▼ -116.960 FTSE 100 7,317.520 ▼ -158.690 Euro Stoxx50 3,510.730 ▼ -89.460	FX OPEN P52.970 HIGH P52.925 LOW P53.000 CLOSE P53.000 W.AVE. P52.951 VOL. \$949.30 M SOURCE : BAP	JUNE 10, 2022 LATEST BID (0900GMT) PREVIOUS JAPAN (YEN) 134.420 133.570 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.849 7.848 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 29.657 29.513 THAILAND (BAHT) 34.720 34.470 S. KOREA (WON) 1,279.320 1,255.480 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.388 1.375 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 14,550 14,560 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 4.400 4.392	JUNE 10, 2022 US\$/UK POUND 1.2514 ▼ 1.2516 US\$/EURO 1.0515 ▼ 1.0713 \$/AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR 0.7051 ▼ 0.7183 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.2781 ▲ 1.2562 SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.9871 ▲ 0.9783	FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$118.99/bbl \$0.19 30 DAYS TO JUNE 10, 2022

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

ICT	P202.000	SMPH	P37.000	ALI	P30.000	SM	P820.000	SCC	P34.100	BDO	P126.000	AC	P655.000	TEL	P1,836.000	MBT	P50.850	URC	P102.000
Value	P626,411,176	Value	P473,691,555	Value	P405,734,665	Value	P400,185,785	Value	P318,633,125	Value	P311,094,483	Value	P279,474,955	Value	P258,296,165	Value	P187,249,968	Value	P175,549,281
	-P1.000 ▼ -0.493%		-P1.600 ▼ -4.145%		-P1.700 ▼ -5.363%		-P42.000 ▼ -4.872%		-P1.600 ▼ -4.482%		-P3.800 ▼ -2.928%		-P16.000 ▼ -2.385%		-P84.000 ▼ -4.375%		-P0.950 ▼ -1.834%		-P3.100 ▼ -2.950%

PHL, Thailand seek to settle trade dispute

THE PHILIPPINES and Thailand have signed a bilateral understanding to resolve their 14-year dispute over the customs valuation of cigarettes, the World Trade Organization (WTO) said on Saturday.

The WTO said in a statement on its website that the understanding signed on June 7 is meant to help the two countries come up with agreed procedures for

the "comprehensive" settlement of their longstanding trade dispute over Thailand's customs and fiscal measures on cigarettes imported from the Philippines.

The understanding was signed by the permanent representatives of the Philippines and Thailand to the WTO in Geneva, Switzerland namely ambassadors Manuel A.J. Teehankee and Pimchanok Pitfield, respectively.

This marks the successful result of the mediated facilitator-assisted process that began in 2021.

"Throughout the facilitation process, the Philippines and Thailand have actively and constructively engaged in discussions, both in Geneva and through their respective capitals and demonstrate the commitment of the parties to the WTO Dispute Settlement System," Permanent

Representative of Australia to the WTO and facilitator between the two parties George Mina said.

The Philippines first complained in 2008 of Thailand's customs valuation of Philippine cigarette exports.

In 2010, the WTO decided in favor of the Philippines. However, Thailand had not complied with the measures included in the ruling issued by the WTO, resulting

in strained trade relations between the two countries.

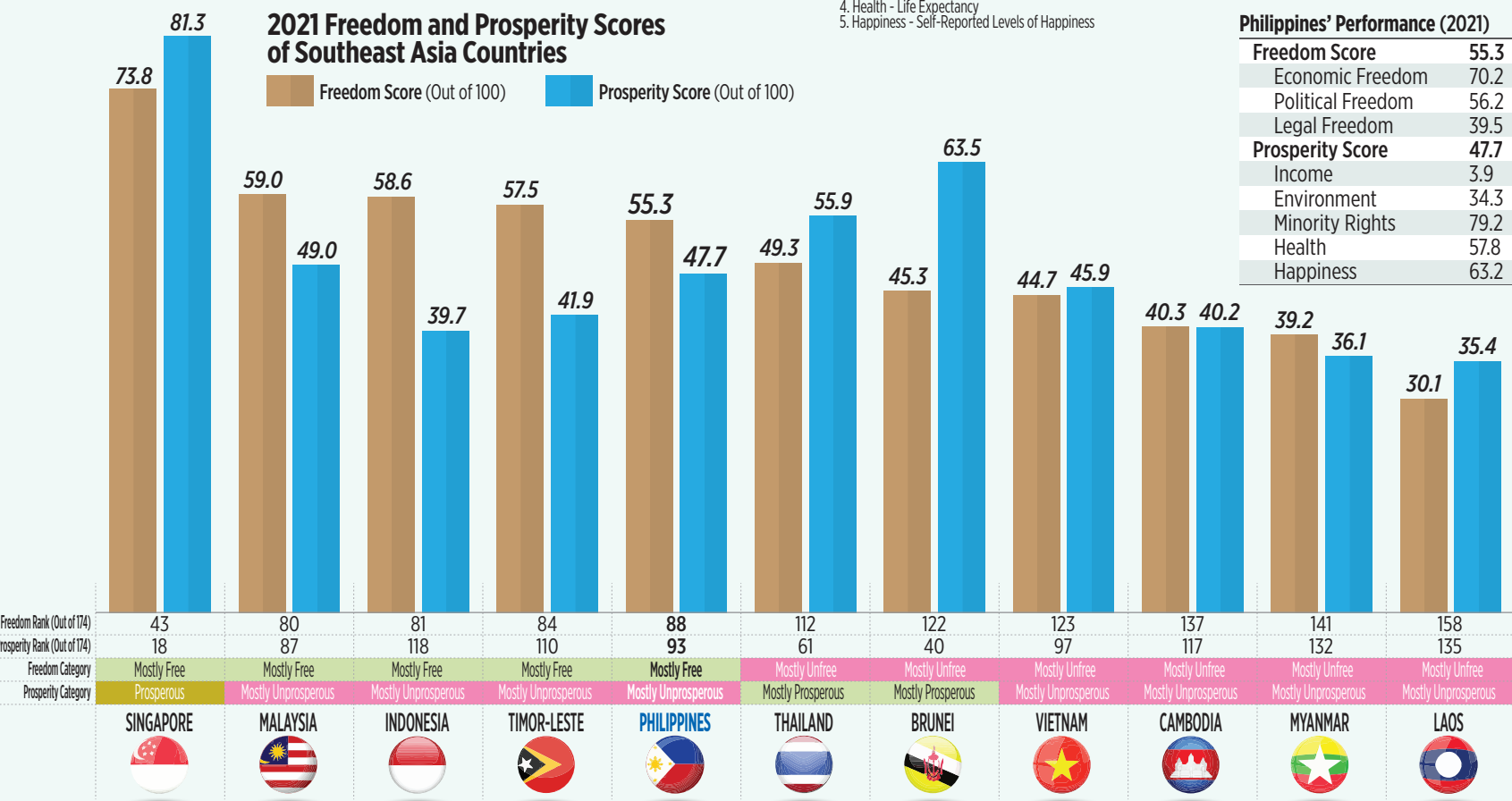
Under the latest agreement, the two parties decided to create a bilateral consultative mechanism, which will become a channel for their respective government authorities to coordinate and build confidence for support efforts to reach a settlement on the dispute.

Dispute, S1/5

PHILIPPINES RANKS 88TH AND 93RD IN FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY LISTS

The Philippines placed 88th and 93rd out of 174 countries in US-based think tank Atlantic Council's inaugural 2021 Freedom and Prosperity Indexes. The Freedom Index measures economic, political, and legal freedom for nearly every country in the world, while the Prosperity Index attempts to capture both the average level of prosperity (through the levels of income, life expectancy, and happiness of the average citizen) and shared prosperity (as measured by minority-group wellbeing and environmental standards). The Philippines both placed 5th both in the freedom and prosperity among the 11 Southeast Asian countries included in the report. Out of possible 100 points, it scored 55.3 and 47.7 in freedom and prosperity indices, respectively.

NOTES:
The Freedom and Prosperity Indexes are two separate indices ranking countries based on their level of freedom and prosperity. Each index is weighted equally and score for each index is the simple average of its parts. Scores range from 0 to 100, where 100 indicates highest freedom or prosperity.
A. Freedom Index has Three Subindices:
1. Economic Freedom - Property Rights, Trade Freedom, Investment Freedom, Women's Economic Freedom
2. Political Freedom - Constraints on Government, Political Rights, and Civil Liberties
3. Legal Freedom - Judicial Effectiveness, Government Integrity, Regulatory Effectiveness, Order and Security, and State Capacity
B. Prosperity Index has Five Subindices:
1. Income - GNI Per Capita in Current US Dollars (Atlas Method)
2. Environment - Water Quality
3. Minority Rights - Surveys on the Acceptance of Religious Minorities
4. Health - Life Expectancy
5. Happiness - Self-Reported Levels of Happiness



Philippines' Performance (2021)

Freedom Score	55.3
Economic Freedom	70.2
Political Freedom	56.2
Legal Freedom	39.5
Prosperity Score	47.7
Income	3.9
Environment	34.3
Minority Rights	79.2
Health	57.8
Happiness	63.2

Top 5 (Freedom Index)

Rank	Country	Freedom Score	Category
1	Finland	92.5	Free
2	Denmark	91.8	Free
3	Norway	90.2	Free
4	Netherlands	90.1	Free
5	Iceland	90.0	Free

Top 5 (Prosperity Index)

Rank	Country	Prosperity Score	Category
1	Switzerland	97.1	Prosperous
2	Norway	96.3	Prosperous
3	Luxembourg	94.3	Prosperous
4	Iceland	92.0	Prosperous
5	Ireland	91.2	Prosperous

Bottom 5 (Freedom Index)

Rank	Country	Freedom Score	Category
174	Syria	11.6	Unfree
173	Turkmenistan	12.0	Unfree
172	Eritrea	13.2	Unfree
171	Libya	15.7	Unfree
170	Cuba	18.0	Unfree

Bottom 5 (Prosperity Index)

Rank	Country	Prosperity Score	Category
174	Eritrea	16.0	Unprosperous
173	Yemen	16.8	Unprosperous
172	Central African Rep.	20.8	Unprosperous
171	Afghanistan	22.2	Unprosperous
170	Chad	24.0	Unprosperous

Legend

Categories (Freedom Index / Prosperity Index)	Score Range
Free / Prosperous	>75
Mostly Free / Mostly Prosperous	50-74.9
Mostly Unfree / Mostly Unprosperous	25-49.9
Unfree / Unprosperous	0-24.9

SOURCE: ATLANTIC COUNCIL FREEDOM AND PROSPERITY CENTER'S DO COUNTRIES NEED FREEDOM TO ACHIEVE PROSPERITY (JUNE 2022) BUSINESSWORLD RESEARCH: ABIGAIL MARIE P. YRAOLA BUSINESSWORLD GRAPHICS: BONG R. FORTIN

UN climate champion urges new administration to boost commitment to tackling climate change

By Arjay L. Balinbin
Senior Reporter

MADRID, Spain — President-elect Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos, Jr. should strengthen the country's commitment to tackling climate change to avoid putting it at greater risk, a United Nations (UN) climate champion said.

"Well, I would say to your president (Mr. Marcos) that this is an absolute urgent agenda. It's an agenda that brings

a lot of opportunities as well as many risks if you don't follow the agenda and integrate it into your policies and the way you run the country," Gonzalo Muñoz, chairman of the board for the UN climate champions, told *BusinessWorld* at the recent South Summit 2022, a global business summit in Madrid co-organized by the IE University.

"We cannot allow...the Philippines to be out of the center of the climate action agenda," he added.

Mr. Muñoz served as the UN's high-level climate action champion for

COP25, or the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties in 2019.

"There's no doubt that, in this moment, climate and the environment are strategic and competitive elements for every country in the world. If you don't embrace the agenda, you are probably putting your nation at a higher risk."

Climate Reality Project Philippines, a climate advocacy group, said in a statement in May that it expects the Marcos administration to "elevate the Philippines' position as a formidable champion of climate-vulnerable countries in this

critical decade for climate and environmental action," as the new government's "success or failure in implementing climate policies will decide who survives and thrives in this country."

"The new president's success or failure in leading the country's transition to a renewable energy system will determine whether or not the Filipino people will finally enjoy cleaner air, healthier communities, and access to clean, reliable, and affordable electricity," it added.

Climate change, S1/11

Gov't must continue giving investors tax breaks, other perks

THE PHILIPPINES should continue offering "globally competitive" fiscal and non-fiscal incentives to attract more foreign investments that could boost the economy, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) chief said, after a business process outsourcing (BPO) firm decided to give up these perks to keep its current work setup.

"A major source of attracting investors is our globally competitive fiscal and non-fiscal incentives like the ease of doing business and in lowering the cost of doing business especially in our economic zones," PEZA Director-General Charito B. Plaza said in a mobile phone interview with *BusinessWorld*.

"(The government) must attract huge capital investments to the country with zero or the least tax to create multiplier effects to the economy, total development and social progress," Ms. Plaza said. "Those huge capital investments will develop our lands, bring in new technology, create thousands of jobs and livelihood, grow micro, small,

and medium enterprises (MSMEs), more businesses, and industries as suppliers of raw and manufactured materials, others as the utilities, facilities and service providers to the principal and sub-industries."

The PEZA chief's comments came after the Finance department's statement on the decision of BPO firm Concentrix to give up its tax perks in exchange for a continued hybrid work setup. Finance Assistant Secretary Juvy C. Danofrata last week said that the company's decision shows these incentives are "not that important to investors doing business in the Philippines."

Ms. Danofrata, who also heads the Fiscal Incentives Review Board (FIRB) secretariat, added that this move also validates the Finance department's policy thrust to avoid granting "unnecessary" perks due to its impact on government revenues. The FIRB monitors the tax breaks granted to registered businesses.

Tax breaks, S1/5

Debt service bill down on lower principal payments

THE NATIONAL Government spent P42.975 billion to pay its debt in April, declining from a year ago, as it made significantly lower principal payments while disbursing more for interest, data from the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) showed.

The BTr reported that the government's April debt service bill was down by 33.15%

from P64.29 billion in April 2021 and by 36% from the P67.389 billion seen in March 2022.

Out of the total debt service bill for April, over 86% went to interest payments and the rest was spent to return the principal amount borrowed.

Interest payments in April grew by 56.61% to P37.303 billion

from P23.819 billion in the same month a year ago.

Broken down, payments made for interest on domestic borrowings soared by over 70% year on year to P29.86 billion.

Domestic interest payments were made up of P24.626 billion for fixed-rate Treasury bonds, P3.575 billion for retail Treasury bonds, and P1.32 billion for Treasury bills.

Meanwhile, interest expense for the government's foreign debt climbed by 17.85% to P7.45 billion.

On the other hand, principal payments for April plummeted by 86% to P5.672 billion from P40.469 billion in the same month last year. This was made up entirely of payments for foreign debt.

Debt service, S1/5