

VOL. XXXV • ISSUE 240 \$1/1-10 • 3 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES WEDNESDAY • JUNE 29, 2022 • www.bworldonline.com

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • JUNE 28, 2022 (PSEi snapshot on S1/2; article on S2/2)

P106.500 P37.300 GLO **CNVRG** P21.700 P116.500 P27.200 P1,780.000 P8.140 P86.100 P710,175,965 **Value** P595,053,742 P483,037,959 Value P467,614,290 P238,188,680 P222,937,200 P216,894,575 P209,989,130 P206,625,488 P203,530,805 P1.450 -P1.600 **▼** -1.355% P5.000 **A** 4.926% -P0.200 ▼ -0.730% 4.045% P53.000 A 3.069% P3.500 **▲** 0.559% P120.000 **A** 5.556% P0.350

Electronics sector hurting — SEIPI

SPIRALING COSTS brought by Russia's invasion of Ukraine are hampering the operations of the local electronics industry in spite of increased competitiveness due to the weak peso, according to the largest group of foreign and local electronics companies in the

"We are seeing increases in our cost of operations," Danilo C. Lachica, president of the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Foundation, Inc. (SEIPI) told Business World Live on One News channel on Tuesday.

"Some suppliers of power have increased their prices as well in response to the shortage of coal," he said. "It's really very painful right now. We're still trying to recover from the impact of the pandemic and yet these factors, notwithstanding the devaluation to the peso, is just creating havoc."

Mr. Lachica cited "a confluence of effects or factors" — the

Russia-Ukraine war which has upset the applecart in terms of fuel supply and a coronavirus pandemic that has led to increased logistical costs.

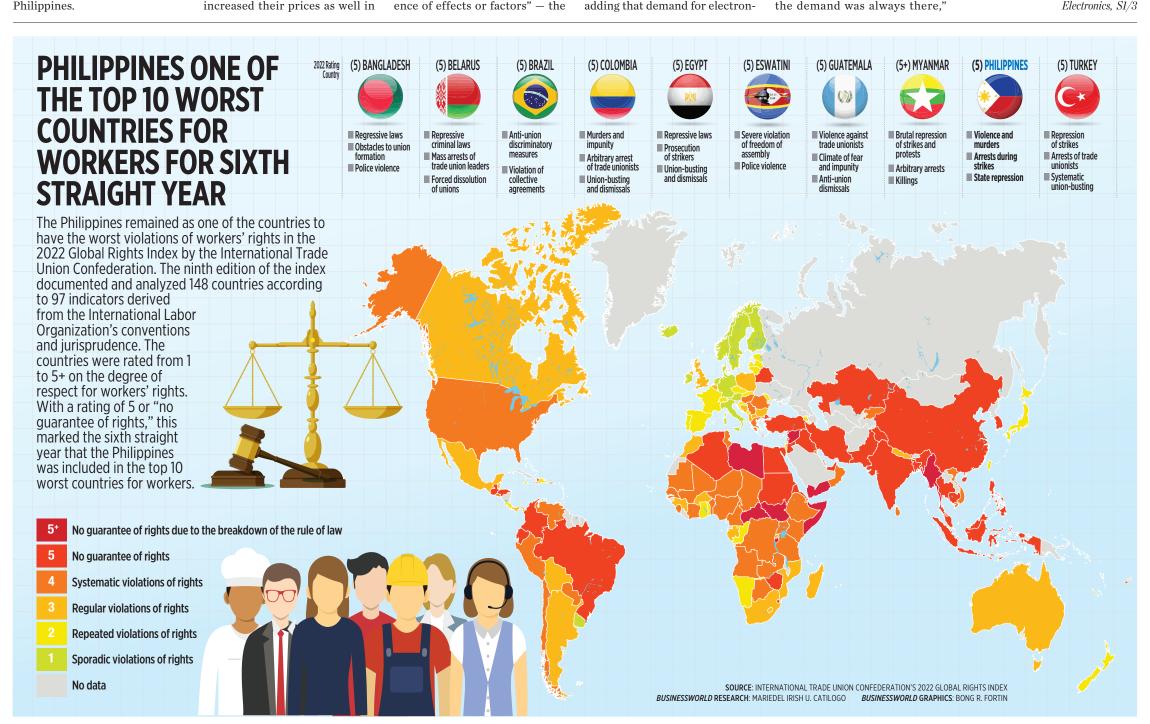
Mr. Lachica said the local electronics industry is trying to absorb costs to protect consumers, adding that demand for electronics remains strong even if their margins get hit.

"We expect a 10% increase in our export performance this year, but then again, the margins will be smaller because of the higher costs," he said.

"Even during the pandemic, the demand was always there,'

he said. "It was really a matter of being able to come up with the supply especially in the context of the shortage of semiconductor wafers. We really have to manage those margins and to the point that we, the companies have to absorb a lot of these costs."

Electronics, S1/3



Foreign investment negative list updated

PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT Rodrigo R. Duterte has signed an order updating the list of investment areas where foreign ownership is limited or barred.

The executive order on the 12th Foreign Investment Negative List no longer includes the manufacture and distribution of products requiring clearance from the Defense department.

On the previous list issued by Mr. Duterte in 2018, these products including guns and ammunition for warfare, military ordnance, guided missiles, tactical aircraft, space vehicles and military communication equipment were limited to 40% foreign equity.

The order, signed on June 27, largely maintained the status quo, which bars foreign equity in mass media except recording and the internet

It also reserves to Filipinos the practice of professions, cooperatives, small-scale mining, operation of private detective, watchmen, or security guard agencies, the use of marine resources in archipelagic waters, and small-scale use of natural resources in rivers, lakes, bays and lagoons.

Also reserved to locals is the ownership, operation and management of cockpits; manufacture, repair, stockpiling and distribution of biological, chemical and radiological weapons and anti-personnel mines; and manufacture of firecrackers and other pyrotechnic devices.

It also prevents foreign equity in retail trade enterprises with a paid-up capital of less than \$25 million, which is way higher than the previous required paidup capital of \$2.5 million.

Investment, S1/3

Wholesale prices of building materials hit 10-year high

WHOLESALE PRICES of building materials in Metro Manila jumped to their highest in more than a decade in May as construction activities resumed amid decreasing coronavirus infections.

The wholesale price index for construction materials in the capital region rose to 8.3% from 6.9% in April and 2% a year earlier, according to preliminary data from

the Philippine Statistics Authority. The May index matched the rate in December 2011 and was the fastest since the 8.6% growth in November 2011. Bulk building prices have risen by 6.5% this

year, faster than 2% a year earlier. Economic reopening and the revival of construction activities might have boosted prices, Nicholas Antonio T. Mapa, senior economist at the ING Bank N.V. Manila Branch, said in an e-mail.

"Supply chain issues and bottlenecks may have also led to the delay in the delivery of key equipment and materials from abroad, which in turn pushed up costs onshore," he said. "On the

demand side, increased activity compared with last year will drive up prices as the economy remains

relatively open." Fuel and lubricant prices jumped by 46.1% in May from 41.7% a month earlier. Reinforcing and structural steel prices increased by 15.7% from 11.2% in April.

Building materials, S1/3

Government to borrow P200B locally in July

THE NATIONAL Government plans to borrow P200 billion from the domestic market in July, the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr)

said on Tuesdav. July's borrowing plan is 20% lower than its P250-billion program for June, when it only managed to raise P151.31 billion from the local market.

The bureau is expected to hold auctions for P60 billion of Treasury bills (T-bills) weekly. Treasury bond auctions are projected to raise P140 billion.

The Treasury bureau said it would offer P5 billion worth of 91-day, 182-day and 364-day Tbills on July 4, 11, 18 and 25.

For the long-term tenors, the Treasury is expected to raise P35 billion in four-year T-bonds on July 5; P35 billion in seven-year instruments on July 12; P35 billion in 10-year debt on July 19; and in 14-year bonds again on July 26.

The 14-year bond would be offered due to "lack of longer

tenors," National Treasurer Rosalia V. de Leon told reporters in a Viber message.

Bond traders said the borrowings for July might have been cut due to fewer auction dates.

The smaller offering was brought about by government "front loading" before the national elections, Michael L. Ricafort, chief economist at Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., said in a mobile phone message.

measures to improve the country's fiscal performance by focusing on tax collections as it reopens the economy amid a coronavirus pandemic, he said. In May, the National Govern-

The government is also taking

ment's budget deficit narrowed by 26.72% to P146.8 billion from a vear earlier.

Revenues rose by 18.9% from a year earlier to P304.9 billion, while expenditures fell by 1.1% to

Borrow, S1/3



CORPORATE NEWS Maynilad to start distributing 'new water' in July \$1/2

THE ECONOMY Jeepney associations seek new fare increase \$1/4

THE NATION **Tribunal rejects lawsuits** vs Marcos presidency S1/10



FOLLOW US ON: facebook.com/bworldph twitter.com/bworldph anchor.fm/businessworld