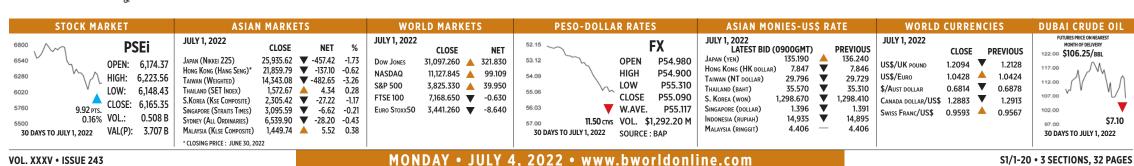


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A NEWSPAPER



PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • JULY 1, 2022 (PSEi snapshot on S1/2; article on S2/2)

P36.000 P353.000 P625.000 P1,670.000 P2.080 P205.000 **CNVRG P20.950**

P112.100 **BDO** P770.000 Value P322,426,961 **Value** P228,415,910 Value P225,746,745 Value P203,209,502 P160,707,790 P159,265,990 P155,185,905 Value P147,530,930 P141,369,918 P138,430,650 P1.000 -P7.000 ▼ -1.944% P0.500 P25.000 **A** 4.167% -P10.000 ▼ -0.595% P1.400 -P12.000 **▼** -1.535% **2.857**% 1.961% -P0.080 **▼** -3.704% **▲** 0.688% -P0.200 ▼ -0.946%

June inflation likely hit 6%

By Keisha B. Ta-asan

VOL. XXXV • ISSUE 243

PHILIPPINE INFLATION probably hit 6% in June amid spiraling oil and food prices and higher electricity rates, according to a median estimate of 16 analysts in a *BusinessWorld* poll last week, boosting the case for bigger increases in key interest rates.

This would be the quickest since 6.1% in November 2018, and faster than 5.4% in May and 3.7% in June last year, according to data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP). It would also breach the central bank's 2-4%

target and the Development Budget Coordination Committee's 3.7-4.7% estimate this year.

"Higher inflation for the month remains to be driven by persistently elevated oil prices now impacting more and more commodities," Domini S. Velasquez, chief economist at China Banking Corp., said in an e-mail.

"Domestic pump prices increased in all four weeks for the month of June."

Record gasoline prices paired with unrelenting food and commodity costs are adding strain to Filipinos' cost of living, suggesting that the BSP might have to increase rates further to slow economic growth.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) will release June consumer price index (CPI) data on Tuesday

Crude oil prices have spiraled out of control amid concerns over supply since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24.

Gasoline, diesel and kerosene prices had jumped by P30, P45.90 and P39.75 a liter as of June 28, according to data from the Energy depart-

The central bank also expects the price of Dubai crude to average about \$106.30 a barrel this year from the \$104.04 estimate in May.

Inflation, S1/13

ANALYSTS' JUNE 2022 INFLATION RATE ESTIMATES Median: 6.0% BSP 2022 Inflation Target Range: **2.0% - 4.0%** BSP June 2022 Inflation Estimate Range: **5.7% - 6.5%** BSP 2022 Inflation Forecast: **5.0**% Emmanuel J. Lopez Ruben Carlo O. licholas Antonio Jonathan L. Ravelas Alvin Joseph Asuncion Dan J. Roces Velasquez Terosa P. Conchada eManagement Colegio de San Juan de Letran Sun Life UnionBank of the NG Bank NV Rizal Commercial University of Asia De La Salle for Business and Philippine Security Graduate School Philippine Islands Philippines, Inc. Banking Corp. and the Pacific Marketing Services National Bank Macroeconomics of Management

Business sentiment for next 12 months worsens

BUSINESS SENTIMENT worsened for the next 12 months, with consumers less likely to spend amid rising oil and food prices, according to the Philippine central bank.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) confidence index fell to 59.9% from 69.8%, according to the results of its Business Expectations Survey.

"The less upbeat business outlook of most of the regions was due to perceived uncertainties brought about by the government transition to a new administration, seasonal decline in production during the rainy season and expectation of higher inflation due to rising fuel prices," according to the report.

Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. took his oath as Philippine president on Thursday, vowing to fulfill his promises to Filipinos including better improving their quality of

The Marcos administration inherited some global issues affecting the Philippines, including spiraling oil and food prices caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"Further, business confidence for the next 12 months was weighed down by concerns over the inoculation targets not being met, China lockdowns and

possible stagflation due to the Ukraine-Russia conflict," the BSP said.

Meanwhile, households expect the prices of consumer goods and services to rise faster in the third quarter, the central bank said, citing Consumer Expectations

The spending outlook of households on goods and services for the third quarter was less upbeat as the consumer index declined to 38.3% from

"This suggests that while more respondents continue to expect higher spending on basic goods and services, a moderation in spending among consumers is expected for Q3 2022," according to the report.

This may also reflect adjustments in consumers' spending patterns related to their expectations of higher inflation.

"Businesses are expecting that inflation will settle at 4% for Q2 2022, and at 4.1% for Q3 2022 and the next 12 months (from 4.2% across said periods in the Q1 2022 survey results)," the central bank

The inflation expectation of companies in the near term is above the upper end of the government's 2-4% target.

Sentiment, S1/9

BUSINESSWORLD B-SIDE



Into the metaverse

THE METAVERSE, a virtual world that relies on technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain, is seen as the next big thing by companies like Meta, as it is seen to change the way we work and connect with each other.

"It's the virtual equivalent of being together. It's going to be as close as possible to that," John Rubio, country director of Meta Philippines, said at the

BusinessWorld Virtual Economic Forum on May 26. "Imagine a world where you could go back to a different place in a different time and actually experience that. Imagine how immersive that



Carrying the theme "Revolutions 2022: Navigating the Changed World," the two-day event highlighted the changes shaping the world after the pandemic.

This B-Side episode features the audio recording of Mr. Rubio's fireside chat. >>> https://spoti.fi/3uh5fj0

Analysts praise Marcos veto of Bulacan economic zone bill

By Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

Reporter

ANALYSTS mostly welcomed newly installed President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.'s veto of a bill that would have created a special economic zone north of the Philippine capital, saying it sent a message that public interest should trump business gains.

Mr. Marcos made the right decision in rejecting that bill that would have given tax perks to companies in the planned ecozone including San Miguel Corp.'s P740-billion international airport project, said Terry L. Ridon, a public investment analyst and convenor of think tank InfraWatch PH.

"These are unprecedented tax perks granted to the Bulacan airport, particularly the indefinite exemption from income and property taxes, as the franchise provides no hard deadline on when the government can finally levy income and property taxes on the airport," he said in a Facebook Messenger chat

The project had already been given "massive tax perks" through a legislative franchise, Mr. Ridon said.

San Miguel President Ramon S. Ang did not immediately reply to a Viber message seeking

Mr. Marcos fully supports the Bulacan Airport City Special Economic Zone and Freeport, and his decision to veto the bill was meant to cure its defects, Press Secretary Rose Beatrix Cruz-Angeles said in a statement on Sunday.

"Presidential Veto is the fastest way to cure the defects of House Bill 7575, especially the provision which exempts the Commission on Audit to look into the financial transactions on the special economic zone and freeport," she said.

BUSINESSWORLD GRAPHICS: BONG R. FORTIN

"The construction of the Bulacan International Airport and Aero City is not affected by the veto," Ms. Angeles said, noting that the San Miguel group has a separate franchise for it.

In his veto message to Congress on July 1, Mr. Marcos cited the need for fiscal prudence especially in times "when resources are scarce and the needs are abundant."

Creating a new special economic zone, which offers lengthy tax breaks to investors, would pose a "substantial financial risk to the country," he added.

His sister Senator Maria Imelda Josefa Remedios R. Marcos, who sponsored the bill, said she did not take the veto personally.

Mr. Ridon said the government could lose as much as P150 billion in income taxes for a 40-year income tax exemption. "With no hard cap or specific sunset provision on when the tax incentives end, the government will certainly lose even more."

In his veto message, Mr. Marcos said the bill would "significantly narrow" the country's tax base. It is not "aligned with the government's objective to develop a tax system with a broad base and low rates."

"The veto sets the stage towards leveling the playing field for private investments in the public sector, as it indicates that there should be no sacred cows in the treatment of large businesses dealing with government," Mr. Ridon said.

Economic zone, S1/9