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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • JULY 13, 2022 (PSEi snapshot on S1/5; article on S2/2)

ALI	P24.400	SM	P797.000	SCC	P38.500	EMI	P17.420	ICT	P182.800	MOND	E P13.940	TEL	P1,706.000	BDO	P119.900	MBT	P47.650	AC	P604.000
Value	P574,358,345	Value	P523,515,170	Value	P483,918,500	Value	P358,263,566	Value	P334,128,913	Value	P202,711,368	Value	P189,584,220	Value	P184,613,451	Value	P177,891,085	Value	P175,325,850
-P0.850	▼ -3.366%	-P16.000	▼ -1.968%	P0.500	1.316 %	-P0.380	▼ -2.135%	-P1.200	▼ -0.652%	P0.420	▼ 3.107%	-P3.000	▼ -0.176%	-P2.100	▼ -1.721%	-P2.050	▼ -4.125%	-P16.000	→ -2.581 %

Philippine rating downgrade 'unlikely'

THE PHILIPPINES is unlikely to see any credit rating downgrades this year and in 2023, as the economy is expected to grow faster despite headwinds.

Victor A. Abola, an economist from the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P), said they kept the gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast at 6-7% this year, faster than the 5.7% expansion in 2021

This is below the Development Budget Coordination Committee's (DBCC) lower growth target of 6.5-7.5% for this year.

"We have faster growth in GDP for this year and next year. Our situ-

ation right now is better than in past crises. [President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.] will be generally positive for growth," Mr. Abola said at the First Metro Investment Corp. (FMIC) and UA&P Economic and Capital

Markets briefing on Wednesday.

Economic growth would also be driven by sustained domestic

demand — household consumption, government and investment spending, he added.

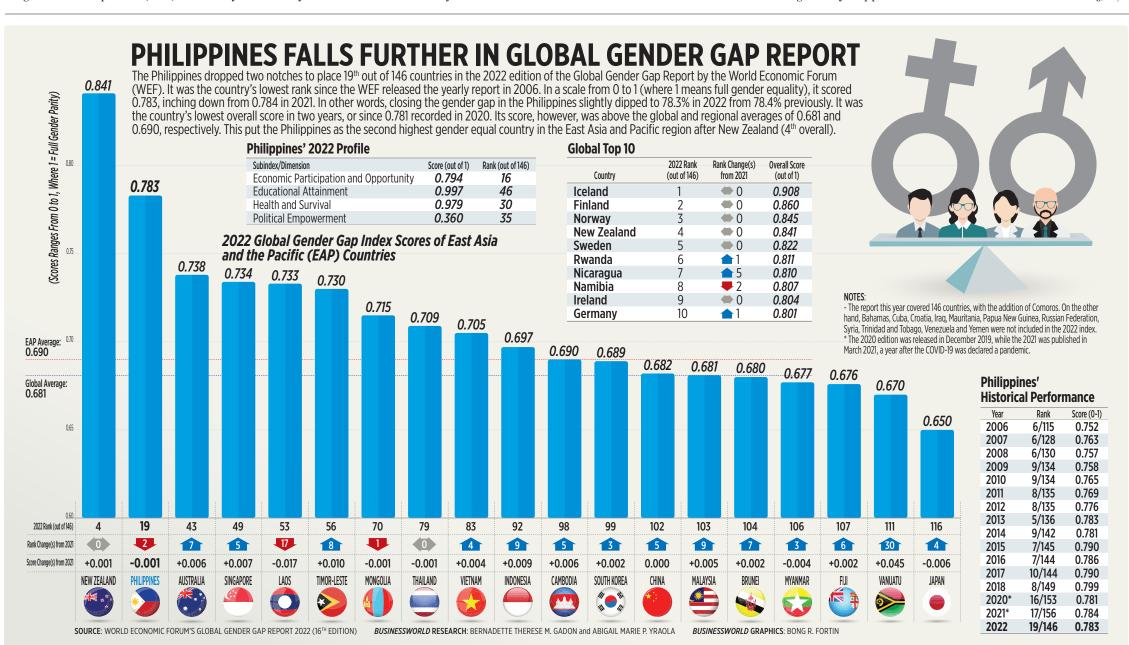
"We don't see any credit downgrade anytime soon," Mr. Abola said, noting there is a low likelihood of a downgrade in 2022 and 2023.

He said the Philippines has a better external sector than the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and continues to experience sustained growth in remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and the business process outsourcing (BPO) industry.

"We have a steady source of OFWs [and] our BPOs are providing steady support to our revenues... A credit downgrade is unlikely as we grow faster," he

FMIC expects remittances to grow by 3.5-5.5% this year and in 2023, while BPO revenues are seen to increase by at least 6% this year.

Rating, S1/9



Top business leaders to give Marcos advice on economic priorities

PRESIDENT Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. tapped Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. (AEV) President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Sabin M. Aboitiz to lead a group of business executives and experts that would give advice on key economic issues.

"The newly established council pledges to help the government deliver on its commitment to transform the Philippine economy by implementing a robust infrastructure program, creating more jobs, digitizing processes, improving agricultural productivity through the recalibration of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and ensuring an equitable, sustainable, and inclusive business landscape for Filipinos," the Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC) said in a statement.

Members of the PSAC, led by Mr. Aboitiz, met with Mr. Marcos in Malacañang last week.

The PSAC designated top business executives as sectoral leads who will give regular reports to Mr. Marcos in order "to provide feedback on what is happening on the ground

and will make recommendations on modern policy development."

Mr. Aboitiz was named as the sectoral lead for the "Build, Build, Build, Build" infrastructure program and tourism. The Aboitiz group's businesses include power (Aboitiz Power Corp.), infrastructure (Aboitiz InfraCapital, Inc.), banking (UnionBank of the Philippines), food (Pilmico Foods Corp. and Gold Coin Management Holdings), and real estate (AboitizLand, Inc.).

Aileen Uygongco-Ongkauko, a director of La Filipina Uy Gongco Group of Companies, was designated as the lead for agriculture. La Filipina is a diversified agribusiness, livestock and food company, whose products include fertilizers, commercial feeds, flour, and sugar.

Jose Ma. "Joey" Concepcion III, who was former President Rodrigo R. Duterte's adviser for entrepreneurship, was named as the sectoral lead for "Jabs to Jobs." He is also the president of RFM Corp. and founder of Go Negosyo, an advocacy group for small businesses.

Business, \$1/9**

Philippines falls 2 spots in global gender gap rankings

By Revin Mikhael D. Ochave Reporter

THE PHILIPPINES slipped two spots in the latest gender gap rankings released by the World Economic Forum (WEF), as the number of women participating in the labor force remained low amid the coronavirus pandemic.

In the WEF's 2022 Global Gender Gap Index, the Philippines ranked 19th out of 146 countries with a score of 0.783. This was slightly lower than 0.784 in 2021, when the Philippines ranked 17th out of 156 countries.

The scores are based on a 0 to 1 scale, where 1 represents optimal gender parity.

This year's ranking was the Philippines' lowest since the WEF released the yearly report in 2006. The country's overall score brings its gender parity level to 78.3% in 2022, down from 78.4% in 2021.

"While the country has improved upon its first gender parity score by 4.2 percentage points, since 2013 progress has hovered between 0.783 and 0.799. In 2022 the Philippines records a gender gap of 21.7%, similar to last year," the WEF report said.

Despite this, the Philippines had the secondhighest ranking in East Asia and the Pacific, after New Zealand which placed 4th globally.

"East Asia and the Pacific has closed 69% of its overall gender gap, marginally increasing the regional performance from the 2021 edition, with 13 of 19 countries improving their gender gap score. At this pace, the region will need 168 years to close the gender gap," the WEF said.

Iceland topped the Gender Gap Index for a 13th straight year, followed by Finland and Norway. While 68.1% of the global gender gap was closed in 2022, WEF said progress has stalled in most countries.

The WEF report showed the Philippines, whose population consists of about 54 million women, got a

score of 0.794 in terms of the economic participation and opportunity sub-index, putting it at 16th place overall.

"While the entire labor force was impacted, in 2022 the share of women participating in the workforce was still 24.5 percentage points lower than the share of men. Gender parity for legislative, senior officers and managers, as well as for professional and technical workers, remains constant," the WEF said.

The Philippines scored 0.997 in the educational attainment sub-index, equivalent to 46th place.

"However, on educational attainment, gender parity decreased at the level of enrolment in primary education, with a notably larger share of boys than girls in growing enrolment numbers overall," the

In terms of health and survival, the Philippines had a score of 0.979 (30th), and 0.36 in political empowerment (35th).

Gender, S1/9

BIR removes 5-year validity period for receipts

ALL OFFICIAL RECEIPTS and invoices will no longer have a validity period starting July 16, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) said.

The BIR issued Revenue Regulations No. 6-2022 which removed the five-year validity period on all printed and systemgenerated receipts, in line with the government's efforts to improve the ease of doing business in the country.

"Based on the regulations, the previously required phrases 'This invoice/receipt shall be valid for five (5) years from the date of the Permit to Use' and 'Valid Until' at the bottom portion of the systemgenerated receipts/invoices shall be omitted," the agency said.

The repeal also extends to the Authority to Print (ATP) principal and supplementary receipts, inclusive of its serial numbers.

The BIR began imposing a fiveyear validity period on receipts and invoices in 2012. However, the agency noted that some taxpayers complained about the additional cost of printing new receipts and invoices when the five-year validity has ended.

The BIR said the validity date on unused receipts and invoices would be disregarded and could still be used. — **DGCR**



