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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • JULY 22, 2022 (PSEi snapshot on S1/4; article on S2/2)

P36.000 P788.000 P182.700 P112.800 P24.900 P12.180 P40.450 DMC P9.500 P1,672.000 P14.380 P258,870,840 **Value** P205,292,975 P187,618,259 Value P160,903,148 **Value** P131,620,730 P123,080,188 P110,144,675 Value P78,299,705 P66,145,400 P66,114,058 -P0.020 ▼ -0<u>.16</u>4% P14.000 P1.700 P1.800 **1.622**% -P0.600 **— 0.000**% **1.809**% -2.353% -P0.750 **▼** -1.820%

## DoF says on track to hit revenue goals

THE NATIONAL Government is on track to meet its revenue targets this year, although the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has to collect more in the second half, Department of Finance (DoF) Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno said.

Mr. Diokno met with officials of the BIR and the Bureau of Customs (BoC), the top revenue collection agencies, on Friday.

"The BIR is slightly behind target while BoC exceeds its target largely due to higher oil prices and peso depreciation. BIR officials commit to (a) better second-half performance," he told reporters over the weekend.

"I expect this year's revenue target will be met."

The National Government aims to collect P3.3 trillion in revenues for 2022,

equivalent to 15.2% of gross domestic product (GDP), as the economy recovers from the coronavirus pandemic.

For the first five months of 2022, total revenues jumped by 15.46% to P1.43 trillion as economic activity improved alongside the easing of mobility restrictions.

The BIR's collection goal is set at P2.43 trillion for this year, but revenues stood at P959 billion as of end-May.

The Customs bureau targets to collect P671.66 billion this year. As of end-May, BoC revenues stood at P320.5 billion.

Higher oil prices and the peso's depreciation against the US dollar have contributed to the strong Customs revenues this year.

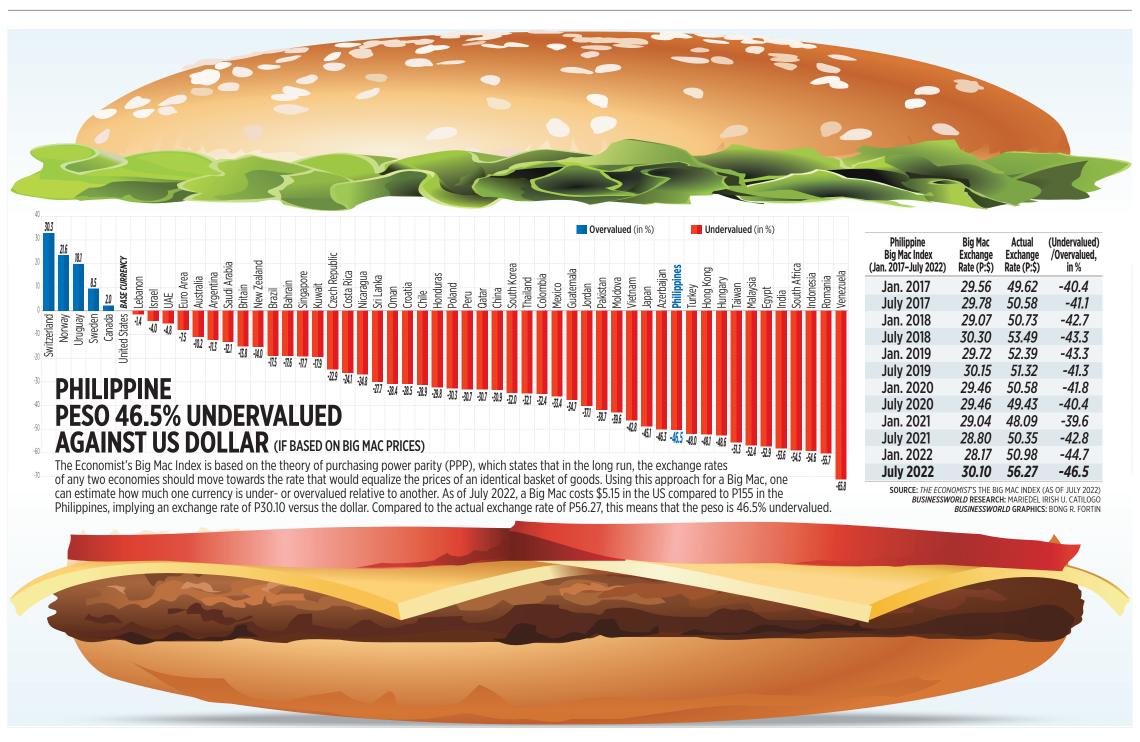
Asked about his marching orders to the BIR and BoC, Mr. Diokno said he urged them to collect taxes "efficiently and fairly."

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"I consider revenue collectors as essential workers. Revenues are essential for achieving the goals embodied in our medium-term fiscal framework," he added.

The Finance chief also reiterated his push for digitalization to increase tax collection.

Revenue, S1/3



## DPWH eyes 3,000 NCR projects for next year

By Arjay L. Balinbin

Senior Reporter

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is proposing around 3,000 infrastructure projects worth P53 billion in Metro Manila next year.

Nomer Abel P. Canlas, regional director for DPWH-National Capital Region (NCR), said that the number of proposed projects for next year would be significantly higher than the 1,600 projects worth P43 billion approved for 2022.

"For the whole region, we have 3,000 proposed projects, but our wish list is subject to change depending on the policy direction and priorities of (Public Works Secretary Manuel M. Bonoan)," he told *BusinessWorld* in a phone interview last week.

Most of the proposed projects in NCR are buildings such as hospital and school facilities as well as housing facilities inside military and police camps, Mr. Canlas said.

Mr. Canlas identified two major projects for NCR — the underground cable system and water impounding project.

The proposed P300-million underground cable project involves relocating the overhead utility lines on major roads below ground. This will cover Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (EDSA), Radial Road 10 (R-10), and Circumferential Road 5 (C-5).

"We hope we can start this along EDSA so the public can see the impact immediately, then R-10 and C5," Mr. Canlas said.

The DPWH's vision for the capital region is to move all utility lines underground, he said, citing safety, convenience, and aesthetics.

Underground cables help avoid accidents like electrocution, Mr. Canlas added.

Various groups have urged the government to consider underground cables as part of its disaster resiliency strategy to prevent massive blackouts during calamities.

\*\*DPWH, S1/3\*\*

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## Business groups want Marcos' SONA to show clear roadmap for next 6 years

By Revin Mikhael D. Ochave

and

Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

Reporters

PHILIPPINE President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. is expected to provide more details about his administration's priorities as he delivers his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) before Congress on Monday (July 25).

Business groups and analysts want Mr. Marcos, who clinched a landslide victory, to provide a clear roadmap for his six-year term as the economy faces rising inflation, ballooning government debt and a darkening global outlook.

George T. Barcelon, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, hopes Mr. Marcos will provide more support for pandemic-hit businesses and assure them of good governance under his administration

"We want to hear from him that the government is ready and able to help us," he said by tele-

phone.

Mr. Barcelon said Mr. Marcos needs to outrightly reject cronyism or the practice of rewarding friends and allies in his first

"We hope President Marcos sends more signals that business is welcome again as a partner, that laws, franchises, and contracts will be upheld and targeting businesses politically be stopped," Makati Business Club (MBC) Executive Director Francisco "Coco" Alcuaz, Jr. said in a Viber message, adding that this would boost interest in much-needed public-private partnership (PPP) projects.

He said they are also hoping Mr. Marcos will declare an education and nutrition crisis in the country.

"A world-beating, two-year noclassroom lockdown didn't help, plus one-third of 5-year-old kids are malnourished, hurting their ability to learn for life. If we don't fix these twin crises, we will chug along, at best. No economic policy will make us a high-income country without a smart and skilled workforce to execute it," Mr. Alcuaz said.

Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Foundation, Inc. (SEIPI) President Danilo C. Lachica said via mobile phone message they want Mr. Marcos to review the rationalization of fiscal incentives under Republic Act No. 11534 or the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE) Act.

"Top on our list is the review of CREATE's incentives rationalization. It has not been effective in attracting investments versus our ASEAN neighbors," he said.

Mr. Lachica said the President should also elaborate on his plans to reduce the cost of doing business, particularly for power, labor and logistics, in the Philippines.

Roadmap, S1/5