FRIDAY • AUGUST 12, 2022 • www.bworldonline.com VOL. XXXVI • ISSUE 13 PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • AUGUST 11, 2022 (PSEi snapshot on S1/2; article on S2/2) **S1/1-12 • 3 SECTIONS, 36 PAGES**

P184.000 P20.950 ALI P39.000 SM P845.000 P115.900 CNVRG P28.050 P59.700 P720.000 P50.900 Value Value Value **Value** P737,412,735 P709,459,165 P526,793,169 P401,566,695 P401,131,904 P375,226,249 P371,910,475 P367,497,590 P311,755,110 P258,718,090 **4.098**% P36.000 **A** 4.450% P6.000 3.371% P3.100 **2.748**% P0.650 **3.202**% P15.000 **6.881**% P13.000 3.586%

Probe on 'illegal' SRA order underway

PHL aims to become high-income economy by 2045 at the latest

By Diego Gabriel C. Robles

THE PHILIPPINES now aims to become a high-income economy by 2045 at the latest, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan said.

"Assuming that the economy can regain its growth trajectory in the next decade, also the trajectory targeted for the medium term of this administration, and hold on to it for two more decades. the Philippine economy can become a high-income economy by the first half of the 2040s," Mr. Balisacan said on Thursday during the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines luncheon meeting.

Mr. Balisacan told reporters after the event that the timeline for achieving high-income economy status was pushed back to 2045, from 2040 previously, reflecting the impact of economic scarring from the pandemic.

The Philippine economy contracted by a record 9.6% in 2020, as the government implemented strict lockdowns to curb the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

"The aspirations [of Ambisyon 2040] remain the same. It's just the timeline that might have to be realistically revisited. There was a very sharp contraction in 2020 that really dragged down the average growth for the Duterte administration substantially. If only we could have maintained at least 6%, it could have been doable," Mr. Balisacan said.

The country's gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 5.7% in 2021, and by 7.8% in the first half of 2022. The government targets 6.5-7.5% growth this year, and 6.5-8% annual growth for next year until 2028.

Economy, S1/9

ABS-CBN, TV5 sign landmark deal that includes SkyCable

By Regina Lay

One News Business News Editor

IT'S A MATCH made for TV: Me-TV5 Network, has signed a landmark deal with ABS-CBN, capping three years of disruption in the broadcast media industry.

The closed-door ceremony was led by MediaQuest Holdings Chairman Manuel V. Pangilinan and ABS-CBN Chairman Mark L. Lopez at the Cignal Launchpad headquarters in Mandaluyong.

ABS-CBN will acquire 6,459,353 primary shares, or roughly 34.99%, in TV5 for P2.16 billion. Down the line, there is also an option, subject to regulatory approvals, for ABS-CBN to increase its stake to up to 49.92%.

"We welcome the investment and entry of ABS-CBN in TV5. ABS-CBN has always been the leading developer and provider of Filipino entertainment content in the Philippines and overseas well. We now can achieve our cherished goal in greater measure of providing quality content across Entertainment, Sports and News in the service of the Filipino people," Mr. Pangilinan said in a statement.

The two had been in discussions for over a year, and Mr. Pangilinan said both sides are walking away "happy."

"Both parties feel good about it, that we did not take everything on the table," he said on the sidelines of the event.

Both sides are also still working out the grid and have not finalized the show lineup. "There is discussion and agreement that TV5, S1/9

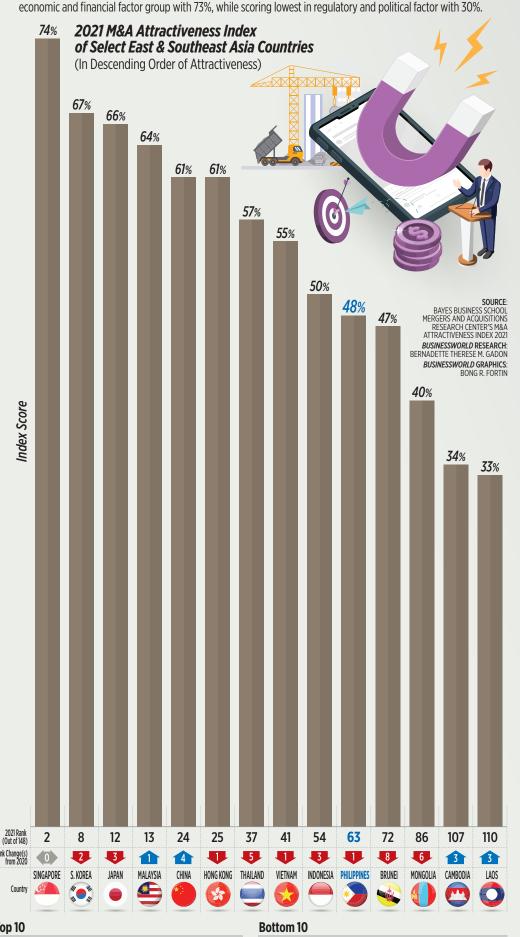


New UPMG officers

HOUSE SPEAKER Martin G. Romualdez (left) led the oath taking of the newly elected United Print and Multimedia Group (UPMG) officers and board of directors at the House of Representatives on Aug. 10. Present during the induction ceremony were (second from left) UPMG President Barbie L. Atienza of Manila Bulletin, Vice-President Jay R. Sarmiento of PhilSTAR Media Group, Secretary Angel V. Guerrero of Adobo Magazine, Treasurer Sherly O. Baula of Chinese Commercial News, PRO Jong R. Arcano of Philippine Daily Inquirer, Director Vivienne A. Motomal of the Journal Group of Publications, Director Annie F. Grefal of Manila Standard, and Director Jeanette F. Dominguez of Business World. (Read related story on S1/5)

PHILIPPINES PLACES 63RD IN M&A ATTRACTIVENESS INDEX

The Philippines slipped a spot to 63rd out of 148 countries in the 2021 edition of the M&A Attractiveness Index by Mergers and Acquisitions Research Center (MARC) at the Bayes Business School in London. The index ranks countries on their capacity to attract and sustain mergers and acquisitions activity based on six factor groups.* The Philippines placed the fifth least attractive in M&A activity in the East and Southeast Asia region with an overall score of 48%, ahead only of Brunei (72nd overall), Mongolia (86th), Cambodia (107th), and Laos (110th). It received the highest ranked score in the



Top 10 2021 Rank 2021 Rank Rank Change(s) Index Rank Change(s) Index Country **United States** 76% Eritrea 148 8% Singapore **74**% Swaziland 147 16% Dem. Rep. of the Congo **United Kingdom** 69% 146 **⇔** 0 18% Canada *69*% 145 18% Yemen 144 Germany 68% Sierra Leone 18% Rep. of the Congo 143 Netherlands 68% 19% 67% 142 19% France Mauritania South Korea 67% 141 *20*% Svria 140 66% Liberia *20*% Spain Switzerland 139 *20*%

- The index is a weighted average composite of 21 indicators spread across six factor groups. To get a country's overall score, MARC assigned a 75% weight to the index, while 25% was weighted by that year's domestic and inbound cross-border M&A activity.

*The six factor groups and their indicators are:

1. Regulatory and Political: rule of law; completion formalities; registering property; paying taxes; trading across borders; enforcing contracts

2. Economic and Financial: GDP size; GDP growth - CAGR; inflation; stock market capitalization as of % of GDP; private credit provided as % of GDP

3. Technological: high-technology exports; innovation; internet users per 100 people

. Socio-economic: population size; population aged 15-64 (% of total)
. Infrastructure and Assets: registered companies (>\$1m total assets); container port traffic (TEU); railway lines (km); paved roads as % of total roads
. Environmental, Social and Governance: environmental risk management (25%); social risk management (25%); and governance risk management (50%)

By Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza and Revin Mikhael D. Ochave

AN INVESTIGATION is underway over the "illegal" sugar importation order that was aimed at addressing the tight local supply and high prices, according to Malacañang.

"An investigation is ongoing to determine whether any acts that would cause the President to lose trust and confidence in his officials can be found or if there is malice or negligence involved. In such a case, if such findings are made, then the only determination left will be how many heads will roll," Press Secretary Rose Beatrix Cruz-Angeles told a news briefing on Thursday.

The Palace on Wednesday denied President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. approved Sugar Order (SO) No. 4, which would have allowed the importation of 300,000 metric tons (MT) of sugar by the third quarter.

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) on Wednesday morning uploaded on its website a copy of the order which was signed by the SRA board members, including Agriculture Undersecretary Leocadio S. Sebastian "on behalf" of Mr. Marcos. The order was taken down by Wednesday afternoon.

"(Mr. Sebastian) was not authorized to sign such a resolution because the President did not authorize the importation," Ms. Cruz-Angeles said, noting that the order was "illegal."

She said the meeting of the SRA board was not approved by Mr. Marcos, who is the designated chairman as secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Sy siblings still PHL's richest even as wealth drops by \$4B

THE SY SIBLINGS remained the richest in the Philippines, despite a \$4-billion drop in their net worth in 2022, according to Forbes Asia.

The combined wealth of 50 tycoons in the Philippines dropped by 9% to \$72 billion this year, from \$79 billion a year ago, as the economy continued to recover from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

"More than two-thirds of the listees saw their wealth shrink," Forbes Asia said in a statement on Thursday.

The Philippine economy expanded by 7.4% in the second quarter, bringing the average gross domestic product (GDP) to 7.8% in the first six months of 2022. However, elevated inflation, monetary policy tightening and geopolitical tensions have weighed on growth.

"Despite domestic demand recovering from the pandemic, the pressures of inflation, rising commodity and energy prices, reduced exports, a weak stock market and a depreciating currency all contributed to the decline of the combined wealth of the 50 richest tycoons in the country," Globalinks Securities and Stocks, Inc. Head of Sales Trading Toby Allan C. Arce said in a Viber message on Thursday.

Richest, S1/9

