FRIDAY • SEPTEMBER 23, 2022 • www.bworldonline.com PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • SEPTEMBER 22, 2022 (PSEi snapshot on S1/3; article on S2/2)

ICT	P181.000	ALI	P25.550	CNVRG	P14.920	SM	P819.500	SMC	P97.650	EMI	P20.250	SMPH	P34.200	JFC	P237.000	URC	P115.300	MONDE	P12.960
Value	P603,902,589	Value	P592,092,655	Value	P483,108,616	Value	P455,945,470	Value	P306,212,132	Value	P262,214,823	Value	P199,215,240	Value	P185,964,368	Value	P179,512,624	Value	P157,839,118
P0.000	— 0.000 %	-P1.400	▼ -5.195 %	-P1.900	▼ -11.296%	P1.000	▲ 0.122 %	-P0.350	▼ -0.357%	-P0.100	▼ -0.491%	-P0.700	▼ -2.006%	-P1.000	▼ -0.420%	-P1.700	▼ -1.453 %	-P0.540	▼ -4.000%

BSP raises key rates to tame inflation

Kishida tells Marcos he wants to improve ties

By Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

VOL. XXXVI • ISSUE 43

NEW YORK - Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida met Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. on Wednesday and said he wanted to strengthen cooperation in priority areas such as agriculture, energy, health and infrastructure, a Japanese spokesperson said.

The leaders held a working lunch on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

"The two leaders concurred on continuing to convene the high-level joint committee on infrastructure development and economic cooperation in order to elevate the bilateral cooperation to a higher level," Japanese Foreign Ministry

Press Secretary Hikariko Ono told reporters.

Mr. Kishida also said at the meeting "the international community needs to oppose unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force in the East and South China Sea, as well as economic coercion," the spokesperson said in an apparent reference to Chinese activity regularly criticized by Japan.

The Philippine presidential palace separately confirmed the

"Both sides exchanged views on bilateral, regional and international concerns," Press Secretary Trixie Cruz-Angeles said in a statement. "PM Kishida reiterated Japan's commitment to supporting the Philippines' economic development to become an upper middle-income country."

Kishida, S1/2



Philippine healthcare among most vulnerable to attacks — Kaspersky

THE PHILIPPINES' healthcare industry is among the most vulnerable to cyberattacks in Southeast Asia, according to Kaspersky.

The ProxyLogon vulnerability often attacks the Philippine healthcare sector, Thailand's government services and Indonesia's industries, the global cybersecurity company said in its Digital Footprint Intelligence report.

ProxyLogon allows threat actors to bypass authentication and execute code remotely as privileged users. This means malicious actors can reach a victim's server from any location with internet connectivity.

In the Asia-Pacific region, the Philippines is also the most affected country by ProxyShell, which allows a cyber-criminal to bypass authentication and execute code as a privileged user. It is also common in Pakistan and Malaysia, Kaspersky said.

ProxyLogon and ProxyShell attacks allow cyber-criminals to execute what they please within a victim's computer environment.

The government and industries are the most vulnerable from ProxyLogon and ProxyShell, Kaspersky said. "Attackers prepare to attack, exchange data and get money on the Darknet."

It added that cyberattacks are being prepared against companies from these countries, data with their users are sold on Darknet forums and malware is hidden in their infrastructure.

Kaspersky said the best defense against these threats is to keep public-faced systems updated. Companies should also avoid direct access to exchange servers from the internet.

In 2021, Kaspersky monitored 16,003 remote access and management services available for exploitation.

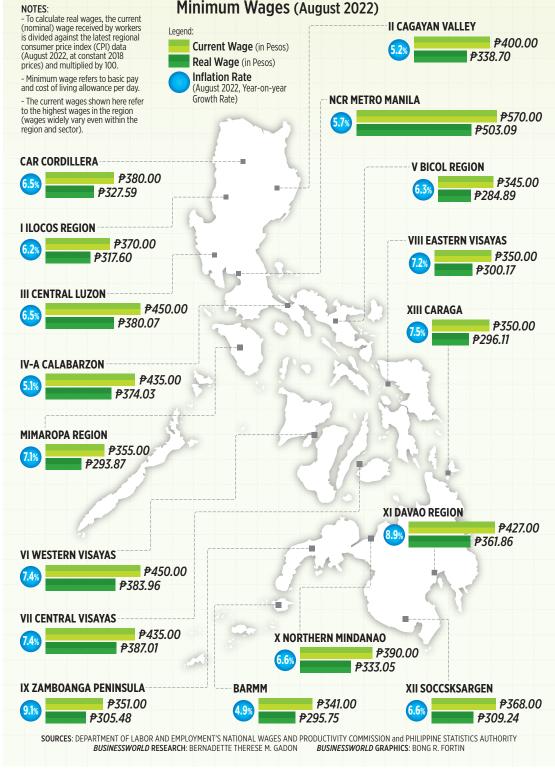
"Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Vietnam provide the maximum facilities for an attacker to gain remote access," said Kaspersky, adding that government institutions are serving more than 40% of the attack surface for "brute force attacks and credential leaks reuse."

Cvber-criminals now have many options to infect lucrative industries, Chris Connell, managing director for Asia-Pacific at Kaspersky, said in a statement.

"In short, a cyberattack is like a ticking bomb," he said. "While worrisome, reports such as our Digital Footprint Intelligence can be used as a tool to guide the cybersecurity capacity-building of concerned organizations. If you know your weak areas, it's easier to prioritize." — Arjay L. **Balinbin**

HOW MINIMUM WAGES COMPARED ACROSS REGIONS IN AUGUST (AFTER ACCOUNTING FOR INFLATION)

This infographic compares the current daily minimum wages set by the country's Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board and the inflation-adjusted minimum wages as of August based on latest preliminary data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). While the current minimum wages are determined at the regional level to account for factors such as companies' capacity to pay and costs of living, real wages are obtained after factoring in the general price increases (i.e. inflation rates). Inflation-adjusted wages were 11%-17.4% lower in August than their respective current salaries.



THE PHILIPPINE central bank raised benchmark interest rates on Thursday for a fifth time this year to rein in persistently high inflation amid a struggling peso and hawkish US Federal Reserve.

\$1/1-10 • 2 SECTIONS, 14 PAGES

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) increased its overnight borrowing rate by 50 basis points (bps) to 4.25% effective Friday, and its corresponding lending rate to 4.75%, as predicted by 11 of 15 analysts in a BusinessWorld poll last week.

"Price pressures continue to broaden," it said in a statement. "Second-round effects continue to manifest, with inflation expectations remaining elevated in September following the approved minimum wage and transport fare increases."

The move followed the Fed's 75-bp hike and signals of larger increases to come that caused the peso and Philippine stocks to tumble. The central bank has raised key rates by 225 bps since

"Average inflation is still projected to breach the upper end of the 2-4% target range at 5.6% in 2022," the central bank said, adding that the forecast for next year had also increased to 4.1%. The forecast for 2024 eased to 3%.

The central bank would "take all necessary actions to steer inflation towards a target-consistent path over the medium term, consistent with its primary mandate to promote price and financial stability."

BSP said the risks to the infla tion outlook remained on the upside until next year and broadly balanced in 2024. Price pressures might continue to come from rising global nonoil prices and petitions for more fare increases.

It also cited the pressure from typhoons on the prices of food items including sugar.

"The impact of a weakerthan-expected global economic recovery continues to be the main downside risk to the outlook," it added.

The central bank noted that given elevated uncertainty about the inflation environment, there is a need for follow-through action to anchor inflation expectations and prevent price pressures from becoming further entrenched.

Inflation, S1/2

Senator asks peers to review contradictions in gov't enforcement of Corporate Recovery law

A RESOLUTION that seeks to review the government's enforcement of a law that extends fiscal relief to local and foreign corporations in the Philippines has been filed at the Senate.

Senator Ana Theresia N. Hontiveros-Baraquel in Senate Resolution 219 called on her peers to convene as an oversight committee to review the rules that enforce the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises

The law's implementing rules could block local companies from qualifying for exemptions from the value-added tax (VAT) and zero-rating on local purchases, she said.

The rules and Revenue Regulation No. 21-2021 appear to be inconsistent with the language and spirit of the National Internal Revenue Code, which is to make VAT exemption on imports and zero-rating on local purchases available to both export and domestic enterprises, she added.

On June 21, the Finance and Trade departments approved the rules that will enforce the law, modifying the scope of the tax incentives and exemptions.

Under section 5 of the rules, VAT exemptions and zero-rated sales only apply to goods and services used in registered projects of export enterprises for up to 17 years.

The law allows any registered businesses to apply for VAT exemptions and transactions traced to zero-rated sales — transactions made by VAT-registered taxpayers that do not result in any output tax.

Ms. Hontiveros noted that the rules have affected the cost of doing business for 212 domestic industries, while potentially discouraging local companies from registering with investment promotion agencies.

These state-run agencies seek to attract investors by linking them to local suppliers and com-

The Corporate Recovery law, which took effect in April 2021, reduced the corporate income tax on domestic companies by 5 percentage points to 25%.

"This disparity has to be examined promptly, so that the intended effects of the law may be fulfilled and our already overwhelmed local economy can be prevented from collapsing," Ms. Hontiveros said. "We can't claim to be foreign investor-friendly while at the same disincentivizing foreign investments." — JohnVictor D. Ordoñez

