

Samsung launches latest foldable devices, watches

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO. officially launched in the Philippines on Aug. 19 its next-generation foldable devices, watches, and earbuds, including the flagship Galaxy Z Fold4 and Galaxy Z Flip4.

Foldables have gained mainstream popularity, Samsung Philippines President Minsu Chu said at the Aug. 19 Samsung Greater Galaxy event.

"Versatility remains to be very important for our consumers, especially nowadays," Mr. Chu said. "Last year, over 10 million foldable devices were shipped globally... We got [about] 50% growth on our preorders this year versus last year."

The Galaxy Z Fold4 is the first device to ship with Android 12L, a version of Android created by Google for large-screen experiences, including foldables. It allows users to multitask by enabling apps such as Microsoft Office to provide information on its screen, as well as through drag-and-drop feature for Google apps such as Chrome and Gmail.

Meanwhile, users of the Galaxy Z Flip4 can shoot videos hands-free by partially folding the phone to activate its FlexCam, which is optimized for social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook. Users can also make calls, reply to texts, and control the SmartThings Scene widget (which acts like a remote control for the home) from the cover screen.

Both phones are equipped with IPX824, which describes its level of protection against the ingress of solid particles, dust, and water.

Samsung has incorporated eco-conscious materials, including repurposed fishing nets, post-consumer materials (PCM) or bio-based resin, into 90% of Galaxy devices launched in the past year. Part of the Galaxy Z series, the Galaxy Buds2 Pro earbuds, is made of over 90% recycled material.



The Galaxy Buds2 Pro has a coaxial two-speaker system and a Voice Detect feature that reduces media volume when a user speaks, so conversations can be heard without having the user take out his/her earbuds.

"In everything we do, we always try our best to marry innovation and sustainability," Mr. Chu added. "In 2025, we want to eliminate all single-use plastic in mobile product packaging."

Rounding out the latest devices in the Galaxy lineup are the Galaxy Watch5 and Watch5 Pro. The former is designed for daily use and includes a BioActive Sensor that the manufacturer says tracks health metrics, such as heart rate and stress level, with greater accuracy than its predecessor, the Watch4. Meant for the outdoors, the latter has the largest battery in a Galaxy watch (590mAh), and is designed with sapphire glass, a crystal engineered for strength.

"We're dedicated to giving our Galaxy Watch community the tools, data, and resources needed to not only understand their overall health and wellness better, but to coach them on

their journey," said TM Roh, president and head of mobile eXperience business at Samsung Electronics, in an Aug. 10 press statement.

All products are now up for pre-order and will be available on Sept. 2.

Samsung also announced limited edition VIP bundles for the devices, which are available on samsung.com from Aug. 31 to Sept. 14.

The Executive Bundle, which costs P133,388, will include the Phantom Black versions of the Z Fold4 1TB model, the Watch5 Pro 45mm variant, and Buds2 Pro. Customers will also get a free Super Fast Wireless Duo Charger, a Standing Cover with Pen, two-year Samsung Care+ full coverage, and exclusive access to Samsung's 24/7 VIP concierge.

Meanwhile, the Flex It Bundle (P84,378) comes with the Bora Purple versions of the Galaxy Z Flip4 512GB model, Watch5 40mm and Buds2 Pro, plus a free Super Fast Wireless Duo Charger and a Flap Leather Cover, as well as two years of Samsung Care+ full coverage and access to 24/7 VIP concierge. — **Patricia B. Mirasol**

OPPO announces Reno8 Series 5G phones

OPPO Philippines last week launched the Reno8 Series 5G phones that feature a flagship-level camera system.

The new devices — which are available for pre-order starting Sept. 1 via OPPO Brand Stores, partner dealers, and OPPO Philippines' official stores on Shopee, Lazada, and TikTok Shop — are advertised to let users capture "ultra clear" nights through its flagship portrait system, the company said in a statement.

"Over the years, the Portrait Expert has been known to challenge the limits of smartphones' camera technology. As we continue to innovate the OPPO Reno Series, we want to focus on one of the leading challenges for devices — capturing photos and videos at night. With the OPPO Reno8 Series 5G, people can now capture ultra clear nights and shine at their best moments, anytime and anywhere," OPPO Philippines Head of Marketing Communications Chiqui Tapawan was quoted as saying.

RENO8 5G

The OPPO Reno8 5G's front camera is equipped with a Sony IMX709 32-megapixel (MP) sensor, integrated with OPPO's RGBW color array to provide 60% more light than regular RGB lenses.

Meanwhile, its rear camera has a Sony IMX766 50MP sensor that supports a 1/1.56-inch large sensor for more light.

The dual Sony Flagship sensors support Ultra Night Video mode that improves image brightness and detail, reproducing colors while minimizing noise. They also support Ultra Night Portrait mode and Portrait mode.

The phone comes with a 4,500mAh battery which supports 80W super fast-charging. It is also powered by MediaTek Dimensity 1300 5G 6nm chip octa-core, supported by 8GB of RAM and 256GB of ROM, and is equipped with ColorOS 12.1.

"It provides a wide array of features, which include Omoji for personalized

emoji avatars, Anti-Peeping for Notifications to protect users' privacy, Air Gestures to allow users to control the device through hand gestures, and many more," OPPO said.

The OPPO Reno8 5G features the Find series' unibody design and comes in Shimmer Gold and Shimmer Black.

RENO8 Z 5G

On the other hand, the OPPO Reno8 Z 5G features a 64MP AI triple rear camera system and a 16MP front camera.

The phone is built with a Qualcomm Snapdragon 695 5G Mobile Platform and comes with 8GB of RAM and 128GB of storage expandable up to 1TB.

It is powered by a 4500mAh battery that supports 33W flash-charging.

The Reno8 Z 5G has an ultra-slim body design with a 0.5mm anti-glare glass back cover and comes in two colors: Dawnlight Gold and Starlight Black. — **BVR**

Lending, from SI/1

"Growth momentum has solidified and ensures expansion over the next few quarters. Bank lending is expected to remain in expansion as the economy reopens and demand for credit stays healthy," he said.

The BSP slashed interest rates by 200 basis points (bps) in 2020 to help the economy amid the coronavirus pandemic.

"Gains, however, will be capped by recent tightening carried out by the BSP. Rate hikes are, by design, carried out to slow economic growth to ensure demand falls to match limited supply," Mr. Mapa added.

The BSP has raised rates by 175 bps so far this year as it battles inflation.

M3 GROWTH

"As the BSP proceeds with the withdrawal of monetary accommodation, it will continue to ensure that domestic liquidity conditions remain conducive to sustaining the economic recovery, in line with the BSP's price and financial stability objectives," Mr. Medalla said in a separate statement.

Domestic claims rose by 11.5% in July, higher than the revised 9.9% in June, due to improved bank lending to the private sector.

"Claims on the private sector grew by 8.9% in July from 8.8% in June with the sustained expansion in bank lending to non-financial private corporations and households," the BSP said.

Net claims on the central government jumped by 22.2% from 15.3% in June, as the National Government sustained its borrowings.

Net foreign assets (NFA) in peso terms fell by 5.2% after expanding by 5.6% in the prior month. The BSP attributed the decline in the NFA position to the year-on-year drop in gross international reserves (GIR).

Latest data from the BSP showed GIR stood at \$98.83 billion as of end-July, 2% lower than the \$100.85-billion level as of end-June.

GIR also fell by 7.8% from its \$107-billion level in July last year. The GIR level has been decreasing since February this year. — **Keisha B. Ta-asan**



A WORKER cuts metal in a construction area in Manila, March 24.

Building, from SI/1

Meanwhile, prices of plumbing fixtures and accessories/waterworks increased to 7.9% from 7.6%, while painting works rose by 7% from 6.2%.

Faster price growth was seen in hardware (5.8% from 5.7%); concrete products and cement (5.7% from 5.2%); sand and gravel (5.1% from 4.7%); lumber (4.8% from 4.2%); doors, jambs and steel case-ment (2.5% from 2.2%); and tileworks (1.2% from 0.7%).

Mr. Roces signaled "cautious optimism" for the construction sector in the coming months.

"The infrastructure push by the government where 5% of spending will go, that's good for the sector as well," he said. — **Abigail Marie P. Yraola**

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- Willing to work under pressure with supervision
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- Can handle customer by resolving issues and concerns to meet customer satisfaction



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SK President	HON. RODOLFO C. SAN PEDRO, JR.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Secretary to the Atty. DINDO R. CERVANTES
Sanggunian

Upon motion of Hon. C.C. Ortega, duly seconded, the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati, by a unanimous vote, approved City Ordinance No. 2022-A-062 on third and final reading.

CITY ORDINANCE NO. 2022-A-062

Authors: Hon. A.P. Padilla, Hon. R.A.Q. Saguisag, Jr., Hon. D.B. Almario, Hon. B.B. Baniqued, Hon. V.V. Hilario, Jr., Hon. M.F. VITALES, Hon. R.C. San Pedro, Jr., Hon. J.M. Ariones, Hon. A.J. Cruz and Hon. C.C. Ortega

Co-Authors: Hon. M.D.M. Arayon, Hon. M.J.P.Q. Arenas, Hon. L.S. Javier, Jr., Hon. E.M. Marquez, Hon. K.T. Sarosa, Hon. J.C. Villena, IV and Hon. A.A.M. Yabut

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE BARANGAY DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAM (BDIP) FOR C.Y. 2023-2025 OF BARANGAY SAN LORENZO TO BE IN CONFORMITY WITH EXISTING LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS.

WHEREAS, R.A. No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, provides that the barangay development council shall prepare the barangay development plans based on local requirements;

WHEREAS, Section 114 (a) of the same Code states that the policies, programs, and projects proposed by local development councils shall be submitted to the sanggunian concerned for appropriate action;

WHEREAS, the pertinent provisions of the abovementioned law likewise imply that the that the Sangguniang Panlungsod shall have the power to review/approve the public investment programs of the component barangays;

WHEREAS, the Sangguniang Barangay of San Lorenzo, by virtue of Barangay Resolution No. 05-2022-B-02, approved its Barangay Development Investment Program (BDIP) for C.Y. 2023-2025, a copy of such barangay resolution, including its supporting documents, is hereto attached and made an integral part hereof as **Annex "A"**;

WHEREAS, the Honorable Members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati extensively reviewed the subject BDIP;

WHEREAS, after careful perusal of available documents, it was ruled upon by the Members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati that the proposed Barangay Development Investment Program (BDIP) for C.Y. 2023-2025 of Barangay San Lorenzo is compliant with the minimum requirements as prescribed by existing laws, rules and regulations; hence, this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, AS IT IS HEREBY ENACTED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA, BY VIRTUE OF THE POWERS VESTED IN IT BY LAW, IN SESSION ASSEMBLED, that:

Section 1. The Barangay Development Investment Program (BDIP) for C.Y. 2023-2025 of Barangay San Lorenzo is hereby declared to be in conformity with existing laws, rules and regulations.

Section 2. The *Endorsement* dated 21 July 2022 by the Barangay Budget Review Committee (BBRC), which attests that the Barangay Development Investment Program (BDIP) for C.Y. 2023-2025 of Barangay San Lorenzo substantially complies with the requirements of such Committee, is hereby adopted *in toto*, a copy of the said *Endorsement* is hereto attached and made an integral part hereof as **Annex "B"**;

Section 3. The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby deemed separable. If any provision hereof should be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. All ordinances, resolutions and executive orders which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 5. Let copies of this Ordinance be furnished to the Office of the Mayor, Office of the City Administrator, Law Department, Budget Department, Accounting Department, Urban Development Department, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-Makati City, Liga ng mga Barangay, Sangguniang Barangay of San Lorenzo and other departments, offices, and agencies concerned for their information, guidance and reference.

Section 6. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

ENACTED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA, in its Regular Session held on 25 August 2022.

Certified true and correct by:

ATTY. DINDO R. CERVANTES
Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlungsod

Attested by:

HON. MONIQUE YAZMIN MARIA Q. LAGDAMEO
Vice Mayor & Presiding Officer

Approved by:

HON. MAR-LEN ABIGAIL S. BINAY
City Mayor