

THURSDAY • OCTOBER 13. 2022 • www.bworldonline.com **S1/1-14 • 2 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES** VOL. XXXVI • ISSUE 57

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • OCTOBER 12, 2022 (PSEi snapshot on S1/3; article on S2/2)

BDO P116.000 JFC P233.000 P175.000 P289.200 P31.200 P22.700 P39.300 P764.000 P10.060 MONDE P11.700 P291,412,663 **Value** P260,397,310 Value P176,989,619 Value P167,562,590 P158,879,925 P127,679,620 P123,761,830 P108,884,590 **Value** P101,793,738 P99,047,548 0.000% P0.200 0.645% P0.000 0.000% P5.000 **▼** -1.685% -P0.800 **▼** -0.276% -P0.700 **▼** -1.750% **0.659**%

Amid peso depreciation

Medalla vows to 'act decisively'

THE BANGKO SENTRAL ng Pilipinas (BSP) on Wednesday said the peso depreciation has been fueling inflationary pressures, adding that this strengthens the case to "act decisively."

The Philippine peso closed at P58.965

10 centavos from its P58.865 finish on Tuesday. This is just 3.5 centavos away from the local currency's record close of P59 on Oct. 10.

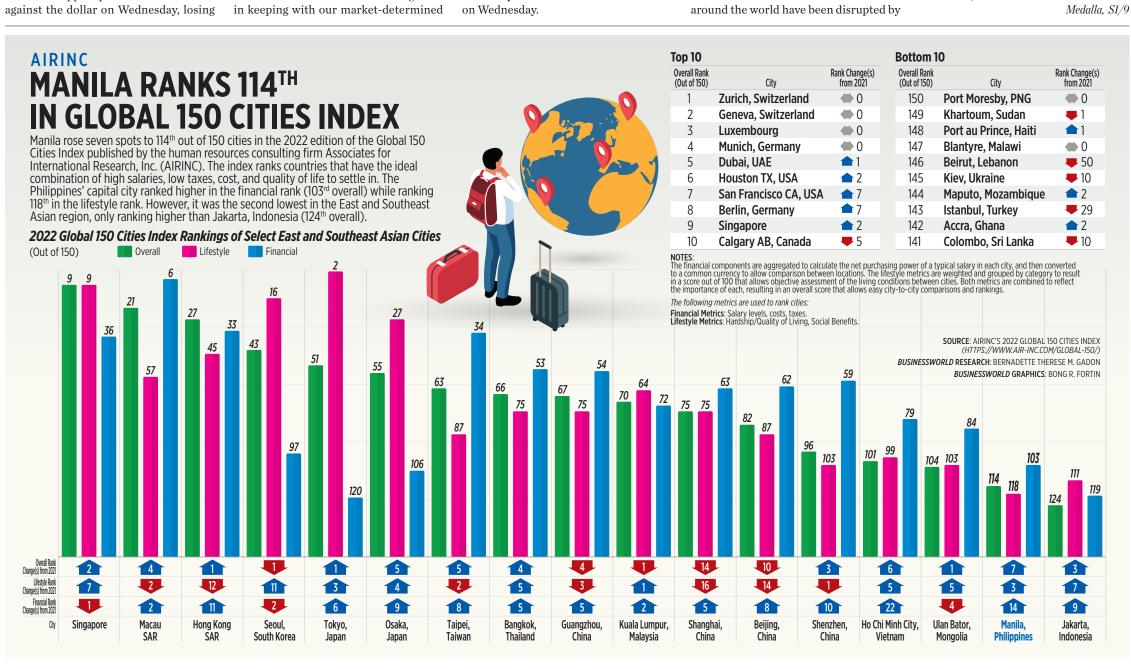
"The BSP does not normally react too much to movements in the exchange rate exchange rate policy. We view such moves as healthy market adjustment that sets appropriate signals to producers and consumers," BSP Governor Felipe M. Medalla said during a virtual convention hosted by the Chamber of Thrift Banks

"But the peso depreciation, while remaining in line with regional peers, has been adding to the buildup of inflationary pressures. This strengthens the case (for us) to act and to act decisively," he added.

The BSP earlier said financial markets

the strong US dollar, which has caused other currencies such as the peso to de-

For the year so far, the peso has weakened by 15.6% or P7.965 from its P51 close on Dec. 31, 2021.



DTI imposes safeguard duty on polyethylene imports

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry (DTI) ordered the imposition of safeguard duties on imports of highdensity polyethylene (HDPE) pellets and granules for three years in a bid to protect the local industry.

In Department Administrative Order (DAO) No. 22-13 dated Sept. 30, the DTI said the safeguard duty will be slapped on imported HDPE pellets and granules from various countries "to implement the adjustment plan of the local HDPE industry within that period."

For the first year, a safeguard duty of P1,338 will be slapped on each metric ton (MT) of HDPE pellets and granules. This will go down to P1,271 per MT for the second year, and to P1,208 per MT for the third year.

HDPE resins are used in consumer

and industrial packaging. DTI-Bureau of Import Services Director Maria Guiza B. Lim said in a Viber message that safeguard duties will be imposed on imports from countries such as Thailand and Malaysia.

The DTI's decision comes after the Tariff Commission (TC) in June recommended safeguard measures against HDPE imports.

The TC had noted a "sudden, sharp and significant enough" increase in the volume of imports of HDPE pellets and granules beginning the first half of 2021.

"There exists an imminent threat of serious injury and significant overall impairment to the position of the domestic HDPE industry in the near future," the

TC said, citing the high likelihood that HDPE imports will continue to spike in the near future.

It also cited the "substantial freely disposable production capacities of top suppliers Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and Indonesia," as well as the significant deterioration in the overall position of the domestic HDPE industry during the surge in imports.

"While the DTI is mandated to protect consumers, there is a need to balance this with other sectors such as investors and industries which provide employment to Filipinos," the department said in the DAO.

The DTI said users of HDPE pellets and granules will still be able to choose between the local and imported products.

"The imposition of the safeguard measure will only be temporary and is not expected to cause shortage of HDPE pellets and granules in the domestic market considering that the HDPE manufacturer has sufficient capacity to meet domestic demand," the DTI said.

JG Summit Olefins Corp. (JGSOC), which merged with JG Summit Petrochemical Corp. (JGSPC), had sought the imposition safeguard duty on imported HDPE pellets and granules.

JGSOC is the lone domestic manufacturer of HDPE pellets and granules, which are used for film extrusion process, injection molding process, blow molding process, pipe extrusion process, and monofilament extrusion process. -Revin Mikhael D. Ochave

PHL garments industry warns of more layoffs, temporary closures

THE PHILIPPINE garments industry is struggling amid a slump in global demand, warning of temporary closures and more worker layoffs in the next few months.

Confederation of Wearable Exporters of the Philippines (CONWEP) Executive Director Maritess Jocson-Agoncillo said factories may have to further cut their workforce if demand continues to decline. This after around 4,000 workers were laid off by garment firms in Mactan, Cebu.

"What happened to our Mactan, Cebu-based members should not be singled out at this moment. This will be a trend for some factories whose customers are starting to cut their projections, so we expect temporary closures or partial retrenchment of workforce in the next few months," she said at a virtual briefing on Wednesday.

Garments, S1/9

WHAT'S INSIDE

CORPORATE NEWS

Metro Pacific Health targets 40 hospitals under its network in 7-8 years \$1/4

WORLD BUSINESS

IMF warns inflation fight, geopolitical events adding risk to financial stability \$1/5

A NEWSPAPER IS A PUBLIC TRUST





FOLLOW US ON: facebook.com/bworldph twitter.com/bworldph anchor.fm/businessworld

World Bank ready to boost support for PHL

WORLD BANK

GROUP

THE WORLD BANK Group (WBG) is ready to increase its support for the Philippines, especially in agriculture, education, tourism, water and energy.

WBG President David Malpass on Tuesday met with Finance Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno on the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund-World Bank annual meetings in

"President Malpass affirmed to Secretary Diokno the WBG's readiness to increase support to the Philippines — particularly in the areas of agriculture,

Washington, DC.

tourism, water, energy, and education – and was glad to hear Secretary Diokno's thoughts on priority projects for fiscal year 2024," the multilateral lender said in a readout from the meeting posted on the World Bank's website.

As of March, the World Bank was the Philippines' third-largest source of official development assistance, with loans and grants representing 23.38% of the total.

The World Bank is currently supporting 15 ongoing programs and projects worth \$4.96 billion, in areas like transport, rural development, disaster risk reduction and management, social protection, Customs modernization,

and COVID-19 response. During the meeting, Mr. Malpass also stressed the importance of the continuation of tax reforms in the Philippines, and discussed the economy's growth outlook and vulnerabilities with Mr. Diokno.

"President Malpass noted the importance of the Philippine's

> continuation of tax reform efforts and work to broaden the tax base and affirmed the WBG's readiness to support further work on domestic revenue mobilization, including the digitalization of the tax system to

increase compliance," it said. Mr. Diokno previously said he will focus on digitalizing tax administration, leveraging technology to improve tax collections.

The World Bank upgraded its growth forecast for the Philippines for this year and 2023, citing an "accommodative" fiscal policy conducive to recovering domestic demand.

The World Bank projects the Philippine economy will grow by 5.8% in 2023, from 5.6% previously, but still below the government's 6.5-8% assumption for next year. - **KBT**