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**AFTER A PANDEMIC-INDUCED** record slump in 2020, the Philippine economy is slowly making its way to recovery.

Thanks to gradual loosening of movement curbs, the country's economic output bounced back after growing by 5.7% in 2021 from the record 9.5% contraction the previous year.

This recovery was also mirrored in the aggregate revenues of the country's largest corporations. Combined gross revenues of the *Top 1000* companies jumped by 17.5% to P13.44 trillion last year, reversing the 13.2% decline posted in 2020.

Their profitability also recuperated as the aggregate bottom line of this year's *Top 1000* companies more than doubled to P1.82 trillion.

Things are looking up for the Philippine economy as it fully eliminated the remaining pandemic-era restrictions in the early part of this year. However, a war broke out between Russia and Ukraine that severely hampered the global supply chain that caused massive inflationary pressures across the world.

The banner feature story talks about this and more as the country grappled with high inflation and rising interest rates. It also discusses medium-term economic outlook as we chart our way to recovery as well as various sectors that could benefit from the amended Foreign Investments Act, Retail Trade Liberalization Act, and Public Service Act.

Another feature story looks at the challenges of the first batch of graduates of the K-to-12 students (and employers) in the country.

The third feature looks at the country's energy needs as gas from the Malampaya field has become erratic and how would this affect the Energy department's goal to source half of the

country's power needs from renewable energy sources by 2040.

Another story also provides a closer look at the needs of the Philippine health-care sector, which almost collapsed at the height of the coronavirus surge.

Amid high inflation environment, a story finds out where we should put our money. It also sheds light on the struggles of ordinary people falling prey to predatory lending companies amid increased digitalization.

An article also explores the problems faced by the exporters amid challenging times. It also seeks out the lessons this sector has learned from past crises.

One of the sectors feeling the brunt of high oil prices is the country's logistics sector. An article on this topic discusses the challenges this sector has been facing on its way towards a possible rebound.

In the first State of the Nation Address of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., who is also the Agriculture department secretary, he promised that agriculture would become one the main growth drivers under his term. But for this to come to fruition, the sector has to modernize. An article explores the modernization measures that the sector has to implement and how doable these are going forward.

Another story focuses on the recuperation of the property sector as the country settles in the new normal. It discusses the massive changes and prospects these developers have undergone to adapt to the new realities after the pandemic.

The last feature story looks at the prospects of the country's retail sector amid the boom of the e-commerce and further liberalization of the retail trade law.

What follows are the stories of the country's top grossing companies shown through this edition's mainstay tables. We hope the information provided in this report would prove useful to the reader. ■

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