P25 IN METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

BusinessWorld

STOCK MARKET

PSEi — 30 DAYS TO JANUARY 30, 2023

OPEN:	7,048.76
HIGH:	7,053.72
LOW:	6,929.18
CLOSE:	6,970.97
VOL.:	1.215 B
VAL(P):	8.296 B

▼ 81.19 PTS. 1.15%

ASIAN MARKETS

JANUARY 30, 2023

	CLOSE		NET	%
Japan (Nikkei 225)	27,433.40	▲	50.84	0.19
Hong Kong (Hang Seng)	22,069.73	▼	-619.17	-2.73
Taiwan (Weighted)	15,493.82	▲	560.89	3.76
Thailand (SET Index)	1,681.36	▲	0.06	0.00
S.Korea (Kse Composite)	2,450.47	▼	-33.55	-1.35
Singapore (Straits Times)	3,376.37	▼	-17.84	-0.53
Sydney (All Ordinaries)	7,481.70	▼	-12.10	-0.16
Malaysia (Klse Composite)	1,499.39	▲	1.84	0.12

WORLD MARKETS

JANUARY 27, 2023

	CLOSE		NET
Dow Jones	33,978.080	▲	28.670
NASDAQ	11,621.709	▲	109.296
S&P 500	4,070.560	▲	10.130
FTSE 100	7,765.150	▲	4.040
Euro Stoxx50	3,862.200	▲	2.100

PESO-DOLLAR RATES

FX — 30 DAYS TO JANUARY 30, 2023

OPEN	P54.550
HIGH	P54.450
LOW	P54.600
CLOSE	P54.545
W.AVE.	P54.545
VOL.	$687.86 M

▼ 7.50 CTVS

SOURCE : BAP

ASIAN MONIES-US$ RATE

JANUARY 30, 2023

	LATEST BID (0900GMT)		PREVIOUS
Japan (yen)	129.980	▼	129.850
Hong Kong (HK dollar)	7.835	▼	7.829
Taiwan (NT dollar)	30.073	▲	30.217
Thailand (baht)	32.710	▲	32.790
S. Korea (won)	1,228.530	▲	1,229.620
Singapore (dollar)	1.313	—	1.313
Indonesia (rupiah)	14,965	▲	14,980
Malaysia (ringgit)	4.244	▼	4.241

WORLD CURRENCIES

JANUARY 30, 2023

	CLOSE		PREVIOUS
US$/UK pound	1.2385	▼	1.2397
US$/Euro	1.0891	▲	1.0867
$/Aust dollar	0.7076	▼	0.7103
Canada dollar/US$	1.3334	▲	1.3309
Swiss Franc/US$	0.9202	▼	0.9206

DUBAI CRUDE OIL

FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY

$84.15/BBL ▲ $0.90

30 DAYS TO JANUARY 27, 2023

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S1/1-12 • 3 SECTIONS, 22 PAGES

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • JANUARY 30, 2023 (PSEi snapshot on *S1/4*; article on *S2/2*)

		Value			
BDO	P123.000	P517,403,072	P1.000	▲	0.820%
ALI	P31.050	P504,223,190	-P1.850	▼	-5.623%
DMC	P11.700	P410,631,826	-P0.800	▼	-6.400%
URC	P140.000	P385,832,622	-P2.400	▼	-1.685%
MEG	P2.120	P318,475,540	-P0.130	▼	-5.778%
RLC	P15.500	P309,877,522	-P0.760	▼	-4.674%
TEL	P1,429.000	P290,699,335	-P25.000	▼	-1.719%
GTCAP	P505.000	P259,154,845	-P20.000	▼	-3.810%
SMPH	P37.700	P258,744,820	P0.100	▲	0.266%
ICT	P211.800	P245,190,610	-P1.200	▼	-0.563%

Marcos signs EO adopting dev't plan

PRESIDENT Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. has signed an executive order (EO) adopting the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028, which he said will help the country achieve its goal of becoming an upper middle-income economy by 2025.

"(PDP) is a plan that will set the Philippines towards becoming an upper middle-income country by the year 2025. But beyond economic development, the plan also focuses on social development and protection, disaster resilience, digital transformation and many other things," Mr. Marcos said during the "From Plan to Action: PDP 2023-2028 Forum" in Pasay City on Monday.

The Philippines is currently classified as a lower middle-income country by the World Bank. It earlier targeted to graduate to upper middle-income status by 2022, but this was derailed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Under the PDP, the government targets 6-7% gross domestic product (GDP) growth this year, and 6.5-8% from 2024 to 2028. It also aims to lower the unemployment rate to 4-5% by 2028.

The Philippine economy expanded by 7.6% in 2022, the fastest economic growth since 1976. The jobless rate eased to 4.2% in November, the lowest level in over 17 years.

Marcos, S1/4

Congress urged to reconsider bill on transport safety board

CONGRESS is being urged to approve a bill creating the Philippine Transportation Safety Board (PTSB), especially after technical glitches in the country's air traffic system led to the shutdown of Philippine airspace earlier this month.

In a joint statement, seven members of the Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC), as well as the Safe Travel Alliance (STA) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said the 19th Congress should reconsider the PTSB bill.

"The recent incident involving the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) and the alleged faulty air traffic management system has brought air transportation safety — and transportation safety, in general — in the spotlight. It was a strong reminder of the need to pass legislation creating the PTSB," they said.

The JFC members, STA and IATA recently sent a letter expressing support for the PTSB bill to the Senate Public Services and House Transportation committees. The committees are currently holding hearings on the NAIA incident which led to the cancellation and delays of hundreds of flights on Jan. 1.

The bill seeks to create an independent and impartial transport safety body that will address the regulatory gaps in the transport safety bureaucracy. The proposed PTSB will facilitate the enhancement of transportation safety measures and standards.

Transport, S1/3

PHL companies seen raising up to $8.25B via bonds this year

MANILA — Philippine companies are expected to generate up to P450 billion ($8.25 billion) through bond issuance this year to fund expansion and repay debt, the country's bond market operator said on Monday.

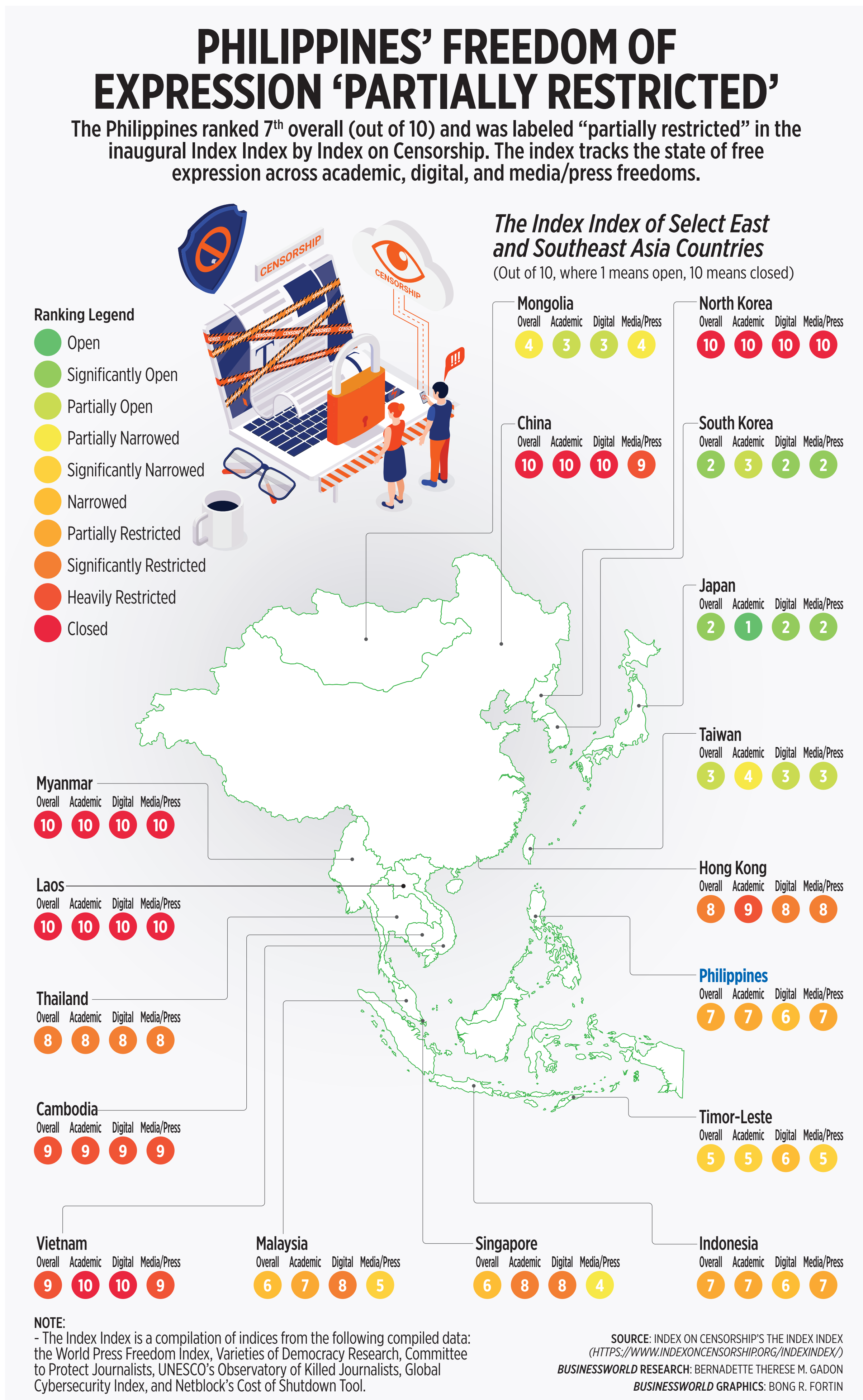
"Domestic investment liquidity is alive and well," Antonino A. Nakpil, president and chief executive officer of the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEx), told reporters.

PDEx sees companies raising P300 billion to P450 billion via bonds this year, he said, adding that big corporations and banks would be active in the fixed-income market.

Companies tapped the bond market to raise a record P508 billion ($9.3 billion) last year, more than double the P213 billion in 2021, PDEx data showed.

Despite an expected slowdown in the economy this year because of inflation and higher interest rates, Philippine companies are selectively pursuing expansion in sectors that will benefit from the country's economic reopening.

As of the end of 2022, PDEx had P1.38 trillion in tradable corporate debt instruments issued by 53 companies comprised of 196 types of securities. — ***Reuters***



FUEL PRICE TRACKER

(week-on-week change)

GASOLINE		
Jan. 17	▲	P0.95
Jan. 24	▲	P2.80
Jan. 31	▲	P1.80
DIESEL		
Jan. 17	▲	P0.50
Jan. 24	▲	P2.25
Jan. 31	▲	P1.00
KEROSENE		
Jan. 17	▼	P0.15
Jan. 24	▲	P2.40
Jan. 31	▲	P1.35

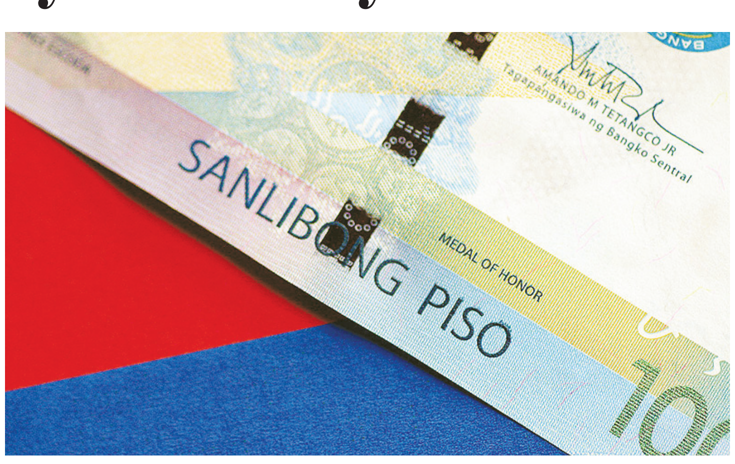
- ***Jan. 31, 12:01 a.m.*** — Caltex Philippines
- ***Jan. 31, 6 a.m.*** — Petron Corp.; Phoenix Petroleum; Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.; PTT Philippines Corp.; Seaoil Philippines, Inc.
- ***Jan. 31, 8:01 a.m.*** — Cleanfuel (Shaw Autogas, Inc.)

Think tank says PHL may benefit from wealth fund, but flags political risks

THE PHILIPPINES could benefit from the proposed Maharlika Investment Fund (MIF) as long as the government can ensure that its first sovereign wealth fund (SWF) is independent and efficient, according to a report by the Milken Institute.

However, the think tank also warned of political risks arising from the use of existing government funds for the MIF.

"(SWFs) have been drivers that enabled a number of emerging economies to achieve national development milestones and become players in the global economy. The Philippines could similarly benefit," the Milken Institute said in its report titled "Best Practices of Sovereign Wealth Funds: The Case for the Philippines."



REUTERS

It noted the Philippines should look at other SWF examples on "how to structure the MIF into a robust, independent, efficient and effective national treasure."

"The Philippines could use its SWF to attract foreign direct investment, reducing the state's burden to finance infrastructure through taxes and debt," the Milken Institute said, citing Indonesia's SWF that raised over $20 billion.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. earlier this month pitched still-unapproved MIF to business leaders at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

The Milken Institute said the Philippine government should first determine the SWF's goals and the strategies for achieving it, as well as establish appropriate and realistic funding sources.

"Political risks accompany the use of existing government revenue funds, especially from national savings programs and pension funds," it said.

Under the latest version, the proposed MIF will secure funds from government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), and will require a lower initial capital of P110 billion from P250 billion previously. An earlier version of the bill drew criticism for proposing to secure funding from pension funds.

The Milken Institute said the Philippine government may not be able to tap into foreign reserves due to International Monetary Fund (IMF) accounting rules that prevent their domestic use.

Instead, it noted the Philippines may consider other funding options such as bond issuances or one-time budgetary allocations from a national surplus.

"These funding options are helpful, but are also much more vulnerable to political interference and potential conflict of interest," it said.

The think tank also recommended monetizing sources of capital through the privatization of GOCCs, similar to the approach used by Singapore's Temasek Holdings in 1974.

"In the Philippines' case, of 108 GOCCs, from insurance and financing to charity work and gaming, the top 31 GOCCs hold assets worth $323 billion, representing half of gross domestic product," the Milken Institute said.

The Philippines could also use "less tangible" assets as a funding source for the MIF, such as resource exploration rights and use of assets in telecommunications or tourism sectors.

Wealth fund, S1/3