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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 (PSEi snapshot on S1/3; article on S2/2) P152.800 ALI P35.000 P904.500 GLO P2,232.000 P261.000 P398.600 **BDO** P90.800 P616.500 P1.270 P30.150 P302,904,220 P580,499,696 Value P528,989,800 Value P496,870,154 P269,092,155 Value P202,134,095 P179,463,140 Value P177,287,515 P167,226,780 0.000% -P0.300 **▼** -0.329% P0.150 1.005% -P1.500 ▼ -0.243% -P0.010 lacksquare-0.781% -P0.350 **▼** -1.148%

PHILIPPINES RANKS 108TH IN GLOBAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX The Philippines ranked 108th out of 183 countries — same placement with Nepal and Paraguay — in The Commonwealth's Global Youth Development Index (YDI) 2023, after scoring 0.717 out of 1. It was the second-lowest in the East and Southeast Asia region. The report examines the extent to which young people are learning, earning and living healthy, engaged and peaceful lives. It also shows whether they are living in societies that value their views, including their perspectives and recognize their contributions coutheast Asian Countries (Out of 1; higher is better) 2023 YDI Scores and Ranks of Select East and (Out of 183) YDI Score (Out of 183) YDI Score Level Afghanistan 0.515 Singapore 0.868 Very high 183 Low Central African Rep. 0.536 Denmark 0.862 Very high 182 Low Portugal 181 0.848 Very high Niger 0.543 Low 3 Iceland 0.847 Very high 180 Chad 0.554 Low 5 Slovenia 0.845 Very high =178 Somalia 0.582 Low =178 South Sudan 0.582 Low Philippines' Profile Global Rank (Out of 183) Legend Health & Wellbeing Score Range Equality & Inclusion 0.884 0.798-1.000 Very High Peace & Security 0.738-0.798 =103 Education 0.752 Medium 0.675-0.738 **Employment Opportunity** 0.000-0.675 =148 Political & Civic Participation 0.271 Low Source: The Commonwealth's Global Youth Development Index (https://thecommonwealth.org/publications/global-youth-development -index-update-report-2023) BusinessWorld Research: Charles Worren E. Laureta

NG debt hits P15.7 trillion

By Beatriz Marie D. Cruz Reporter

THE NATIONAL Government's (NG) outstanding debt hit a fresh high of P15.69 trillion as of end-July amid an increase in domestic and external borrowings, the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) said.

Data from the BTr on Tuesday showed that the NG's debt level

rose by 1.33% as of end-July from P15.48 trillion as of end-June.

"The NG's debt portfolio has increased by P206.49 billion or 1.3% from the end-June 2024 level, primarily driven by the net issuance of both domestic and external debt," the BTr said in a press release.

Year on year, outstanding debt jumped by 10.15% from P14.24 trillion as of end-July 2023.

The debt stock as of end-July already represents 97.71% of

the P16.06-trillion total debt projection by yearend, according to the latest Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing data.

More than half (68.54%) of the debt came from domestic sources, while the rest (31.46%) came from foreign sources, the BTr said.

Domestic debt as of end-July rose by 1.7% to P10.75 trillion from P10.57 trillion last month. Year on year, it jumped by 9.6% from P9.81 trillion in July 2023.

"The rise in domestic debt was mainly due to the P180.52-billion net issuance of government securities, although partially tempered by the P0.49-billion downward revaluation effect of peso appreciation on US dollar-denominated domestic securities," the BTr said.

The peso closed at P58.488 at the end of July, strengthening by 17 centavos from P58.659 at end-

NG debt, S1/9

Faster consumption key to PHL hitting 2024 growth target, says S&P Global

FASTER PRIVATE CONSUMPTION will be crucial for the Philippine economy to hit its growth target this year, S&P Global Ratings said.

S&P Global economist for Asia-Pacific Vishrut Rana said Philippine gross domestic product (GDP) is projected to expand by 5.8% this year.

"The key swing factor for the rest of the year is whether private consumption comes back online or whether it remains slightly weak and that will ultimately determine whether the economy can hit the 6% growth mark. For the moment, we have 5.8%. There's some upside risk to that number," he said in a webinar on Tuesday.

Philippine GDP expanded by 6.3% in the second quarter, bringing first-half growth to 6%.

To meet the lower end of the government's

6-7% target, the economy must expand by at least an average of 6% in the second half of 2024.

Domestic demand is expected to support

the growth outlook of the Philippines and the rest of Southeast Asia, S&P Global said.

"What we observe is the domestic demand in

"What we observe is the domestic demand in the region is holding up pretty well. Generally speaking, private consumption and investment are both doing relatively okay," Mr. Rana said.

Growth target, S1/9

Analysts see improving foreign investment outlook for PHL

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson Reporter

LOWER INTEREST RATES will help drive the entry of more foreign direct and portfolio investments into the Philippines, analysts said.

"The outlook for foreign direct investment (FDI) and foreign portfolio investment (FPI) in the Philippines appears promising, with current trends suggesting the country could meet or potentially exceed the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' (BSP) targets," Security Bank Corp. Chief Economist Robert Dan J. Roces said in a Viber message.

The BSP expects to record FDI net inflows of \$9.5 billion this year. For foreign portfolio investments, it forecasts \$3.1 billion in net inflows by yearend.

"The BSP's forecast for the year sounds reasonable, as it wouldn't be too far a stretch, with that sort of level of annual FDI coming into the Philippines almost consistently over this period, barring the coronavirus-hit year in 2020," Pantheon Macroeconomics Chief Emerging Asia Economist Miguel Chanco said in an e-mail.

In the January-to-May period, FDI net inflows jumped by 15.8% year on year to \$4.024 billion, data from the BSP showed.

Meanwhile, short-term foreign investments yielded a net inflow of \$1.46 billion in the January-July period, surging from the \$157.3-million net inflows in the same period a year ago.

FDIs are considered long-term investments, while portfolio investments or "hot money" are seen as more fickle due to the ease by which these funds enter and leave the economy.

Ruben Carlo O. Asuncion, chief economist at Union Bank of the Philippines, Inc., said the BSP's investment targets are doable amid easing interest rates.

"Offering attractive rates will be the key. All around will be declining key rates, thus, offering sensible investments now will lock in gains for prospective investors. I would like to believe that there is time," he added.

Mr. Roces said the further reduction in policy rates this year and next year "should stimulate investment activity, particularly for FDI, by making borrowing more attractive."

Investment, S1/9

Executive order on EV incentives eyed by yearend

A PROPOSED executive order (EO) on the Electric Vehicle (EV) Incentive Strategy will likely be endorsed to the office of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. by the end of the year, an Energy department official said.

"We are still hopeful that it (the EO) comes out. So, definitely in next year's Comprehensive Roadmap for the EV Industry (CREVI), the EV Incentive Strategy will be in place," Patrick T. Aquino, director of the Energy Utilization Management Bureau at the De-

partment of Energy (DoE), said on the sidelines of the pre-event conference of the 12th Philippine Electric Vehicle Summit (PEVS).

The proposed EV Incentive Strategy is expected to result in the manufacture of around four million EVs in the country in the next 10 years.

The strategy involves fiscal and non-fiscal incentives for consumers such as purchase subsidies in the form of direct financial rebates or discounts, tax credits, value-added tax exemption or reduction, and

fuel cost savings through special electricity rates for EV charging.

electricity rates for EV charging.

It also proposes incentives for homeowners who will install EV charging infrastructure at their residences, as well as trade-in

bonuses for vehicle owners. Also proposed are rental subsidies for consumers who rent EVs. Mr. Aquino said the strategy is important to ensure the country

important to ensure the country can attract more EV manufacturers.

"There are no additional players, which is why it is very impor-

tant for us to come out and craft the EV Incentive Strategy... which will be a Comprehensive Automotive Resurgence Strategy (CARS)like program, which is why it will also be supported by funding," he said.

"Similar to CARS, at certain volumes, they will get some assistance, so that is what we can expect from there," he added.

Mr. Aquino said the program may possibly cover two- or threewheelers and special-purpose

special-purpose *EV incentives, S1/9*