

STOCK MARKET		ASIAN MARKETS					WORLD MARKETS			PESO-DOLLAR RATES			ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE			WORLD CURRENCIES			DUBAI CRUDE OIL					
<div><div><div>7575</div><div>7410</div><div>7245</div><div>7080</div><div>6915</div></div><div><div>112.73 Pts.</div><div>1.49%</div></div><div><div>30 DAYS TO OCTOBER 9, 2024</div></div></div>	<div><div><div>PSEi</div><div>OPEN: 7,518.21</div><div>HIGH: 7,518.21</div><div>LOW: 7,424.52</div><div>CLOSE: 7,424.52</div><div>VOL.: 0.917 B</div><div>VAL(P): 5,301 B</div></div></div>	OCTOBER 9, 2024					OCTOBER 8, 2024			FX			OCTOBER 9, 2024			OCTOBER 9, 2024			FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY					
													LATEST BID (0900GMT)			PREVIOUS								
													JAPAN (YEN)			148.600			147.790					
													HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR)			7.774			7.774					
													TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR)			32.184			32.220					
														THAILAND (BAHT)			33.430			33.480				
														S. KOREA (WON)			1,342.610			1,347.440				
														SINGAPORE (DOLLAR)			1.304			1.303				
														INDONESIA (RUPIAH)			15,615			15,640				
														MALAYSIA (RINGGIT)			4.280			4.286				

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S1/1-12 • 2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • OCTOBER 9, 2024 (PSEi snapshot on S1/4; article on S2/2)

BDO Value P628,756,823 -P3.800 ▼ -2.351%	P157.800 Value P509,515,934 -P8.200 ▼ -1.872%	ICT Value P509,515,934 -P8.200 ▼ -1.872%	P429.800 Value P509,515,934 -P8.200 ▼ -1.872%	ALI Value P336,074,515 P0.000 — 0.000%	P36.400 Value P336,074,515 P0.000 — 0.000%	BPI Value P318,317,224 -P3.000 ▼ -2.098%	P140.000 Value P318,317,224 -P3.000 ▼ -2.098%	JGS Value P253,389,735 -P0.750 ▼ -2.762%	P26.400 Value P253,389,735 -P0.750 ▼ -2.762%	SMPH Value P227,565,010 -P0.500 ▼ -1.543%	P31.900 Value P227,565,010 -P0.500 ▼ -1.543%	AC Value P210,041,690 -P5.500 ▼ -0.746%	P731.500 Value P210,041,690 -P5.500 ▼ -0.746%	JFC Value P199,797,402 P1.800 ▲ 0.659%	P274.800 Value P199,797,402 P1.800 ▲ 0.659%	SM Value P195,315,880 -P23.000 ▼ -2.305%	P975.000 Value P195,315,880 -P23.000 ▼ -2.305%	SECB Value P172,348,553 -P4.300 ▼ -4.512%	P91.000 Value P172,348,553 -P4.300 ▼ -4.512%
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Recto sees 6% growth in 3rd quarter

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY likely grew by 6% in the third quarter as declining inflation may have fueled a rebound in consumer spending, Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto said.

“I’m still hoping 6%, more so that inflation is declining,” Mr. Recto told reporters on the sidelines of an event late on Tuesday.

“The biggest [driver] would be household consumption, which is 75% of the economy,” he added.

For as long as household consumption grows by 6%, Mr. Recto said, the economy would likely grow by 6%.

Economic managers are targeting 6-7% growth this year.

In the second quarter, gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 6.3% as improved government spending and investments offset weak consumption growth. Household spending in the April-June period grew by 4.6% year on year,

the weakest since the first quarter of 2021.

For the first half, GDP growth averaged 6%. The economy has to grow by at least 6% in the second half to hit the low end of the target.

The statistics agency is expected to release third-quarter GDP data on Nov. 7.

Mr. Recto said slowing inflation likely helped drive growth in the July-to-September period.

The consumer price index eased to a four-year low of 1.9%

year on year in September from 3.3% in August as food and transport costs declined.

Year to date, inflation averaged 3.4%, settling within the 2-4% target range of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

Mr. Recto said the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) could meet before year-end to review the macroeconomic assumptions and targets.

“I think the DBCC should meet but maybe in December... not re-

ally to adjust but just to review not only growth targets but take a look at the entire macro-fiscal framework,” he said.

Mr. Recto said that any adjustments to the government’s growth and fiscal targets should be for next year, as economic managers also have to consider other factors such as external headwinds.

“We have to take a look at what’s happening globally also. For example, we have to prepare just in case you have more ten-

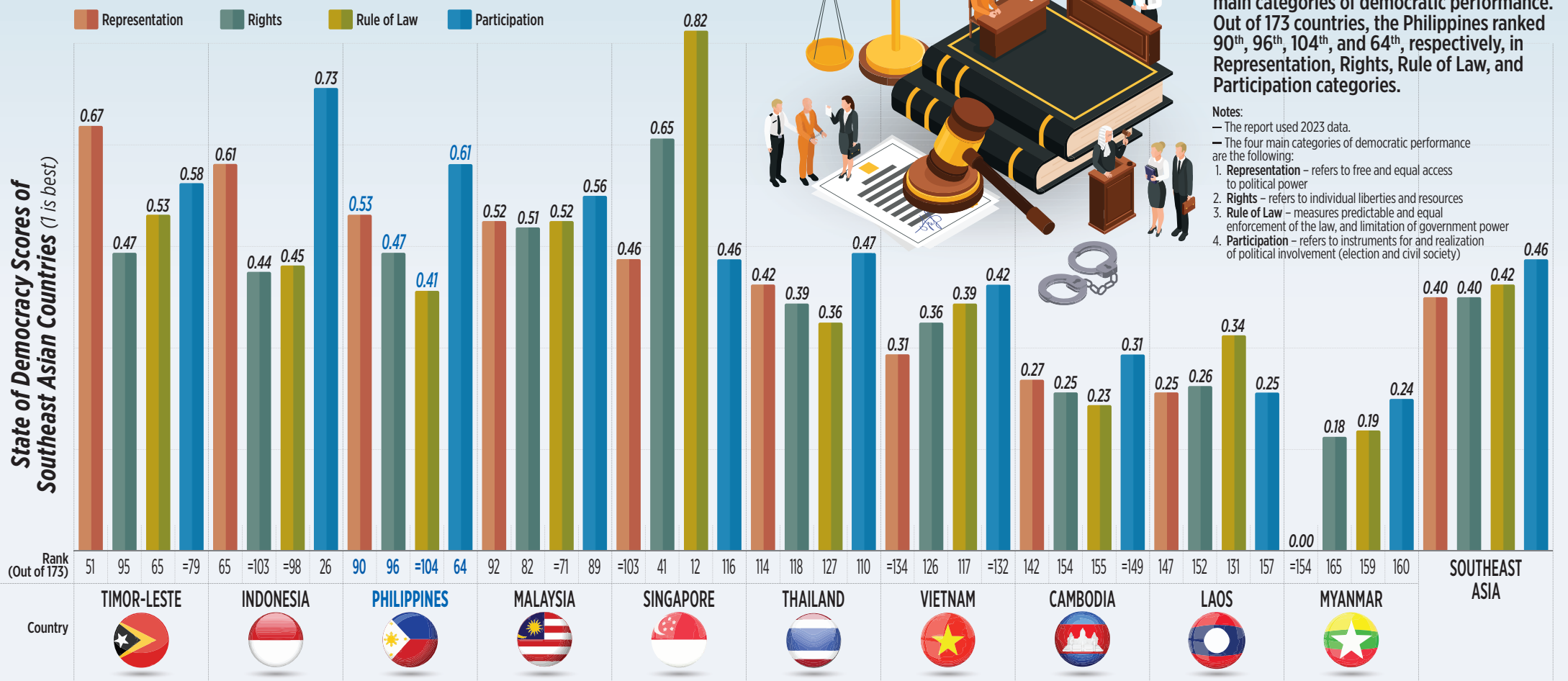
sions in the Middle East,” he said.

At its last meeting in June, the DBCC kept the 2024 GDP growth target at 6-7% and 6.5-7.5% GDP expansion for 2025. It targets 6.5-8% growth from 2026 to 2028.

Earlier this week, Budget Secretary and DBCC Chairperson Amenah F. Pangandaman raised the possibility of an upward revision of this year’s growth target amid slowing inflation and improved state spending.

Growth, S1/9

HOW DOES THE PHILIPPINES’ STATE OF DEMOCRACY COMPARE WITH ITS NEIGHBORS?



The Global State of Democracy 2024, released by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, reports annual global rankings for each main categories of democratic performance. Out of 173 countries, the Philippines ranked 90th, 96th, 104th, and 64th, respectively, in Representation, Rights, Rule of Law, and Participation categories.

Notes:
— The report used 2023 data.
— The four main categories of democratic performance are the following:
1. **Representation** – refers to free and equal access to political power
2. **Rights** – refers to individual liberties and resources
3. **Rule of Law** – measures predictable and equal enforcement of the law, and limitation of government power
4. **Participation** – refers to instruments for and realization of political involvement (election and civil society)

Banking system’s total assets jump by 11% to P26 trillion

By **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson** Reporter

THE PHILIPPINE banking industry’s total assets jumped by 10.8% as of end-August, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) data showed.

Preliminary data from the BSP showed banks’ combined assets rose to P25.99 trillion as of end-August from P23.46 trillion in the same period a year ago.

Month on month, total assets inched up by 0.2% from P25.93 trillion as of end-July.

Banks’ assets are mainly supported by deposits, loans, and investments. These include cash and due from banks as well as interbank loans receivable (IBL) and reverse repurchase (RRP), net of allowances for credit losses.

The banking sector’s total loan portfolio inclusive of IBL and RRP climbed by 10.5% to P13.82 trillion as of end-August from P12.51 trillion in the same period a year ago.

Banking, S1/9

MPTC’s Singson named as MAP Management Person of the Year

ROGELIO L. SINGSON, president and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC) has been named “Management Person of the Year 2024” by the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP).

“For me, this award is just a recognition that it makes sense to do your job well. I have always been doing work that



is beyond standard. I always accept challenges,” Mr. Singson told reporters on the sidelines of MAP’s general membership meeting on Wednesday.

The Management Person of the Year award is given to individuals in the business or government sector, member or nonmember of MAP, who have made significant contributions to the country’s progress and helped reshape national values.

Singson, S1/9

Rate cuts may boost demand amid condo oversupply in Metro Manila

FURTHER RATE CUTS by the Philippine central bank could help spur new residential project launches and drive take-up of existing condominiums in Metro Manila, a property consultant said.

In its third-quarter property market report, Leechiu Property Consultants (LPC) said the inventory level of condominium units in Metro Manila has reached 67,600 units across 510 buildings — “the highest since the pandemic.”

“It’s an oversupply of the buildings in the market at 29 months’ supply. (Developers) have been slowly launching new projects,” LPC Research Director Roy Amado Golez said at a briefing on Oct. 8.

Quezon City and Ortigas (plus fringe areas) have the most number of unsold condominium units at 18,000 and 13,500, respectively.

High interest rates may have dampened demand for residential condominiums in Metro Manila. LPC said 6,885 units were sold in the July-to-September period, “close to the 7,000 level for the third straight quarter.”

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) had kept its policy rate at an over 17-year high of 6.5% from October 2023 to mid-August 2024. It reduced the benchmark rate to 6.25% at its Aug. 15 meeting.

“The interest rate levels today are still at elevated levels, at 6.25%. However, we’ll be likely seeing rate cuts in October as well as December. Hopefully, those rate cuts will boost... the residential market,” Mr. Golez said.

Condo, S1/9

Inflation now on a ‘target-consistent path,’ says Remolona

INFLATION is now on a “target-consistent path,” which provides room for further easing, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr. said.

“With inflation now on a target-consistent path, we have room for a calibrated shift to a less restrictive monetary policy stance,” Mr. Remolona said in an interview with *Global Finance* magazine.

Headline inflation sharply eased to 1.9% in September from 3.3% in August. This was also the slowest print in over four years or since the 1.6% clip in May 2020.

This year so far, inflation has remained within the central bank’s 2-4% target range, except for the 4.4% spike in July due to higher electricity costs.

In the first nine months, headline inflation averaged 3.4%, which was also the central bank’s full-year forecast.

“In fact, about two months before our latest policy rate cut, our forward guidance already indicated that we expected to shift to a less hawkish monetary stance,” Mr. Remolona said.

The central bank kicked off its easing cycle in August with a 25-basis-point (bp) rate cut, bringing the benchmark rate to 6.25% from an over 17-year high of 6.5%.

“The cut in rates in August was driven by our projections of inflation and growth based on the latest data on domestic conditions. The timing of the Federal Open Market Committee’s (FOMC) actions did not play much of a role in our decision,” Mr. Remolona said.

The BSP chief also noted that cutting ahead of the Fed did not have any significant impact on the financial system.

“The reaction of financial markets to the BSP easing its policy rate earlier than the US Fed has been relatively muted, with the Philippine peso weakening only slightly versus the US dollar right after the recent policy decision and has since continued to appreciate,” he added.

However, Mr. Remolona noted that the BSP will “continue to monitor lingering upside risks to prices, including those coming from higher electricity rates and external factors.”

Remolona, S1/9