

Airline fuel surcharge to stay unchanged in Jan.

THE Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) said the passenger fuel surcharge will remain unchanged in January.

The passenger and cargo fuel surcharge setting for domestic and international flights will remain at Level 4, it said in an advisory.

It added that the applicable conversion rate for the fuel surcharge to be collected next month is P58.66 to the dollar.

At Level 4, the passenger fuel surcharge is between P117 and P342 for domestic flights and P385.70 and P2,867.82

for international flights originating from the Philippines.

A fuel surcharge may be collected by airlines based on the movement of jet fuel prices via a benchmark known as Mean of Platts Singapore.

“Airlines wishing to impose or collect fuel surcharges for the period must file applications with this Office on or before the effectivity period, with fuel surcharge rates not exceeding the above-stated level,” CAB Executive Director Carmelo L. Arcilla said.

The global average jet fuel price rose 0.9% week on week to \$90.04 per barrel as of Dec. 20, according to fuel price monitoring reports issued by the International Air Transport Association. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

PCC,
from SI/1

The PCC said the “ultimate” parent companies — Pilipinas Enterprise Management Holdings, Inc.; Aboitiz & Company, Inc.; and Top Frontier Investment Holdings, Inc. — had submitted “voluntary commitments” on Oct. 18 to address these competition concerns.

The commitments were reviewed by the PCC, taking into account comments from stakeholders, industry players, Department of Energy (DoE), and the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).

The PCC said it approved the companies’ resulting voluntary commitments on Dec. 20, noting that these conditions are “vital to maintaining a competitive market.”

“Key safeguards include PCC oversight of the Competitive Selection Process (CSP) to ensure power supply agreements are awarded through a transparent and competitive bidding process. This oversight aims to prevent collusion or unfair practices,” it said.

“The acquired companies must also operate independently of their parent companies, with strict measures to separate IT systems, offices, and management to prevent coordination or undue influence.”

These companies’ board of directors should include independent members, while internal trading units should operate independently of affiliates, the PCC said.

The PCC also directed power plants to submit reports on un-

planned outages within seven days of reporting to the DoE to promote transparency. The competitive retail electricity market reports should also be “shared” with the PCC.

Parent companies are also required to appoint a competition compliance officer to monitor the fulfillment of these commitments, the watchdog said.

“The PCC will communicate to DoE and ERC the conditions imposed, as well as coordinate on the alignment of existing guidelines and policies with competition law and policy to curb competition concerns that may arise from similar transactions,” it said.

The PCC said the conditions will remain in effect for five years, with the possibility of an extension depending on market conditions. Violations could result in daily fines of up to P2 million per infraction, among others.

Asked for comment, ERC Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer Monalisa C. Dimalanta said the commission has yet to receive the copy of the approval of the transaction.

“It is important for us to review the conditions of such approval so we can also verify and validate continuing compliance by the parties with relevant provisions of the EPIRA (Electric Power Industry Reform Act),” she said in a Viber message.

“We trust that the PCC’s approval signals a way forward that addresses these concerns,” she added.

Terry L. Ridon, a public investment analyst and convener of think tank InfraWatch PH, said that the launch of the LNG facility should ensure stable and affordable power supply amid growing demand in the country.

“It should, however, be just one among the many sources of power for our needs, as LNG remains subject to global price fluctuations, and it would be best that the country boasts of an energy mix from multiple sources, with a clear preference for renewables,” he said in a Viber message.

Juan Paolo E. Colet, managing director at China Bank Capital Corp., said that PCC’s approval “paves the way for a massive investment in our country’s energy infrastructure that hopefully translates to lower energy prices.”

“The government clearly recognizes the importance of LNG in diversifying the country’s power supply and ensuring energy security,” he said via Viber.

Mr. Colet said that SMGP stands to benefit through an improved balance sheet and the availability of resources for its other investments.

Meralco’s majority owner, Beacon Electric Asset Holdings, Inc., is partly owned by PLDT Inc.

Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has an interest in *BusinessWorld* through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls.

ATTENDANTS
refuel vehicles
at a gas
station along
East Avenue,
Quezon City,
Dec. 9.



PHILIPPINE STAR/MIGUEL DE GUZMAN

IMF,
from SI/1

So far this year, the peso has sunk to the P59-per-dollar level thrice. The BSP has said it is watching the peso closely and has been a bit more active than usual in the markets.

“Given the Philippines’ shallow FX markets — the most relevant IPF (Integrated Policy Framework) friction — and the nonlinear impact of exchange rate fluctuations on inflation expectations, FXI can play a role in mitigating risks associated with abrupt exchange rate movements.”

“Nevertheless, deployment of FXI should only be temporary and not a substitute for warranted macroeconomic policy adjustments.”

The BSP has said it only intervenes to curb speculation and keep markets orderly.

“Going forward, in considering the optimal response to periods of stress and elevated uncovered interest rate parity premia, the BSP should remain cognizant of tradeoffs between using FXI and domestic foreign exchange market deepening.”

Meanwhile, the IMF also said it will be crucial to “ensure coordination across different parts of the BSP’s toolkit.”

“While total holdings have declined, the BSP retains a substantial portfolio of government securities acquired as part of the COVID-19 response. It has allowed the BSP to move to a variable-rate/variable-amount reverse repurchase (RRP) framework, where the target RRP rate is the policy rate.”

“Going forward, the BSP could usefully communicate a strategy for the size of its balance sheet in normal times... to provide more certainty to market participants.”

It cited the central bank’s recent move to lower the reserve requirements, saying it will lead to a welcome decline in finan-

cial intermediation costs and better align reserve requirements with regional peers.

“Changes in the reserve requirement ratio (RRR) need to be factored into the overall monetary policy stance and coordinated with any changes in the size of the BSP balance sheet,” the IMF said.

Starting October this year, the BSP reduced the RRR for universal and commercial banks and nonbank financial institutions with quasi-banking functions by 250 basis points to 7% from 9.5%.

The IMF also noted the move to reactivate the interest rate swap (IRS) market and establishing a benchmark yield curve to “further develop the Philippines’ fixed income and money markets and improve monetary policy transmission.”

“The authorities’ recent initiative to create an enhanced peso IRS market based on the RRP will help businesses and banks hedge local interest rate risk.”

Last month, the central bank launched the peso IRS market, following the release of the updated International Swaps and Derivatives Association. This is part of its efforts to deepen the capital markets.

“The fragmentation of the yield curve at the short end with yields on government securities well below those on BSP bills remains an obstacle for accurate valuation of working capital that also hampers the development of the IRS and derivatives markets,” the IMF said.

“Coordinated efforts by both the Bureau of the Treasury (e.g., by increasing issuance at maturities below 365 days) and the BSP (e.g., by further expanding access to nonbanks and ensuring that BSP bills can be used as collateral) are essential to address yield curve fragmentation and improve monetary policy transmission.” — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Joeson**

NG,
from SI/1

It scheduled four T-bill auctions in March. It will sell P7 billion each in 91-day and 182-day T-bills, and P8 billion in 364-day T-bills at the auctions on March 3, 10, 17 and 24.

The BTr has four T-bond auctions scheduled for March. It will sell P30 billion in five-year debt paper on March 4, P30 billion in seven-year T-bonds on March 11, and P30 billion in 10-year bonds on March 18.

The Treasury seeks to borrow a combined P35 billion via three-year and 25-year bonds on March 25.

“We’re only able to see an expected increase in volume [in the borrowing plan] because there was a reduction in the fourth quarter,” a trader told *BusinessWorld* in a phone interview, adding the BTr will frontload its requirements this year.

In the fourth quarter of 2024, the government planned to borrow P310 billion from the domestic market, but actually raised P312.6 billion.

The trader also said that offering two T-bond tenors in the same auction is not an “extraordinary” event, noting it was done a few years ago.

For 2025, the NG plans to borrow P2.55 trillion, 0.97% lower than P2.57 trillion this year. Of this, domestic borrowings are set at P2.04 trillion, while external borrowings are pegged at P507.41 billion.

For 2025 to 2027, the NG plans to source at least 80% of its borrowing program from domestic sources, and 20% from foreign lenders.

The NG’s outstanding debt inched up to a fresh high of P16.02 trillion as of end-October amid the peso’s depreciation against the US dollar. Of the total debt stock, 67.98% came from domestic sources. — **A.R.A. Inosante**

JOB VACANCY


Mead Johnson Nutrition (Philippines), Inc.
2309 Don Chino Roces Avenue Extension, Makati City, Philippines 1231
+63 2 8418181

Job Title: **GENERAL MANAGER**

Responsibility:
The General Manager for the market is in charge of providing the overall strategy for the market comprising of all of the functions in the country. He/she is responsible for leading the entire local organization by creating and communicating the overall vision, strategy, and objectives to the functional directors and the rest of the employee force to achieve the market’s business goals.

The General Manager will also lead and oversee the total local business operations across all departments – including marketing, sales, corporate and supply functions – to ensure that all business objectives are met.

Skills and Competencies Required:
Graduate of any 4-year course, MBA is preferred
• At least 15 years of relevant experience in various leadership roles and functions
• Proven track record in progressive commercial functions in consumer products
• Experience of influencing and engaging senior management in own and customer organizations
• Working knowledge in consumer products, marketing, sales, and promotions in the industry, preferably with nutrition and health products
• Excellent leadership, interpersonal, organizational, and finance skills in managing ethical marketing products
• Highly analytical and numerical
• Fluent in English
• Expert in Stakeholder Management, Partnership Management, Leadership, Value Creation, Actionable Market Insights and Vision, Strategic Thinking, Exceptional Excellence, Commercial Acumen, Selling and Negotiation, Unlocking Consumer and Market Insights and Digitally Enabled.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CITY GOVERNMENT OF MAKATI

SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI

PRESENT:

Vice Mayor	HON. MONIQUE YAZMIN MARIA Q. LAGDAMEO – Presiding Officer
Councilor	HON. DENNIS B. ALMARIO
Councilor	HON. MARIA DOLORES M. ARAYON
Councilor	HON. MARTIN JOHN PIO Q. ARENAS
Councilor	HON. JOEL M. ARIONES
Councilor	HON. SHIRLEY C. ASPILLAGA
Councilor	HON. BENEDICT B. BANIQUED
Councilor	HON. VIRGILIO V. HILARIO, JR.
Councilor	HON. LUIS S. JAVIER, JR.
Councilor	HON. EDRALYN M. MARQUEZ
Councilor	HON. CARMINA C. ORTEGA
Councilor	HON. ARMANDO P. PADILLA
Councilor	HON. RENE ANDREI Q. SAGUISAG, JR.
Councilor	HON. KRISTINA T. SAROSA
Councilor	HON. JOSE C. VILLENA, IV
Councilor	HON. ANNA ALCINA M. YABUT
LnB President	HON. ROLANDO D. ALVAREZ, JR.
SK President	HON. JEROME TRISTAN G. PANGILINAN

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Secretary to the Sanggunian: **ATTY. DINDO R. CERVANTES**

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Upon motion of Hon. V.V. Hilario, Jr., duly seconded, the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati, by a unanimous vote, approved City Ordinance No. 2024-247 on third and final reading.

CITY ORDINANCE NO. 2024-247

Authors: Hon. A.P. Padilla, Hon. R.A.Q. Saguisag, Jr., Hon. D.B. Almario, Hon. B.B. Baniqued, Hon. V.V. Hilario, Jr., Hon. R.D. Alvarez, Jr., Hon. J.T.G. Pangilinan, Hon. J.M. Ariones, and Hon. C.C. Ortega

Co-Authors: Hon. M.D.M. Arayon, Hon. M.J.P.Q. Arenas, Hon. L.S. Javier, Jr., Hon. E.M. Marquez, Hon. K.T. Sarosa, Hon. J.C. Villena, IV, and Hon. A.A.M. Yabut

AN ORDINANCE DECLARING THE ANNUAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (AIP) FOR C.Y. 2025 OF BARANGAY DASMARIÑAS TO BE IN CONFORMITY WITH EXISTING LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS.

WHEREAS, Sec. 25, Art. II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall ensure the autonomy of local governments;

WHEREAS, Sec. 109 (b) (2) of R.A. No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, provides that the barangay development council shall, among others, prepare the barangay development plans based on local requirements;

WHEREAS, Sec. 114 (a) of the same Code states that the policies, programs, and projects proposed by local development councils shall be submitted to the sanggunian concerned for appropriate action;

WHEREAS, the Sangguniang Barangay of Dasmariñas, by virtue of Barangay Resolution No. 2024-010 Series of 2024, adopted its Annual Investment Program (AIP) for C.Y. 2025, a copy of such Resolution, including its supporting documents, is hereto attached and made an integral part hereof as **Annex “A”**;

WHEREAS, in a *Joint Endorsement* dated 10 December 2024, the Urban Development Department (UDD) and Budget Department transmitted the aforementioned AIP to the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati for its appropriate action, a copy of such *Joint Endorsement* is hereto attached and made an integral part hereof as **Annex “B”**;

WHEREAS, after a careful perusal of relevant documents, the Members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Makati ruled that the proposed AIP for C.Y. 2025 of Barangay Dasmariñas is compliant with the minimum requirements as prescribed by existing laws, rules, and regulations; hence, this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, AS IT IS HEREBY ENACTED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA, BY THE POWERS VESTED IN IT BY LAW, IN SESSION ASSEMBLED, that:

Section 1. The Annual Investment Program (AIP) for C.Y. 2025 of Barangay of Dasmariñas is hereby declared to be in conformity with existing laws, rules, and regulations.

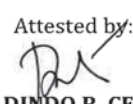
Section 2. The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby deemed separable. If any provision hereof should be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

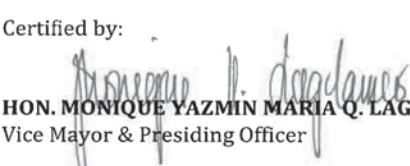
Section 3. All ordinances, resolutions, and executive orders inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

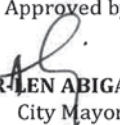
Section 4. Let copies of this Ordinance be furnished the Office of the Mayor, Office of the City Administrator, Law Department, Budget Department, Accounting Department, Urban Development Department (UDD), Information and Community Relations Department (ICRD), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)–Makati City, Liga ng mga Barangay, Sangguniang Barangay of Dasmariñas, and all other departments, offices, and agencies concerned for their information, guidance, and reference.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall be posted and published in accordance with the provisions of R.A. No. 7854, otherwise known as the Charter of the City of Makati.

ENACTED BY THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA, in its Regular Session held on 18 December 2024.

Attested by:

ATTY. DINDO R. CERVANTES
Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlungsod

Certified by:

HON. MONIQUE YAZMIN MARIA Q. LAGDAMEO
Vice Mayor & Presiding Officer

Approved by:

HON. MARLEEN ABIGAIL S. BINAY
City Mayor

Date of Approval: **18 DEC 2024**