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P25
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PHILIPPINES

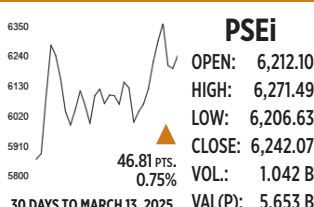


BusinessWorld



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STOCK MARKET		ASIAN MARKETS				WORLD MARKETS		PESO-DOLLAR RATES		ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE		WORLD CURRENCIES		DUBAI CRUDE OIL	
 <div>PSEI OPEN: 6,212.10 HIGH: 6,271.49 LOW: 6,206.63 CLOSE: 6,242.07 ▲ 46.81 PTS. 0.75% VOL.: 1.042 B VAL(P): 5.653 B 30 DAYS TO MARCH 13, 2025</div>	MARCH 13, 2025				MARCH 12, 2025		FX		MARCH 13, 2025 LATEST BID (0900GMT)		MARCH 13, 2025		FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY		
	CLOSE				CLOSE		NET		PREVIOUS		CLOSE		MONTHLY DELIVERY		
	JAPAN (NIKKEI 225)				DOW JONES		OPEN		JAPAN (YEN)		US\$/UK POUND		\$70.65/BBL		
	36,790.03 ▼				41,350.930 ▼		P57.390		148.010 ▲		1.2954 ▲		▲		
	HONG KONG (HANG SENG)				NASDAQ		HIGH		HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR)		US\$/EURO		▲		
23,462.65 ▼				17,648.450 ▲		P57.250		7.772 ▼		1.0884 ▼		▲			
TAIWAN (WEIGHTED)				S&P 500		LOW		TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR)		0.6291 ▼		▲			
21,961.68 ▼				5,599.300 ▲		P57.410		32.972 ▼		0.6295 ▼		▲			
THAILAND (SET INDEX)				FTSE 100		CLOSE		THAILAND (BAHT)		1.4377 ▼		▲			
1,161.84 ▲				8,540.970 ▲		P57.360		33.760 ▼		1.4435 ▼		▲			
S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE)				EURO STOXX50		W.AVE.		S. KOREA (WON)		1.4377 ▼		▲			
2,573.64 ▲				4,580.140 ▲		P57.336		1,454.440 ▼		1.4377 ▼		▲			
SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES)						VOL. \$1,248.20 M		SINGAPORE (DOLLAR)		0.8817 ▼		▲			
3,838.45 ▲								1.334 ▼		0.8826 ▼		▲			
SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES)								INDONESIA (RUPIAH)				▲			
7,749.10 ▼								16,420 ▲				▲			
MALAYSIA (KLESE COMPOSITE)								MALAYSIA (RINGGIT)				▲			
1,510.03 ▲								4.430 ▼				▲			
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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • MARCH 13, 2025 (PSEi snapshot on SI/2; article on SI/2)															
ALI	P21.650	BDO	P158.000	BPI	P136.900	ICT	P376.000	JFC	P257.200	MBT	P72.050	SPNEC	P1.250	RCR	P6.600
Value	P719,478,160	Value	P655,662,493	Value	P538,394,947	Value	P298,160,336	Value	P211,624,134	Value	P171,529,527	Value	P167,043,460	Value	P143,558,958
-P0.650	▼ -2.915%	P6.000	▲ 3.947%	P3.700	▲ 2.778%	P11.600	▲ 3.183%	-P2.800	▼ -1.077%	P1.050	▲ 1.479%	P0.100	▲ 8.696%	P0.180	▲ 2.804%

URC	P70.000	SM	P812.500
Value	P133,695,339	Value	P130,889,820
-P2.000	▼ -2.778%	-P1.500	▼ -0.184%

Changes to SIM registration opposed

Manila Water rate hike to take effect in April

CUSTOMERS of Manila Water Co., Inc. will see higher water bills starting in April as the east zone concessionaire seeks to recover losses incurred from foreign exchange movements, according to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System Regulatory Office (MWSS RO).

At the same time, west zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services, Inc. deferred the implementation of its rate adjustment to the third quarter.

At a briefing on Thursday, MWSS RO Chief Regulator Patrick Lester N. Ty said that the agency approved the tariff increase of P0.04 per cubic meter

for Manila Water as part of its foreign currency differential adjustment (FCDA) for the second quarter.

“Because of the FCDA, there is going to be an increase from P0.61 to P0.65 or a P0.04 increase, resulting in an all-in tariff of P61.08 compared to P61.04 [in the first quarter],” Mr. Ty said.

The FCDA is a quarterly reviewed tariff mechanism used by the MWSS. Water concessionaires are allowed to adjust their rates based on fluctuations in foreign exchange rates to manage the impact on their foreign currency-denominated loans.

Manila Water, SI/5

Banking system assets up 9.3% as of end-Jan.

By Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson *Reporter*

THE PHILIPPINE BANKING industry’s total assets jumped by 9.3% year on year as of end-January, preliminary data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) showed.

Banks’ combined assets rose to P27.11 trillion as of end-January from P24.81 trillion in the same period a year ago.

Month on month, total assets slid by 1.2% from P27.43 trillion as of end-December.

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 13.7% to P14.69 trillion as of end-January from P12.92 trillion in the same period a year ago.

Net investments, or financial assets and equity investments in subsidiaries, went up by 5.8% to P7.68 trillion as of end-January from P7.25 trillion a year prior.

Banking system, SI/5

Duterte arrest unlikely to hurt Philippine economic outlook

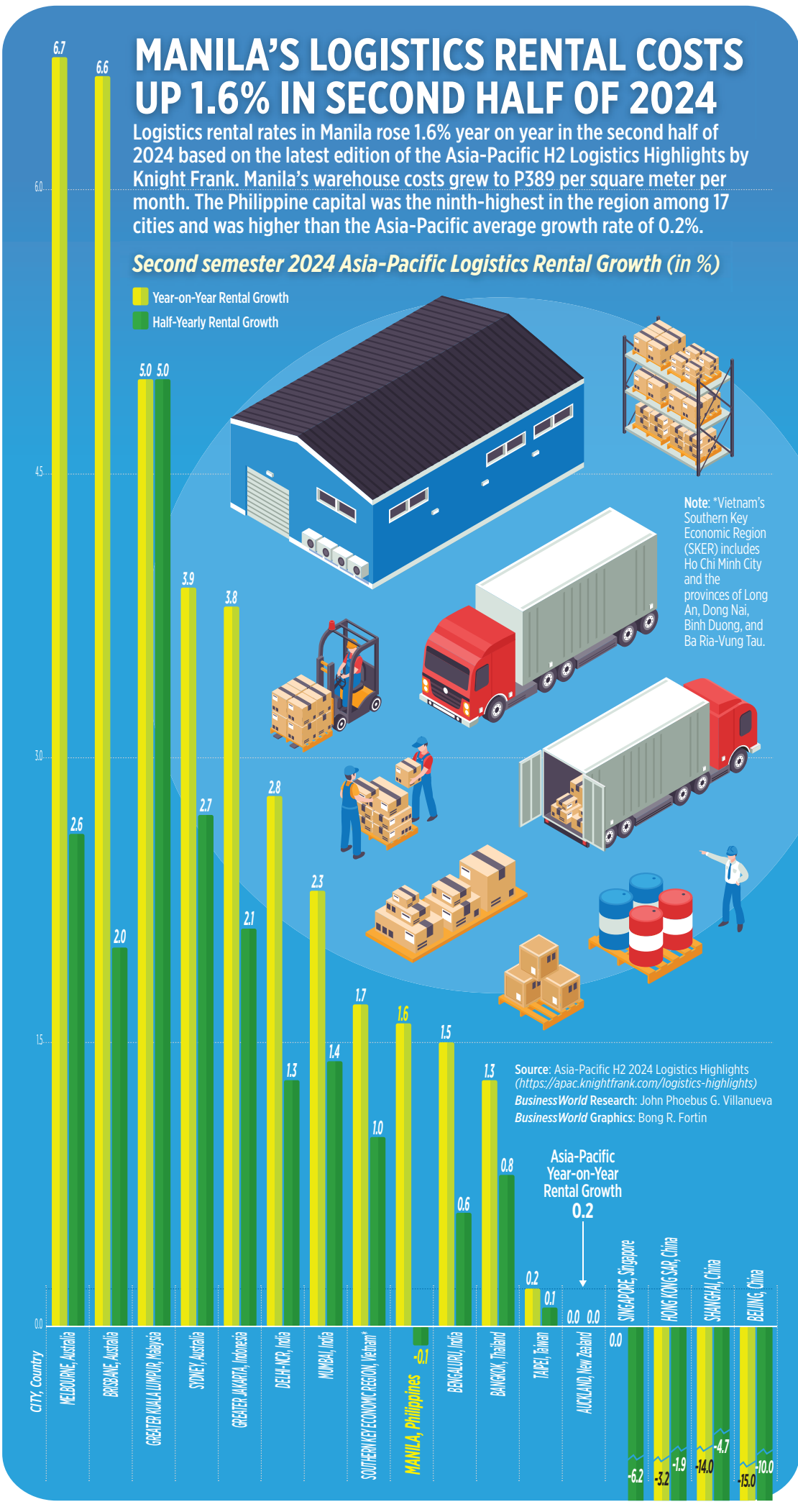
THE ARREST of former President Rodrigo R. Duterte could shake the sentiment of foreign investors, analysts said, though this is unlikely to make a significant dent on the Philippine economy.

“From an economic point of view, I guess this will undoubtedly affect the so-called political risk premium that investors compute and look at when they have to make decisions about their portfolio and direct investments,”

ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute Senior Fellow Jayant Menon said on *Money Talks with Cathy Yang* on One News.

Mr. Duterte arrived in the Netherlands on Wednesday evening, after he was “surrendered to the custody of the International Criminal Court (ICC).” He faces allegations of crimes against humanity linked to his war on drugs that has killed thousands.

Duterte, SI/5



By Ashley Erika O. Jose *Reporter*

TELECOMMUNICATIONS companies are opposing the National Telecommunications Commission's (NTC) proposal to require personal appearance for the registration of subscriber identity module (SIM) cards.

“Requiring mandatory appearance for SIM registration runs contrary to the principle of universal access. People from the countryside cannot and will not be able to do face-to-face registration because of the distance and challenges to travel,” Globe Telecom, Inc. General Counsel Froilan M. Castelo said in an e-mail to *BusinessWorld* on Thursday.

Smart Communications, Inc. Head of Regulatory Affairs Roy D. Ibay said mandatory appearance of mobile phone users as part of the registration process was discussed when the SIM Registration Act was being crafted.

However, Mr. Ibay said this was only considered as an option and not entirely part of the registration process.

“The challenge is for the government to be able to validly verify any or all government IDs that the SIM Registration law allows,” Mr. Ibay said in a Viber message to *BusinessWorld*.

Earlier this week, the NTC said it is considering requiring a person to be present when registering the SIM card.

This is part of its planned comprehensive review of the current online registration process, which has “faced criticism as a contributing factor to the surge in text scams where unscrupulous individuals exploit the system to sell their identities to others.”

Republic Act No. 11934 or SIM Registration Act, which was enacted in 2022, requires mobile phone users to register their SIMs under their names or risk deactivation.

Mr. Ibay said personal appearance should only be required if there are discrepancies in validation like unverifiable identification (ID) cards or other technical issues.

“The option for mandatory appearance of users may happen if there will be a need for manual validation on unverifiable IDs submitted or other technical errors during the normal SIM registration process online by new subscribers,” Mr. Ibay said.

SIM, SI/5