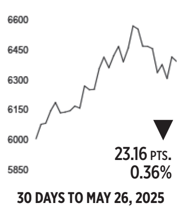
P25 IN METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

BusinessWorld

33rd EJAP-AYALA Business Journalism Awards The 2023 Business News Source of the Year Award

STOCK MARKET



PSEi	
OPEN:	6,403.32
HIGH:	6,405.31
LOW:	6,373.35
CLOSE:	6,389.94
VOL.:	0.486 B
VAL(P):	4.737 B

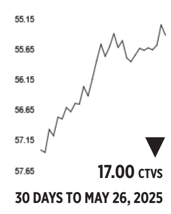
ASIAN MARKETS MAY 26, 2025

	CLOSE		NET	%
Japan (Nikkei 225)	37,531.53	▲	371.06	1.00
Hong Kong (Hang Seng)	23,282.33	▼	-318.93	-1.35
Taiwan (Weighted)	21,536.57	▼	-115.67	-0.53
Thailand (SET Index)	1,177.20	▲	0.84	0.07
S.Korea (Kse Composite)	2,644.40	▲	52.31	2.02
Singapore (Straits Times)	3,879.34	▼	-3.08	-0.08
Sydney (All Ordinaries)	8,361.00	▲	0.10	0.00
Malaysia (Klse Composite)	1,534.30	▼	-1.08	-0.07

WORLD MARKETS MAY 23, 2025

	CLOSE		NET
Dow Jones	41,603.070	▼	-256.020
NASDAQ	18,737.207	▼	-188.528
S&P 500	5,802.820	▼	-39.190
FTSE 100	8,717.970	▼	-21.290
Euro Stoxx50	4,505.130	▼	-50.100

PESO-DOLLAR RATES



FX	
OPEN	P55.250
HIGH	P55.143
LOW	P55.450
CLOSE	P55.420
W.AVE.	P55.277
VOL.	$1,472.80 M

SOURCE : BAP

ASIAN MONIES-US$ RATE MAY 26, 2025

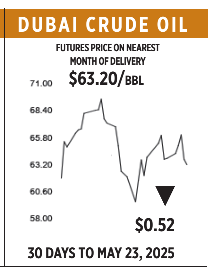
	LATEST BID (0900GMT)		PREVIOUS
Japan (yen)	142.950	▼	142.540
Hong Kong (HK dollar)	7.837	▼	7.833
Taiwan (NT dollar)	29.936	▲	29.968
Thailand (baht)	32.600	▼	32.450
S. Korea (won)	1,369.250	▼	1,364.620
Singapore (dollar)	1.284	—	1.284
Indonesia (rupiah)	16,235	▼	16,215
Malaysia (ringgit)	4.217	▲	4.228

WORLD CURRENCIES MAY 26, 2025

	CLOSE		PREVIOUS
US$/UK pound	1.3562	▲	1.3336
US$/Euro	1.1383	▲	1.1364
US$/Aust dollar	0.6505	▲	0.6494
Canada dollar/US$	1.3712	▼	1.3737
Swiss Franc/US$	0.8218	▲	0.8212

DUBAI CRUDE OIL

FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY $63.20/BBL



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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • MAY 26, 2025 (PSEi snapshot on *S1/4*; article on *S2/2*)

		Value			
BPI	P139.200	P328,621,153	-P0.600	▼	-0.429%
MONDE	P6.680	P299,088,126	-P0.040	▼	-0.595%
SM	P859.000	P240,107,380	-P20.000	▼	-2.275%
JGS	P21.000	P210,661,430	P1.200	▲	6.061%
ALI	P23.450	P190,494,305	P0.150	▲	0.644%
ICT	P405.600	P188,424,782	P1.600	▲	0.396%
URC	P86.000	P183,525,123	P1.900	▲	2.259%
SMPH	P23.100	P175,923,230	-P0.400	▼	-1.702%
MER	P536.000	P148,329,465	-P20.000	▼	-3.597%
JFC	P241.000	P136,118,662	-P1.800	▼	-0.741%

EDSA rehabilitation starts mid-June

By Ashley Erika O. Jose *Reporter*

THE P8.7-billion rehabilitation of the Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (EDSA) is set to begin on June 13 and expected to be completed by 2027, the Department of Transportation (DoTr) said on Monday.

The DoTr outlined plans to address the traffic congestion that is expected to worsen once parts of Metro Manila's busiest highway will be closed for rehabilitation work.

"We will rebuild EDSA. This project by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) will rehabilitate the full stretch of EDSA and make it a green and walkable highway. We need to change the entire concrete structure of EDSA," Transportation Secretary Vivencio B. Dizon said at a media briefing on Monday.

The EDSA rebuild project, which will run for two years, will be the highway's first major rehabilitation since 1980. Around 437,000 vehicles use EDSA every day.

Public Works Secretary Manuel M. Bonoan said the project aims to make Metro Manila's longest and most congested highway a more pedestrian and commuter-friendly road.

EDSA, S1/9

FUEL PRICE TRACKER
(week-on-week change)

GASOLINE		
May 13	▼	P0.30
May 20	▲	P1.20
May 27	▲	P0.10
DIESEL		
May 13	▼	P0.90
May 20	▲	P1.70
May 27	▼	P0.20
KEROSENE		
May 13	▼	P1.25
May 20	▲	P1.20
May 27	▼	P0.40

- *May 27, 12:01 a.m.* — Caltex Philippines
- *May 27, 6 a.m.* — Petron Corp.; Phoenix Petroleum; Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.; PTT Philippines Corp.; Seaoil Philippines, Inc.
- *May 27, 8:01 a.m.* — Cleanfuel (Shaw Autogas, Inc.)

Monetary policy not enough to shield PHL from trade shocks

MONETARY POLICY may not be enough to cushion the economy from the potential impact of trade shocks, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said.

"Today, unprecedented policy shocks are fueling a befuddling kind of uncertainty. Monetary policy alone cannot fully shield the economy from the repercussions of these shocks," BSP Deputy Governor Zeno Ronald R. Abenoja said at a forum hosted by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) and central bank on Monday.

"Broader, coordinated strategies would indeed help."

Quoting BSP Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr., Mr. Abenoja said that trade shocks are "more damaging" than supply shocks.

"Unlike your usual supply shocks, which tend to be transitory, trade shocks have deeper, more persistent effects," he said.

Last month, US President Donald J. Trump slapped reciprocal tariffs on nearly all its trading partners. However, he suspended the implementation of the higher tariffs until July but kept the baseline 10% tariff.

"In particular, trade shocks affect the capital stock of developing economies. Left unchecked, they can slow growth trajectories and erode decades of hard-won progress," Mr. Abenoja said.

Mr. Remolona earlier said that central banks have been concerned about the global trade uncertainties, prompting the need to update models and frameworks to better account for these risks.

However, Mr. Abenoja said the Philippines is "well-positioned to manage inflation."

Headline inflation slowed to an over five-year low to 1.4% in April, bringing the four-month average to 2%.

"This gives us extra degrees of freedom to ease monetary policy which in turn can support growth," he added.

Mr. Remolona has signaled the possibility of two more rate cuts this year, in "baby steps" or increments of 25 basis points (25 bps).

Last month, the Monetary Board lowered benchmark interest rates by 25 bps to bring the policy rate to 5.5%.

The central bank has so far slashed borrowing costs by a total of 100 bps since it began its easing cycle in August last year.

"The BSP stands ready to do what is necessary to keep inflation steady and maintain the country's macroeconomic stability," Mr. Abenoja added.

Monetary policy, S1/9

Top 10

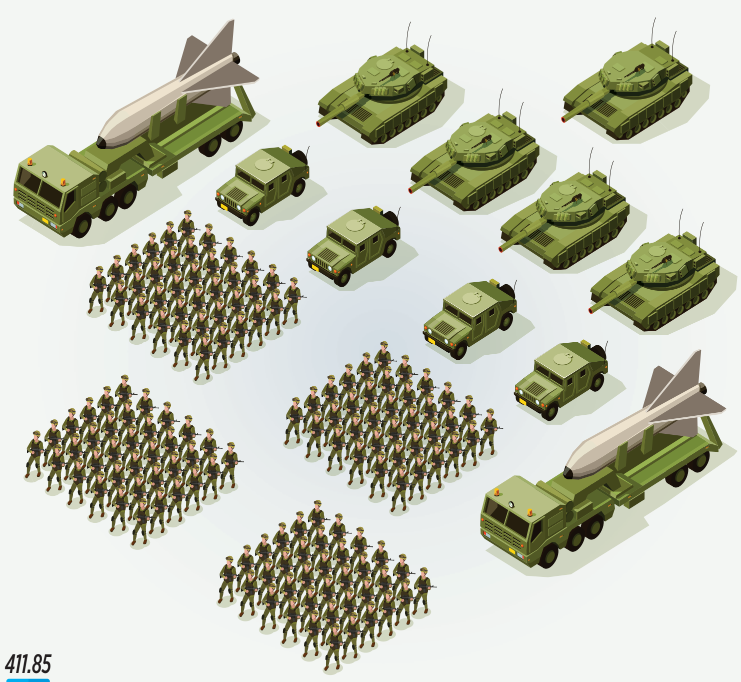
Overall Rank (Out of 150)	Country	Global Presence Value
1	United States	3,438.34
2	China	1,978.40
3	Germany	917.50
4	Japan	878.07
5	United Kingdom	866.00
6	Russia	703.90
7	France	700.10
8	Canada	497.48
9	India	466.11
10	The Netherlands	457.11

Bottom 10

Overall Rank (Out of 150)	Country	Global Presence Value
150	Haiti	0.88
149	Somalia	1.00
148	Mauritania	1.06
147	Madagascar	1.49
146	Afghanistan	1.61
145	Namibia	1.92
144	Tajikistan	2.14
143	Mali	2.31
142	South Sudan	2.42
141	Benin	2.43

PHILIPPINES ADVANCES IN GLOBAL PRESENCE INDEX

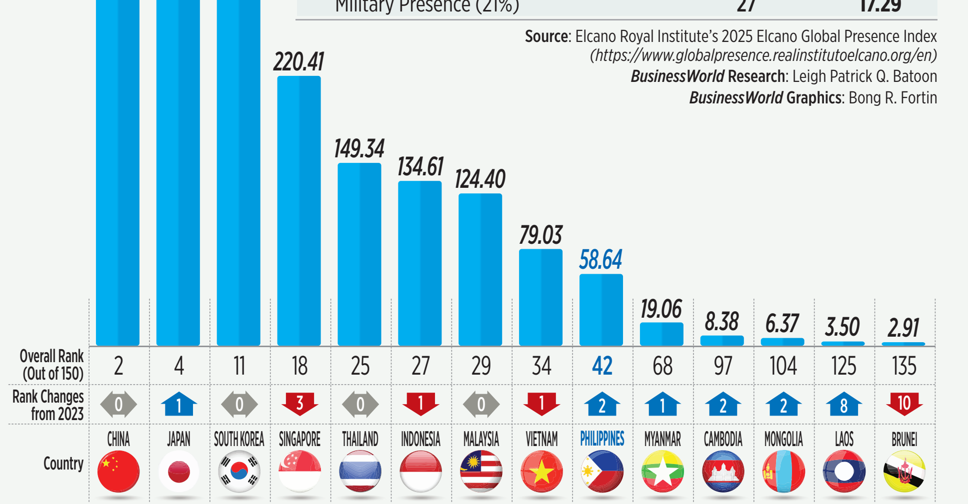
The Philippines rose two places to 42nd out of 150 countries with an index value of 58.64 in the latest edition of the Elcano Global Presence Index by Madrid-based think tank Elcano Royal Institute. Despite this, the country remained the region's laggard after placing sixth-lowest among its peers in the East and Southeast Asian region. The index, which used 2024 data, evaluates a country's international relations, foreign policy and global affairs, based on three dimensions: economy, defense, and soft presence.



Philippines' Profile (2024)

Dimension (Weight)	Rank (Out of 150)	Index Value
Global Presence (100%)	42	58.64
Economic Presence (43%)	40	33.88
Soft Presence (36%)	58	7.47
Military Presence (21%)	27	17.29

Source: Elcano Royal Institute's 2025 Elcano Global Presence Index *(https://www.globalpresence.realinstitutoelcano.org/en)*
***BusinessWorld* Research**: Leigh Patrick Q. Batoon
***BusinessWorld* Graphics**: Bong R. Fortin



Marcos backs ASEAN consensus to avoid retaliation against US

By Chloe Mari A. Hufana
Reporter

PHILIPPINE President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. on Monday welcomed the consensus of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to avoid retaliatory actions against the US, which slapped so-called reciprocal tariffs on its trading partners.

"We commend Malaysia's leadership in convening the Special ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting and welcome the consensus to avoid retaliatory measures," Mr. Marcos said during his intervention at the 46th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Mr. Marcos said the regional bloc's commitment to a unified, rules-based response reinforces economic stability amid increasing geopolitical and trade uncertainty.

"This measured and unified approach upholds ASEAN's commitment to dialogue, diplomacy, and a rules-based multilateral trading system," he added.

The two-day ASEAN summit began on Monday amid heightened global market volatility arising from the Trump administration's tariff threats.

Several ASEAN countries face higher-than-expected US tariffs, ranging between 32% and 49%. These tariffs could be imposed starting July unless these countries successfully negotiate lower tariffs with Washington.

The Philippines was slapped with a 17% tariff, the second-lowest tariff among ASEAN members.

Mr. Marcos said the regional bloc must continue to prioritize sustainable and inclusive growth even as geopolitical and economic pressures mount.

"Geopolitical tensions, unexpected trade barriers, and the unprecedented impact of climate change have the potential to disrupt our communities and supply chains and remove our hard-earned progress," he said.

"Yet, by working together, strengthening our institutions, and building the resilience and capacities of our people, we can better navigate this increasingly uncertain future and turn challenges into opportunities for shared growth and stability," he added.

ASEAN has increasingly positioned itself as a stabilizing force amid rising protectionism and US-China tensions.

The region's collective gross domestic product (GDP) stood at $3.8 trillion in 2023, according to the ASEAN annual report. While the region ranks as the third-largest trading bloc globally, with total trade reaching $3.5 trillion.

The unified ASEAN response is a pragmatic one, said Francis M. Esteban, associate dean at the Far Eastern University's Institute of Arts and Sciences.

"[Because] it is easier to build consensus among its member-states on this rather than retaliating against the US," he said in a Messenger chat.

Retaliating against Washington might cause more disruption, he said, noting that the US was ASEAN's largest source of foreign direct investments and the second-largest trading partner in 2024.

"This gives more certainty to the business sector since retaliatory tariffs often lead to further retaliations from the other party," Mr. Esteban added.

"In a way, this is also ASEAN's way of saying that it is open to strengthening its partnerships and engagements with other economic actors aside from the US," he added.

However, a unified non-retaliatory stance against the tariffs may be a "tricky thing," according to diplomacy lecturer at the De La Salle-College of St. Benilde, Josue Raphael J. Cortez.

"This is because retaliation — economically speaking — is an inevitable phenomenon in geoeconomics," he said in a Messenger chat. "This may be viewed by other members of the global village as an exemplification of our surrender towards more powerful economies."

For Mr. Esteban, the number one risk of a unified approach is how the 10 ASEAN members would defend their economies and shield consumers from the tariffs imposed by Washington.

"However, the opportunity really lies in diversifying economic partners," he noted. "Trump is trying to challenge the rules-based order that the US has championed for so long, which I think many states benefited [from] and would want to see stay the same way."

If the regional bloc remains firm in its commitment to non-retaliation, a free trade agreement with the world's largest economy may thrive, Mr. Cortez said. He added the US could also possibly lower the reciprocal tariffs on individual ASEAN countries.

"As the US is eyeing Southeast Asian markets as alternatives to source the things China has offered it for the longest time, a non-retaliatory stance may be the more viable option at this point," he added.

According to Mr. Cortez, the ASEAN consensus is among the primary pillars guiding the region's dynamics, calling it an integral part in navigating trade and economic challenges.

"The majority of ASEAN members are developing — this has already been acknowledged by ASEAN leaders — hence, working collectively to ascertain that the negative repercussions of retaliatory tariffs would not impede the growth of ASEAN states is paramount," he said.