

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL
<div>6600</div> <div>6510</div> <div>6420</div> <div>6330</div> <div>6240</div> <div>6150</div> <div>30 DAYS TO JUNE 13, 2025</div> <div>14.27 PTS. 0.22%</div> <div>▲</div> <div>PSEi</div> <div>OPEN: 6,405.76</div> <div>HIGH: 6,422.90</div> <div>LOW: 6,394.85</div> <div>CLOSE: 6,395.59</div> <div>VOL.: 1.163 B</div> <div>VAL(P): 9.866 B</div>	<div>JUNE 13, 2025</div> <div>CLOSE</div> <div>NET</div> <div>%</div> <div>JAPAN (NIKKEI 225) 37,834.25 ▼ -192.96 -0.89</div> <div>HONG KONG (HANG SENG) 23,892.56 ▼ -252.94 -0.59</div> <div>TAIWAN (WEIGHTED) 22,072.95 ▼ -56.34 -0.96</div> <div>THAILAND (SET INDEX) 1,122.70 ▼ -7.76 -0.52</div> <div>S. KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE) 2,894.62 ▼ -41.21 -0.87</div> <div>SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES) 3,911.42 ▼ -7.63 -0.27</div> <div>SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES) 8,547.40 ▼ -2.90 -0.21</div> <div>MALAYSIA (KLCSE COMPOSITE) 1,518.11 ▼ -10.15 -0.56</div>	<div>JUNE 13, 2025</div> <div>CLOSE</div> <div>NET</div> <div>DOW JONES 42,197.790 ▼ -769.830</div> <div>NASDAQ 19,406.826 ▼ -255.659</div> <div>S&P 500 5,976.970 ▼ -68.290</div> <div>FTSE 100 8,850.630 ▼ -34.290</div> <div>EURO STOXX50 4,523.760 ▼ -38.740</div>	<div>55.00</div> <div>54.46</div> <div>53.92</div> <div>53.38</div> <div>52.84</div> <div>52.30</div> <div>30 DAYS TO JUNE 13, 2025</div> <div>32.50 CTS</div> <div>▲</div> <div>FX</div> <div>OPEN P55.800</div> <div>HIGH P55.750</div> <div>LOW P56.235</div> <div>CLOSE P56.210</div> <div>W.AVE. P55.995</div> <div>VOL. \$1,713.51 M</div> <div>SOURCE : BAP</div>	<div>JUNE 13, 2025</div> <div>LATEST BID (0900GMT)</div> <div>PREVIOUS</div> <div>JAPAN (YEN) 144.090 ▼ 143.700</div> <div>HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.849 — 7.849</div> <div>TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 29.524 ▼ 29.287</div> <div>THAILAND (BAHT) 32.370 ▲ 32.460</div> <div>S. KOREA (WON) 1,366.610 ▼ 1,352.580</div> <div>SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.281 ▼ 1.280</div> <div>INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 16,290 ▼ 16,230</div> <div>MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 4.243 ▼ 4.218</div>	<div>JUNE 13, 2025</div> <div>CLOSE</div> <div>PREVIOUS</div> <div>US\$/UK POUND 1.3564 ▼ 1.3567</div> <div>US\$/EURO 1.1552 ▼ 1.1556</div> <div>US\$/AUST DOLLAR 0.6486 ▼ 0.6502</div> <div>CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.3584 ▼ 1.3650</div> <div>SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.8111 ▼ 0.8142</div>	<div>FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY</div> <div>\$75.50/BBL</div> <div>76.00</div> <div>72.60</div> <div>69.20</div> <div>65.80</div> <div>62.40</div> <div>59.00</div> <div>30 DAYS TO JUNE 13, 2025</div> <div>▲</div> <div>\$6.90</div>

VOL. XXXVIII • ISSUE 227

MONDAY • JUNE 16, 2025 • www.bworldonline.com

S1/1-12 • 3 SECTIONS, 20 PAGES

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • JUNE 13, 2025 (PSEi snapshot on S1/5; article on S2/2)

BDO	P160.700	SM	P875.000	BPI	P138.700	ICT	P415.000	BLOOM	P6.180	ALI	P24.350	PLUS	P62.800	JFC	P226.200	ACEN	P2.610	FPH	P86.500
Value P1,260,226,220		Value P1,123,224,580		Value P919,167,673		Value P850,092,566		Value P626,051,332		Value P554,870,395		Value P341,086,572		Value P320,601,460		Value P286,124,230		Value P257,777,675	
P4.200 ▲ 2.684%		-P5.000 ▼ -0.568%		P0.200 ▲ 0.144%		P0.000 — 0.000%		P0.430 ▲ 7.478%		P0.400 ▲ 1.670%		-P2.200 ▼ -3.385%		-P7.600 ▼ -3.251%		P0.110 ▲ 4.400%		P10.500 ▲ 13.816%	

BSP to cut rates by 25 bps — poll

Current account gap further widens in Q1

THE PHILIPPINES' current account deficit (CAD) ballooned to \$4.25 billion in the first quarter amid a larger trade gap, the central bank said.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) showed that the current account deficit surged by 105% to \$4.25 billion in the first quarter from \$2.07 billion in the same period a year ago.

This brought the CAD as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) to 3.7% in the January-to-March period, larger than the 1.9% in the same quarter in 2024.

"This development reflected the widening merchandise trade gap, as import spending grew faster than export earnings," the BSP said in a statement dated June 13.

"The increase in the current account deficit also resulted from the contraction of net revenues from trade in services due to lower transport services receipts and increased outbound travel spending," the central bank said.

However, this was partly tempered by higher remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

Cash remittances rose by 2.7% to \$8.44 billion in the January-

to-March period, while personal remittances went up by 2.7% to \$9.4 billion in the first quarter.

The central bank expects the current account deficit — which covers transactions involving goods, services, and income — to reach \$19.8 billion or -3.9% of economic output in 2025.

TRADE IN SERVICES

Data from the BSP showed net receipts from trade in services stood at \$3.3 billion in the first quarter, down 9.3% from \$3.7 billion in the same period last year.

This came as service exports slipped by 1.5% annually to \$12.56 billion in the first quarter, while imports rose by 1.7% to \$8.92 billion.

"The decline in receipts was mainly due to lower earnings from transport services (from \$1.1 billion to \$755 million), and technical, trade-related, and other business services (from \$5.5 billion to \$5.4 billion)," the BSP said.

Earnings from insurance and pension services dropped by 9.8% to \$16 million, while those from construction fell by 25.7% to \$14 million.

Current account, S1/9

Capital req'ts under SEC crypto guidelines may discourage small players

By **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**
Reporter

THE NEW GUIDELINES of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on crypto-asset service providers (CASPs) might discourage smaller players due to steep capitalization requirements.

Corporations interested in becoming CASPs should register with the corporate regulator and must have a minimum paid-up capital of at least P100 million in cash or property, excluding crypto-assets, based on SEC Memorandum Circular No. 5 that contained guidelines on the operations of CASPs.

Under the rules, a corporation is required to show proof that it has met the minimum capital requirement and that it has sufficient financial resources to "ensure that the business is resilient."

A corporation also needs to apply for a license with the SEC to operate as a CASP.

Jiro Luis S. Reyes, chief executive officer at crypto education platform Bitkwela, said the capital requirement is "overregulation."

"The P100-million capitalization required for CASPs stands as a major problem for most builders in the Philippines. This is overregulation in my opinion. There should be tiers to this at the very least," he said in a Viber message.

"Since the CASP rules cover any CASP, this could technically mean that anyone who wants to build a homegrown Pinoy Web3 product would need to meet the P100 million," he added.

Mr. Reyes said the high capitalization requirement might push smaller Filipino companies to consider establishing their platform in other countries.

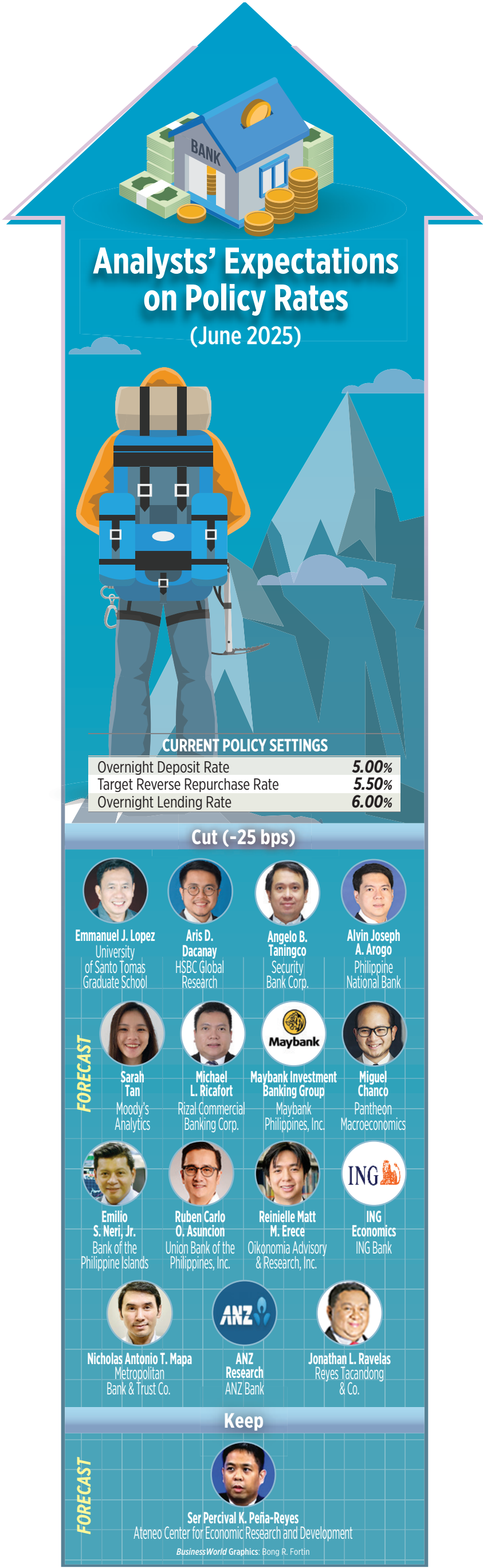
"This would probably mean that Filipino builders would just choose different markets or countries to launch in, resulting in less innovation for us," he said.

"Larger players will have an easier time penetrating the market — there are clearer rules now, which work in their favor. But for smaller players and communities, it feels like a loss. There's not much upside for them at this stage," he added.

Arlone P. Abello, founding chairman of the Innovative Movement of the Philippine Association of Crypto Traders, recommended a differentiated approach on the CASP registration requirements depending on the size of the corporation.

"These requirements ensure operational accountability but could be more challenging for early-stage startups with limited resources. A differentiated approach may help support innovation while upholding oversight," he said in a Viber message.

Crypto, S1/9



THE BANGKO SENTRAL ng Pilipinas (BSP) is expected to cut rates by 25 basis points (bps) this week amid easing price pressures and slowing economic growth.

A *BusinessWorld* poll conducted last week showed that 15 out of 16 analysts expect the Monetary Board to reduce the target reverse repurchase rate by 25 bps at its policy meeting on June 19.

If realized, this would bring the benchmark rate to 5.25% from the current 5.5%.

Only one analyst, Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development Director Ser Percival K. Peña-Reyes, expects the BSP to keep rates unchanged.

Analysts said the inflation downtrend and weaker-than-expected growth in the first quarter gives the central bank room to continue its easing cycle.

"A lower-than-expected Philippine inflation trajectory, a stronger local currency, high real rates, and uncertainty over global growth reinforce our view that monetary policy easing is far from over," ING Bank said.

HSBC economist for ASEAN Aris D. Dacanay said he previously forecasted a pause in June "to be mindful of the Fed's preference of taking its time," but now expects a 25-bp rate cut on Thursday.

"Due to low inflation over the past two months and slow growth in 1Q 2025, we now expect the BSP to cut its policy rate by 25 bps to 5.25% (on June 19)," he said.

Inflation cooled to an over five-year low of 1.3% in May, as utility costs rose at a slower pace. This brought the five-month average to 1.9%, slightly below the BSP's 2-4% target band.

"Easing inflation offers relief to consumers and businesses that grappled with elevated prices from 2022 until the first half of last year," Moody's Analytics economist Sarah Tan said.

ANZ Research said the outlook for inflation "remains benign amid softer global commodity prices."

"Given how retail rice prices haven't plunged as low as global rice prices did, there is still room for food and overall inflation to remain subdued throughout the rest of 2025," Mr. Dacanay said.

In May, rice inflation continued its downtrend, falling to 12.8% from the 10.9% decline in April.

Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. Chief Economist Nicholas Antonio T. Mapa said he expects inflation to be "target consistent" for this year, 2025 and 2026.

The central bank slashed its risk-adjusted inflation forecasts to 2.3% in 2025 from 3.5% previously; and 3.3% in 2026 from 3.7% previously. It also now expects inflation to average 3.2% in 2027.

BELOW-TARGET GROWTH

Angelo B. Taningco, chief economist of Security Bank, said below-target gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the first quarter, as well as the strong peso, are some of the factors the BSP will take into consideration for this week's decision.

Pantheon Macroeconomics Chief Emerging Asia Economist Miguel Chanco said he expects a rate cut this week "with GDP growth still struggling to engineer a material pickup."

The Philippine economy expanded by an annual 5.4% in the first quarter, slightly faster than the 5.3% growth in the fourth quarter of 2024 but slower than the 5.9% pace in the same quarter last year.

Rates, S1/8

Historic first for Philippine hospitality

MEGAWORLD Hotels & Resorts (MHR) has been recognized as the Philippines' first-ever "Muslim-Friendly Hotel Chain" at halal travel authority CrescentRating's Halal in Travel Awards 2025 held in Singapore. In photo receiving the award are (from left) Department of Tourism Undersecretary Myra Paz Valderrosa-Abubakar, MHR Managing Director Cleofe C. Albiso, and Group General Manager Arturo P. Boncato, Jr.