



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

STOCK MARKET	ASIAN MARKETS	WORLD MARKETS	PESO-DOLLAR RATES	ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE	WORLD CURRENCIES	DUBAI CRUDE OIL
<div><div>6530</div><div>6404</div><div>6278</div><div>6152</div><div>6026</div><div>5900</div></div> <div><div>PSEi</div><div>OPEN: 6,197.57</div><div>HIGH: 6,277.91</div><div>LOW: 6,184.23</div><div>CLOSE: 6,273.34</div><div>128.10 PTS. 2.08%</div><div>VOL: 0.890 B</div><div>VAL(P): 8.652 B</div></div> <div><div>30 DAYS TO AUGUST 27, 2025</div></div>	<div><div>AUGUST 27, 2025</div><div>CLOSE</div><div>NET</div><div>%</div></div> <div><div>JAPAN (NIKKEI 225)</div><div>42,520.27</div><div>▲125.87</div><div>0.30</div></div> <div><div>HONG KONG (HANG SENG)</div><div>25,201.76</div><div>▼323.16</div><div>-1.27</div></div> <div><div>TAIWAN (WEIGHTED)</div><div>24,519.90</div><div>▲214.80</div><div>0.88</div></div> <div><div>THAILAND (SET INDEX)</div><div>1,248.31</div><div>▼2.95</div><div>-0.24</div></div> <div><div>S.KOREA (KOSPI COMPOSITE)</div><div>3,187.16</div><div>▲7.80</div><div>0.25</div></div> <div><div>SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES)</div><div>4,242.33</div><div>▼1.38</div><div>-0.03</div></div> <div><div>SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES)</div><div>8,960.50</div><div>▲24.90</div><div>0.28</div></div> <div><div>MALAYSIA (KLSE COMPOSITE)</div><div>1,587.91</div><div>▲6.32</div><div>0.40</div></div>	<div><div>AUGUST 26, 2025</div><div>CLOSE</div><div>NET</div></div> <div><div>DOW JONES</div><div>45,418.070</div><div>▲135.600</div></div> <div><div>NASDAQ</div><div>21,544.270</div><div>▲94.978</div></div> <div><div>S&P 500</div><div>6,465.940</div><div>▲26.620</div></div> <div><div>FTSE 100</div><div>9,265.800</div><div>▼55.600</div></div> <div><div>Euro Stoxx50</div><div>4,562.450</div><div>▼42.640</div></div>	<div><div>56.50</div><div>56.95</div><div>57.40</div><div>57.85</div><div>58.30</div><div>58.75</div></div> <div><div>FX</div><div>OPEN P56.930</div><div>HIGH P56.930</div><div>LOW P57.230</div><div>CLOSE P57.160</div><div>W.AVE. P57.108</div><div>VOL. \$1,900.42</div><div>9.00 CTVS</div><div>30 DAYS TO AUGUST 27, 2025</div><div>SOURCE: BAP</div></div>	<div><div>AUGUST 27, 2025</div><div>LATEST BID (0900GMT)</div><div>PREVIOUS</div></div> <div><div>JAPAN (YEN)</div><div>147.9400</div><div>▼147.5700</div></div> <div><div>HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR)</div><div>7.7858</div><div>▲7.8008</div></div> <div><div>TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR)</div><div>30.6080</div><div>▲30.5510</div></div> <div><div>THAILAND (BAHT)</div><div>32.4300</div><div>▲32.4500</div></div> <div><div>S. KOREA (WON)</div><div>1,396.7000</div><div>▼1,396.9500</div></div> <div><div>SINGAPORE (DOLLAR)</div><div>1.2881</div><div>▼1.2858</div></div> <div><div>INDONESIA (RUPIAH)</div><div>16,355.00</div><div>▼16,290.00</div></div> <div><div>MALAYSIA (RINGGIT)</div><div>4.2320</div><div>▼4.2180</div></div>	<div><div>AUGUST 27, 2025</div><div>CLOSE</div><div>PREVIOUS</div></div> <div><div>US\$/UK POUND</div><div>1.3441</div><div>▼1.3461</div></div> <div><div>US\$/EURO</div><div>1.1588</div><div>▼1.1620</div></div> <div><div>US\$/AUST DOLLAR</div><div>0.6468</div><div>▼0.6479</div></div> <div><div>CANADA DOLLAR/US\$</div><div>1.3851</div><div>▼1.3853</div></div> <div><div>SWISS FRANC/US\$</div><div>0.8065</div><div>— 0.8065</div></div>	<div><div>FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY</div><div>\$70.37/BBL</div><div>77.00</div><div>74.00</div><div>71.00</div><div>68.00</div><div>65.00</div><div>62.00</div><div>30 DAYS TO AUGUST 26, 2025</div></div>

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • AUGUST 27, 2025 (PSEi snapshot on SI/2; article on SI/2)

BDO	P140.200	ICT	P485.000	ALI	P29.100	SM	P760.500	AC	P565.000	BPI	P115.600	SMPH	P23.950	TEL	P1,214.000	MBT	P71.400	GLO	P1,585.000
Value	P1,426,611,838	Value	P1,073,185,520	Value	P788,201,530	Value	P709,396,240	Value	P374,864,160	Value	P282,235,714	Value	P218,750,485	Value	P202,440,760	Value	P192,434,946	Value	P190,675,715
P9.000	▲ 6.860%	P31.800	▲ 7.017%	P0.600	▲ 2.105%	-P9.500	▼ -1.234%	P2.000	▲ 0.355%	P3.500	▲ 3.122%	P1.050	▲ 4.585%	-P11.000	▼ -0.898%	-P0.400	▼ -0.557%	-P15.000	▼ -0.938%

Gov't officials to face lifestyle checks

By **Chloe Mari A. Hufana**
Reporter

PHILIPPINE President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. on Wednesday ordered lifestyle checks on government officials as the probe into questionable flood control projects continues.

“The President has ordered a lifestyle check on all officials amid the ongoing investigation into

anomalous flood control projects,” Palace Press Officer Clarissa A. Castro told a news briefing in Filipino.

She said the review would begin with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), which implements flood control programs nationwide.

Mr. Marcos has also ordered the continuous review of DPWH records tied to questionable flood control projects.

“The government’s investigation is also underway to identify those

behind the projects that were supposed to help address the country’s widespread flooding problem,” Ms. Castro added, noting the government will file criminal charges regardless of political ties.

“There will definitely be lawsuits. Those who should be charged will be charged,” she noted.

Earlier this month, Mr. Marcos launched the *sumbongsapangulo.ph* platform for Filipinos to report irregularities in flood mitigation projects in their areas.

The President has so far visited 11 areas that were reported on the website, including a ghost project worth P55 million in Bulacan province.

As of Wednesday, Ms. Castro said the website has received 9,020 reports.

Department heads will spearhead the lifestyle checks, although Ms. Castro said the Ombudsman and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) may also initiate such reviews motu proprio.

“In every agency, a lifestyle check can be conducted. The Ombudsman may initiate it, and the BIR may carry out inspections and lifestyle checks within their jurisdiction,” she said.

Ms. Castro assured the review will be nonpartisan and independent, despite allegations of corruption within certain departments.

Budget Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman, Transportation Secretary Vivencio “Vince” B. Dizon, and Information and

Communications Technology Secretary Henry Rhoel R. Aguda expressed willingness to undergo a lifestyle check.

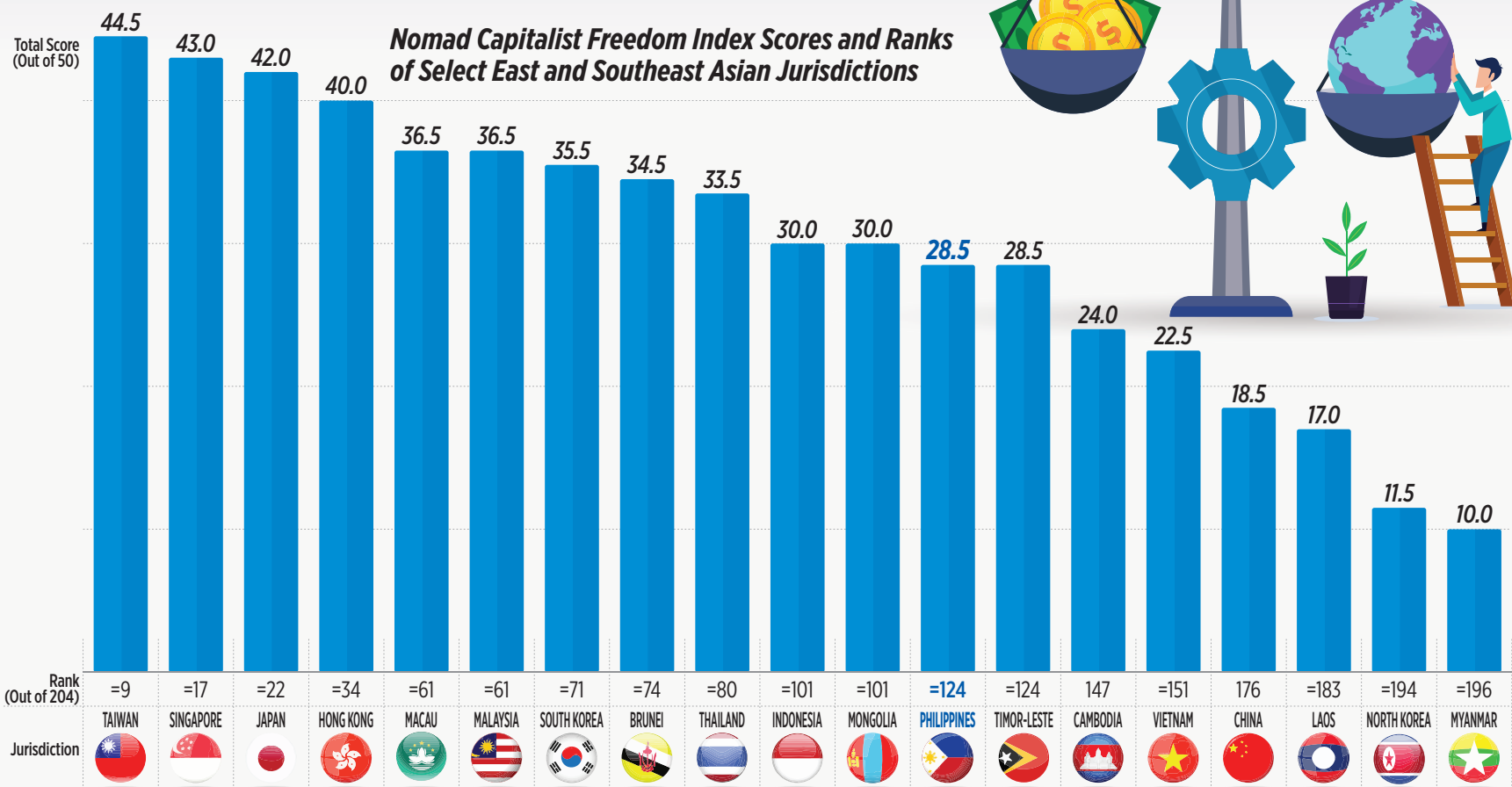
“We are open and we welcome the lifestyle checks,” Ms. Pangandaman told reporters at a separate event.

Mr. Aguda said they will cooperate with the lifestyle checks. “Today with social media, you can’t hide anything anymore,” he added.

Lifestyle, SI/2

PHILIPPINES LANDS 124TH IN CAPITALIST FREEDOM INDEX

The Philippines ranked 124th out of 204 countries and jurisdictions in the inaugural Nomad Capitalist Freedom Index by tax and immigration consultancy Nomad Capitalist. The country scored 28.5 out of 50. The index measures freedom based on five factors: financial freedom, asset protection, human rights, safety, and quality of life.



Philippines' Profile

Total Score	28.5
Financial Freedom (30%)	30.0
Asset Protection (25%)	30.0
Human Rights (20%)	30.0
Safety (15%)	20.0
Quality of Life (10%)	30.0

Top Jurisdictions

Rank (Out of 204)	Jurisdiction	Total Score (Out of 50)
=1	Monaco	47.5
=1	Mauritius	47.5
=3	Switzerland	47.0
=3	Portugal	47.0
5	Ireland	46.5
=6	Andorra	46.0
=6	Liechtenstein	46.0
=6	Luxembourg	46.0
=9	New Zealand	44.5
=9	Finland	44.5
=9	Austria	44.5
=9	Denmark	44.5
=9	Taiwan	44.5

Bottom Jurisdictions

Rank (Out of 204)	Jurisdiction	Total Score (Out of 50)
=196	Central African Republic	10.0
=196	Sudan	10.0
=196	Myanmar	10.0
=196	South Sudan	10.0
=196	Somalia	10.0
=196	Syria	10.0
=196	Eritrea	10.0
=196	Yemen	10.0
=196	Afghanistan	10.0
=194	Mali	11.5
=194	North Korea	11.5

Source: Nomad Capitalist Freedom Index
(<https://nomadcapitalist.com/nomad-freedom-index/>)
BusinessWorld Research: Pierce Del A. Montalvo
BusinessWorld Graphics: Bong R. Fortin

SEC expands one-day registration to 81 industries

By **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**
Reporter

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) recently increased the number of industries that can avail of the one-day company registration process.

In a statement, the corporate regulator said it expanded the list of industries eligible for one-day company registration to 81 from 33 previously.

Companies can apply through the One-Day Submission and Electronic Registration of Companies (OneSEC) Zuper Easy Registration online facility.

The wider coverage resulted in a 190% increase in company registrations through OneSEC to 2,938 in July from 1,014 in May.

Some of the new industries allowed to avail the one-day company registration process include computer programming, customs brokerage, deep sea commercial fishing, drugstore, laundry services, property management, radio broadcasting, and veterinary activities.

SEC, SI/11

Local automakers interested in participating in RACE program

By **Justine Irish D. Tabile**
Reporter

LOCAL AUTOMAKERS have also expressed interest in participating in the Revitalizing the Automotive Industry for Competitiveness Enhancement (RACE) program, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said.

At a budget hearing on Wednesday, Trade Secretary Ma. Cristina A. Roque said that the new auto revival strategy has yet to be implemented.

“We want more companies to avail. Francisco Motors and other local com-

panies have also expressed their interest to avail of this program,” she said.

“It is open to everyone. And the bottom line is, if they can [manufacture] 100,000 units in three years, then they will be able to avail of the incentives,” she added.

She said that the government is aiming to fast-track the release and the implementation of the joint administrative order that will govern the strategy.

“There are other departments involved, so it really needs to be cleared first by all the departments, and then from there, we will roll out,” she said.

“There’s no timeline yet, but we are fast-tracking it so that more players can join,” she added.

Aside from the DTI, the other departments involved in the RACE program are the Department of Finance and the Department of Budget and Management.

According to the secretary, the program will be open to as many players as possible, unlike its predecessor program, the Comprehensive Automotive Resurgence Strategy (CARS), which only had three slots.

“We already discussed this with different companies and stakeholders that may want to avail of this program,” Ms. Roque said.

Aside from local players, other companies that have expressed interest in participating in the RACE program are Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. and Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp.

Both Toyota and Mitsubishi were also participants in the CARS program.

In the National Expenditure Plan, the RACE program is provided with a budget of P250 million, while fiscal support arrearages for CARS are valued at around P225 million.

However, these programs faced closer scrutiny from lawmakers, who were concerned that foreign manufacturers benefit more than local manufacturers.

“Instead of funding local industries using taxes paid by citizens, why are we funding industries or foreign companies that are already successful,” Kabataan Party-list Rep. Renee Louise M. Co said in Filipino during the hearing.

RACE, SI/8

BSP adopts new format for policy announcements

THE BANGKO SENTRAL ng Pilipinas (BSP) will start implementing a new format for communicating monetary policy decisions starting Aug. 28, as part of efforts to increase transparency.

In a statement, the BSP said it will release its statement on monetary policy on its official website and its official X account at 2:30 p.m.

This will be followed by a press briefing at 3 p.m., which will be livestreamed on the BSP’s official Facebook page.

The briefing will begin with a statement to be read by BSP Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr. and followed by a question-and-answer session with members of the media.

“This is part of the BSP’s efforts to further strengthen transparency and public appreciation of monetary policy actions,” the central bank said.

BSP, SI/11



Saint Michael's College of Laguna's 50th Anniversary

IN celebration of Saint Michael's College of Laguna's (SMCL) 50th year, a eucharistic celebration was recently held at the SMCL St. Rose Quadrangle, led by His Excellency Papal Nuncio Charles John Brown. A gala dinner was also held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, which was attended by special guests including Education Secretary Sonny Angara and Taguig City Mayor Lani Cayetano. Dr. Lourdes Almeda Sese, CEO of SMCL, and Director Anthony L. Almeda led the festivities to commemorate SMCL's Golden Jubilee.