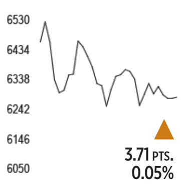
P25 IN METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

BusinessWorld

33rd EJAP-AYALA Business Journalism Awards

The 2023 Business News Source of the Year Award

STOCK MARKET	
PSEi	
OPEN:	6,309.24
HIGH:	6,309.24
LOW:	6,267.55
CLOSE:	6,281.58
VOL.:	0.804 B
VAL(P):	6.440 B



30 DAYS TO AUGUST 22, 2025

ASIAN MARKETS — AUGUST 22, 2025

	CLOSE		NET	%
Japan (Nikkei 225)	42,633.29	▲	23.12	0.05
Hong Kong (Hang Seng)	25,339.14	▲	234.53	0.93
Taiwan (Weighted)	23,764.47	▼	-197.66	-0.82
Thailand (SET Index)	1,253.39	▲	8.60	0.69
S.Korea (Kse Composite)	3,168.73	▲	26.99	0.86
Singapore (Straits Times)	4,253.02	▲	22.12	0.52
Sydney (All Ordinaries)	8,967.40	▼	-51.70	-0.57
Malaysia (Klse Composite)	1,597.47	▲	4.60	0.29

WORLD MARKETS — AUGUST 22, 2025

	CLOSE		NET
Dow Jones	45,631.740	▲	846.240
NASDAQ	21,496.535	▲	396.223
S&P 500	6,466.910	▲	96.740
FTSE 100	9,321.400	▲	12.200
Euro Stoxx50	4,626.060	▲	7.700

PESO-DOLLAR RATES

FX	
OPEN	P57.150
HIGH	P56.920
LOW	P57.200
CLOSE	P56.950
W.AVE.	P57.058
VOL.	$1,705.90

30 DAYS TO AUGUST 22, 2025 SOURCE : BAP

ASIAN MONIES-US$ RATE — AUGUST 22, 2025

	LATEST BID (0900GMT)		PREVIOUS
Japan (yen)	146.9300	▲	147.5600
Hong Kong (HK dollar)	7.8139	▼	7.8120
Taiwan (NT dollar)	30.3670	▲	30.4760
Thailand (baht)	32.3700	▲	32.5900
S. Korea (won)	1,383.8200	▲	1,397.4000
Singapore (dollar)	1.2811	▲	1.2860
Indonesia (rupiah)	16,335.00	▼	16,280.00
Malaysia (ringgit)	4.2250	▼	4.2210

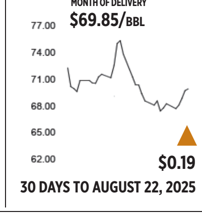
WORLD CURRENCIES — AUGUST 22, 2025

	CLOSE		PREVIOUS
US$/UK pound	1.3522	▲	1.3464
US$/Euro	1.1715	▲	1.1653
US$/Aust dollar	0.6488	▲	0.6423
Canada dollar/US$	1.3826	▼	1.3878
Swiss Franc/US$	0.8013	▼	0.8049

DUBAI CRUDE OIL

FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY

$69.85/BBL



30 DAYS TO AUGUST 22, 2025

VOL. XXXIX • ISSUE 21 — MONDAY • AUGUST 25, 2025 • www.bworldonline.com — S1/1-10 • 3 SECTIONS, 18 PAGES

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE’S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • AUGUST 22, 2025 (PSEi snapshot on *S1/4*; article on *S2/2*)

Stock	Price	Value	Change		% Change
ICT	P489.800	P1,183,193,206	P0.000	—	0.000%
SM	P776.000	P505,360,810	-P5.000	▼	-0.640%
BDO	P142.600	P438,329,628	-P0.200	▼	-0.140%
CNVRG	P15.000	P408,585,064	P0.380	▲	2.599%
BPI	P114.300	P330,897,893	P0.300	▲	0.263%
PLUS	P26.900	P276,524,465	-P1.450	▼	-5.115%
MWC	P41.350	P209,374,845	P0.500	▲	1.224%
GLO	P1,632.000	P153,910,460	-P38.000	▼	-2.275%
MER	P547.000	P142,646,915	P16.000	▲	3.013%
AP	P42.200	P132,260,930	-P0.750	▼	-1.746%

Konektadong Pinoy lapses into law

By Ashley Erika O. Jose
Reporter

THE KONEKTADONG PINOY bill, which aims to increase internet access by relaxing regulations and allowing more entrants into the data transmission industry, has lapsed into law on Sunday.

“It has lapsed into a law,” Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Secretary Henry Rhoel R. Aguda told *BusinessWorld* on Sunday.

This was also confirmed by Presidential Communications Undersecretary Claire B. Castro in a Viber message, without giving details.

Mr. Aguda said the DICT is now working on the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the Konektadong Pinoy Act, also known as the Open Access in Data Transmission Act.

He said the DICT has invited the country’s major telecommunication companies for their inputs.

“We are finalizing the draft IRR. It will be finalized until the public consultation. I have extended personal invitations to PLDT, Globe, Converge, and DITO that they are welcome to participate in the IRR,” Mr. Aguda said.

He said the final IRR is expected to be released within 60 days.

The Konektadong Pinoy Act adopts an open-access policy to create a more accessible and competitive environment for all qualified participants across the entire data transmission network, while also encouraging investments in digital infrastructure to support reliable and affordable data services.

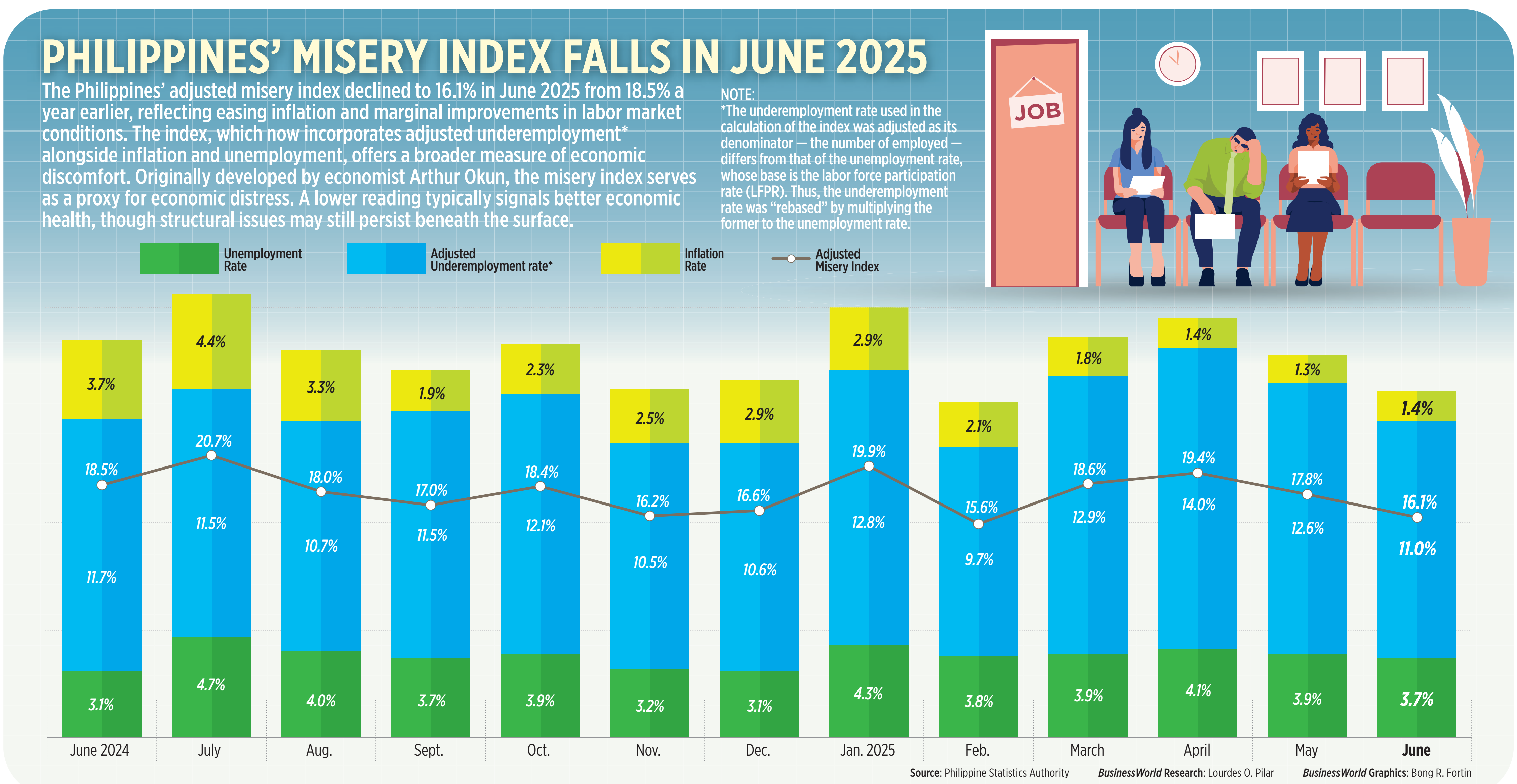
“We welcome the passage of the Konektadong Pinoy. We hope this measure paves the way for more efficient, stable, and affordable internet service across the Philippines,” Ronald B. Gustilo, a national campaigner for Digital Pinoys group, said in a Viber message.

The law is expected to entice more players to enter the industry, Mr. Gustilo said, adding that this should encourage fairer competition and should improve customer experience.

“We also urge the drafters of the implementing rules and regulations to introduce clear safeguards that will protect consumers and ensure these are effectively mapped out,” Mr. Gustilo said.

Telecommunications companies through the Philippine Chamber of Telecommunications Operators (PCTO) have previously asked President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. to veto the measure and have it returned to the Congress.

Konektadong Pinoy, S1/8



Philippine economy seen to grow 5.8% in Q3 despite higher US tariffs

PHILIPPINE economic growth may pick up in the third quarter despite higher US tariffs and “milder” typhoons, the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) said.

“Despite the Trump tariffs, milder typhoon season will help accelerate GDP expansion in Q3 to 5.8%, given a low base in 2024,” it said in its latest The Market Call released on Friday.

If realized, this would be faster than 5.2% in the third quarter of 2024 and 5.5% print in the second quarter. This forecast is also within the government’s revised 5.5% to 6.5% target this year.

“Consumer spending remains strong, aided by low inflation but limited by new US taxes on OFW (overseas Filipino Worker) remittances,” UA&P said.

Inflation cooled to a near six-year low of 0.9% in July as utilities and food costs continued to ease. This brought the seven-month average to 1.7%, slightly below the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas’ (BSP) 2-4% target band.

UA&P said government infrastructure spending may also regain momentum in the third quarter. This was after state spending slumped due to the 45-day election ban on public works spending from March 28 to May 12.

UA&P said residential construction will remain subdued due to elevated policy and interest rates.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has so far lowered borrowing costs by a total of 125 basis points (bps) since it began its easing cycle in August last year. The policy rate now stands at 5.25%.

UA&P said the US dollar rate will “move either way” depending on rate cuts by the BSP and the US Federal Reserve.

“The peso-dollar rate has a fundamental depreciation bias although it will depend much on extent and timing of policy rate cuts by BSP and the Fed,” it said.

Meanwhile, UA&P said the outlook for the local bond market is better in the second semester.

“The local bond market heads towards a brighter second half with the deceleration of inflation, the National Government having raised all but less than 6% of its planned borrowing needs for 2025 and BSP planning 50 bps rate cuts between now and end-2025,” it said.

TARIFF-INDUCED SLOWDOWN

Meanwhile, ANZ Research said the Philippines may face more external pressures in the coming months, arising from US tariffs and a slowdown in the global economy.

In a report, ANZ said the Philippines’ services surplus has been moderating in recent quarters, as business process outsourcing and information technology exports remain resilient.

Economy, S1/8

Some PHL companies lack right foundation for AI adoption

By Beatrie Marie D. Cruz
Reporter

SOME Philippine companies are not ready to adopt artificial intelligence (AI) due to insufficient data and infrastructure needed to unlock the value of their investments, according to global consulting company Kearney.

“The one thing that I have noticed, and it’s true for companies here in the Philippines and also around the region, is that many companies are not quite ready to adopt and to monetize AI,” Marco de la Rosa, senior partner and Philippines country head at Kearney, told *BusinessWorld* in a recent interview.

“The challenge that we often find in these types of technology is that everybody wants it, but not many are able to get the value out of it,” he said.

When investing in AI, companies must have the proper foundations to ensure that they are able to generate value, Mr. De la Rosa said, citing the need to identify use cases.

“I’m not saying it’s impossible, what I’m saying is that it will require very significant and focused investment. I would even suggest to maybe not think about AI investments as industry wide. But within AI, are there specific use cases or capabilities that we want to focus on?” Mr. De la Rosa said.

“Because when you’re playing from behind, we cannot spread our investments across a very wide base and hope to catch up,” he added.

Having good data is one of the key foundations in AI adoption, he noted.

“AI only survives with good data, and the challenge that we see companies over and over again struggle with is they’re either not collecting all the right data, or they have too many different sources of data, or that the data isn’t very clean.”

Companies must also invest in sufficient infrastructure and training to better harness their data into AI.

“Very often people will build massive stacks of capability and technology, but then their people aren’t enabled to use that data and know how to create the value out of that data,” Mr. De la Rosa added.

The Philippines dropped three spots to 12th out of 78 countries in Kearney’s 2023 Global Services Location Index, which measures a country’s attractiveness as an offshore location for business services.

Mr. De la Rosa noted that the Philippines was in the top 10 previously but was edged out by Mexico in 2023 when the index began measuring countries’ digital capabilities.

AI adoption, S1/8