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# BusinessWorld

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

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • JANUARY 22, 2026 (PSEi snapshot on S1/4; article on S2/2)																			
ICT	P630.000	RCR	P7.900	JFC	P207.000	BPI	P118.000	BDO	P140.000	SPNEC	P1.300	MBT	P72.250	TEL	P1,360.000	ALI	P22.500	SMPH	P23.100
Value	P1,256,058,790	Value	P486,132,687	Value	P244,240,648	Value	P232,201,351	Value	P229,370,602	Value	P189,680,060	Value	P173,176,456	Value	P165,956,700	Value	P142,233,925	Value	P139,809,690
P5.000	▲ 0.800%	-P0.190	▼ -2.349%	P2.800	▲ 1.371%	P0.200	▲ 0.170%	P2.200	▲ 1.597%	P0.170	▲ 15.044%	P1.350	▲ 1.904%	P26.000	▲ 1.949%	P0.000	— 0.000%	P0.500	▲ 2.212%

# Philippines falls to 54<sup>th</sup> in Soft Power Index 2026

**2026 Index Score (Out of 100)**

2026 Rank (Out of 193)	Rank Change(s) from 2025	Nation	2026 Index Score (Out of 100)
2	0	China	73.5
3	1	Japan	70.6
11	1	South Korea	59.2
21	0	Singapore	54.5
35	1	Malaysia	45.8
38	1	Thailand	45.0
45	0	Indonesia	42.0
52	0	Vietnam	40.4
54	1	Philippines	40.0
63	12	North Korea	38.9
105	3	Mongolia	33.2
115	2	Cambodia	32.1
120	2	Brunei	31.8
148	5	Laos	28.8
154	2	Myanmar	27.8
183	3	Timor-Leste	23.6

**Source:**  
Brand Finance's Global Soft Power Index 2026 (<https://brandirectory.com/softpower>)  
**BusinessWorld Research:**  
Pierce Oel A. Montalvo and Isa Jane D. Acabal  
**BusinessWorld Graphics:**  
Bong R. Fortin

The Philippines slipped one place to 54<sup>th</sup> out of 193 nations in the 2026 edition of the Global Soft Power Index by brand valuation consultancy firm Brand Finance. Despite this, the country scored 40 out of 100, up by 0.1 point from the previous edition. The index measures a nation's soft power or the ability to influence others through attraction and persuasion rather than coercion.

### Top 5

2026 Rank (Out of 193)	Nation	2026 Index Score (Out of 100)
1	United States	74.9
2	China	73.5
3	Japan	70.6
4	United Kingdom	69.2
5	Germany	67.7

### Bottom 5

2026 Rank (Out of 193)	Nation	2026 Index Score (Out of 100)
193	Kiribati	19.7
192	Nauru	20.7
191	Vanuatu	21.4
190	Tuvalu	21.5
189	Saint Kitts & Nevis	21.5

# Philippines falling short of its RE targets, says S&P Global

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**By Sheldeen Joy Talavera**  
*Reporter*

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THE PHILIPPINES may not be able to hit its renewable energy (RE) targets on time due to grid constraints and challenges in securing permits, according to S&P Global.

Vince Heo, director of Asia-Pacific Power and Renewables Research at S&P Global, said that RE's share in the national power mix may only reach 27% in the next four years and 50% by 2050.

"We are making a forecast. It's our own view. It's not based on our base case," Mr. Heo told reporters on the sidelines of an event in Makati City on Wednesday.

S&P Global's latest forecast falls short of the Philippines' target to raise the share of renewables in the power generation mix to 35% by 2030 and 65% by 2050.

RE accounts for 25% of the country's energy mix.

Coal still dominates the energy mix but the Philippines is trying to move away from fossil fuel and tapping renewables to have a cleaner and more sustainable source of power.

The Department of Energy (DoE) has been launching a series of green energy auctions (GEAs) to entice more developers to harness renewable energy sources, which has so far promised around 20 gigawatts (GW) of potential capacity.

*RE targets, SI/8*

**By Katherine K. Chan** *Reporter*

DIGITAL PAYMENTS in the Philippines continued to grow in 2025 as transfers made through InstaPay and PESONet amounted to P24.745 trillion last year.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) showed that the combined value of transactions done via the payment gateways stood at P24.745 trillion at end-2025, surging by 42.02% from P17.423 trillion at end-2024.

InstaPay, SI/8

## By Vonn Andrei E. Villamiel

RICE MILLERS have committed to raising their buying prices for both wet and dry palay (unmilled rice), while importers agreed to an initial shipment of 300,000 metric tons (MT) to arrive by the end of February, ahead of the peak harvest season, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said.

At a briefing on Thursday, Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel V. De Mesa said the commitment followed consultations by the DA with rice mill-

ers and importers, amid the early start of the dry-season harvest.

Mr. De Mesa said millers agreed to buy unmilled grain at a minimum of P17 per kilo for wet palay and P21 per kilo for dry palay, particularly in major rice-producing provinces in Northern and Central Luzon.

"The millers committed that they will buy at that price. Hopefully, it will be maintained until the end of the harvest season in April," he said in mixed English and Filipino.

The higher farmgate price is expected to provide much-needed support to farmers, as palay prices have dropped over the past year.

Preliminary data from the Philippine Statistics Authority showed that the national average farmgate price of dry palay in 2025 was P17.70 per kilo, down 24.62% from P23.48 a year earlier.

Following consultations with importers, the DA also identified an initial import volume of about 300,000 MT through the end of February, subject to further review based on market conditions.

“The volume needs to arrive on or before the end of February, so that it will not coincide with peak harvest in March and April,” Mr. De Mesa said.

*Rice millers, SI/8*