

## MIC makes pitch to infra, energy-security investors

THE Maharlika Investment Corp. (MIC) said it engaged with potential investors at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos to gauge their interest in infrastructure, energy security, digitalization and food security projects.

"WEF provided a key global platform for MIC to connect with international investors who are interested in investing in the Philippines," MIC Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel Paul T. Salanga said.

He added that MIC is ready to step in for co-investment structures that de-risk large, strategic projects while advancing long-term national development.

"Being in the WEF allows us to connect global capital with priority sectors in the Philip-

pines. Energy security, infrastructure, digitalization, and food security, where investments deliver both value and impact," MIC Chief Investment and Operations Officer Kheed Ng said.

The MIC has said it is hoping to close investment deals with agricultural companies within the first half, saying that prospective recipients of its funding have strong export and job-creation potential.

Its latest deals include an P8-billion investment to buy up to 11.2% of port operator Asian Terminals, Inc.

The MIC posted income of P2.68 billion in 2024, up from P154.3 million a year earlier. It remitted P1.45 billion to the Treasury. — **Aubrey Rose A. Inosante**

# AmCham warns against overly restrictive media-safety laws

THE American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (AmCham) said the proposed Children's Safety in Social Media Act must avoid being overly restrictive about information access.

AmCham said that the framework should protect children "while also preserving access to information, encouraging digital innovation, respecting data privacy, and ensuring practical and enforceable compliance standards."

Measures that are overly restrictive or technically impractical may unintentionally limit educational opportunities, hinder digital inclusion, and affect investor confidence in the Philippines' digital economy," it said in a statement on Monday.

"Thus, the need to carefully craft the provisions of the proposed legislation," it added.

Several bills aiming to make social media platforms safer for minors have been filed with Congress and are at committee level, including Senate Bill No. 1735 and House Bill No. 7300.

"We believe that child online safety is best achieved through a whole-of-society approach, combining clear platform accountability, strong parental empowerment, digital literacy and education, and sustained public-private collaboration," AmCham said.

"AmCham stands ready to work with stakeholders to help craft a policy framework that protects children, upholds fundamental rights, and supports a

safe, innovative, and competitive digital ecosystem for the Philippines," it added.

Separately, the British Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (BCCP) said Philippine business leaders see technology and cybersecurity as pressing concerns.

"While demand for digital talent continues to accelerate, the supply of qualified professionals, especially in cybersecurity, remains limited," BCCP Executive Vice Chairman Chris Nelson said in a statement.

He said that the challenges faced by business leaders reflect the need to pass the Cybersecurity Act.

"This law would give much greater reassurance and awareness, and also it would establish a

cybersecurity college because the other thing you need is trained professionals," he added.

He also said that the Philippines should leverage its chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to accelerate skills development, strengthen cybersecurity capabilities, and unlock high-value employment opportunities.

"What we will need to do is try to see how ASEAN can create more business opportunities," he said.

"ASEAN is obviously one of the more dynamic economies around the world, and this is a very good time for the Philippines to take that chairmanship and push it forward," he added. — **Justine Irish D. Tabilo**

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