

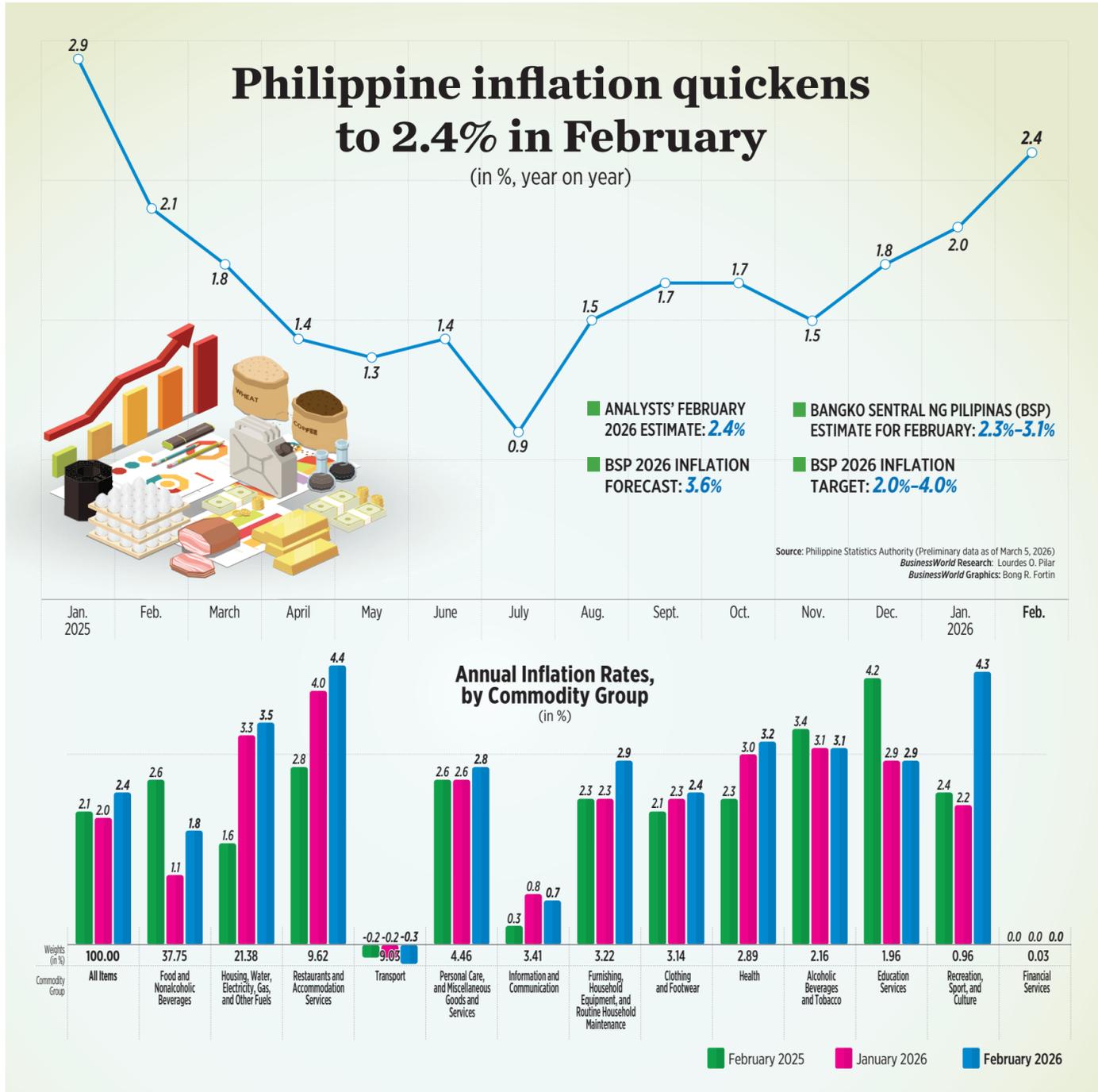
| STOCK MARKET | ASIAN MARKETS | WORLD MARKETS | PESO-DOLLAR RATES | ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE | WORLD CURRENCIES | DUBAI CRUDE OIL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------|--------------|----------------|-----------|---------------|----------------------|----------|--------------|-------------------------|----------|---------------|---------------------------|----------|--------------|-------------------------|----------|--------------|---------------------------|----------|--------------|--|-------|-----|-----------|----------------------|--------|----------------------|---------|--------------------|----------|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|--|--|----------------------|----------|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---|-------|----------|---------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|---|
| PSEi MARCH 5, 2026 OPEN: 6,325.17 HIGH: 6,380.53 LOW: 6,312.09 CLOSE: 6,380.53 VOL.: 1.912 B VAL(P): 6.254 B 72.69 PTS. 1.15% 30 DAYS TO MARCH 5, 2026 | MARCH 5, 2026 <table border="1"> <tr><th>CLOSE</th><th>NET</th><th>%</th></tr> <tr><td>JAPAN (Nikkei 225)</td><td>55,278.06</td><td>▲ 1,032.52 1.90</td></tr> <tr><td>HONG KONG (HANG SENG)</td><td>25,321.34</td><td>▲ 71.86 0.28</td></tr> <tr><td>TAIWAN (TAIEX)</td><td>33,672.94</td><td>▲ 844.06 2.57</td></tr> <tr><td>THAILAND (SET INDEX)</td><td>1,417.87</td><td>▲ 33.26 2.40</td></tr> <tr><td>S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE)</td><td>5,583.90</td><td>▲ 490.36 9.63</td></tr> <tr><td>SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES)</td><td>4,838.75</td><td>▲ 26.00 0.54</td></tr> <tr><td>SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES)</td><td>8,940.30</td><td>▲ 39.10 0.44</td></tr> <tr><td>MALAYSIA (KLSX COMPOSITE)</td><td>1,713.20</td><td>▲ 14.98 0.88</td></tr> </table> | CLOSE | NET | % | JAPAN (Nikkei 225) | 55,278.06 | ▲ 1,032.52 1.90 | HONG KONG (HANG SENG) | 25,321.34 | ▲ 71.86 0.28 | TAIWAN (TAIEX) | 33,672.94 | ▲ 844.06 2.57 | THAILAND (SET INDEX) | 1,417.87 | ▲ 33.26 2.40 | S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE) | 5,583.90 | ▲ 490.36 9.63 | SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES) | 4,838.75 | ▲ 26.00 0.54 | SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES) | 8,940.30 | ▲ 39.10 0.44 | MALAYSIA (KLSX COMPOSITE) | 1,713.20 | ▲ 14.98 0.88 | MARCH 4, 2026 <table border="1"> <tr><th>CLOSE</th><th>NET</th></tr> <tr><td>Dow Jones</td><td>48,739.410 ▲ 238.140</td></tr> <tr><td>NASDAQ</td><td>22,807.484 ▲ 290.793</td></tr> <tr><td>S&P 500</td><td>6,869.500 ▲ 52.870</td></tr> <tr><td>FTSE 100</td><td>10,567.650 ▲ 83.520</td></tr> <tr><td>Euro Stoxx50</td><td>5,101.670 ▲ 65.080</td></tr> </table> | CLOSE | NET | Dow Jones | 48,739.410 ▲ 238.140 | NASDAQ | 22,807.484 ▲ 290.793 | S&P 500 | 6,869.500 ▲ 52.870 | FTSE 100 | 10,567.650 ▲ 83.520 | Euro Stoxx50 | 5,101.670 ▲ 65.080 | FX MARCH 5, 2026 OPEN P58.400 HIGH P58.335 LOW P58.630 CLOSE P58.630 W.AVE. P58.469 VOL. \$1,571.97 M 30 DAYS TO MARCH 5, 2026 SOURCE: BAP | MARCH 5, 2026 <table border="1"> <tr><th>LATEST BID (0900GMT)</th><th>PREVIOUS</th></tr> <tr><td>JAPAN (YEN)</td><td>157.0100 ▲ 157.3100</td></tr> <tr><td>HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR)</td><td>7.8218 ▼ 7.8177</td></tr> <tr><td>TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR)</td><td>31.6890 ▼ 31.6550</td></tr> <tr><td>THAILAND (BAHT)</td><td>31.5300 ▼ 31.4500</td></tr> <tr><td>S. KOREA (WON)</td><td>1,464.0400 ▲ 1,470.6000</td></tr> <tr><td>SINGAPORE (DOLLAR)</td><td>1.2755 ▲ 1.2770</td></tr> <tr><td>INDONESIA (RUPIAH)</td><td>16,875.000 ▲ 16,880.000</td></tr> <tr><td>MALAYSIA (RINGGIT)</td><td>3.9390 ▲ 3.9460</td></tr> </table> | LATEST BID (0900GMT) | PREVIOUS | JAPAN (YEN) | 157.0100 ▲ 157.3100 | HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) | 7.8218 ▼ 7.8177 | TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) | 31.6890 ▼ 31.6550 | THAILAND (BAHT) | 31.5300 ▼ 31.4500 | S. KOREA (WON) | 1,464.0400 ▲ 1,470.6000 | SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) | 1.2755 ▲ 1.2770 | INDONESIA (RUPIAH) | 16,875.000 ▲ 16,880.000 | MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) | 3.9390 ▲ 3.9460 | MARCH 5, 2026 <table border="1"> <tr><th>CLOSE</th><th>PREVIOUS</th></tr> <tr><td>US\$/UK POUND</td><td>1.3357 ▼ 1.3359</td></tr> <tr><td>US\$/EURO</td><td>1.1624 ▲ 1.1612</td></tr> <tr><td>US\$/AUST DOLLAR</td><td>0.7050 ▲ 0.7030</td></tr> <tr><td>CANADA DOLLAR/US\$</td><td>1.3642 ▼ 1.3672</td></tr> <tr><td>SWISS FRANC/US\$</td><td>0.7789 ▼ 0.7823</td></tr> </table> | CLOSE | PREVIOUS | US\$/UK POUND | 1.3357 ▼ 1.3359 | US\$/EURO | 1.1624 ▲ 1.1612 | US\$/AUST DOLLAR | 0.7050 ▲ 0.7030 | CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ | 1.3642 ▼ 1.3672 | SWISS FRANC/US\$ | 0.7789 ▼ 0.7823 | DUBAI CRUDE OIL MARCH 5, 2026 88.00 82.20 76.40 70.60 64.80 59.00 \$4.00 30 DAYS TO MARCH 4, 2026 |
| CLOSE | NET | % | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| JAPAN (Nikkei 225) | 55,278.06 | ▲ 1,032.52 1.90 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HONG KONG (HANG SENG) | 25,321.34 | ▲ 71.86 0.28 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TAIWAN (TAIEX) | 33,672.94 | ▲ 844.06 2.57 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| THAILAND (SET INDEX) | 1,417.87 | ▲ 33.26 2.40 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE) | 5,583.90 | ▲ 490.36 9.63 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES) | 4,838.75 | ▲ 26.00 0.54 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES) | 8,940.30 | ▲ 39.10 0.44 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MALAYSIA (KLSX COMPOSITE) | 1,713.20 | ▲ 14.98 0.88 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CLOSE | NET | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones | 48,739.410 ▲ 238.140 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ | 22,807.484 ▲ 290.793 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 | 6,869.500 ▲ 52.870 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FTSE 100 | 10,567.650 ▲ 83.520 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Euro Stoxx50 | 5,101.670 ▲ 65.080 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| LATEST BID (0900GMT) | PREVIOUS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| JAPAN (YEN) | 157.0100 ▲ 157.3100 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) | 7.8218 ▼ 7.8177 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) | 31.6890 ▼ 31.6550 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| THAILAND (BAHT) | 31.5300 ▼ 31.4500 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S. KOREA (WON) | 1,464.0400 ▲ 1,470.6000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) | 1.2755 ▲ 1.2770 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| INDONESIA (RUPIAH) | 16,875.000 ▲ 16,880.000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) | 3.9390 ▲ 3.9460 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CLOSE | PREVIOUS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| US\$/UK POUND | 1.3357 ▼ 1.3359 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| US\$/EURO | 1.1624 ▲ 1.1612 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| US\$/AUST DOLLAR | 0.7050 ▲ 0.7030 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ | 1.3642 ▼ 1.3672 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SWISS FRANC/US\$ | 0.7789 ▼ 0.7823 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VOL. XXXIX • ISSUE 157 **FRIDAY • MARCH 6, 2026 • www.bworldonline.com** SI/1-12 • 2 SECTIONS, 16 PAGES

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • MARCH 5, 2026 (PSEi snapshot on S1/4; article on S2/2)

| Code | Value | Change | Code | Value | Change |
|------|----------|-----------|------|----------|-----------|
| ICT | P728,000 | ▲ 1.818% | AC | P541,000 | — 0.000% |
| BPI | P109,900 | ▼ -0.543% | ALI | P19,980 | ▼ -0.100% |
| BDO | P129,500 | ▲ 2.696% | MBT | P74,400 | ▼ -0.535% |
| PLUS | P18,080 | ▲ 6.730% | URC | P72,900 | ▲ 1.532% |
| SM | P687,000 | ▲ 0.292% | JFC | P200,000 | ▲ 2.249% |

Inflation quickens to 13-month high



By Katherine K. Chan
Reporter

PHILIPPINE INFLATION accelerated to a 13-month high in February as rising costs for rice, fuel, electricity and other utilities added pressure on household budgets, the Philippine Statistics Authority said on Thursday.

The consumer price index (CPI) picked up to 2.4% from 2% in January and 2.1% in February 2025. It was the fastest since January 2025, when inflation hit 2.9%.

February inflation fell within the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' (BSP) 2.3%-3.1% forecast and matched the 2.4% median estimate in a *BusinessWorld* poll of 17 analysts.

February also marked the second straight month that inflation stayed within the central bank's 2%-4% target, bringing the two-month average inflation rate to 2.2%.

"Overall price conditions remain stable," Economy Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan said in a statement. "However, we are mindful of recent geopolitical developments, which we are closely monitoring, along with domestic supply conditions of key commodities."

The peso's purchasing power remained at P0.76 for every P100 worth of goods and services in 2018, the same level recorded in January and the lowest since the base year was adopted.

National Statistician Claire Dennis S. Mapa said faster price increases in food and nonalcoholic beverages, housing and utilities and restaurants and accommodation services pushed inflation higher last month.

Inflation for food and nonalcoholic beverages accelerated to 1.8% from 1.1% in January, driven by faster price increases for vegetables, fish and seafood, as well as a slower decline in cereals and cereal products.

Inflation for restaurants and accommodation services also quickened to 4.4% from 4% a month earlier. Prices for restaurants, cafes and similar establishments rose 4.5% from 4.1% pace in January.

Core inflation, which strips out volatile food and fuel prices, edged up to 2.9% in February from 2.8% in January and 2.4% a year earlier. This was the fastest since June 2024.

Inflation, SI/8

Compressed workweek could strain Philippine manufacturing, BPOs

By Beatriz Marie D. Cruz
Reporter

THE PHILIPPINE government's proposal to adopt a four-day workweek to conserve energy amid Middle East tensions could affect delivery schedules in sectors such as manufacturing and business process outsourcing (BPO), industry groups warned.

Elizabeth H. Lee, executive director of the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI), said the impact would vary across industries.

"The impact may differ significantly for manufacturing, where continuous production requirements are a central consideration," she said in a statement.

"Possible effects on supply chain stability, delivery timelines and competitiveness relative to regional peers should be thoughtfully assessed," she added.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. is weighing the proposal,

Presidential Communications Undersecretary Clarissa A. Castro said on Wednesday. Senator Sherwin T. Gatchalian earlier suggested the plan to conserve energy amid risks to oil supply and rising costs from the US-Iran war.

Ms. Lee noted that production-driven sectors rely on coordinated logistics and continuous output cycles.

"Any adjustments in work structures would need to be carefully designed to avoid unintended disruptions in output, delivery schedules and supply chain flows," she added.

By contrast, service-oriented and knowledge-based industries might more easily adopt a four-day week through hybrid or flexible arrangements, she said.

Donald Patrick L. Lim, president of the Management Association of the Philippines, said industries operating on global schedules — including BPOs, manufacturing, logistics, and export sectors — could face operational disruptions.

Workweek, SI/8

PHL plans diesel stockpile amid Middle East war

By Sheldeen Joy Talavera
Reporter

THE PHILIPPINE government plans to procure at least a million barrels of diesel to secure domestic fuel supply as tensions in the Middle East threaten global oil trade and China moves to curb refined fuel exports.

The Department of Energy (DoE) is studying a proposal to direct state-run Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC) to buy the diesel for a strategic stockpile that could cover about five days of domestic consumption, Oil Industry Management Bureau Director Rino E. Abad told reporters on Thursday.

The planned purchase is equivalent to roughly 200,000 barrels a day, or about 33 million liters of diesel consumption daily in the Philippines.

Mr. Abad said the volume could be increased to as much as 3 million barrels, which would be enough to cover up to 15 days of supply, especially after reports that China is asking refiners to halt new export contracts for refined fuel.

"That's a game changer," he said, noting that about 30% of the Philippines' diesel imports come from China. "Hopefully, South Korea will not follow because about 40% of our imports come from South Korea," he added in mixed English and Filipino.

China has asked companies to stop signing new contracts to export refined fuel and attempt to cancel shipments already committed, according to a Reuters report, citing industry sources.

Mr. Abad said PNOC could buy diesel from nearby suppliers such as South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia if Chinese shipments are disrupted.

The fuel purchased by PNOC would still be sold to domestic oil companies to ensure continued supply in the local market, he said.

Diesel, SI/5

S&P: Philippines to outpace most Asian peers in next 3 years

THE PHILIPPINES is expected to remain one of Southeast Asia's fastest-growing economies over the next three years despite a slowdown in 2025 triggered by a corruption scandal, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence.

"Based on our data, the country is projected to remain one of the fastest economies in the region, second only to Vietnam," Rodeza Mones, sector editor for news and research at S&P Global Market Intelligence, told an investment forum on Thursday.

The Philippines' real gross domestic product (GDP) grew 4.76% in 2025, down from 5.64% in 2024. S&P now projects growth will accelerate to 5.66% in 2026, 5.84% in 2027, and 5.78% in 2028, though these estimates are lower than its prior 6.5% projections for 2027 and 2028.

GDP in dollar terms ended 2025 at \$452.18 billion, with S&P expecting expansion to \$477.78 billion in 2026, \$505.7 billion in 2027 and \$534.9 billion in 2028.

The projections do not account for uncertainties stemming from the Middle East war, Ms. Mones noted.

She said the projections show economic growth in the country is expected to be below 6%, far from the most recent high of 7.68% in 2022.

"The forecast comes as the country faces the economic fallout of a sweeping investigation into the alleged misuse of billions in state-funded flood control projects," she said.

She noted that the graft scandal slowed infrastructure spending, weighed on investments and constrained growth by the end of 2025.

S&P, SI/8