

Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi)

5,936.20

▲ 37.02 PTS.

▲ 0.62%

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026

BusinessWorld

PSEi MEMBER STOCKS

AC Ayala Corp. P490.00 —	ACEN ACEN Corp. P2.67 +P0.14 +5.53%	AEV Aboltiz Equity Ventures, Inc. P29.30 -P0.30 -1.01%	ALI Ayala Land, Inc. P17.46 +P0.54 +3.19%	AREIT AREIT, Inc. P38.55 +P0.40 +1.05%	BDO BDO Unibank, Inc. P117.10 +P1.10 +0.95%	BPI Bank of the Philippine Islands P100.00 +P2.35 +2.41%	CBC China Banking Corp. P65.50 -P1.35 -2.02%	CNPF Century Pacific Food, Inc. P34.80 -P0.70 -1.97%	CNVRG Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. P12.50 +P0.40 +3.31%
DMC DMCI Holdings, Inc. P9.60 +P0.10 +1.05%	EMI Emperador, Inc. P15.30 +P0.02 +0.13%	GLO Globe Telecom, Inc. P1,616.00 +P31.00 +1.96%	GTCAP GT Capital Holdings, Inc. P520.00 +P11.50 +2.26%	ICT International Container Terminal Services, Inc. P686.00 -P12.00 -1.72%	JFC Jollibee Foods Corp. P182.50 +P5.20 +2.93%	JGS JG Summit Holdings, Inc. P27.00 +P0.10 +0.37%	LTG LT Group, Inc. P14.26 +P0.34 +2.44%	MBT Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. P66.40 +P2.55 +3.99%	MER Manila Electric Co. P603.50 -P6.50 -1.07%
MONDE Monde Nissin Corp. P6.00 —	PGOLD Puregold Price Club, Inc. P39.75 +P0.45 +1.15%	PLUS DigiPlus Interactive Corp. P17.32 -P0.22 -1.25%	RCR RL Commercial REIT, Inc. P6.80 +P0.10 +1.49%	SCC Semirara Mining and Power Corp. P29.60 -P0.30 -1.00%	SM SM Investments Corp. P612.00 +P7.50 +1.24%	SMC San Miguel Corp. P70.85 +P1.75 +2.53%	SMPH SM Prime Holdings, Inc. P19.20 +P0.12 +0.63%	TEL PLDT Inc. P1,350.00 +P51.00 +3.93%	URC Universal Robina Corp. P65.00 +P2.25 +3.59%

CAAP airport fees to drop starting April 1 amid fuel cost surge

By Ashley Erika O. Jose
Reporter

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation (DoTr) will implement adjusted airport-related charges, including terminal fees and landing and takeoff fees, for airports operated by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) starting April 1, amid rising fuel prices.

"In order to help passengers and airlines, and to stabilize airfares, we are going to reduce terminal fees as well as landing and takeoff fees," Transportation Acting Secretary Giovanni Z. Lopez said during a media briefing on Tuesday.

Passenger service charges (PSC), or terminal fees, imposed on departing passengers will be reduced by up to P200 starting April 1 for three months, he said.

CAAP said this will reduce PSC at international airports to P700 from P900 for international flights, while lowering the domestic PSC for flights departing from international airports to the P150-P200 range from the current P350.

CAAP said PSC will be lowered to the P150-P200 range from the current P300 for passengers departing from principal class 1 airports. Those departing from principal class 2 airports will see PSC cut in half to P100 from the current P200, while PSC for those leaving via community airports will be reduced to P50 from P100.

The measure aims to cushion the anticipated rise in airfares in April after the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) raised the passenger fuel surcharge to Level 8 for the first half of April, the highest level in two years.

"This will be effective starting April 1, and will be effective



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for three months after our first assessment," Mr. Lopez said, noting that the reduction may be extended subject to the agency's assessment.

The PSC reduction will take effect for three months beginning April 1, regardless of whether jet fuel prices go down, he added.

"We recognize the challenges brought by the ongoing regional tension and its impact on passengers and the aviation industry. CAAP is implementing reductions in passenger service charges and aeronautical fees to provide immediate relief and support, ensuring that air travel remains accessible during these difficult times," CAAP Director General Raul L. del Rosario said in a separate media release.

According to monitoring by the International Air Transport Association, jet fuel prices climbed 12.6% week on week to \$197 per barrel as of March 20. On a yearly basis, jet fuel prices surged by 118%, data from the airline trade association showed.

The DoTr also ordered the reduction of navigation charges, such as landing and takeoff fees, by up to P5,000 for CAAP-run airports.

Landing and takeoff fees are charges levied for the use of airport facilities and services during aircraft landings and takeoffs.

"Under the modified rates, the aeronautical fees, including the landing and takeoff, will be decreased to nearly 50% overall, or as high as approximately P5,000 per landing," CAAP said.

Based on a CAAP memorandum issued in April 2025, the current landing and takeoff fees are based on the maximum takeoff weight (MTOW) of the aircraft. For international flights, the minimum fee is \$260 for an aircraft weighing up to 50,000 kilograms, while for domestic flights, the minimum rate is P54 per 500 kilograms for an aircraft weighing up to 50,000 kilograms.

Earlier this week, local airlines announced reductions in flight frequencies and the temporary suspension of some services.

On Friday, flag carrier Philippine Airlines (PAL) announced the temporary suspension of its flights between Manila and select Middle East destinations, such as Manila-Dubai-Manila, Manila-Doha, and Doha-Manila, until April 30.

"This precautionary measure is being taken considering the

security situation affecting parts of the Middle East and the resulting operational uncertainties in certain regional airspace corridors and airport operations," PAL said.

On Monday, Cebu Pacific said it will recalibrate its network, including reducing flight frequencies and canceling selected routes due to the ongoing Middle East conflict, noting that these changes are driven by the impact of the crisis on global fuel prices.

The airline suspended five routes — Davao-Bangkok, Iloilo-Bangkok, Iloilo-Singapore, Singapore-Iloilo, and Clark-Hanoi-Clark — until October 2026. It also reduced weekly services for selected domestic and international routes from April to October.

The airline's decision to reduce flight frequencies and suspend some flights may be related to the lack of fuel supply, said Nigel Paul C. Villarete, a senior adviser on public-private partnerships at the technical advisory group Libra Konsult.

"But it's probably more of the higher costs of maintaining these flights which could be served by a reduced frequency. Airlines know their numbers and know if and when the passenger's existing volume can be carried by less frequencies of flights," he said.

Energy Secretary Sharon S. Garin said in a separate briefing on Tuesday that airlines have had "few glitches" in orders due to changes in their supplier countries.

"But so far, we have met them and they have assured us that they are okay. I think the issue is on the price, the constraint on the operations of the companies," she said when asked about the possibility of a lack of jet fuel supply.

Investors in 'very risk-off mode' as oil prices stay elevated — PSE chief

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE (PSE) President Ramon S. Monzon said investors are in a "very risk-off mode" amid the Middle East conflict, adding that oil prices, currently at \$131.97 per barrel, would need to fall to around \$80 to signal a return to market stability.

"I think we need to see oil back at the \$80 level... When the oil starts going down from \$100 to \$80, I think it will deliver a strong message to the market that the conflict has somewhat subsided and there will be stability in oil prices," he said on the *Money Talks with Cathy Yang* program on One News on Tuesday.

Fuel prices in Metro Manila are set to increase starting March 24, with gasoline rising by P8 to P12 per liter, diesel by P15 to P18 per liter, and kerosene by P12 to P22 per liter. These adjustments will bring diesel prices to as high as P144.20 per liter and gasoline to P102.50 per liter. Kerosene is expected to reach up to P165.79 per liter.

"I think it's a very risk-off mode," Mr. Monzon said.

"I hope yesterday (Monday) was an exaggerated fear or anxiety by investors. But as we all know, [US President Donald J.] Trump has come out with a statement that he and Iran leaders are talking about halting hostilities. If that is true, or that really holds, I think the damage to our market would be transitory, not permanent," he added.

On Monday, the PSE index (PSEi) slid by 1.98% or 119.44 points to close at 5,899.18, while the broader all-shares index declined by 2.04% or 68.28 points to end at 3,276.59.

This marked the PSEi's worst close so far this year and its lowest finish in nearly four months, or since it ended at 5,887.58 on Dec. 4.

Despite ongoing challenges, the PSE chief cited strong aggregate corporate earnings growth among index companies last year, highlighting potential upside for the market.

He also expressed cautious optimism on the PSEi, noting that while the flood control corruption scandal has eroded investor trust, resilient initial public offering (IPO) performances suggest the impact has not peaked.

"In spite of the market being down 2.5% from last year, the price of Maynilad is still way above their IPO price... So I don't — I think it's peaked in that sense. But now we have to get over this new challenge, this new headwind, which is the Iran crisis," he said.

Mr. Monzon also said the recent corruption scandal has been overshadowed by the Iran crisis, stressing that strong governance is essential across markets, particularly at the government level rather than only in the corporate sector.

"I think Filipinos are still waiting for really concrete action on the results of the investigation. They need to see more criminal cases filed. That's what everybody's hoping for," he added.

The flood control issue has weighed on the stock market, which declined in 2025. The PSEi ended lower on the final trading day of 2025 at 6,052.92, down by 7.29% or 475.87 points from its end-2024 finish of 6,528.79. — **A.G.C. Magno** with inputs from **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**

BW ONE-ON-ONE

Firms, policymakers urged to rethink strategy as 'Global 2.0' takes hold

BUSINESSES and policymakers must rethink how they operate to stay competitive in "Global 2.0," a new era where resilience matters more than cost efficiency and artificial intelligence (AI) becomes part of everyday infrastructure.

According to Navigating Technological and Geopolitical Transformation, a report from the inaugural IEX Berkeley Collider Summit co-organized by the IE School of Science & Technology and UC Berkeley's International Co-Lab, the traditional playbook of globalization is being fundamentally "rewired."

While the previous era prioritized efficiency and cost optimization, the report said the current landscape is increasingly shaped by differing regulations, national priorities, and tighter control over key resources and technology.

For businesses, this means resilience is no longer just a buzzword but a practical requirement in a world where capital, data, and talent move through channels shaped by regional politics rather than fully open markets.

In response to queries on practical execution, Ikhlaoq Sidhu, dean of IE

School of Science and Technology, said globalization is not retreating but being redesigned.

"The shift from efficiency to resilience means companies must continuously adapt to changes in AI, supply chains, and geopolitics, rather than optimize for a fixed model. For companies in Asia-Pacific, resilience means diversifying supply chains, understanding multiple regulatory systems, and building the ability to reconfigure operations quickly as conditions change," he told *BusinessWorld* via e-mail.

AI AS PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

A key takeaway for the Philippines, particularly its information technology and business process management (IT-BPM) and manufacturing sectors, is the shift of AI from cloud-based software into embedded, real-world infrastructure.

The report said AI is becoming an integral part of logistics, healthcare, robotics, and energy systems.

Mr. Sidhu said this shift will change how technology is valued and delivered.

"AI is no longer something you buy as software — it's becoming embedded into products, infrastructure, and operations. That makes standalone software harder to sell. In sectors like IT-BPM and manufacturing, value will shift to integrating AI into real-world systems — combining software, hardware, and human expertise to deliver outcomes at scale. The competitive advantage will come not just from using AI, but from embedding it deeply into workflows and going beyond what AI alone can do," he said.

The report added that the next wave of innovation will come from the convergence of semiconductors, autonomous systems, and digital twins — areas that may require companies to rethink investments toward hardware-software integration and sensor-based systems.

CLOSING THE 'AGENCY' GAP

The report also pointed to a widening talent gap between "pedigree" (credentials) and "agency" (the ability to lead and act in uncertain conditions). As AI spreads across industries, traditional credentials alone are no longer enough.

Mr. Sidhu said talent must focus on human judgment and real-world impact to become more valuable in the job market.

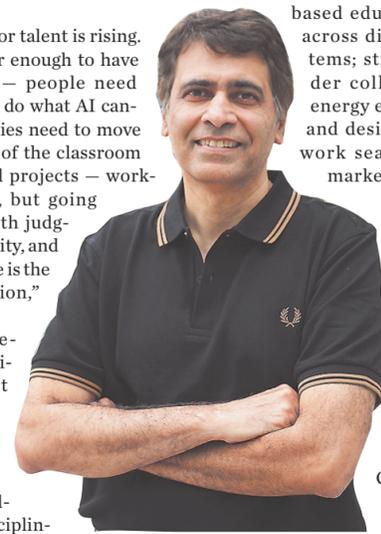
"The bar for talent is rising. It's no longer enough to have credentials — people need the ability to do what AI cannot. Companies need to move learning out of the classroom and into real projects — working with AI, but going beyond it with judgment, creativity, and context. Scale is the new innovation," he said.

Trond Petersen, associate dean at UC Berkeley, said that institutions must shift toward building "interdisciplinary capability and navigability."

To address these challenges, the report identified five strategic priorities: promoting adaptable, skills-based education; managing data across different regulatory systems; strengthening cross-border collaboration; improving energy efficiency in computing; and designing systems that can work seamlessly across global markets.

The report also noted that success in innovation is no longer measured by invention alone, but by real-world impact at scale.

"The challenge is not just to innovate, but to ensure systems can work together across boundaries," said Leticia Cabral Calvillo, executive director of the IEX Research Xcelerator at IE University. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**



IKHLAOQ SIDHU, dean of IE School of Science and Technology in Madrid, Spain.