

The Daily Dispatch

April 17, 2017
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

Duterte invites Bahraini businessmen to explore PH

President Rodrigo Duterte has invited Bahraini businessmen to explore business opportunities in the Philippines as their countries enter a new phase in their bilateral relations. The Philippine leader made the pitch to the Capital Club of Bahrain last Friday.

SEC rejects LBC's planned P1.2-B share sale

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rejected the planned P1.2-billion share sale of courier operator LBC Express Holdings Incorporated of the Araneta Group. The SEC said in a statement that it rejected the follow-on offering of LBC Express due to the company's non-disclosure of key information in its prospectus.

Tax reform passage tops businessmen's wish list

The enactment of key measures in the first package of the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program is among the most important measures needed to perk up its economy. Foreign business leaders surveyed have cited the tax reform program as "high on the agenda" among the measures they would want to see happening in the country within 2017.

BPO safe but manuf. in danger from US 1st policy

The Phil. BPO industry is now expected to be safe from US President Donald Trump's "America-first" policy, but the country's manufacturing industry remains in the danger zone. PEZA director Plaza assured the country's BPO industry that there is "nothing to worry about anymore" as far as Trump's controversial policy is concerned.

Phinma Energy revives bid to develop hydropower

Phinma Energy Corp. is eyeing hydropower and waste-to-energy projects as part of efforts to further expand its renewable energy portfolio. The company is undertaking studies in developing the Ilog hydropower service contract (HSC) in Negros Occidental, Phinma Energy SVP Raymundo Reyes Jr. told The STAR.

Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:

7,629.64

1 Yr Return:

5.60%

Open:

7,615.44

YTD Return:

10.95%

52-Week Range:

6,499.00 - 8,118.44

Source:

Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange

As of April 12, 2017

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	49.546

PDST-R2 Rates

As of April 12, 2017

Tenor	Rate
1Y	2.8460
3Y	4.0855
5Y	4.2687
7Y	5.0557
10Y	5.1679
20Y	5.0135

Daily Quote

"I freed a thousand slaves I could have freed a thousand more if only they knew they were slaves."

--Harriet Tubman

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MORE LOCAL NEWS

SEC tightens requirements for going public

The SEC has tightened regulations for companies seeking to go public, requiring them to provide more accurate financial forecast instead of just hypothetical projections. The SEC wants co's to provide financial numbers by providing forecast, which would be based on certain courses of actions, instead of just mere projections.

BOI okays Ikea to enter PH market

THE Board of Investments (BOI) has preapproved the bid of Ikano Pte. Ltd., the operator and franchise-rights owner of Swedish furniture brand Ikea in key Asian markets, to enter the Philippine market. According to BOI documents, Ikano Pte Ltd. prequalified under the Retail Trade Liberalization Act of 2000 last November.

Del Monte plans to sell 2nd round of prefs by 2019

Del Monte Pacific Ltd. said it aims to sell another round of dollar-denominated preferred shares over the next two to three years as the company's debt-to-equity ratio improves. Parag Sachdeva, CFO, said the recent \$200M preferred share sale improved its debt-to-equity ratio to over three times from the previous six times.

Century Properties spending P6b in 2017

Property developer Century Properties Group. said it allocated P6b for capital expenditures this year, despite posting a lower net income last year. CPG investor relations group head Kristina Garcia said in a statement the company aimed to spend P5b for the completion of condominium projects and P1b for its leasing assets.

North Luzon east toll road revived

The North Luzon East Expressway (NLEEx) project, an unsolicited toll road placed on hold during President Aquino's administration, has been revived and is set to start construction in a few months.

Funds raised via stock market hit P67B in Q1

The Philippine Stock Exchange said that capital raising at the bourse hit a new high in the first quarter of 2017, a period that coincided with BDO Unibank Inc.'s P60-billion stock rights offering.

TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

Investor-friendly Jakarta chief faces ouster

Despite a track record of success, including moves to tackle corruption and streamline the bureaucracy, Jakarta Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama finds himself behind in most polls heading into Wednesday's Jakarta governor election runoff. He has struggled to overcome allegations that he insulted the Koran.

Daewoo's bailout plan cleared by pension fund

South Korea's National Pension Service agreed to a restructuring of bonds issued by Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering Co., helping the world's largest shipbuilder tide over a financial crisis. The decision means the shipbuilder will likely get more time to make payments on bonds that are due this month.

SG aims to house most globally competitive plants

Singapore has a vision: That is all factories housed in the Republic will be the most globally competitive, efficient and productive for companies. These are bold goals but work is underway to move towards that vision through advanced manufacturing, the Economic Development Board said.

China's \$290B dream to make backwater new Shenzh

Announced on April 1, President Xi Jinping's long-range vision is to transform a sleepy region known for its orchards and lotus flowers into a glittering new technology and innovation hub teeming with companies, universities and world-class transportation and business infrastructure.

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MORE ASIAN NEWS

Saudi raises \$9B with inaugural Islamic bond

The government sold a \$4.5b five-year sukuk tranche at 100 basis points over the mid-swap rate and an equally-sized 10-year tranche at a spread of 140 basis points to the benchmark, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Investors submitted more than \$33 billion in bids, people with knowledge of the offering said earlier.

Thailand's Mango Tree grows roots in PH

Seeing a "need to stay relevant" in the everyday evolving Philippine market, global restaurant group Mango Tree, on the occasion of their fifth anniversary here in the country, recently announced plans to open up to 10 more outlets nationwide in the next five years.

China economy grows 6.9% in Q1

China's economy grew 6.9 per cent in the first quarter from a year earlier, slightly faster than expected, supported by a government infrastructure spending spree and a frenzied housing market that is showing signs of overheating.

CAT, DTAC bank on 2G network-sharing venture

CAT Telecom hopes to enter a 2G network sharing agreement via a joint venture with Total Access Communication (DTAC) this year as the state telecom firm strives to create a new revenue stream after the end of the concession era.

TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

FCL to acquire 86.56% stake in Geneba Properties

Mainboard-listed Frasers Centrepoint Limited (FCL) has entered into a conditional agreement to acquire an 86.56 per cent stake in Geneba Properties, an Amsterdam-based listed real estate investment company, for 315.9 million euros (\$467.8 million).

Investors are cherry picking assets of fallen RE

Since filing the largest U.S. bankruptcy of 2016, SunEdison Inc. has hosted the biggest-ever sale of renewables assets. It's shed at least \$1 billion of assets from Southern California to Chile to India -- some through record-breaking deals -- including projects that would have died without new owners.

PDVSA avoid default with \$2.6B payment

Bondholders confirmed that Venezuela's state-owned oil company PDVSA made principal and interest payments of \$2.2 billion today, avoiding default yet again despite what Vice President Tareck El Aissami called a "ruthless economic war" being waged against the Maduro government.

AT&T may face rival in \$1.6B Straight Path deal

AT&T Inc.'s \$1.6 billion acquisition of Straight Path Communications Inc. could be disrupted by a rival bidder. Straight Path and its adviser, Evercore, got a letter from another party that's evaluating whether to top AT&T's bid, according to a filing Thursday.

US: CH and others not currency manipulators

US President Donald Trump's administration declined to name any major trading partner as a currency manipulator in a highly-anticipated report on Friday, confirming a decision to back away from a key Trump campaign promise to slap such a label on China.

Economic Calendar

Date	Release
04.16.2017	PH: Overseas Remittances YoY
04.18.2017	PH: BoP Overall
04.25.2017	PH: Budget Balance PHP
04.27.2017	PH: Bank Lending YoY
04.27.2017	PH: Money Supply M3 SRF YoY

Source: Bloomberg Economic Calendar