

The Daily Dispatch

February 22, 2024
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

AP expresses interest in Laguna CBK hydro plants

Aboitiz Power Corp. (AP) expressed interest in participating in the privatization of the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan (CBK) hydropower plants in Lumban, Majayjay and Kalayaan, Laguna this year. AboitizPower is one of the 29 companies that submitted letters of interest (LOI) for the CBK hydroelectric power plant complex.

Maynilad allocates record P31b for 2024 capex

Maynilad Water Services Inc. is embarking on a P31-billion capital investment in 2024, the biggest investment for the company since water services in Metro Manila were privatized in 1997.

PH vehicle sales sustained strong growth in January

Automotive sales in the Philippines sustained its double-digit growth in Jan. 2024. The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc. (CAMPI) and the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA) said in a joint report total sales of their members reached 34,060 units in the first month of 2024 (15% growth YoY).

PH stocks extend gains on foreign buying

The composite index of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) extended its gains Wednesday, supported by continued net foreign buying. The 30-company PSE index climbed 42.70 points, or 0.62 percent, to close at 6,897.36, while the broader all-shares index advanced 18.40 points, or 0.51 percent, to 3,600.10.

SEC rejects NOW's appeal on P1-m disclosure fine

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rejected again the appeal filed by NOW Corp. on the P1-million fine for allegedly misleading the public about a P2.6-billion debt owed by its subsidiary NOW Telecom.

Special Announcement

Deloitte and Primeiro Partners join forces in the Philippines in a move to strengthen Deloitte's end-to-end M&A capability in Southeast Asia

Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:

6,897.36

1 Yr Return:

5.80%

Open:

6,899.61

YTD Return:

6.98%

52-Week Range:

5,920.47–6,931.55

Source:

Bloomberg

Foreign Exchange

As of February 21, 2023

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	55.940

BVAL Reference Rates

As of February 21, 2023

Tenor	Rate
1Y	6.115
3Y	6.181
5Y	6.236
7Y	6.273
10Y	6.277
20Y	6.433

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MORE LOCAL NEWS

Maharlika looking to post 2024 profit

State-owned Maharlika Investment Corp. (MIC), which operates the country's first sovereign wealth fund, is looking for its first investments in the third quarter and start generating profits this year. Returns will likely come from interest income and dividends, MIC President and Chief Executive Officer Rafael Consing Jr. said.

Maharlika studying foreign JVs for rural telco towers

The Maharlika Investment Corp. (MIC) is studying the potential of joint ventures (JVs) with foreign investors to build telco towers in rural areas. The rural segment is difficult for incumbent telco firms to invest in because they are reluctant to risk their own capital, opening the door for Maharlika to step into the gap.

Ayala Land sets P100B capex budget for 2024

Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI) has allocated P100-bn for its capital expenditure (capex) budget this year, with plans to launch P115-bn worth of projects, the property developer's chief financial officer said. The company's capex budget for 2024 is 16% higher than the P86.2-bn allocated for capex last year.

PLDT targets mainstream adoption of premium fiber

PLDT Inc. is planning to extend its gigabit fiber plan to Cebu and Davao following its initial deployment in Metro Manila, a company official said. For now, the Pangilinan-led company offers the service only in some areas in Metro Manila such as Makati City.

Movate expands presence in PH, aims job growth

Movate, Inc. is hoping to boost job opportunities in the Philippines with its third global delivery center in the country. US-based Movate, formerly CSS Corp., said its delivery center will help strengthen its regional presence and allow it to meet the rising demand of global enterprises serving US and EU regions.

Marcos eyes ease of restrictions for TNVS operators

Relaxed restrictions for transportation network vehicle services (TNVS) and the legalization of motorcycle taxis are being considered by the government, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said on Tuesday. "More transport options will benefit commuters, drivers and MSMEs (micro, small and medium enterprises)," he added.

SEC suspends over 100K corporations

In a statement, the SEC said its Company Registration and Monitoring Department suspended the certificates of incorporation of 117,885 corporations in an order dated February 16 "for failure to submit their annual reports for more than five years."

BSP may cut rates by 100 bps in 2024

Standard Chartered sees 100 basis points in key interest rate cuts by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas this year. Jonathan Koh, the bank's Asia economist, said he expects the central bank to cut rates by 25 basis points (bps) in June, then 25 bps for the next three meetings after.

Demand for Filipino seafarers still rising

MOL Group CEO and President Takeshi Hashimoto said seafarers remain in demand, despite challenges globally including the pandemic in 2020 and recent attacks in the Red Sea, brought about by the conflict in the Middle East.

BPI lends P7-Bn to Home Credit Philippines

Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) has extended an additional P7-Bn loan to Home Credit Philippines, making it the financing firm's biggest lender. This marked the third credit facility extended by BPI to Home Credit, with it providing P6.5-Bn in funds in the previous facilities.

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TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

Delivery Hero terminates talks on foodpanda SEA sale

German food delivery company Delivery Hero said on Wednesday that the ongoing talks for the potential sale of its foodpanda business in selected markets in South-east Asia have been terminated. The parties could not reach final agreement on the deal terms, Delivery Hero said in a statement, without naming the parties.

Sri Lanka repays \$20M Iranian oil debt with tea

Sri Lanka said on Wednesday it had exported tea worth \$20-mn to Iran to partially repay its \$251-mn oil debts, with Colombo saying Teheran's visiting foreign minister had expressed "satisfaction" at the deal. The barter deal allows sanctions-hit Iran to avoid having to use scarce hard currency to pay for imports of popular tea.

South Korea holds rates steady

The Bank of Korea (BOK) left interest rates at a 15-year high on Thursday amid signs that the weaker economy is slowing inflation, with investors zeroing in on Governor Rhee Chang-yong's comments on the timing of a policy pivot later this year. BOK held its benchmark interest rate at 3.50% at a policy review in Seoul.

Indonesia central bank keeps policy rates unchanged

Indonesia's central bank kept its policy rates unchanged on Feb 21, as expected, saying current levels were consistent with efforts to keep the rupiah currency stable and ensure inflation remains within target. Growth in South-east Asia's largest economy fell slightly in 2023 amid falling commodity prices.

South Korea export momentum sustained

South Korean exports driven by gains in electronics have continued to grow so far in February, supporting the view that trade can regain strength in 2024 and help prop up economic growth. The value of shipments adjusted for working-day differences increased 9.9% from a year earlier in the first 20 days of February.

TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

US Stocks mixed ahead of Nvidia news, Fed minutes

Wall Street stocks finished mixed following Federal Reserve minutes that signaled slower interest rate cuts ahead. Analysts also cited unease about Nvidia earnings in light of outsized expectations over artificial intelligence. The Dow Jones Industrial Average finished 0.1% higher at 38,612.24 and the S&P 500 gained 0.1% to 4,981.80.

Mercedes unveils €3B buyback as cash flow swells

Mercedes-Benz Group plans to buy back as much as 3-bn Euros worth of stock, extending moves to reward shareholders after cash flow exceeded expectations. Carmakers have returned more money to shareholders in recent months after benefiting from pent-up demand after years of supply-chain disruptions.

Microsoft to use Intel for home-grown processor

Intel has landed Microsoft as a customer for its made-to-order chip business. Microsoft plans to use Intel's 18A manufacturing technology to make a forthcoming chip that the software maker designed in-house. It is a major shift for the semiconductor pioneer, which once had the world's most advanced chipmaking facilities.

First Quantum Minerals announces cap. restructuring

First Quantum Minerals on Wednesday announced capital restructuring measures to strengthen its balance sheet and cut debt, a move that will help the Canadian miner deliver on its "operational objectives." The company has lost over half its market value after Panama's surprise order in November to shut the Cobre Panama copper mine.

Vale Sossego copper mine oper. license suspended

Brazilian miner Vale said on Wednesday it had received a letter from the State of Para's environmental secretary informing it that its operating license for its Sossego mine has been suspended. The company said in a filing it was evaluating the necessary measures to re-establish the full validity of the mine's operating license.