

# The Daily Dispatch

August 03, 2022  
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

## Puregold profit hits P2B as new stores boost sales

Puregold Price Club, Inc. reported a 4.1% increase in its net income to P2.05 billion from last year's P1.97 billion after booking higher sales boosted by newly opened stores and eased mobility restrictions.

## SMIC gets regulatory nod to acquire geothermal firm

SM Investments Corp. (SMIC) has acquired full ownership of Philippine Geothermal Production Co., Inc. (PGPC), the operator of Tiwi and Mak-Ban steam fields, through a P15.76-billion share-swap deal with Allfirst Equity Holdings, Inc.

## Cityland plans P1.5-B debt papers

Cityland Development Corp. approved a plan to file P1.5-billion worth of commercial papers with the Securities and Exchange Commission to meet its funding requirements. The filing was approved in a board meeting held on Aug. 1 as stated in the company's disclosure on Tuesday.

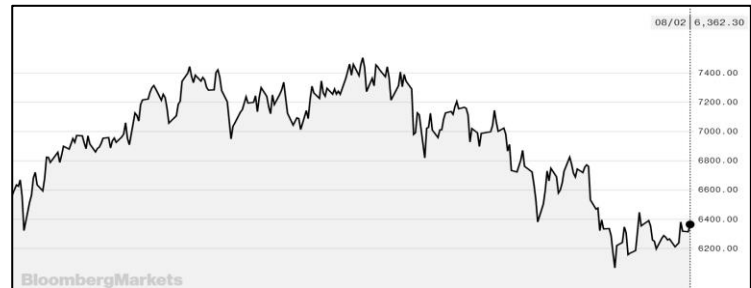
## PHL economy seen to expand 6.5% this year

Maybank Investment Banking Group slashed its growth forecast for the Philippines this year, amid the increasing possibility of a recession in the United States, China, and the European Union (EU). Maybank said it lowered the GDP growth forecast for the Philippines to 6.5% this year, from the 7% projection it gave in January.

## Metrobank's income haul improves in H1

Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.'s net income surged in the first half of 2022 amid improving market conditions propelled by the domestic economy's reopening. Metrobank reported its net income ballooned 33% year-on-year to P15.6 billion in the first six months of this year.

## Philippine Stock Market Update



**Previous Close:**

6,362.30

**1 Yr Return:**

-0.74%

**Open:**

6,359.97

**YTD Return:**

-10.89%

**52-Week Range:**

6,054.79 - 7,552.20

**Source:**

Bloomberg

## Foreign Exchange

As of Aug. 2, 2022

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	55.44

## BVAL Reference Rates

As of Aug. 2, 2022

Tenor	Rate
1Y	3.375
3Y	5.112
5Y	5.589
7Y	5.898
10Y	6.104
20Y	6.763

## Daily Quote

"You can, you should, and if you're brave enough to start, you will."

--Stephen King

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## MORE LOCAL NEWS

### Stocks rise amid positive early earnings results

Local stocks moved into positive territory as corporate earnings, which were mostly positive, helped boost investor sentiment. The Philippine Stock Exchange Composite index (PSEi) finished higher yesterday, closing at 6,362.30, up 50.27 points or 0.80 percent.

### Balai Ni Fruitas Q2 profit balloons 350% y/y

Balai Ni Fruitas [BALAI 0.68 1.45%] [link] Q2/22 profit of P9 million, up 350% from Q2/21 profit of P2 million, and up 50% from Q1/22 profit of P6 million, driven by improved gross margins, improved store performance, and what BALAI refers to as “continuous business expansion.”

### ICTSI eyes more investments in technology

MANILA, Philippines — International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) plans to make more investments in technology to crisis-proof its terminals.

### Chevron to supply fuel to 9 power plants

MANILA, Philippines — Caltex marketer Chevron Philippines Inc. (CPI) has been tapped by Aboitiz Power Corp. to supply diesel fuel to its nine power generation facilities nationwide.

### Diokno: Agriculture key to robust growth

“If we achieve our objective of making the agricultural sector more vibrant, more organized and more productive, I think that will have a huge impact on the [reduction of the] poverty incidence in the country,” Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno said in an interview over a public affairs program over the weekend.

### PH is Southeast Asia’s 4th fastest auto market

The Philippines was the fourth fastest automotive market in Southeast Asia in the first half of 2022, with sales hitting 154,874 units, up 16.7 percent from 132,767 units sold during the same period in 2021. Total sales in the region increased by 23.2% to 1.64 million units from 1.33 million units.

### Solar PHL unit sets terms of SRO

Solar Philippines Nueva Ecija Corp. said the offer period for its stock rights offering will start on August 30 and will end on September 5, according to the preliminary terms it released. The company said it is offering some 1.87bn in rights shares to eligible shareholders at a price of between P1.50 and P1.76 per share.

### Globe eyes tie-ups with more property developers

Globe Telecom Inc. plans to expand its list of property development partners for the deployment of built-in broadband and telco infrastructure in housing developments, a move that its president said will “ensure reliable and robust connectivity for residents.”

### DTI, PayMongo ink deal for MSMEs’ fund access

The Department of Trade and Industry Regional Operations Group, through its Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development and online payments company PayMongo Philippines Inc. signed an agreement to promote financial inclusion among micro, small and medium enterprises through improved access to financial services.

### Fees expansion, insurance premium boosted BDO’s biz

BDO Unibank Inc. announced on August 1 that it was able to grow its net profit by 12% in H1 of the year, owing largely to the strong performance of its core businesses during the period. The bank reported a net profit of P23.9 billion (roughly \$431.17 million at current exchange rates) during the first six months of 2022.

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## TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

### Alibaba and Tencent face end of an era

For almost a decade, Alibaba Group Holding and Tencent Holdings embodied China's economic miracle, sustaining a dizzying pace of growth and approaching trillion-dollar valuations with splashy forays into every corner of the internet. That spectacular run could end, when powerhouse is expected to record its first-ever decline in revenue

### UNOAsia secures \$11m in pre-Series A led by Creador

SINGAPORE-HEADQUARTERED fintech company UNOAsia announced on Tuesday (Aug 2) that it has secured US\$11 million in its pre-Series A round led by Creador Private Equity and will be using it to “accelerate growth in the Philippines”. The company is a primary incorporator of UNO Digital Bank in the Philippines.

### Hong Kong June retail sales decline at a slower pace

HONG Kong's retail sales in June fell at a slower pace than the previous month, official data released on Tuesday (Aug 2) showed, and the government plans more measures, including consumption vouchers, to provide support to the sector.

### Changi Airport leads regional recovery

CHANGI Airport is leading the regional travel recovery, compared with other major East Asia Pacific air hubs such as Incheon, Hong Kong and Bangkok, said Transport Minister S Iswaran in Parliament on Aug 2.

### Australia hikes by half-point for third month

Australia's central bank gave itself wriggle room to amend its interest rate path if the economic outlook deteriorates after implementing the sharpest policy tightening in a generation.

## TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

### Airbnb reports soaring revenue as travel rebounds

Airbnb said on Tuesday (Aug 3) that revenue in the recently ended quarter topped US\$2 billion (S\$2.76 billion) as people shook off pandemic worries and took part in a banner travel season. The home rental platform logged a net income of US\$379 million in what it touted as the most profitable second quarter in its history.

### Starbucks sees record \$11.3b revenue

Customers flocking to Starbucks and ordering Iced Shaken Espressos helped propel the coffee giant's revenue to a record US\$8.2 billion (S\$11.3 billion) in the latest quarter, the company said on Tuesday (Aug 2).

### New Zealand house prices sink most since fin crisis

New Zealand house prices fell the most since the global financial crisis in the three months through July as soaring interest rates curbed buyer demand. Prices fell 2.5 per cent, the biggest three-month decline since October 2008 when the economy was in the grip of the crisis-driven recession, CoreLogic New Zealand said

### Uber attracts record number of drivers

The number of people driving for Uber jumped to a record high amid worries about the rising cost of living. Almost five million people around the world are now picking up passengers or making food deliveries for the company, 31 per cent more than last year, its chief executive Dara Khosrowshahi said

### BP profit triples to \$12.8b in Q2

British oil giant BP returned to profit in the second quarter following a big loss due to its exit from Russia over the war in Ukraine, company results showed on Tuesday (Aug 2).