

# The Daily Dispatch

August 13, 2020  
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

## Tourism sector loses P190 billion in March-July

REVENUES of the Philippine tourism industry fell by P190 billion from March to July this year, owing to the international travel restrictions implemented by various countries to contain the Covid-19 outbreak.

## H1 'sin' tax take down 25% to P109 billion

Latest preliminary data obtained by the BusinessMirror showed the total "sin" tax collections of the government at P109 billion for the six-month period this year fell short of the P146 billion it collected as of end-June last year, although this was 33.9 percent higher than its adjusted target of P81.4 billion.

## Shell permanently shuts down Philippine refinery

As a tough yet strategic choice to sustain its downstream oil market operations and to withstand the disruptive impact of the coronavirus pandemic, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation has decided this week to permanently shut down its refining operations in the country — that's after 58 long years of business presence.

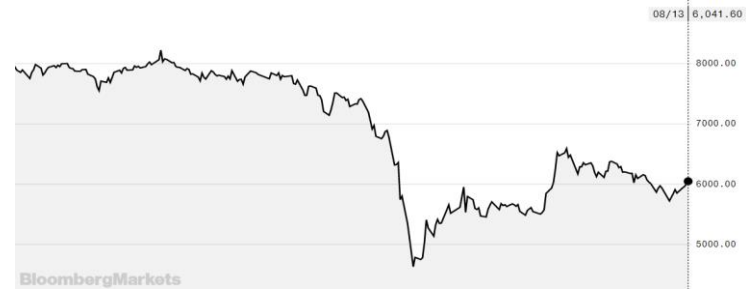
## Logistics seen to drive PH real estate recovery

Recovery of the Philippine real estate sector is expected to be slow but growth could occur within 18 to 24 months driven by new segments, particularly logistics, according to a property management and consultancy services firm.

## ADB approves \$400-M loan for agri reforms

In a statement, the Manila-based lender said yesterday that it has approved a \$400 million policy-based loan under the Competitive and Inclusive Agriculture Development Program (Subprogram 1) to support reforms in the agriculture industry.

## Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:

5,995.00

Open:

6,015.26

52-Week Range:

4,039.15 - 8,216.92

1 Yr Return:

-21.17%

YTD Return:

-22.87%

Source:

Bloomberg

## Foreign Exchange

As of Aug. 12, 2020

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	48.911

## PDST-R2 Rates

As of Aug. 12, 2020

Tenor	Rate
1Y	1.791
3Y	2.174
5Y	2.447
7Y	2.653
10Y	2.778
20Y	3.564

## Daily Quote

"Learning and innovation go hand in hand. The arrogance of success is to think that what you did yesterday will be sufficient for tomorrow."

--Jim Collins and Jerry Porras

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## MORE LOCAL NEWS

### AC Energy booked P1.96-B profit in 1st half

The Ayala group's power platform, AC Energy Philippines Inc., turned around with a P1.96-billion net income in the first half of 2020 from a net loss of P552 million in the same period last year.

### Roxas Holdings cuts 9-month losses

Integrated sugar and bioethanol producer Roxas Holdings Inc. (RHI) was able to trim its losses for the first nine months of its fiscal year beginning in September despite the adverse effects of the Taal Volcano eruption and the new coronavirus pandemic.

### Lucio Tan's MacroAsia loses P518 million in H1 2020

The Philippines' largest aviation support firm, MacroAsia Corporation, suffered a P518.13-million net loss for the first 6 months of 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

### Shakey's posts P290-M loss on store closures

Shakey's Pizza Asia Ventures, Inc. (SPAVI) swung to a net loss in the six months to June as the coronavirus pandemic forced it to lock stores since mid-March. Overall sales dropped 31% during the period, but the company did not disclose the figures as of Wednesday.

### Banks' soured loans climb in June

Local banks saw soured loans rise by a fourth as of end-June, reflecting the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, data from the central bank showed. Gross nonperforming loans (NPLs) jumped by 26.7% to P273.6 billion in June from the P215.9 billion in the same month a year ago.

### 2GO swings to P622-M loss on limited operations

2GO Group, Inc. posted an attributable net loss of P621.60 million for the second quarter compared with a profit of P23.73 million in the year-earlier period, citing limited operations in various areas, especially Luzon, as a result of coronavirus quarantine restrictions.

### Gov't to guarantee P10 bn in MSME loans of 6 banks

State-run Philippine Guarantee Corp. (Philguarantee) has agreed to back loans of six banks worth P10.2 billion for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). The government has set aside P120 billion for the credit guarantee program that will help small businesses gain access to loans for working capital.

### Business activities picking up — DOF

Some industries have experienced a pickup in business activities following the slight easing of movement restrictions in Metro Manila and other urban centers in June, according to the Department of Finance (DOF).

### ABS-CBN expands digital ventures

ABS-CBN continues to expand its presence in the digital space with the introduction of a YouTube channel for children's learning called TuTuBee. TuTuBee is one of ABS-CBN's latest ventures to strengthen its digital presence and reach more audiences, following the successful introduction of the Kapamilya Online Live early this month.

### MECQ prompts huge drop in Luzon power demand

The Independent Electricity Market Operator of the Philippines (IEMOP) has noted a 700-megawatt (MW) drop in Luzon's power demand as Metro Manila and nearby provinces shifted back to modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ).

# The Daily Dispatch

## 'Philippine jobless rate highest in Southeast Asia'

The Philippines is seen booking the highest unemployment rate in Southeast Asia, with about eight million Filipinos expected to lose their jobs as the coronavirus disease 2019 or COVID-19 pandemic continues to overwhelm the economy, according to Maybank ATR Kim Eng.

### TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

## Shake Shack shrugs off trade war, opens in Beijing

BEIJING — Antagonisms between China and the United States didn't stop Beijing's burger lovers from standing in line for hours for a bite of Shake Shack's snacks.

## Alibaba-backed Best to list delivery business in HK

Alibaba-backed Best Inc (BEST.N) is seeking a Hong Kong listing for its express delivery and freight delivery businesses, keen to boost its valuation and establish an investor base closer to China, said three sources with knowledge of the matter.

## Temasek, Bayer form vertical farming venture

A new US\$30 million (S\$41.2 million) company has been formed to develop breakthroughs in vertical farming, a move that will help to further reinforce Singapore's food supply. Called Unfold, it is a tie-up between Singapore investment company Temasek and a unit of German pharmaceutical and life sciences giant Bayer.

## Bintan Lagoon Resort to shut, 500 workers axed

After 26 years, the popular getaway Bintan Lagoon Resort is bidding visitors a final goodbye, a victim of the pandemic that has wreaked havoc on global travel and tourism. Mr Buralimar, head of the Bintan Tourism Office, said declining visitor numbers and tourism receipts were behind the demise of the 450-room, five-star resort.

## India woos investors to its coal mines

India is set to hold its first commercial coal mine auctions in October, and is currently accepting bids with technical specifications. In the next phase, shortlisted companies will submit financial bids. But the coal ministry has already had to review the initial list of 41 coal blocks because of opposition from states

### TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

## UK officially in recession after 20.4% Q2 slump

LONDON — The U.K. economy has officially fallen into a recession after official figures showed it contracting by a record 20.4% in the second quarter as a result of lockdown measures put in place to counter the coronavirus pandemic.

## Abu Dhabi seeks local investors for US\$21b pipeline

Abu Dhabi is considering bringing local investors into its natural-gas pipeline network, according to people familiar with the matter, just months after raising cash from foreign funds. State-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Co (Adnoc) is discussing moving its 51 per cent holding in the pipelines into a SPV.

## Liberty Global surprises with deal to buy Sunrise

Liberty Global plans to take over Switzerland's Sunrise Communications in a surprise \$7.4 billion deal announced by the companies on Wednesday. The agreed deal reverses Sunrise's failed bid to buy Liberty's Swiss business last year and marks a strategic reversal by the U.S. company which has been divesting European assets.

## Facebook, Snap held talks to buy Dubsmash

Facebook Inc and Snapchat owner Snap Inc held talks to buy Dubsmash, the Information reported on Wednesday, putting a spotlight on pop video apps at a time when Microsoft Corp is trying to workout a deal to buy rival TikTok.