

**Government reaffirms support to business**

Special Assistant to the President for Investment and Economic Affairs Secretary Frederick Go indicated that PBBM's administration has implemented programs and pushed for legislation that will facilitate the growth of businesses to support the expansion of the economy. Among the reforms and policies of the Marcos administration that supported the growth of Philippine businesses and the economy include the launching of the Electronic Local Government Unit in 2023, the establishment of green lanes to fast-track permitting and licensing of strategic investments, and streamlining the processing of permits for the construction of IT technology infrastructure. Go added that the amendments to the Public Service Act and passage of PPP Code of 2023 also facilitated foreign investments and strengthened the partnership between government and business.

Meantime, Fitch Ratings said PHL GDP growth this year may fall below the government's target amid dampened household spending. In its review, Fitch said it sees the economy to expand by 5.5% in 2024, after 5.5% in 2023. Fitch Ratings' growth forecast falls below the government's 6-7% target. In the first half of the year, GDP averaged 6%. Household spending eased to 4.6% in 2Q, the slowest since the pandemic. For 2025, it sees Philippine GDP averaging 6.1%, also still below the government's 6.5-7.5% target range.

PHL shares ended higher to close this week, up by 0.42% to 7,314.23. But the gains were not enough to extend the weekly rise for the PSEi, dropping by 1.37% versus last week. Value turnover reached P4.2bn, while net foreign activity had a slight buying bias of P7.75mn. BPI led the increase at +5% to P146/share. AP (P37.80, +1.1%) reported that core net income increased 2% to P27.3bn, better than our estimate of P26.7bn. 3Q24 net income also was better at P10.2bn versus our target of P9.6bn. 9M EBITDA grew by 12% to P56.1bn with growth seen across all business units. Power generation had +11% growth driven by margins improvement and new power facilities, while distribution showed +10% EBITDA as energy sales rose 2%. We continue to rate AP a Buy as it trades a hefty 41% discount to TP plus an attractive 6% dividend yield. Parent AEV though was lower today by 0.8% to P35.80. GMA7 (7.14, +0.3%) announced that it had converted into equity its advances to GMA Network Films amounting to P18.75mn. The latter is planning to make a comeback in film production after its hiatus following the pandemic. ACEN (4.90, +1.2%) is spending up to US\$18mn to bankroll a 70- MW solar project in Bangladesh as part of its expansion in Asia-Pacific region. ACEN through ACEN Renewables International will infuse the capital into IBV ACEN Renewables Asia Pte Ltd, its JV with Singapore-based ib vogt (Singapore) Pte.

**Daily Advances & Declines**

Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
PSEi	7,406.63	7,413.16	7,367.66	7,283.79	<b>7,314.23</b>
Change in PSEi	-9.10	+6.53	-45.50	-83.87	<b>+30.44</b>
Cumulative change	-9.10	-2.57	-48.07	-131.94	<b>-101.50</b>
Value turnover (Pm)	3,295.9	5,310.5	4,516.1	3,804.3	<b>4,197.2</b>
Issues traded	270	248	254	245	<b>246</b>
Advances	104	99	71	53	<b>110</b>
Declines	113	94	128	139	<b>81</b>
Unchanged	53	55	55	53	<b>55</b>
Net advances	-9	+5	-57	-86	<b>+29</b>
Cumulative net advances	-9	-4	-61	-147	<b>-118</b>
Net Foreign Buying/ (Selling) (Pm)	161.9	(16)	(159.2)	(206.4)	<b>7.7</b>

Top Ten Actives	Close	% Change	Value (PhPmn)
BPI	146.00	+5.04	750.53
GTCAP	714.50	+0.78	300.12
BDO	159.70	-1.90	296.23
MBT	77.00	0.00	188.52
SMPH	30.60	-1.13	184.59
ICT	412.80	+0.93	170.85
SCC	33.65	-0.30	160.45
PGOLD	33.00	+2.01	150.70
ALI	34.80	-0.57	145.65
GLO	2274.00	+0.62	97.69

Asian Markets			Asian Currencies		
	Last	% Change		Last	% Change
Japan	37913.92	-0.60	Yen	151.64	-0.13
Hongkong	20613.45	+0.60	HK\$	7.80	0.00
Singapore	3588.75	-0.45	Sing\$	1.3195	+0.11
Philippines	7314.23	+0.42	Peso	58.25	+0.48
Malaysia	1629.86	-0.15	Ringgit	4.3483	0.00
Thailand	1463.65	+0.21	Baht	33.75	+0.23
Indonesia	7706.040	-0.14	Rupiah	15639	+0.36
Korea	2583.30	+0.29	Won	1388	+0.52
Australia	8211.29	+0.06	Euro	1.0825	-0.03

Peso/Dollar Update			
PDS Weighted Ave.	58.089	High	58.38
Change	+0.48 %	Low	57.82
Volume	1.47B	Last	58.25

*As of 3pm*

Overnight Foreign Quote	Close	Change
Dow Jones	42374.36	-140.59
NASDAQ	18415.49	+138.84
S&P 500	5809.86	+12.44
PHI (PLDT-US)	US\$25.17 (P1467.41)	-\$0.26
Manulife (MFC-US)	US\$29.98 (P1747.83)	-\$0.04
Sun Life (SLC-US)	US\$56.72 (P3306.78)	-\$0.03
NY Gold Spot	US\$2726.20	-\$10.00
NY Copper	US\$434.40	-\$0.70
LME Nickel	\$16300	-\$10
LME Nickel WH Level	135816	+0.53%
Nymex	\$70.32	+\$0.13
Crude (Dubai)	\$75.48	+\$1.07