

# The Daily Dispatch

February 21, 2018  
TODAY'S TOP NEWS

## Gov. to piggyback on NGCP line for broadband plan

The National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) has mutually agreed with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to move forward on the use of available fiber optic capacity in the government's National Broadband Program (NBP).

## Philippines wants garments included in US GSP

The Philippines wants garments as the next product added in the US Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) coverage, Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez said. The country has a pending request to the US to expand anew its GSP coverage to include footwear products following the inclusion of travel goods last year.

## US, PH companies to push for more collaborations

A Filipino-American organization co-chaired by business titan Manuel V. Pangilinan is pushing for greater collaboration between US and Philippine firms in key sectors of the economy as part of a "modern, multi-dimensional, 21st century US-Philippines relationship."

## ADB meet in May seen as showcase event for PH

The country's hosting of the 51st Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in May will be a showcase event for the Philippines with expected spillover effects on tourism and investments, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez said yesterday.

## BPI: 7% econ. growth 'achievable' this year

Economic growth on par with the world's fastest growing countries is on the cards for this year despite the peso continuing to slide, according to the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI). "We're very confident that close to 7% if not 7% growth is very achievable this year," said BPI lead economist Emilio Neri Jr.

## Philippine Stock Market Update



Previous Close:

8,722.70

1 Yr Return:

20.99%

Open:

8,677.51

YTD Return:

1.20%

52-Week Range:

7,146.27 - 9,078.37

Source:

Bloomberg

## Foreign Exchange

As of Feb. 20, 2018

US Dollar	Philippine Peso
1	52.253

## PDST-R2 Rates

As of Feb. 20, 2018

Tenor	Rate
1Y	3.9329
3Y	4.2981
5Y	5.0360
7Y	6.6804
10Y	6.8789
20Y	7.1161

## Daily Quote

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life." --Steve Jobs

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## MORE LOCAL NEWS

### Govt working to tag key power projects

Ten energy ventures are being evaluated for possible proclamation as projects of national importance, a senior government official said, subsequently benefiting from streamlined approval processes. Energy Undersecretary Jesus Cristino Posadas declined to identify the companies involved.

### PH still lags in LTE use globally despite gains

Despite improvements in its long-term evolution (LTE) mobile network last year, the Philippines still ranks near the bottom among countries using this technology, a wireless-coverage mapping company said on Tuesday.

### DOF: Samurai bonds to partly fund Nampeidai dev't

The planned issuance of Samurai bonds to partly finance the government's proposal of constructing new buildings on its Nampeidai property in Tokyo, Japan, the DOF said. Fin. Sec. Dominguez said that the government will use a portion of the proceeds from the Sumarai bonds to develop the Philippines' 2,600sqm property in Japan.

### EDC joins Carbon Clean 200 ranking

Local geothermal leader Energy Development Corporation (EDC), said yesterday it is more determined to continue its investments in a low carbon future, following its inclusion in the Carbon Clean 200™ list. The ranking was based on the companies' total clean energy revenues as rated by Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF).

### Indian firm wants to join PH telco market

President Rodrigo R. Duterte announced on Tuesday, Feb. 20, that an Indian firm is seeking to invest in the Philippines' telecommunications industry. DICT has recently released the draft criteria for the selection of the third telco player, and it is set to be presented to the stakeholders in a consultation on Feb. 27.

### Bourse expected to weather global volatility

PHILIPPINE EQUITIES are unlikely to return to bear territory for some time despite volatility in global markets, with the country's long-term economic growth prospects remaining intact against a backdrop of normalizing interest rates and mounting inflation pressure, stock market analysts said on Tuesday.

### SEC cautions public against investing in Unitynet

SEC has advised the public against investing in Unitynet Corp., which has not secured the necessary license to solicit any form of investment. SEC said it has received reports that Unitynet has been enticing people to invest P2,990 in the company in exchange for access to a system that will guide them on how to conduct business better.

### DENR crackdown on illegal small-scale miners

After clamping down on large-scale mines last year, Environment Secretary Roy Cimatu is now on a mission to separate the good and the bad in small-scale mining as he begins with its legalization and regulation.

## TODAY'S TOP ASIAN NEWS

### SG plans to boost goods and services tax to 9%

Singapore Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat announced a range of tax increases in his budget, including a surprise hike in property levies, as he seeks to shore up savings to cope with a rapidly aging population. "There is a need to strengthen our fiscal footing," Heng said.

### Insignia Ventures Partners closes fund at \$120m

Singapore-based Insignia Ventures Partners, founded by former Sequoia Capital venture partner Yinglan Tan, has closed its maiden fund at \$120 million, two industry executives aware of the matter told this portal.

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## MORE ASIAN NEWS

### Udaan raises \$50m from Lightspeed, others

Udaan, an online marketplace for businesses, has raised \$50 million in a fresh round of funding led by existing investor Lightspeed Venture Partners US, as it seeks to accelerate expansion. Another existing shareholder, Lightspeed India, as well as funds associated with Russian billionaire Yuri Milner, also participated in the round.

### BoJ to stay on path to 'virtual normalization'

BoJ will likely continue its "virtual normalization" of monetary policy under its new leadership, former board member Takahide Kiuchi said. The appointment of reflationist Masazumi Wakatabe as a deputy governor is unlikely to change the course of policy toward additional easing, as some in the markets are speculating.

### SE Asia to remain M&A hotbed

Mergers and acquisitions remain a popular avenue for growth-seeking enterprises. However, a diligently planned and executed deal can come undone with the lack of a clear post-M&A strategy

### Vietnam to offload 29.51% stake in Binh Minh

Vietnam's sovereign wealth fund State Capital Investment Corporation plans to offer its 29.51% stake in one of the country's leading plastic firms, Binh Minh Plastic JSC (BMP), on March 9, kicking off the much-delayed divestment exercise

### Foreign insurers feel the heat in Malaysia

Malaysia will require overseas insurance firms to jettison at least 30% of their domestic business via strategic stake sales or local IPOs by end of June in order to comply with new foreign ownership rules

## TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL NEWS

### Short end treasuries fall, Asia stocks stay flat

Asian stocks traded mixed following a decline in their American counterparts while shorter-dated U.S. Treasuries extended losses amid a massive debt issuance. The dollar steadied after Tuesday's gains.

### Walmart tumbles as online growth slows

Walmart Inc. fell the most in more than two years after delivering a disappointing annual profit forecast, sparking fears that its bid to catch up with Amazon.com Inc. online is losing momentum. The world's largest retailer expects earnings of \$4.75 to \$5 a share this fiscal year, compared to Wall Street estimates of \$5.13.

### Saudi Arabia is taking a harder line on oil prices

For decades, Saudi Arabia was the voice of moderation within OPEC, pushing back against higher oil prices. That role seems to be shifting. Thanks to OPEC-led production cuts, crude prices are double their level two years ago and bloated oil stockpiles are almost back to normal. Yet Saudi Arabia wants to go further.

### The Global Banking Spotlight is Shining on Latvia

One of its biggest lenders is accused of laundering money for North Korea. Its central bank chief was detained by anti-corruption police. All in a matter of days. What's going on in Latvia? The Baltic nation of 2 million people — once a Soviet republic — is no stranger to financial scandal.

## Economic Calendar

Date	Release
02.18.2018	BoP Overall
02.25.2018	Budget Balance PHP
02.27.2018	Bank Lending YoY
02.27.2018	Money Supply M3 SRF YoY
02.28.2018	Nikkei Philippines PMI Mfg

Source: Bloomberg Economic Calendar