



ECONOMIC INDICATORS

6.4

Q1 2017 Gross Domestic Product

3.40

April 2017 Inflation Rate

8.7

Q1 2017 Consumer Confidence

7.1

Q1 2017 Auto-buying Intention

49.99

Daily Peso – Dollar Exchange Rate

MACROECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

DTI head to sign trade deals with Russia

Trade and Industry Secretary Ramon M. Lopez said he was staying behind in Russia to sign bilateral agreements with the foreign government in a bid “to deliver the message that business will continue” in spite of the terrorist attacks on a city in Mindanao.



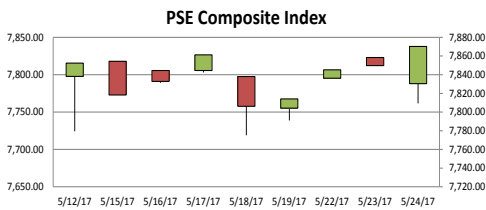
[FULL STORY HERE](#)

PH key fiscal indicators improve in 1st quarter

The country’s key fiscal indicators improved in the first three months of the year as the rise in state tax collections continued to outpace growth, while the national government’s budget gap and outstanding debt remained very well managed.



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FINANCIAL TRENDS

Market impact of Marawi clashes deemed temporary, but business groups press for swift resolution

Security concerns due to clashes between government troops and militants in Marawi City will likely cause a “temporary” slide of financial markets, but investors should eventually gain confidence from the national leadership’s display of decisiveness, the chief of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said yesterday.



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INDUSTRY NEWS

New MMDA Chair Danilo Lim to use discipline against traffic problem

President Rodrigo Duterte has appointed retired Philippine Army Brigadier General Danilo Lim as Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman.



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GLOBAL WATCHLIST



Moody’s downgrades China’s debt rating

For the first time in more than 25 years, the ratings agency Moody’s has downgraded China’s debt rating. As Shanghai Bureau Chief John Ruwitch reports, it’s all about the country’s crippling levels of debt.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

INTERNATIONAL

Geely to acquire significant stake in Proton, Lotus

Zhejiang Geely has reached an agreement with DRB-Hicom regarding the acquisition of a 49.9% equity stake in Proton for an undisclosed amount. Along with the acquisition of Proton, the deal also includes Geely acquiring a 51% stake of Lotus from Proton.



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