

# Banking&Finance

## Metrobank’s net income climbs 47.93% to P32.78 billion in 2022

METROPOLITAN Bank & Trust Co. (Metrobank) saw its net income rise by 47.93% in 2022 amid the improved performance of its consumer and corporate lending businesses and lower loan loss reserves. The bank’s quarterly report disclosed to the local bourse on Thursday showed its attributable net profit climbed to P32.78 billion last year from P22.16 billion in 2021. This translated to a return on average equity of 10.29%, up from 6.89% in 2021. Return on average assets also improved to 1.23% from 0.89% a year prior. Metrobank said in a statement that the increase in its net profit came “on the back of better corporate and consumer lending businesses, healthy fee income, subdued operating expense

growth and lower provisions on stable asset quality.” For the fourth quarter alone, net earnings climbed by 55% year on year to P9.3 billion, it said. “Backed by the strategies we initiated during the pandemic, our solid performance and the recognitions we received in 2022 reflect our efforts to support our clients’ growing needs as the economy re-opens,” Metrobank President Fabian S. Dee was quoted as saying. “With our strong balance sheet and highly capable team of Metrobankers, we stand ready to continue to be the trusted partner of all our stakeholders for the long term,” he added. The bank’s financial statements showed its net income for 2022 exceeded the 2019 or pre-pandemic

level of P28.055 billion. Its profit stood at P13.831 billion in 2020 and P22.156 billion in 2021 due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on its operations. Metrobank’s net interest income climbed by 13.96% to P85.529 billion in 2022, with interest earnings rising by 17.43% and interest expenses up by 38.86%, “fueled by higher loan demand and better net interest margin of 3.6%”. “Interest income went up... due to increases in interest income on investment securities by P9.62 billion (due to higher volume of investment securities at amortized cost), interest income on loans and receivables by P4.66 billion and interest income on interbank loans receivable by P0.68 billion,” the lender said.

“Gross loans expanded by 14% year on year, supported by a 15% growth in corporate and commercial loans as businesses started to build their inventories and resumed their investment spending. Likewise, net credit card loans increased by 29%, leading the recovery in consumer lending,” it added. Other operating income went up by 3.72% to P26.79 billion on higher fee-based income and profits from asset sales. Meanwhile, the bank’s total operating expenses rose by just 2.56% to P61 billion. Metrobank set aside loan loss provisions worth P8.11 billion in 2022, lower than the P11.83 billion provision in 2021.

Metrobank, S2/3

## DBP books P5.6 billion in net earnings in 2022

DEVELOPMENT BANK of the Philippines (DBP) saw its net profit climb by 50% to P5.61 billion in 2022 on the back of improved interest income and loan volumes. The state-run bank said in a statement on Thursday that its net income rose from P3.74 billion in 2021 as its loans expanded amid the continued reopening of the economy. DBP President and Chief Executive Officer Michael O. de Jesus said this increase also came despite the rise in its loan loss provisions. “This resurgent financial performance of DBP enhances its inherent strong capacity to support the National Government’s goal of promoting sustainable and equitable eco-

nom ic growth in the country, through the provision of vital financial support to various socioeconomic initiatives, particularly on infrastructure development,” Mr. De Jesus said in a statement. The bank’s total loans grew 12% to P527 billion last year from P469.40 billion in 2021. Mr. De Jesus said P297.14 billion or the bulk of loan releases went to projects in the infrastructure and logistics sector, representing 56% of its loan portfolio. Credit for projects under the social infrastructure and community development sector amounted to P105.91 billion, while P70.04 billion in loans went to other developmental projects, which include financial and insurance

activities, manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, accommodation, and food services. “DBP’s outstanding loans for environment-related projects totaled P54.62 billion, P32.14 billion for the MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) sector, and about P45.58 billion for projects in the agriculture sector in line with the food sufficiency program of the National Government,” Mr. De Jesus said. The lender’s improved net profit was also driven by the 18% increase in its gross margin that came despite a P5.9-billion credit loss, DBP Officer-in-Charge for Operations First Vice-President Christine G. Mota said.

DBP, S2/3

### OPINION

## Offense and defense strategies for Asia-Pacific CEOs

CEOs today around Asia-Pacific are shifting from years of rapid development and scale to making strategic decisions that prioritize resilience, efficiency, and quality — all in anticipation of a recession that is likely to be shorter but more severe than expected. In the January 2023 EY CEO Outlook Pulse, a study conducted with 1,200 CEOs around the world, nearly all respondents agree that a downturn is coming or has already arrived. In the Asia-Pacific area, specifically, 99% of the 290 CEOs who participated are actively preparing for a downturn scenario. Roughly half at 49%, however, are gearing themselves up for one that is temporary. While 61% of Asia-Pacific CEOs are confident that fiscal and policy decisions will ultimately shorten the length of the recession, the majority believe this will be different from previous slowdowns and that it may be worse than the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) in terms of depth and severity. Given the uncertain climate of the economic landscape, it is critical that CEOs adopt a defensive stance: finding a balance between fortifying their businesses to withstand the worst of the downturn while also planning for the future to strengthen their market position. According to the study, Asia-Pacific CEOs are almost equally focused on offensive and defensive strategies, such as investing in early-stage companies, acquiring companies in related industries, and developing sustainability or environmental, social, and governance (ESG) capabilities. On the other

hand, defensive strategies include adapting supply chains for resiliency, selling off underperforming business units, and hiring quality talent. PANDEMIC ISSUES NO LONGER THE GREATEST RISKS The study indicates that only 29% of CEO respondents now view pandemic-related interruptions as the greatest danger to organizational growth. CEOs throughout the Asia-Pacific are now focusing on the problems presented by greater input costs and higher capital costs in the face of rising inflation and the regionalization of the global economy. Inflation was high in almost every major Asia-Pacific nation in 2022, and this trend is predicted to last at least through the first half of 2023 before progressively decreasing. With the exception of China and Japan, most central banks in the Asia-Pacific region have dramatically hiked their interest rates to combat inflation, which in turn increased the cost of financing. The regionalization and fragmentation of the global economy, which resulted in broken supply chains, higher input costs, and sharp increases in energy prices, have all likewise increased cost pressures. FINEX, S2/3

WILSON P. TAN is the chairman and country managing partner of SGV & Co. and the president of FINEX.



PESO CROSS RATES											
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023											
one unit of currency	Phil peso	Aussie dollar	Bahrain dinar	Canadian dollar	HKong dollar	Japan yen	Saudi rial	S'pore dollar	Swiss franc	UK pound	US dollar
Philippines	1.0000	0.0267	0.0068	0.0246	0.1423	2.4468	0.0680	0.0243	0.0169	0.0151	0.0181
Australia	37.5070	1.0000	0.2564	0.9217	5.3378	91.7715	2.5519	0.9118	0.6335	0.5647	0.6803
Bahrain	146.2608	3.8996	1.0000	3.5944	20.8150	357.8684	9.9515	3.5556	2.4704	2.2019	2.6529
Canada	40.6916	1.0849	0.2782	1.0000	5.7910	99.5635	2.7686	0.9892	0.6873	0.6126	0.7381
Hong Kong	7.0267	0.1873	0.0480	0.1727	1.0000	17.1928	0.4781	0.1708	0.1187	0.1058	0.1274
Japan	0.4087	0.0109	0.0028	0.0100	0.0582	1.0000	0.0278	0.0099	0.0069	0.0062	0.0074
Saudi Arabia	14.6974	0.3919	0.1005	0.3612	2.0917	35.9613	1.0000	0.3573	0.2482	0.2213	0.2666
Singapore	41.1348	1.0967	0.2812	1.0109	5.8541	100.6479	2.7988	1.0000	0.6948	0.6193	0.7461
Switzerland	59.2064	1.5785	0.4048	1.4550	8.4259	144.8652	4.0284	1.4393	1.0000	0.8913	1.0739
United Kingdom	66.4242	1.7710	0.4541	1.6324	9.4531	162.5256	4.5195	1.6148	1.1219	1.0000	1.2048
United States	55.1330	1.4699	0.3769	1.3549	7.8462	134.8985	3.7512	1.3403	0.9312	0.8300	1.0000
EMU	58.4685	1.5589	0.3998	1.4369	8.3209	143.0597	3.9782	1.4214	0.9875	0.8802	1.0605

Source: BSP



BARBIE ALMALBIS CELEBRATES 25 YEARS IN MUSIC S2/4

### MARKET WATCH

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023

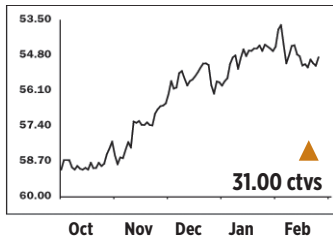
#### FOREIGN INTEREST RATES

Percent per annum

	LIBOR (US\$)	Dec 23	Jan 24	Feb 21
90-days	4.7264	4.8219	4.9221	
180	5.1531	5.1086	5.2574	
	SIBOR (SG\$)	Dec 22	Jan 19	Feb 16
90-days	4.2500	4.2500	4.1875	
180	—	—	—	

### FOREX RATE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023



Close: P54.870  
Volume: \$1,109.40 million  
Previous Close: P55.180  
Source: Bankers Association of the Philippines

### BSP REFERENCE RATES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023

Currency	Equivalent of foreign currency in US Dollar	Equivalent of US\$1 in foreign currency	Equivalent of foreign currency in RP peso	Equivalent of RPP in foreign currency	Equivalent of foreign currency in EURO	Equivalent of EURO in foreign currency
Convertible currencies with BSP						
US dollar	1.000000	1.000000	55.13300	0.018138	0.942951	1.060500
Japanese yen	0.007413	134.898152	0.40870	2.446782	0.006699	143.061516
UK pound	1.204800	0.830013	66.42420	0.015055	1.136068	0.880229
Hongkong dollar	0.127450	7.846214	7.02670	0.142314	0.120179	8.320921
Swiss franc	1.073883	0.931200	59.20640	0.016890	1.01262	0.987537
Canada dollar	0.738062	1.354900	40.69160	0.024575	0.695957	1.436870
Singapore dollar	0.746102	1.340299	41.13480	0.024310	0.703538	1.421387
Australia dollar	0.680300	1.469940	37.50700	0.026662	0.64149	1.558871
Bahrain dinar *	2.652872	0.376950	146.26080	0.006837	2.501529	0.399756
Kuwait dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia rial	0.266581	3.751205	14.69740	0.068039	0.251373	3.978152
Brunei dollar	0.743329	1.345299	40.98200	0.024401	0.700923	1.426690
Indonesia rupiah	0.000066	15151.515152	0.00360	277.777778	0.000062	16129.032258
Thailand baht	0.028885	34.620045	1.59250	0.627943	0.027237	36.714763
U. A. E. Dirham	0.272279	3.672703	15.01160	0.066615	0.256746	3.894900
E.M.U. euro	1.060500	0.942951	58.46850	0.017103	1.000000	1.000000
South Korea won	0.000768	1302.083333	0.04230	23.640662	0.000724	1381.215470
China yuan **	0.145138	6.889994	8.00190	0.124970	0.136858	7.306844

Others (Not Convertible with BSP)						
Argentina peso	0.00513	194.931774	0.28280	3.536068	0.004837	206.739715
Brazil real	0.194092	5.152196	10.70090	0.093450	0.183019	5.463914
Denmark kroner	0.142456	7.019711	7.85400	0.127324	0.134329	7.444409
India rupee	0.012073	82.829454	0.66560	1.502404	0.011384	87.842586
Malaysia ringgit	0.225276	4.438999	12.42010	0.080515	0.212424	4.707566
Mexico new peso	0.054511	18.344921	3.00540	0.332734	0.051401	19.454874
New Zealand dollar	0.621700	1.608493	34.27620	0.029175	0.586233	1.705806
Norway kroner	0.096555	10.356791	5.32340	0.187850	0.091047	10.983338
Pakistan rupee	0.003828	261.233020	0.21100	4.739336	0.00361	277.008310
South African rand	0.054862	18.227553	3.02470	0.330611	0.051732	19.330395
Sweden kroner	0.095955	10.421552	5.29030	0.189025	0.090481	11.052044
Syria pound	0.000398	2512.562814	0.02190	45.662100	0.000375	2666.666667
Taiwan dollar	0.032769	30.516647	1.80670	0.553495	0.0309	32.362460
Venezuela bolivar	0.041101	24.330308	2.26600	0.441306	0.038756	25.802456

SDR Rate = \$1.33226/SDR GOLD Buying: \$1,824.70 SILVER Buying: \$21.50  
\* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen  
\*\* Asian Time Closing Rate as of February 22, 2023



### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the annual meeting of stockholders of **ROXAS HOLDINGS, INC.** will be conducted virtually via <https://asm2023.rhi.com.ph/> on Wednesday, **March 22, 2023 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning** with the following Agenda:

- (1) Call to Order
- (2) Certification of Notice and Quorum
- (3) Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Stockholders held on March 16, 2022
- (4) Presentation and Approval of the Annual Report to Stockholders
- (5) Ratification of All Acts and Resolutions of the Board of Directors and Management
- (6) Election of the Board of Directors
- (7) Appointment of External Auditor and Fixing its Remuneration
- (8) Other Matters
  - a. Amendment of Chapter VI, Article 32.0 of the By-Laws to change Fiscal Year
  - b. Amendment of Chapter II, Article 8.0 of the By-Laws to change Date of Annual Stockholders' Meeting, to be conducted in person or through remote communication, at the discretion of the Board
- (9) Adjournment

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on December 29, 2022 as the Record Date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

Given the current circumstances, stockholders may only attend the meeting by remote communication, by voting in absentia, or by appointing the Chairman of the meeting as proxy.

Duly accomplished proxies shall be submitted on or before March 10, 2023 to the Office of the Assistant Corporate Secretary at the 14F Net One Center, 26<sup>th</sup> St. cor. 3rd Avenue, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila or by email to: [corporatesecretary@rhi.com.ph](mailto:corporatesecretary@rhi.com.ph). Validation of proxies is set for March 15, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

Stockholders intending to participate by remote communication should notify the Corporation by email to [corporatesecretary@rhi.com.ph](mailto:corporatesecretary@rhi.com.ph) on or before March 10, 2023.

Stockholders may vote electronically in absentia, subject to validation procedures.

The explanation on the Agenda items and the procedures for participating in the meeting through remote communication and for casting their votes in absentia are set forth in the Information Statement.

Copies of the Information Statement and Management Report, the Annual Report of the Company and other pertinent documents necessary under the circumstances are available in the Company's website and PSE Edge. The Notice of the Meeting shall also be published in the business section of two (2) newspaper of general circulation, in print and online format, for two (2) consecutive days no later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders.

In compliance with the SEC Advisory dated May 6, 2015, a copy of the Interim Unaudited Financial Statements of the Company as of and for the quarter ended December 31, 2022 with Management Discussion and Analysis are attached to the Information Statement. A hard copy of the same Interim Unaudited Financial Statements will be provided to any requesting shareholder, free of charge.

(sgd.) AIMEE E. PEDAYO  
Assistant Corporate Secretary

February 24, 2023