



ENFORCEMENT AND INVESTOR PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

SEC ADVISORY

Based on the information gathered by the Commission, a number of individuals or group of persons claiming to represent **1-UGRAND TRADING INC.** ("**1UGRAND**") headed by a certain **Richard Aquino**, are enticing the public to invest their money in said entity.

The advertisement is set against a dark background. At the top center is the 1UGRAND logo, which consists of a stylized 'U' and 'G' in gold and red. Below the logo, the text "1UGRAND" is written in a smaller, gold font. The main headline reads "NO NEED INVITE TO PAYOUT" in large, bold, yellow letters. To the left of the main text is a logo featuring a golden eagle with its wings spread, perched on a shield with the word "TEAM" above it. Below this logo is a red button with white text that says "JOIN NOW!". Underneath the button, the text "FREE CHATBOT" is written in yellow. The central text continues with "START YOUR ONLINE BUSINESS FOR P500 ONLY!" in white and yellow. Below this, a list of bonuses is shown: "*CLICK ADS BONUS - P800", "*DIRECT REFERRAL BONUS -", "*SALES MATCH BONUS -", and "*UNILEVEL BONUS -". To the left of this list is a photograph of a young woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue business suit, smiling and gesturing with her hands as if presenting. At the bottom right, the text "= P800" is written in large white letters, followed by "GUARANTEED CASHBACK AFTER 8DAYS" in white. The bottom right corner of the advertisement has a yellow diagonal stripe.



As posted online, 1UGRAND is offering investments to the public by paying an Entry Fee amounting to Php500.00 per account. A member may avail of up to thirty-one (31) accounts.

It is worth noting that a member has a **guaranteed Php800.00 income in just eight (8) days per account or equivalent to sixty percent (60%)**, ON TOP of all other ways to earn.

Below are the ways to earn:

1. Direct Referral Bonus amounting to Php50.00 for every direct recruits;
2. Pairing Bonus amounting to Php100.00 per pair for a maximum of 10 pairs per day. However, for every 5th pair, the pairing bonus is converted into products;
3. Unilevel Bonus amounting to Php5.00 from the recruit of his direct recruit up to the 10th level; and
4. Click Ads Bonus amounting to Php10.00 per ads for a total of 10 ads per day good for 8 days totaling Php800.00.

The aforementioned schemes involve the sale of securities to the public, the Securities Regulation Code (SRC) requires that these securities are duly registered and that the concerned corporation and/or its agents have appropriate registration and/or license to sell such securities to the public pursuant to Section 8 of the SRC.

Per records of the Commission, **1-UGRAND TRADING INC.** is registered with the Commission as a corporation, however, such registration specifically provides that the same **DOES NOT AUTHORIZE INVESTMENT SOLICITATION AND INVESTMENT-TAKING WITHOUT A SECONDARY LICENSE FROM THIS COMMISSION** and verily, the corporation has not secured prior registration and/or license from the Commission as prescribed under Sections 8 and 28 of the SRC.

Hence, those who act as salesmen, brokers, dealers or agents or claim to act as such for **1-UGRAND TRADING INC.** in selling or convincing people to invest in the investment scheme being offered by said entity including solicitations and recruitment through the internet may be prosecuted and held criminally liable under Section 28 of the SRC and penalized with a maximum fine of Five Million pesos (P5,000,000.00) or penalty of Twenty-one (21) years of imprisonment or both pursuant to Section 73 of the SRC.

Also, those who invite or recruit others to join or invest in such venture or offer investment contracts or securities to the public may incur criminally liability, or otherwise be sanctioned or penalized accordingly as held by the Supreme Court in the case of *Securities and Exchange Commission vs. Oudine Santos* (G.R. No. 195542, 19 March 2014).

The public is advised **NOT TO INVEST** or **STOP INVESTING** in any investment scheme being offered by any individual or group of persons allegedly for or on behalf of **1-UGRAND**



TRADING INC. and to exercise caution in dealing with any individuals or group of persons soliciting investments for and on behalf of it.

Violators are further warned that aside from the strict penalties imposed by the Commission for violations of the Securities Regulation Code, the Revised Corporation Code, and such other rules and regulation it enforces, the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act (Republic Act No. 11469) also punishes those participating in cyber incidents that make use or take advantage of the current crisis situation to prey on the public through scams, phishing, fraudulent emails, or other similar acts.

Should you have any information regarding the operation of the subject entity, please call the Enforcement and Investor Protection Department at telephone numbers (02) 8818-6047 or send your report to the EIPD at epd@sec.gov.ph.

For the guidance of the public.

Pasay City, 09 June 2020.