

ENFORCEMENT AND INVESTOR PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

In the Matter of: IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY, INC. **SEC-EIPD Case No. 2022-6907 DOING BUSINESS UNDER THE NAME** For: Revocation of Certificate of AND STYLE OF SAGA AI Incorporation

ORDER OF REVOCATION

IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC. doing business under the name SAGA Ai. (IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC. / SAGA AI) was registered as a Corporation under Company Registration No. CS201953317. The primary purpose of **IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC.** as stated in its Articles of Incorporation is to:

> "To engage in research, development of computer software, Internet technologies and computer communication networks and system technology development, technical advise and technical services, computer system integration and technical services production for products, information system management reconstruction and back up services, network information and data system and technical advice, providing products, production for the maintenance. development, installation, technical production for sale of products, computer software, hardware, wholesale, without engaging in financial leasing nor acting as internet services provider, subject to the provision of the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (R.A. 10173) without engaging in mass media activities and telecommunication business.

> Provided that the corporation shall not solicit, accept or take investments/placements from the public neither shall it issue investment contracts."

(Emphasis supplied)

Its principal office is located at Unit AB 20/F Rufino Pacific Towers 6784 Ayala Avenue corner V. A. Rufino Street Brgy. San Lorenzo, Makati City. However, upon thorough investigation and after conducting a surveillance operation at the stated address of IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC. / SAGA AI, the latter could not be found at the said address. Instead, it was discovered that **IMMENSITY** has moved to and is now located at 15F Pacific Star Building, Makati Avenue, 1126 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City. In this regard, pursuant to Section 6 (i)[1] of PD-902-A, one of the grounds for revocation of the certificate of registration of a corporation is fraud in the procurement of its certificate of incorporation such as providing a false address.

The Enforcement and Investor Protection Department (EIPD) received numerous complaints, reports and inquiries on **IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC.** / **SAGA AI** regarding its unauthorized solicitation activities which prompted the Department to investigate the matter for possible violation of the provisions of the Securities Regulation Code (SRC), Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines and other rules and regulations being enforced by the Commission.

On 29 November 2022, a *CEASE AND DESIST ORDER* against **IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC.** / **SAGA AI** was posted on the Commission's website informing the public that **IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC.** / **SAGA AI** does not have the authority to solicit investments from the public.

As found by the Commission, **IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC.** / **SAGA AI** is engaged in the sale of securities, in the form of investment contracts <u>without the requisite registration duly issued and approved by the Commission</u>. **IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC.** / **SAGA AI** offers unregistered securities to the public with a minimum investment of PHP1,650.00 up to Php110,000.00 with earnings as much as Php660.00 up to Php61,710.00 monthly depending on how many robots an investor will choose to rent. Furthermore, an investor or agent can also earn 12% commission per day for primary agent, 6% commission per day for secondary agent, and lastly 3% commission per day for a level 3 agent.

Undoubtedly, the scheme of **IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC. / SAGA AI** involves the offering and sale of securities, in form of investment contracts, to the public because its investors are deemed investing in its enterprise and are led to expect profits therefrom even without doing anything.

Since what is being offered for sale by **IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC. / SAGA AI** are securities, the Securities Regulation Code (SRC) requires that said offer and sale of securities must be duly registered with the Commission and that the concerned corporation and/or its agents have appropriate registration and/or license to sell such securities to the public.

However, as earlier pointed out, **IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC. / SAGA AI** is **NOT AUTHORIZED** to solicit, accept or take investments/placements from the public nor to issue investment contracts and other forms of securities defined under Section 3 of the Securities and Regulation Code (SRC) contrary to its claim as it has not applied for or has been issued a Secondary License to offer and/or sell securities to the public.

Despite the issuance of the above-mentioned **CEASE AND DESIST ORDER** against **IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC. / SAGA AI,** the said entity did not pay attention thereto, and in fact, continued its investment-taking activities.

Thus, on 21 December 2022, a **Show Cause Order** was issued against **IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC. / SAGA AI** that was sent to its principal address indicated in their Articles of Incorporation and to the incorporators of the said entity

(SAMSON AGPASA TRINIDAD, BRENDEL FERIA MACADANGDANG, ALDEN CELIZ SANTIAGO, ROMULO DELOS SANTOS GALLATO, JR., and RODORA CRUZ TAFALLA), directing the company to show cause why its Certificate of Incorporation should not be revoked for serious misrepresentation as to what the corporation can do or is doing to the great prejudice of or damage to the general public and for committing fraud in the procurement of its Certificate of Incorporation and to show cause why no administrative sanction and/or criminal charges should be filed against IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC. / SAGA AI for violation of the Securities Regulation Code.

On 3 January 2023, Mr. Brendal Feria Macadangdang personally appeared at Enforcement and Investor Protection Department (EIPD) and submitted an Answer to the Show Cause Order.

In the said answer, respondents Mr. Macadangdang and Mr. Romulo D. Gallato Jr. aver that;

- "1. Respondents are not privy to the organization and creation of the corporation known as IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY, INC. they have no knowledge how their names turned up as one of the alleged directors of the said corporation;
- 2. It was gathered that in the certification attached hereto as Annex "1" attesting as to the correctness of the Amended Articles of Incorporation of the aforesaid corporation, Respondents purportedly signed the same above their respective name;
- 3. A close scrutiny, however, of the said certification reveals that Respondents' signature were forged as evidenced by a comparison of their signatures shown on their respective TINs attached hereto as Annexes "2" and "3". Further, the number of their respective TIN as indicated in the aforesaid certification do not match the number indicated on their TIN IDs, as shown below:

To date, the company and other respondents despite such receipt and presumptive notice of the Show cause order as detailed above failed to respond, which shall be construed as a waiver of its right to be heard as to matters stated in the aforementioned Show Cause Order. Hence, we now resolve the instant proceedings on the basis of available evidence.

The factual backdrop having been laid, we now resolve the instant case on the basis of available evidence.

Section 3.1 of the Securities Regulation Code (SRC) defines securities as:

"3.1 "Securities" are shares, participation or interest in a corporation or in a commercial enterprise or profit-making venture and evidenced by a certificate, contract, instrument, whether written or electronic in character. It includes:

- (a) Shares of stocks, bonds, debentures, notes, evidences of indebtedness, asset-backed securities;
- (b) *Investment contracts*, certificates of interest or participation in a profit sharing agreement, certificates of deposit for a future subscription;
- (c) Fractional undivided interests in oil, gas or other mineral rights;
- (d) Derivatives like option and warrants;
- (e) Certificates of assignments, certificates of participation, trust certificates, voting trust certificates or similar instruments;
- (f) Proprietary or non-proprietary membership certificates in corporations; and
- (g) Other instruments as may in the future be determined by the Commission."

An investment contract on the other hand, is defined under SRC Rule 26.3.5 of the 2015 Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Securities Regulation Code (2015 SRC IRR), as follows:.

"An **investment contract** means a contract, transaction or scheme (collectively "contract") whereby a person invests his money in a common enterprise and is led to expect profits primarily from the efforts of others.

A common enterprise is deemed created when two (2) or more investors "pool" their resources, creating a common enterprise, even if the promoter receives nothing more than a broker's commission."

Further, the elements of an investment contract were enumerated in the case of *Power Homes Unlimited Corporation vs. SEC* which traces its roots from the US case of *SEC vs. Howey Co.* and was later modified in the case of *SEC vs. Glenn W. Turner Enterprises, Inc.* as follows:

- A contract, transaction or scheme
- An investment of money
- A common enterprise
- Expectation of profits
- Profits arises primarily from the entrepreneurial and managerial efforts of others.

Section 8, in relation to *Section 12* of the SRC provides, that:

"SEC. 8. Requirement of Registration of Securities. – 8.1. Securities shall not be sold or offered for sale or distribution within the Philippines, without a registration statement duly filed with and approved by the Commission. Prior to such sale, information on the securities, in such form and with such substance as the Commission may prescribe, shall be made available to each prospective purchaser.

"SEC. 12. Procedure for Registration of Securities. - 12.1. All securities required to be registered under Subsection 8.1 shall be

registered through the filing by the issuer in the main office of the Commission, of a sworn registration statement with respect to such securities, in such form and containing such information and documents as the Commission shall prescribe. The registration statement shall include any prospectus required or permitted to be delivered under Subsections 8.2, 8.3 and 8.4."

Securities, such as investment contracts, as defined by the SRC in relation to *SRC Rule 26.3.5 of the 2015 SRC IRR*, must be registered before the same can be **sold or offered** or distributed to the public. Hence, as a form of security, investment contracts must be registered under Section 8 of the SRC before they can be sold or offered to the public.

Rule 3.1.17 of the 2015 SRC IRR defined **Public Offering** as "any offering of securities to the public or to anyone, whether solicited or unsolicited. Any solicitation or presentation of securities for sale through any of the following modes shall be presumed to be a public offering:

- "3.1.17.1 Publication in any newspaper, magazine or printed reading material which is distributed within the Philippines or any part thereof;
- 3.1.17.2 Presentation in any public or commercial place;
- 3.1.17.3 Advertisement or announcement on radio, television, telephone, electronic communications, information communication technology or any other forms of communication; or
- 3.1.17.4 Distribution and/or making available flyers, brochures or any offering material in a public or commercial place, or to prospective purchasers through the postal system, *information communication technology* and *other means of information distribution*." (Emphasis supplied)

On the other hand, a "Broker" is defined under Section 3.3. of the SRC, as a person engaged in the business of buying and selling securities for the account of others while "Salesman" is defined under 3.13 of the SRC as a natural person, employed as such or as an agent, by a dealer, issuer or broker to buy and sell securities.

Consequently, Section 28 of the SRC provides that:

"SEC. 28. *Registration of Brokers, Dealers, Salesman and Associated Persons*. – 28.1. No person shall engage in the business of buying or selling securities in the Philippines as a broker or dealer, or act as a salesman, or an associated person of any broker or dealer unless registered as such with the Commission.

Thus, any person, without proper license from the Commission who acts as brokers, dealers or agents of a company selling or convincing people to invest in the investment scheme including solicitations or recruitment through the internet may likewise 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 imprisonment or both pursuant to Section 73 of the SRC.

In this particular case, the Department carefully examined the characteristics of the investments offered by **IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC. / SAGA AI** to determine if they satisfy the elements of an investment contract. In our evaluation, indeed, the elements of investment contracts are manifested in the investments being offered by **IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC. / SAGA AI**, as follows:

- First, there was an **investment of money** by the public in the investment scheme of the company and **IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC. / SAGA AI** actually received money from the public who were enticed to invest in their scheme;
- Second, there was a common enterprise in the sense that the investors monies were pooled in respondent IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC. / SAGA AI's alleged profit-making venture;
- Third, there was clearly an **expectation of profits** on the part of its investors who
 were promised that their money would earn from Php660.00 up to Php61,710.00
 monthly depending depending on how many robots an investor will choose to
 rent;
- Fourth, an investor or agent can earn 12% commission per day for primary agent, 6% commission per day for secondary agent, and lastly 3% commission per day for level 3 agent; and
- Lastly, the expectation of profits is derived primarily from the efforts of others.
 Here the investors had no hand in the management of IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC. / SAGA AI and earned profits by merely investing in said entity.

It is important to emphasize that as a juridical person, **IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC.** / **SAGA AI** is only allowed to exercise powers inherent to its existence as provided in the Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines and those conferred in its Articles of Incorporation (AOI). In other words, what a corporation can do is necessarily circumscribed by its primary purpose clause in its AOI.

The purpose clause in the Articles of Incorporation of IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC. / SAGA AI clearly and explicitly states, among others, that:

"This Certification DOES NOT AUTHORIZE INVESTMENT SOLICITATION AND INVESTMENT-TAKING WITHOUT A SECONDARY LICENSE FROM THIS COMMISSION."

Nonetheless, the purpose stated in the Articles of Incorporation need not set out with particularity the multitude of activities in which the corporation may engage. The effect of broad purposes or objects is to confer wide discretionary authority upon the directors and management of the corporation as to the kinds of business in which it may engage. However, *dealings which are entirely irrelevant* to the purposes are unauthorized and called *ultra vires*. The purpose clause of the articles of incorporation indicates the extent as well as the limitations of the powers which a corporation may exercise. In fact, **IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC.** / **SAGA Al's** purpose in its Articles of Incorporation *prohibited them to operate an investment-taking scheme*.

Section 44 of the Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines, provides:

"SEC. 44. *Ultra Vires* **Acts of Corporations.** — No corporation shall possess or exercise corporate powers other than those conferred by this Code or by its articles of incorporation and except as necessary or incidental to the exercise of the powers conferred."

In an opinion¹, the Commission pronounced that:

"It is the corporation's primary purpose clause which confers, as well as limits, the powers which a corporation may exercise and the character of a corporation is usually determined by the objects of its formation and the nature of its business as stated in the articles. The primary purpose of the corporation, as stated in its articles of incorporation, is the first business to be undertaken by the corporation. Hence, the primary purpose determines its classification."

Likewise, the Certificate of Registration issued to **IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC.** / **SAGA AI** explicitly states that:

"This Certification DOES NOT AUTHORIZE INVESTMENT SOLICITATION AND INVESTMENT-TAKING WITHOUT A SECONDARY LICENSE FROM THIS COMMISSION."

The act of **IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC.** / **SAGA AI** through its affiliates in allowing certain persons acting as their agents or representatives to make public presentations of their investment scheme, inviting the public to invest in the companies through social media renders them liable for the unauthorized public offering of securities and the misrepresentation committed in connection with such public offering.

Likewise, the investment scheme of **IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC.** / **SAGA AI** promising earnings as much as Php660.00 up to Php61,710.00 monthly has the characteristics of a Ponzi scheme. A **Ponzi scheme** is an investment program that offers impossibly high returns and pays these returns to early investors out of the capital contributed by later investors. Named after Charles Ponzi who promoted the scheme in the 1920s, the original scheme involved the issuance of bonds² which offered 50% interest in 45 days or a 100% profit if held for 90 days. Basically, Ponzi used the money he received from later investors to pay extravagant rates of return to early investors, thereby inducing more investors to place their money with him in the false hope of realizing this same extravagant rate of return themselves. Such scheme is prohibited under Section 26 of the SRC:

"SEC. 26. **Fraudulent Transactions.** – It shall be unlawful for any person, directly or indirectly, in connection with the purchase or sale any securities to:

26.1. Employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud;

26.2. Obtain money or property by means of any untrue statement of a material fact of any omission to state a material fact necessary

¹ SEC-OGC Opinion No. 11-33 dated 29 July 2011 addressed to Mr. Jesus B. Lapuz.

² Actually, postal reply coupons

in order to make the statement made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; or

26.3. Engage in any act, transaction, practice or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon any person."

In the case of *People of the Philippines vs. Palmy Tibayan and Rico Z. Puerto (G.R. Nos. 209655-60, 14 January 2015)*, the Supreme Court held that:

"To be sure, a Ponzi scheme is a type of investment fraud that involves the payment of purported returns to existing investors from funds contributed by new investors. *Its organizers often solicit new investors by promising to* invest funds in opportunities claimed to generate high returns with little *or no risk.* In many Ponzi schemes, the *perpetrators focus on attracting new* money to make promised payments to earlier-stage investors to create the false appearance that investors are profiting from a legitimate business. It is not an investment strategy but a gullibility scheme, which works only as long as there is an ever increasing number of new investors joining the scheme. It is difficult to sustain the scheme over a long period of time because the operator needs an ever larger pool of later investors to continue paying the promised profits to early investors. The idea behind this type of swindle is that the "con-man" collects his money from his second or third round of investors and then absconds before anyone else shows up to collect. Necessarily, Ponzi schemes only last weeks, or months at the most." (Underscoring added for emphasis)

The investment scheme of **IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC.** / **SAGA AI** also operates to defraud investors as it deceives the investing public by making it appear that they have the authority to deal in securities. This also amounts to serious misrepresentation as to what they can do or are doing to the damage and prejudice of the investing public.

Under Section 6 of Presidential Decree 902-A, the Commission has the power to suspend, or revoke, after proper notice and hearing, the franchise or certificate of registration of corporations, partnerships and associations, on the ground of serious misrepresentation as to what the corporation can do or is doing to the great prejudice of or damage to the general public. Likewise, Section 5.1 (m) of the SRC and Section 179 (j) of the Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines (RCCP) empower the Commission to revoke the franchise or Certificate of Incorporation/registration of corporations registered with it.

Under the 2016 Rules of Procedure of the SEC, the EIPD shall exercise authority over persons and entities, whether under the primary authority of other Operating Departments, involved in the following:

xxx "1. Investigations and administrative actions involving the following:

- xxx c) Selling, offering or transacting unregistered securities by entities without secondary license;
 - d) *Ultra Vires* acts committed in violation of the Revised Corporation Code;

- 2. Petitions for revocation³ of corporate registration in all cases, except those which fall under the original authority of CRMD;
- 3. Administrative actions for fraudulent transactions involving securities:
- 4. Administrative actions for all other violations under PD 902-A, except those cases which fall under the original authority of other Operating Departments;
- 5. All other matters involving investor protection filed by the public, referred by self-regulatory organizations, or referred by other Operating Departments after initial evaluation or findings that there is a possible violation of laws, rules or regulations that the Commission implements but do not fall under their respective original authority."

Further, in SEC Admin Case No. 11-10-124 entitled *In re: PHILBIO Renewable Energy Resources Corp.*, promulgated on 27 April 2016, the Commission provided what constitutes serious misrepresentation, to wit:

"From the foregoing, it is indubitable that PHILBIO misrepresented itself to the public that it can solicit investments despite the fact that it is **not one of the purposes of the corporation**. Worse, it **does not have a license to offer/sell securities**. PHILBIO operates an investment-taking scheme which is therefore considered an **ultra vires act**. These constitute serious misrepresentation as to what the corporation can do or doing to the great prejudice to the general public."

In the case of SEC vs. CJH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (G.R. No. 210316, 28 November 2016) the Supreme Court held that:

"The act of selling unregistered securities would necessarily operate as a fraud on investors as it deceives the investing public by making it appear that respondents have authority to deal on such securities. **Section 8.1 of the SRC** clearly states that securities shall not be sold or offered for sale or distribution within the Philippines without a registration statement duly filed with and approved by the SEC and that prior to such sale, information on the securities, in such form and with such substance as the SEC may prescribe, shall be made available to each prospective buyer."

Considering that nowhere is it stated in the primary purpose **IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC. / SAGA AI** that it is authorized to engage in the selling or offering for sale of securities to the public, compounded by the fact that it does not have the required Secondary License from the Commission to offer or sell securities to the public, its activity

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³ Revocation refers to involuntary dissolution of corporate registration pursuant to Section 138 of the Revised Corporation Code.

of selling or offering to the public securities or investment contracts is considered an *ultra vires act* and therefore constitutes serious misrepresentation as to what the corporation can do to the great prejudice or damage to the general public which is a ground for the revocation of a corporation's primary franchise or certificate of registration/incorporation under PD 902-A.

WHEREFORE, for violation of Section 44 of the Revised Corporation Code of the Philippines (R.A. No. 11232) in relation to Sections 8.1, 26 and 28.1 of the Securities Regulation Code and Section 6 (i)(2) of P.D. 902-A, the registration of **IMMENSITY TECHNOLOGY INC. doing business under the name SAGA Ai** is hereby **REVOKED**.

Accordingly, let this Order be attached by the Corporate Filing and Records Division of the Company Registration and Monitoring Department (CRMD) to the records of the corporation on file with the Commission. Further, the Information and Communications Technology Department (ICTD) of this Commission is likewise requested to enter the "revoked" status of Subject Corporation in the online database of the Commission.

OLIVER

Director

SO ORDERED

Makati City, 21 February 2023.