



ENFORCEMENT AND INVESTOR PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

SEC ADVISORY

This Advisory is prompted by inquiries, reports and information received by the Commission that individuals or group of persons representing an entity named **PRONTO DIGITAL MARKETING COMPANY** is enticing the public to invest their money in the said entity with a promise of high monetary rewards or profits.

Based on the reports from the public, **PRONTO DIGITAL MARKETING COMPANY**, through social media (particularly in WhatsApp and Telegram messaging platforms) is offering the public a part time job as Google map surveyor/reviewer.

The modus employed by **PRONTO DIGITAL MARKETING COMPANY** is called "Tasking and Recharging Scheme". As a reviewer/surveyor the employee supposedly earns money in the following manner:

1. A number of links are sent to the employee. The latter, is tasked to give a five (5) star feedback on each of the links given to him. As advertised by the recruiter, an employee may earn Php 1,500.00 to Php 3,000.00 daily.
2. Thereafter the employee is instructed to download the telegram app and be part of their telegram team. Once in the team, the employee is tasked to make his ratings and/or feed backs. On each task he is obliged to make a recharge (deposit money). The minimum investment is Php 3,000.00 with a guaranteed return of Php 3,600.00.
3. As an added enticement, if the employee completes his tasks (a total of 12 tasks) without skipping any task, he gets a reward of Php 5,000.00.

Per initial verification from the Commission's Database, **PRONTO DIGITAL MARKETING COMPANY** is NOT REGISTERED as a corporation or partnership. Consequently, **PRONTO DIGITAL MARKETING COMPANY** also DOES NOT HAVE A SECONDARY LICENSE OR AUTHORITY TO SOLICIT INVESTMENTS OR OFFER SECURITIES as only registered corporations can apply for and be issued a secondary license by the Commission.

Notably, *Tasking and Recharging Scheme* involves the offering and sale of securities in the form of "investment contracts" as defined under Section 3.1 of the Securities Regulation Code. An investment contract exists in *Tasking and Recharging Scheme* as there is an investment or placement of money in a common enterprise with a reasonable expectation of profits to be derived from the efforts of others.

As such, the Securities Regulation Code (SRC) requires that said offer and sale of securities must be duly registered with the Commission and that the concerned entity and/or its agents should have the appropriate registration and/or license to sell such securities to the public.

Further, ***Tasking and Recharging Scheme***, shows indication of a “Ponzi Scheme” where moneys from new investors are used in paying “fake profits” to prior investors and is designed mainly to favor its top recruiters and prior risk takers and is detrimental to subsequent members in case of scarcity of new investors.

The offering and selling of securities in the form of investment contracts using the “Ponzi Scheme” which is fraudulent and unsustainable, is NOT a registrable security. The Commission will not issue a License to Sell Securities to the Public to persons or entities that are engaged in this business or scheme.

Finally, R.A. No. 11765 or the Financial Products and Services Consumer Protection Act also prohibits investment fraud which is defined under the law as any form of deceptive solicitation of investments from the public which includes Ponzi Schemes and such other schemes involving the promise or offer of profits or returns sourced from the investments or contribution made by the investors themselves and the offering or selling of investment schemes to the public without a license or permit from the SEC.

In view thereof, the public is hereby advised to exercise caution in dealing with any individual or group of persons soliciting investments for and on behalf of **PRONTO DIGITAL MARKETING COMPANY**. The public is further advised **NOT TO INVEST** or to **STOP INVESTING** in the investment scheme being offered by **PRONTO DIGITAL MARKETING COMPANY** or its representatives.

Those who act as salesmen, brokers, dealers or agents, representatives, promoters, recruiters, uplines, influencers, endorsers, abettors and enablers of **PRONTO DIGITAL MARKETING COMPANY** soliciting or convincing people to invest in the investment scheme being offered by the said entities including soliciting investments or recruiting investors through the internet may be held criminally liable under Section 11 of the Financial Products and Services Consumer Protection Act (FCPA) and Section 28 of the SRC which are both penalized separately with a **maximum fine of Five Million Pesos (Php5,000,000.00) or imprisonment of Twenty One (21) years or both pursuant to Section 73 of the SRC** (*SEC vs. Oudine Santos, G.R. No. 195542, 19 March 2014*).

Furthermore, the names of all those involved will be reported to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) so that the appropriate penalties and/or taxes be correspondingly assessed.

Should you have any information regarding the operation of the subject entity, please send your reports to the Enforcement and Investor Protection Department (EIPD) at email at epd@sec.gov.ph or you may visit the Commission’s Enforcement and Investor Protection Department (EIPD) located at the 9/F, The SEC Headquarters, 7907 Makati Avenue, Salcedo Village, Brgy. Bel-Air, Makati City.

For the information and guidance of the public.

Makati City, 18 March 2024.