



THE NEWSEC NEWS LETTER

JANUARY - MARCH 2024

VOLUME NO. 4

ISSUE NO. 1



eFAST



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Boosting compliance with
reportorial requirements

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Chairman EM@IL Message



From Emilio B. Aquino ebaquino@sec.gov.ph
To Our SEC Stakeholders
Date 31 March 2024

Just three months into the year, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has already ticked off several milestones toward a more efficient and dynamic corporate sector.

Bouncing off a record-breaking 2023, we started the year strong by affirming our commitment to inclusive and sustainable economic growth through meetings with Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto and Special Assistant to the President for Investment and Economic Affairs Frederick G. Go. Under the leadership of our esteemed secretaries, the SEC was able to align its goals with the priority plans and programs of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.

In line with our mission of boosting the capital market, we issued new rules streamlining the procedure for power generation companies seeking to raise capital through the stock market. We also adopted new guidelines under the Philippine Sustainable Finance Taxonomy to show our commitment to promoting sustainable finance.

For the first time in more than two decades, we raised the fines and penalties for late and non-filing of reportorial requirements. This is part of our efforts to encourage compliance with the submission of annual reports among corporations, recognizing that data derived from such reports are vital in promoting transparency and accountability in the corporate sector, as well as in guiding decisions and actions of business leaders, investors, consumers and policymakers alike.

This quarter saw our further expansion into different parts of the country. We opened our 11th extension office in Butuan just this March, as we aim to support rapid growth in Mindanao.

Our nationwide roadshows continue to grow both in number and in scope, with the launch of the SEC Small and Medium Industries and Large Enterprises Embracing Sustainability (SMILEES) Roadshow in March in Cebu City.

It has been a jam-packed first quarter, and we are poised to achieve so much more in the months ahead.

A record-breaking year is always a tough act to follow. But we at the SEC are ever ready to meet the challenges to deliver the culture of excellence that we have promised our dear stakeholders. We will continue to work together and ensure that we end the year with a bang, with the same vigor and enthusiasm as when we started it.

Thank you and mabuhay!

← Reply

↩ Reply all

→ Forward

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) reported a record-breaking year in 2023 in terms of company registrations, and committed to continue efforts toward boosting the capital market and promoting sustainable finance for the year. Read about the latest updates and milestones of the Commission by visiting bit.ly/SECnews2023 or scanning the QR code.



SEC breaks record for company registrations in 2023

The SEC has hit a record high in company registrations for 2023, with 49,501 firms successfully registered using the SEC Electronic Simplified Processing of Application for Registration of Company (eSPARC) from January to December 2023, surpassing the previous record of 42,925 in 2022.

This new record is a testament to the ease with which new businesses can be established in the Philippines.



SEC is first Philippine financial regulator accredited by London-based Investors in People

The SEC has secured accreditation from London-based standard-setting organization Investors in People (IiP), in recognition of its high-level practices in promoting the welfare of its employees through engagement, communication, and organizational culture.

IiP accreditation is given to organizations demonstrating high-level good practices for leading and managing people, where employees have opportunities to grow and develop.

SEC enlists small, medium and large enterprises in sustainability push

The SEC on March 20 kickstarted the Small and Medium Industries and Large Enterprises Embracing Sustainability (SMILEES) Roadshow in Cebu City, in collaboration with the Accelerating Green and Climate Finance Project, a project funded by the Government of Canada and implemented by the United Nations Development Program.

The SEC SMILEES is a nationwide roadshow that aims to promote sustainable practices among small and medium enterprises and large businesses as the Commission seeks to institutionalize sustainability reporting in the corporate sector.

SEC collaborates with more government agencies in fight against money laundering, terrorist financing

In a ceremonial signing event on March 1, the SEC formally kickstarted its data sharing agreements (DSAs) with nine law enforcement agencies and competent authorities, granting them access to beneficial ownership information of corporations registered with the Commission.

This is part of the SEC's efforts to combat money laundering and terrorism financing as well as to help uncover illegal activities carried out through the corporate vehicle.

Signatories include the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, Insurance Commission, Cagayan Economic Zone Authority, National Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, Philippine Center on Transnational Crime, Department of Agriculture, Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority.



SEC secures Finance Secretary Recto's support for business, capital market reforms

In a briefing on January 30, the SEC received Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto's support in pushing for business and capital market reforms, as it committed to bolstering national efforts to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

SEC Chairperson Emilio B. Aquino also presented the Commission's priority plans, activities, and programs to Secretary Recto. The Finance Secretary commended the digitalization initiatives of the SEC, recognizing their contribution to improving the ease of doing business and fostering capital market development in the country.

The SEC is also working closely with the Office of the Special Assistant to the President for Investment and Economic Affairs, through Secretary Frederick D. Go, to advance various reforms to encourage capital raising and investing in the capital markets, as well as improvements on ease of doing business.



Businesses based in Bohol and General Santos have learned how to raise capital through the capital market through plenary sessions on crowdfunding and initial public offering (IPO) in the SEC Roadshow on Capital Formation for MSMEs and Start-Ups during the first quarter.



OASIS ROADSHOW



The SEC on March 25 officially inaugurated the SEC Butuan Extension Office, envisioned to make doing business easier for entrepreneurs in the Caraga Administrative Region. The inauguration formed part of the Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Fair in Agusan del Norte, led by House of Representatives Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez and Senator Ramon B. Revilla, Jr. The new office is located at the JC Aquino Training Center, JC Aquino Avenue, Barangay Libertad, Butuan City.



BUTUAN EO INAUGURATION



The SEC on March 20 kickstarted the SEC Small and Medium Industries and Large Enterprises Embracing Sustainability (SMILEES) Roadshow in Cebu, to promote sustainable practices among small, medium, and large businesses, as it seeks to institutionalize sustainability reporting in the corporate sector.



SMILEES ROADSHOW



ONLINE AND ON TIME: BOOSTING COMPLIANCE WITH REPORTORIAL REQUIREMENTS

Registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is one of the first steps to setting up a business in the Philippines. This gives life to a business' corporate existence, extending to it the privileges of a separate legal personality, limited liability, and perpetual existence, among others.

The privilege of being a registered corporation comes with corresponding duties and responsibilities to maintain good standing. Among these obligations is the timely submission of reportorial requirements, including annual financial statements (AFS) and general information sheets (GIS) (see sidebar 1).

The submission of annual reports is not just a simple requirement mandated by law to burden corporations with unnecessary paperwork and deadlines.

Financial reports ensure transparency and accountability in the dealings of the corporation, boosting confidence among investors, as well as consumers. Meanwhile, beneficial ownership information, as reported in the GIS, enables the SEC and other law enforcement agencies to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, ultimately ensuring the integrity of the corporate sector and the protection of the general public.

This is why the SEC has always stressed the importance of submitting reports on time. On January 27, the SEC issued SEC Memorandum Circular No. 2, Series of 2024, which provides for the schedule of the 2024 Filing of Annual Financial Statements and General Information Sheet.

Filing schedule

The memorandum circular outlines the

schedule of filing for all stock and nonstock corporations through the SEC Electronic Filing and Submission Tool (eFAST) at efast.sec.gov.ph.

Under the memorandum circular, all corporations, including branch offices, representative offices, regional headquarters, and regional operating headquarters of foreign corporations whose fiscal years ended on December 31, 2023, shall file their AFS according to the following schedule based on the last digit of their respective registration or license number (see sidebar 2).

A corporation whose fiscal year ended on a date other than December 31, 2023, shall file its AFS within 120 calendar days from the end of its fiscal year.

The annual report of a broker-dealer whose fiscal year ended on December 31 must be filed on April 30, while those with fiscal years ending on a date other than December 31 shall file their reports 120 calendar days after the close of their respective fiscal years.

Corporations whose securities are listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), those whose securities are registered but not listed on the PSE, those considered public companies, and those covered under Section 17.2 of Republic Act No. 8799, or the Securities Regulation Code (SRC), shall file their AFS within 105 calendar days after the end of their respective fiscal years, as an attachment to their annual reports.

Further, corporations whose AFS are being audited by the Commission on Audit (COA) are exempted from the aforementioned deadlines, provided they attach to their AFS a duly signed affidavit attesting that they timely provided the COA with the financial statements and supporting documents and that the COA audit

WHAT SHOULD CORPORATIONS REGULARLY SUBMIT TO THE SEC?

GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET (GIS)

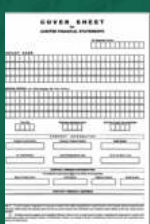


The GIS captures important information about the corporation, such as the principal address, names, and addresses of the directors, stockholders, or trustees, and other important details.

All corporations, except one person corporations (OPCs), should submit the GIS annually and an amended GIS every time there are changes in the board, management, and stockholding of the company.

The GIS form varies per corporation type. Download a copy of the GIS form at bit.ly/secreports

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (AFS)



Financial statements are formal records of the financial activities and position of a business or organization.

All corporations, including one person corporations (OPCs) and non-stock corporations, are required to submit their annual financial statements (AFS). Corporations with total assets or liabilities of P600,000 or more must file an audited AFS.

For corporations with less than P600,000 in total assets and total liabilities, download the Unaudited Financial Statements Form at bit.ly/secreports



APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS FORM

This report contains important information about the One Person Corporation, including the names and addresses of its officers. It is due within 15 days from the date of issuance of the OPC's Certificate of Incorporation or within five days from when the change was reflected. **OPCs are not required to submit a GIS.**



NOTIFICATION UPDATE FORM

The NUF is a report to be accomplished and signed under oath by the president or resident agent of the concerned foreign corporation containing all information subject of any change in its principal. It is due within 30 days from the effectivity of the change (i.e. changes in principal office address, accounting period, composition of directors and officers, or subsidiaries).



ADDITIONAL FORMS

The SEC requires additional reports for Financing and Lending Companies, Investment Houses, Broker Dealers, Mutual Fund Distributors, Transfer Agents, Exchanges, Depositories, Transfer Agents, Investment Company Advisers, Clearing Agencies, Registrar of Qualified Institutional Buyers, Self-Regulatory Organizations, and other related entities. Learn more at bit.ly/CorpSecondaryLicenses.

has just been concluded, as well as a letter from the COA confirming such information.

Failure to follow the formal requirements prescribed under Revised SRC Rule 68 shall be considered a sufficient ground for the imposition of penalties by the SEC. The acceptance and receipt by the Commission of the financial statements shall be without prejudice to such penalties.

Meanwhile, the GIS must be filed within 30 calendar days from the date of the actual annual stockholders' meeting for stock corporations, from the date of actual annual members meeting for non-stock corporations, and from the anniversary date of the issuance of the SEC license for foreign corporations.

OPCs are not required to submit the GIS. However, they must submit the SEC Form for Appointment of Officers within 15 days from the date of issuance of their certificate of incorporation, and within five days from subsequent changes.

Higher fines and penalties

Every year, the SEC has stressed the importance of submitting reportorial requirements on time to avoid fines and penalties for late submissions. Recently, the Commission has raised the rates for such fines to encourage compliance among corporations.

The new rates are provided under SEC Memorandum Circular No. 6, Series of 2024, providing for the Updated Fines and Penalties on the Late and Non-Submission of Audited Financial Statements (AFS), General Information Sheet (GIS), Non-Compliance with SEC Memorandum Circular No. 28, Series of 2020 (MC 28).

The higher fines and penalties come after the implementation of the SEC Amnesty Program, which gave corporations a chance to settle the fines and penalties they have accumulated for non-compliance with reportorial requirements at a lower cost.

The previous scale of fines was implemented about 22 years ago in July 2002.

Under the new scale of fines and penalties, OPCs and domestic stock corporations with retained earnings of not more than P100,000 will incur a basic penalty of P5,000 for the late filing of their GIS or AFS, plus P1,000 for every month of continuing violation. The same penalty applies to domestic non-stock corporations with a fund balance or equity of not more than P100,000.

Meanwhile, non-filing of GIS or AFS by OPCs and domestic stock and non-stock corporations with retained earnings and fund balance/equity, respectively, of not more than P100,000 will incur a basic penalty of P10,000, plus P1,000 per month of continuing violation.

Foreign stock corporations with accumulated income/fund balance/members' equity of less than P100,000 will incur a fine of P10,000 plus P6,000 late penalty, if their report is filed after 30 days, or P12,000 penalty, if filed after 60 days.

The base penalty for foreign non-stock corporations with less than P100,000 accumulated income/fund balance/members' equity is at

P5,000, plus P6,000 penalty if filed after 30 days, or with an additional P12,000 penalty if filed after 60 days.

A fine of P10,000, plus a penalty of P12,000, shall be imposed for the non-filing of reports by both foreign stock and non-stock corporations with accumulated income/fund balance/members' equity of less than P100,000.

The penalty for non-compliance with MC 28 is set at P20,000, double the previous rate of P10,000.

Annual Financial Statements (AFS)

All corporations, including branch offices, representative offices, regional headquarters, and regional operating headquarters of foreign corporations, whose fiscal years ended on 31 December 2023, shall file their AFS through eFAST, in accordance with the following schedule depending on the last numerical digit of their SEC registration or license numbers:

	Submission Dates	Last Digit of SEC Registration/ License Number																																																																																				
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Exceptions to the above dates

Company	Submission date
Those with fiscal years ending on a date other than 31 December 2023	Within 120 calendar days from the end of their respective fiscal years
Brokers and dealers whose fiscal years end on December 31	30 April 2024
Brokers and dealers whose fiscal years end on a date other than December 31	Within 120 calendar days from the end of their respective fiscal years
Those whose securities are listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), those whose securities are registered but not listed on the PSE, those considered as public companies, and other entities covered under Sec.17.2 of the SRC	Within 105 calendar days after the end of their respective fiscal years, as attachment to their Annual Reports
Those whose AFS are being audited by the Commission on Audit (COA)	*Provided that the following documents are attached to their AFS: 1. An affidavit signed by the President and Treasurer (or Chief Finance Officer, where applicable) attesting to the fact that the company timely provided the COA with the financial statements and supporting documents and that the audit of the COA has just been concluded; and 2. A letter from the COA confirming the information provided in the above affidavit.

General Information Sheet (GIS)

All corporations shall file with the SEC, through eFAST, their GIS **within 30 calendar days** from:

- For Stock Corporations, the date of actual annual stockholders' meeting;
- For Nonstock Corporations, the date of actual annual members' meeting;
- For Foreign Corporations, the anniversary date of the issuance of their respective SEC licenses.
- For One Person Corporations (OPCs), the SEC Form for Appointment of Officers must be submitted within 15 days from the date of issuance of the Certificate of Incorporation or within five days from when the change was reflected. OPCs are not required to submit a General Information Sheet.

#CheckwithSEC

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) regularly issues advisories, as well as cease and desist orders, to protect the public from individuals and groups soliciting investments without the necessary licenses from the Commission. It also revokes the certificates of registration of partnerships and corporations engaged in unauthorized investment-taking activities, and actively pursues them in court. Read the advisories issued by the Commission by visiting bit.ly/SECAdvisories or by scanning the QR code.



✓ SEC proceeds with blocking of Binance

The SEC has formally filed a request with the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) for assistance in blocking the online presence of cryptocurrency giant Binance in the Philippines after it was found to have operated an investment and trading platform without the necessary license from the Commission.

The group has been actively employing promotional campaigns on social media to attract Filipinos to engage in investment and trading activities using its platforms. Binance, however, has not secured from the SEC a license to solicit investments from the public nor to create or operate an exchange for the buying and selling of securities, as required by Republic Act No. 8799, or The Securities Regulation Code.

✓ SEC stops illegal investment scheme of MFT Group

The SEC has issued a CDO against the MFT Group of Companies, Inc. and Foundry Ventures I, Inc. for illegally soliciting investments from the public without the necessary license from the Commission.

Based on the complaints received and the independent investigation conducted by the EIPD, the MFT Group organized public events where it solicited investments supposedly for start-up companies in exchange for a guaranteed return ranging from 12% to 18% per annum. For this purpose, the MFT Group issued post-dated checks but the amounts indicated in the checks would not be paid.

The SEC has subsequently filed a criminal complaint against the MFT Group for its illegal activities.

✓ SEC marks another win against erring lending companies

The SEC secured the conviction of six officers of Manak Pur Lohara Lending Corporation for falsifying documents in support of its registration with the Commission.

In a decision dated March 11, the Regional Trial Court of Pasay City found Margie C. Minoza, Mylene R. Mariano-Galvez, Marchie R. Bandril, Luz G. Mejarito, Harpreet Singh Virk, and Kulwinder Singh guilty beyond reasonable doubt for violation of Republic Act No. 9474, otherwise known as the Lending Company Regulation Act of 2007. Each officer was sentenced to suffer imprisonment for six months to one year and six months.

✓ SEC issues CDO against Infinity8Networks

The SEC issued a CDO against Infinity8Networks Digital Services OPC and related entities for illegally soliciting investments from the public.

Infinity8Networks was found to have offered investment plans ranging from P500 to P5 million for a guaranteed return of 30% in five days to 500% in 40 days. Infinity8Networks' scheme involved the sale and/or offer of securities in the form of investment contracts, whereby a person makes an investment of money, in a common enterprise, with the expectation of profits, to be derived solely from the efforts of others, the Commission held.

The SEC subsequently revoked the registration of Infinity8Networks as a one person corporation and directed the company, its incorporator, and its nominees to pay a fine of P1 million, in accordance with the administrative penalties provided under the SRC.

✓ SEC issues cease and desist order against bogus Ayala Group

The SEC has issued a cease and desist order (CDO) against entities using the name of Ayala Corporation to illegally solicit investments from the public. The CDO covered Ayala Corporation Group, Inc., Ayala Corporation Budgetarian Online Shop, Global Online Ayala Corporation, Bellavita Ayala Corporation, and Ayala Corporation E Commerce.

Ayala Corporation has expressly disclaimed and denied any involvement in the investment solicitation activities of the bogus group, informing the public that its stocks may only be purchased via licensed stockbrokers accredited by the Philippine Stock Exchange.

✓ SEC files criminal complaint against Eton Trading

The SEC has filed a criminal complaint against Eton Phil Non-Specialized Wholesale Trading for conducting unauthorized investment solicitation activities.

Eton Trading offered a 20% to 50% profit monthly with a minimum capital investment of P5,000 and a maximum of P100,000, with earnings allegedly to come from the sale of wholesale products. However, the group is not registered as a corporation, nor does it have the necessary license to offer securities from the Commission.

✓ Before you invest, always remember to #CheckwithSEC. Report investment scams to the SEC Enforcement and Investor Protection Department at epd@sec.gov.ph.

SEC RULES



From January to March 2024, the Securities and Exchange Commission has issued six memorandum circulars toward ensuring corporations' compliance with reportorial requirements, providing for streamlined procedures for public offerings through the stock market, among others. The full text of the following memorandum circulars may be found on the SEC website by visiting bit.ly/SECMemoCirculars or scanning the QR code.

SEC Memorandum Circular

No. 1

Series of 2024

Issuance date: 25 January 2024

Adoption of Philippine Financial Reporting Standards and Philippine Interpretations Committee Questions and Answers

This memorandum circular provides the adoption of several pronouncements as part of the Commission's rules and regulations on financial reporting, which have likewise been adopted by the Financial Sustainability Reporting Standards Council and approved by the Board of Accountancy and Professional Regulation Commission.

SEC Memorandum Circular

No. 2

Series of 2024

Issuance date: 27 January 2024

2024 Filing of Annual Financial Statements and General Information Sheet

This provides the filing schedule for Annual Financial Statements (AFS) and General Information Sheet (GIS) for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2023. The SEC shall accept only online filings of reportorial requirements through the Electronic Filing and Submission Tool (eFAST). Corporations shall also follow a number coding schedule based on the last digit of their SEC registration or license numbers.

SEC Memorandum Circular

No. 3

Series of 2024

Issuance date: 15 January 2024

Guidelines on the use of the eAMEND Portal

This provides for the launch of the Electronic Application for Modification of Entity Data (eAMEND) portal, where corporations can file amendments to their Articles of Incorporation and/or By-Laws online. The portal will facilitate the acceptance, processing, approval for payment, and issuance of the digital copy of the Certificate of Amendment of Domestic Stock and Non-stock Corporations.

SEC Memorandum Circular

No. 4

Series of 2024

Issuance date: 15 January 2024

Securing & Expanding Capital for PowerGen Operators & Wholesale Electricity & Retail Services (SEC POWERS)

These guidelines streamline the registration process for power generation companies and distribution utilities seeking fresh funds through the public offering of securities. This supports the implementation of Republic Act No. 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, which mandates power generation companies and distribution utilities to offer and sell at least 15% of their shares to the public.

SEC Memorandum Circular

No. 5

Series of 2024

Issuance date: 23 February 2024

Guidelines on the Philippine Sustainable Finance Taxonomy

This provides the Philippine Sustainable Finance Taxonomy Guidelines (SFTG), a framework for determining the environmental and social sustainability of economic activities, providing stakeholders with guidance to make well-informed investment and financing choices. Issuers shall refer to the SFTG when making investment decisions or designing sustainable financial products and services.

SEC Memorandum Circular

No. 6

Series of 2024

Issuance date: 27 March 2024

Updated Fines and Penalties on the Late and Non-Submission of Audited Financial Statements (AFS), General Information Sheet

This provides the updated scale of fines and penalties to be imposed on corporations for the late and non-filing of their annual financial statements, general information sheet, and MC28 report. The lowest penalty that the SEC will impose for the late filing of reports now stands at P5,000, plus P1,000 for every month of continuing violation.

EO CORNER

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) ensures the efficient delivery of its services across the Philippines through its Extension Offices (EOs). Located in strategic locations in Baguio, Tarlac, Legazpi, Cebu, Bohol, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Zamboanga, and Butuan, the EOs are vital in the Commission's fulfillment of its mandate of overseeing the corporate sector and protecting investors from fraudulent investment schemes.



BAGUIO

In celebration of National Women's Month, the Baguio EO held the fourth wave of its annual Juana Seminar with the theme "Juana Be SEC-SEE: Scam - Proof, Equipped, and Empowered" on March 20 at the University of the Cordilleras. With the aim to strengthen and promote women in the business and investment arena, SEC Baguio lectured on JuanaStartABiz: SEC Updates on Registration and Reporting, and JuanaInvest: Financial Fitness 101 and Detection of Investment Scams.



TARLAC

SEC Commissioner Karlo S. Bello and Tarlac EO Director Richard R. Laus signed an agreement on investor education campaign with Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chairperson and Administrator Eduardo Jose L. Aliño last February 27. The partnership will boost capital market development and economic activities in Subic Bay, as well as protect locators, stakeholders, and the whole freeport zone community against investment scams and other predatory practices carried out through the misuse of the corporate vehicle.



LEGAZPI

The Legazpi EO expanded its collaborative network to enhance investor education and promote good corporate governance in the Bicol region with two new partners, the Philippine National Police - Police Regional Office 5 and the Camarines Sur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CSCCI) Inc. To kick off these partnerships, the team conducted an investor education roadshow for law enforcement personnel, and hosted an orientation session on One Person Corporations for the members of CSCCI, highlighting its advantages and reportorial requirements.



CEBU

The Cebu EO, together with the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) Cebu City Chapter, held a seminar for new lawyers to orient them on registration and compliance with the SEC on February 8. It was also the speaker for the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) Cebu Chapter's General Membership Meeting and discussed the latest regulatory updates from the SEC on March 22. Both partners also actively supported the Cebu EO in roadshows organized by the SEC in Cebu on capital formation and sustainability.



BACOLOD

As part of the women's month celebration, the SEC Bacolod EO conducted the "BABAE, ATBP.: A Financial Literacy and GAD Training for Women and LGBTQ+ Sectors of Bacolod City" last March 23, in partnership with the Bacolod Sectoral Affairs Office, PICPA Negros Occidental Chapter, and Zonta Club of Bacolod. Topics discussed included how to save and invest money wisely, integrated with concepts on gender and development. The seminar aimed to help women and LGBTQ+ members of society be financially smart.



ILOILO

In collaboration with its SEC CAN! partners, the National Bureau of Investigation Western Visayas VI and Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation, the Iloilo EO successfully organized seminars at Iloilo Science and Technology University, University of San Agustin, and Central Philippine University. These roadshows aimed to equip students with essential knowledge about personal finance, investment, and fraud prevention. Through these partnerships, Iloilo EO aims to empower the next generation with the necessary tools for financial success.



TACLOBAN

The Tacloban EO solidified partnerships with the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry - Tacloban-Leyte, Inc., Leyte National High School- Accountancy, Business and Management Strand and National Irrigation Administration-Region VIII in the first quarter of 2024, representing significant progress in the goal of fostering cooperation and advancing economic and community development. These partnerships are expected to bring new opportunities and resources to the SEC CAN! program, ultimately benefiting the communities served.

#CheckwithSEC



NTC orders blocking of unlicensed investment platforms

The NTC has ordered all internet service providers to immediately block the websites of OctaFX and MiTrade, for the protection of the investing public, as requested by the SEC.

On its website, OctaFX offered the trading of over 300 financial instruments from a wide range of asset classes, such as foreign currency pairs, foreign shares, index funds, and commodity derivatives. It also allowed leverage trading for a maximum leverage ratio of 1:500.

Meanwhile, MiTrade offered the trading of financial instruments from a wide range of asset classes, such as foreign currency pairs, foreign shares, index funds, and commodity derivatives.

INVESTOR ALERTS

The SEC has issued advisories against the following entities for soliciting investments from the public without the necessary license from the Commission.

Bestoption Financial Consultancy Services
Gercelhomes Staycation
Triumph Edge Academy
Fx Affiliate / Joed Baron
Mvl Mall / Mvlmall
Crocus Tech
Lelong.My
Digital Guacamole
Arbitrage Circle Trade
Pronto Digital Marketing Company
Rollyx Trading/Rollyx Financial Services/Rollyxtrading.
Com
Benta Sahod Slot By Cezsia Perez / Queences Lungalog
Perez
Jvp Trading Expert Investment
Virto/Virtual Crypto Trading Venture
Marsy Luxury Staycation Realty
Altstrade
Plotous
Digivault Trading
Tech Society
Pegasus Trading
CGI/CGI Trading/CGI Trading Company/ CGI Philippines
Tonik-Shop
Robinson Company
America Mall-PH
Reveal
Camacho Packaging Supplies OPC
Badeth's Foodhouse
Soao, Soao Technology, Soao-Technology. Ltd. Advertising
OPC, Soao Energy and Soao Group
R&T Lifestyle Trends International Incorporated
SK Pools Mining Corporation
Meta Advertising Company/Meta Ads Ltd/Meta Ads
Advance Fee Scams
The Topsy Tavern
Titan Capital Markets/Titan Capital Markets Pty Ltd.
Kalinga Venture Group OPC / Kalinga Ventures Capital /
Kalinga Venture International / Kalinga Wealth & Business
Development Services
Goshop PH
Terramush Co.
One IKey Progress Booster (OKPB), Inc.



Scan the QR code or head on to the SEC website at www.sec.gov.ph to get a full list of entities that have been flagged by the Commission.



DAVAO

SEC Commissioner Karlo S. Bello and Davao del Sur Governor Yvonne R. Cagas led the ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Agreement for the SEC CAN! campaign on March 25. This milestone took place in front of over 500 provincial officials and personnel during the province's Monday flag raising ceremony at the Davao Del Sur Coliseum in Digos City. During the event, Commissioner Bello explained the project's objectives, emphasizing its role in combatting investment scams. Witnesses to the signing included SEC Davao Director Katrina Ponco-Estares and Vice Governor Riafe Cagas-Fernandez.



CAGAYAN DE ORO

The Cagayan de Oro EO added Liceo de Cagayan University (LDCU) to its partners under the SEC CAN! campaign, symbolized by a signing ceremony led by CDO EO Director Frederick A. Enopia, Director and LDCU President Alain Marc P. Golez, together with key university officials. Director Enopia highlighted the Commission's priority objective of strengthening its campaign and investor education efforts through students. Dr. Golez sees the partnership to be very vital given the prevalence of investment scams within university premises affecting students and faculty.



ZAMBOANGA

The Zamboanga EO stepped up its effort to promote financial literacy in the Zamboanga Peninsula (ZamPen) Region. It kicked off its investor education barangay roadshow with the residents of Barangays Labuan and Sinubung, Zamboanga City in the first quarter of 2024. The seminar aims to equip and empower the general public to understand personal finance before investing to avoid getting scammed. The office has lined up a series of activities to have more investor champions in the Region.



BUTUAN

The Butuan EO, led by OIC Director Jason C. Tan, together with Office of Commissioner Bello Chief of Staff Nechelle G. Mesias and Mr. Christian Zachary B. Abejo, paid a courtesy visit to Atty. Moshi Ariel S. Cahoy, Head of the Butuan City Business Permits and Licensing Department of the City Government of Butuan on April 1. The visit aims to tie linkages, communications, and collaborative activities with the local government unit of Butuan City on investor protection and education as well as other campaigns and advocacies of the Commission.

SEC MATTERS

Request for comments on the exposure of the Memorandum Circular on Securing & Expanding Capital in Real Estate Non-Traditional Securities

The Commission is asking for the public's comments on its proposed guidelines for the use of a simplified registration statement by real estate companies, developers, and managers seeking to sell or offer investment contracts, certificates of participation, or participation in profit-sharing agreements over rental pools of real estate properties.

The public may submit their comments until May 17 via email to msrds submission@sec.gov.ph.

Alternative mode for distributing and providing copies of the notice of meeting in connection with the holding of stockholder meetings for 2024

Concerned companies that will hold their annual stockholders meetings (ASM) for 2024 are allowed to notify their stockholders via an alternative mode by causing the publication of the Notice of Meeting in the business section of two newspapers of general circulation, in print and online format, for two consecutive days, provided that, the last publication of such notice, print and online, shall be made no later than 21 days prior to the scheduled ASM.

Guidelines on Compliance Optimization and Registration System

The Anti-Money Laundering Council has issued AMLC Regulatory Issuance No. 1, Series of 2024, adopting the new Guidelines on Compliance Optimization and Registration System (CORS Guidelines). The CORS Guidelines shall assist the covered persons in complying with the required AMLC Registration through streamlined procedures and reduced requirements. All covered persons are required to register with the AMLC and shall access the online registration system at <https://portal.amlc.gov.ph>.

Implementation of the Revised Sustainability Reporting Guidelines and Sustainability Report (SuRe Form)

Publicly listed companies are advised to maintain compliance with the provisions of SEC Memorandum Circular No. 4, Series of 2019, or the Sustainability Reporting Guidelines for Publicly Listed Companies for the submission of Sustainability Reports covering the year 2023, or those due in 2024.

The SEC is scheduled to release the Revised Sustainability Reporting Guidelines and SuRe Form in 2024, which will be implemented for reports to be submitted for the following year, in 2025.



For inquiries and other concerns, head to the SEC Contact Center via the link <https://www.sec.gov.ph/contact-us/> or by scanning the QR code.

SEC PUBLICATIONS

Check out these other SEC publications to learn more about the Philippine capital markets, business sector, and overall economy.



DAILY MARKET UPDATES

bit.ly/SECMarketUpdates



Track the movement of stock, bond, and commodity prices, as well as foreign exchange rates by tuning in to this daily publication by the SEC Markets and Securities Regulation Department. Daily updates are available for the Equity, Fixed Income, and Foreign Exchange, and Commodities Markets.



SUSTAINABLE FINANCE MARKET UPDATE

bit.ly/SECSustainableFinance



This monthly publication by the SEC Markets and Securities Regulation Department contains news on sustainable finance, as well as a rundown of green, social, and sustainability bonds issued in the Philippines and the ASEAN region for the period.



SECECONOMICS

bit.ly/SECEconomics



The SEC Economic and Research Training Department provides monthly updates on the Philippine economy, i.e., the country's economic growth, government spending, developments in the business sector, performance of capital markets, as well as other pertinent domestic and international news for the period.