

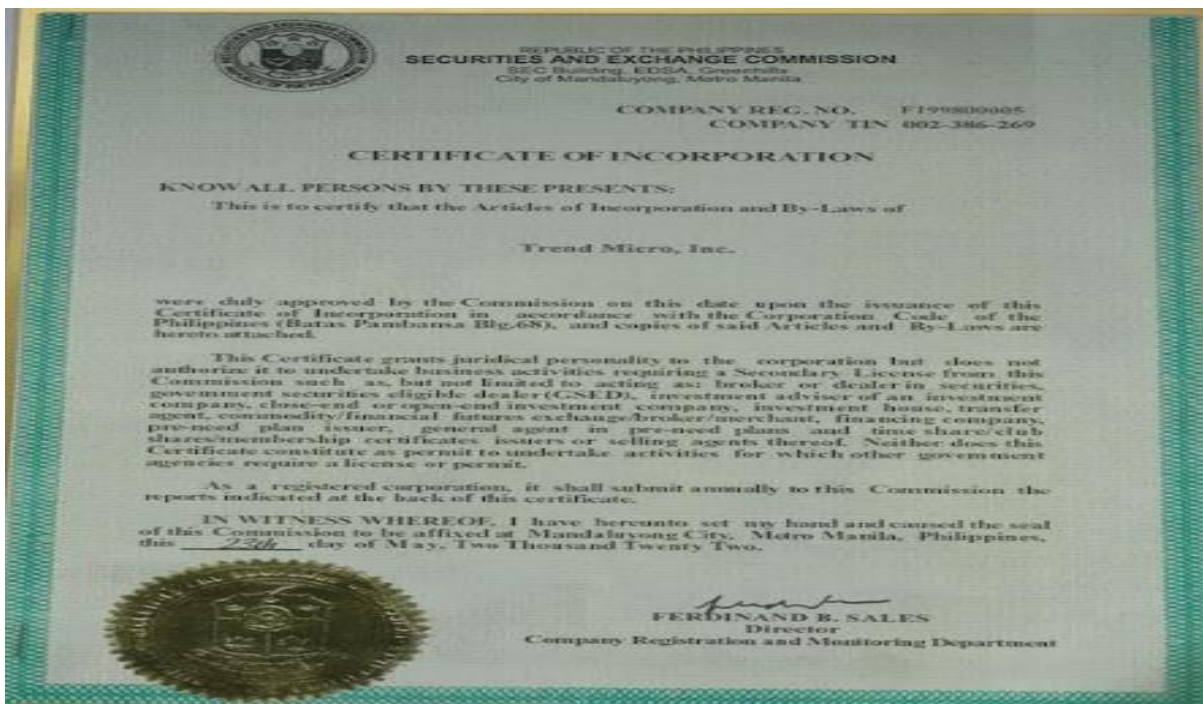


SEC ADVISORY

This Advisory is prompted by inquiries, reports and information received by the Commission that individuals or group of persons representing an entity named **TREND MICRO, INC.**, 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, **TREND MICRO, INC.**, through social media were offering to the public an online job by grabbing and/or placing orders for e-commerce with the requirement of using the investors own funds as an investment which initially involves a small amount of money for a promise of receiving commission upon completion of the assigned task which can only be withdrawn upon completion of the next task. This process goes on until the last level is reached, wherein the investor will be required to give additional money for taxes, verification codes and other miscellaneous fees.

Further, **TREND MICRO, INC.**, is presenting a copy of its alleged Certificate of Registration as a way of enticing the public to invest in the said entity. Below is a screenshot copy of the said Certificate of Registration which was presented to the Commission:



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Salcedo Village, Bel-air, Makati City
☎ (+63 2) 5322 7696
🌐 www.sec.gov.ph | imessagemo@sec.gov.ph

**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**
We invest in people



Management System
ISO 9001:2015
www.tuv.com
ID: 910863781



Upon verification with the Commission's CRMD, it was discovered that the abovementioned copy of Certification of Registration is patently fake since CRMD Director Ferdinand B. Sales whose signature appears thereon is no longer connected with the SEC on the date the said Certificate of Registration was issued.

Consequently, reports revealed that **TREND MICRO, INC.**, is engaged in a scheme known as "**Tasking and Recharging**" wherein the public is invited to apply for purported online jobs which would involves performing a certain task for a promise of receiving monetary rewards or what they called commissions and once the task is completed, the investor will be given another task to perform for the same promise of receiving commissions and this process goes on until the last level is reached, wherein the investor will be required to give additional money for taxes, verification codes and other miscellaneous fees.

For the information of the public, **TREND MICRO INCORPORATED – PHILIPPINE BRANCH** has reported to the Commission the activities of "**TREND MICRO, INC.**" who have been using their company's official logo on social media and other platform to mislead the public that their investment applications are legitimate and their non-involvement to the said activities.

Further, **TREND MICRO INCORPORATED – PHILIPPINE BRANCH** has informed the Commission of their issued public statement which was posted on their official Facebook page, informing the public of the fraudulent scheme of "**TREND MICRO, INC.**", disowning the conduct of the alleged deceitful activities and advising the public not to fall prey in this type of scam. Below is a screenshot copy of the said FB post:

Trend Micro Careers Philippines
February 15 · 🌐

🚩 **ADVISORY: Ongoing Scam Campaign** 🚩

It has come to our attention that there is an ongoing scam campaign falsely using Trend Micro's name in fraudulent recruitment activities involving an e-commerce scheme or business opportunity.

Conducted through the messaging platform WhatsApp and other channels, these activities often come in the form of invitations from agents falsely presenting themselves as representatives of Trend Micro. These invitations present an opportunity to join an "e-commerce intermediary platform," while simultaneously soliciting personal information from the recipient.

We wish to clarify and emphasize that Trend Micro is a cybersecurity company and is not, nor ever will be an e-commerce intermediary platform. Neither does it engage in such fraudulent recruitment activities, nor conduct recruitment activities outside our official channels.

We hereby advise all individuals to engage exclusively with our official communication channels, Trend Micro Careers Philippines on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/TrendMicroCareersPH/>) for all recruitment activities and our official websites <https://www.trendmicro.com/> and <https://careers.trendmicro.com.ph/> for any transactions, inquiries, or official business. Any involvement with unauthorized channels or individuals purporting to represent our company is at the sole risk of the involved parties.

Trend Micro's mission is to make the world safe for the exchange of digital information. Please help us spread awareness by sharing this announcement with your friends, colleagues, and loved ones in the hopes that they do not fall prey to this scam.

Security is a shared responsibility.
Thank you for your vigilance and cooperation.

TREND MICRO INCORPORATED
[#EngineeredToDoGood](#)

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Per records of the Commission, “**TREND MICRO, INC.**” is **not authorized to solicit investments** from the public, not having secured prior registration and/or license to sell securities or solicit investments as prescribed under Section 8 of the Securities Regulation Code (SRC).

Hence, the aforementioned entity is impersonating **TREND MICRO INCORPORATED – PHILIPPINE BRANCH**, a duly registered entity in the Philippines.

As verified, “**TREND MICRO, INC.**” IS NOT IN ANY WAY RELATED TO OR AFFILIATED OR CONNECTED WITH **TREND MICRO INCORPORATED – PHILIPPINE BRANCH**.

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 possible “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, 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 **TREND MICRO, INC.** The public is further advised **NOT TO INVEST** or to **STOP INVESTING** in the investment scheme being offered by **TREND MICRO, INC.**, or its representatives.

Those who act as salesmen, brokers, dealers or agents, representatives, promoters, recruiters, uplines, influencers, endorsers, abettors and enablers of **TREND**

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MICRO, INC., 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, 04 July 2024