



August 18, 2021

Philippine Stock Exchange
6/F Philippine Stock Exchange Tower
28th Street corner 5th Avenue
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City

Attention: Ms. Janet A. Encarnacion
Head, Disclosure Department

Gentlemen:

We submit herewith a copy of our reply to the letter of Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corporation dated August 17, 2021, requesting for clarification regarding the *BusinessWorld* news article entitled "PLDT Investing P3.9B in Apricot Subsea Cable".

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LRausa', is positioned above the typed name.

MA. LOURDES C. RAUSA-CHAN
Corporate Secretary



August 18, 2021

SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Secretariat Building, PICC Complex
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Attention: Mr. Vicente Graciano P. Felizmenio, Jr.
Director – Markets and Securities Regulation Dept.

Gentlemen:

In compliance with Section 17.1 (b) of the Securities Regulation Code and SRC Rule 17.1.1.1.3(a), we submit herewith two (2) copies of our letter dated August 17, 2021 to Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corporation in response to their letter dated August 17, 2021, requesting for clarification regarding the *BusinessWorld* news article entitled “PLDT Investing P3.9B in Apricot Subsea Cable”.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ma. Lourdes C. Rausa-Chan".

MA. LOURDES C. RAUSA-CHAN
Corporate Secretary

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

CURRENT REPORT UNDER SECTION 17
OF THE SECURITIES REGULATION CODE
AND SRC RULE 17.1

1. August 18, 2021
Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)
2. SEC Identification Number PW-55
3. BIR Tax Identification No. 000-488-793
4. PLDT Inc.
Exact name of issuer as specified in its charter
5. PHILIPPINES
Province, country or other jurisdiction
of Incorporation
6. _____ (SEC Use Only)
Industry Classification Code
7. Ramon Cojuangco Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City
Address of principal office
- 1200
Postal Code
8. (632) 8816-8553
Issuer's telephone number, including area code
9. Not Applicable
Former name or former address, if changed since last report
10. Securities registered pursuant to Sections 8 and 12 of the Securities Regulation Code and
Sections 4 and 8 of the Revised Securities Act

Title of Each Class	Number of Shares of Common Stock Outstanding and Amount of Debt Outstanding
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

11. Item 9 (Other Events)

Attached hereto is a copy of our letter dated August 17, 2021 to Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corporation in response to their letter dated August 17, 2021, requesting for clarification regarding the *BusinessWorld* news article entitled "PLDT Investing P3.9B in Apricot Subsea Cable".

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Regulations Code, the Company has duly caused this Report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

PLDT INC.

By:



MA. LOURDES C. RAUSA-CHAN
Corporate Secretary

August 18, 2021



17 August 2021

PHILIPPINE DEALING & EXCHANGE CORP.
29/F BDO EQUITABLE TOWER
Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

ATTENTION: ATTY. MARIE ROSE M. MAGALLEN-LIRIO
Head – Issuer Compliance and Disclosure Department

Gentlemen:

We reply to your letter dated 17 August 2021 requesting for clarification regarding the *BusinessWorld* news article entitled “PLDT investing P3.9B in Apricot Subsea Cable.”

We confirm the information in the said article. Please find below the link to our news release posted on the PLDT website as well as the attached PDF copy, with additional information:

<https://beta.pldt.com/article/pldt-invests-us80m-apricot-cable-system-drawing-global-hyperscalers>

We trust that we have addressed your query. Let us know if you need any further information.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melissa V. Vergel de Dios".

MELISSA V. VERGEL DE DIOS
Head – Investor Relations and
Corporate Sustainability Office

PLDT invests US\$80M in APRICOT cable system, drawing global hyperscalers

The Philippines' largest fully integrated telecommunications company PLDT is set to further expand its network bandwidth capacity, with its participation in the construction of the newest international undersea cable system, APRICOT. This will boost the telco's network capability to service the country's growing data traffic driven by more digital services and new technologies such as 5G, and adds to the country's advantage to help draw in global hyperscalers expanding in the region.

Targeted to be fully operational in 2024, PLDT is investing US\$80 million (Php 3.9 Billion) in the APRICOT cable system, along with four other parties that have formed a consortium.

"We continue to invest in international submarine cable systems, which are necessary infrastructure for global communications supporting ICT services. The construction of this APRICOT cable system is vital to the Philippine economy with rapidly increasing data traffic and is aligned with our efforts to make the Philippines a strategic data center hub in the region," said PLDT and Smart Communications President and CEO Alfredo S. Panlilio.

The new cable system features state-of-the-art facilities featuring 400G transmission technology and multiple pairs of high-capacity optical fibers. It also features state-of-the-art submersible ROADM (reconfigurable optical add-drop multiplexer) employing WSS (wavelength selective switch) for a grid-less and flexible bandwidth configuration, based on SDM (Space Division Multiplexing) design. These features ensure that massive amounts of data traffic will be facilitated, creating exceptional service quality to end users.

Slated to further augment PLDT's international capacity for data traffic, particularly to the US and across Asia and the Pacific, the 12,000-kilometer long cable system will have design capacity of more than 190Tbps connecting the Philippines to Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, Taiwan and Guam.

"APRICOT assures our international and enterprise customers with sustained capacity availability and more resiliency options in support of their growing demand for data and continuing digital transformation. This likewise enhances how the Philippines connect to the rest of the world, a big plus for global hyperscalers who are looking at our country for their cloud region expansion," according to ePLDT President and CEO and SVP and Head for PLDT and Smart Enterprise Business Groups Jovy I. Hernandez.

The APRICOT cable project will further serve PLDT Group's fixed and wireless subscribers on the consumer level, and its large enterprise client base which are



already connected by its extensive fiber footprint, which spans more than 524,000 kilometers as of end-June 2021.

“APRICOT is key to enhancing network resilience because new cable landing stations in Luzon and Mindanao will be built as part of this submarine cable system. With the cable to be routed via the eastern coast of the Philippines, it will also increase the submarine cable route diversity in the Asia-Pacific region. PLDT together with our global partners have worked to design APRICOT using state-of-the-art, upgradeable technology,” said PLDT VP and International Facilities Investments Management Head Gene Sanchez.

The APRICOT Cable project is the third international cable network system announced by the PLDT Group in the last two years, which when completed would bring PLDT’s participation in 18 international cable systems. Earlier, PLDT announced its US\$136.7 million investment in the Jupiter Cable project, and in the 9,400-kilometer Asia Direct Cable system, set to be completed by end 2021 and early 2023, respectively.

These investments in international cables add resiliency and capacity to PLDT's network and boost the country’s strategic position as a premium data and cable hub in the region for global hyperscalers. The PLDT Group’s current participation in multiple international cable systems strongly links the country to all parts of the world.

Currently, PLDT has extensive participation in 14 international submarine cable systems and one terrestrial system carrying data traffic going in and out of the Philippines. These include the Asia-America Gateway (AAG), Asia-submarine Cable Express, APCN2, and South East Asia-Middle East-Western Europe 3 which are routed through PLDT’s three existing cable landing stations situated in Batangas, Daet, and La Union.

PLDT has been relentlessly expanding its fiber network in and out of the country. In addition to Php 460 billion invested from 2011 to 2020, PLDT is eyeing additional capex spend of Php 88 to 92 billion in 2021, aiding the country’s efforts in nation-building through digital services and technology. These investments further strengthen the country's most extensive fiber network, enabling connectivity to industries, businesses, homes, individual consumers, and the nation’s growing digital economy. **[END]**



For further information, please contact:

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About PLDT

PLDT is the Philippines' largest fully integrated telco company. Through its principal business groups — from fixed line to wireless — PLDT offers a wide range of telecommunications and digital services across the Philippines' most extensive fiber optic backbone, and fixed line and cellular networks.

PLDT is listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE:TEL) and its American Depository Shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE:PHI). PLDT has one of the largest market capitalizations among Philippine — listed companies.

Further information can be obtained by visiting www.pldt.com