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Company Information

SEC Registration No.: AS92007059
Company Name: VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC.
Industry Classification: J66940
Company Type: Stock Corporation

Document Information

Document ID: OST10429202482303792
Document Type: Financial Statement
Document Code: FS
Period Covered: December 31, 2023
Submission Type: Consolidated
Remarks: None

Acceptance of this document is subject to review of forms and contents

COVER SHEET

SEC Registration Number

A S O 9 2 - 0 0 7 0 5 9

Company Name

V A N T A G E E Q U I T I E S , I N C . A N D S U B S I D I A R I E S

Principal Office (No./Street/Barangay/City/Town/Province)

15th Floor, Philippine Stock Exchange Tower, 28th St. Corner 5th Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila

Form Type	Department requiring the report	Secondary License Type, If Applicable
17-A	SEC	N/A

COMPANY INFORMATION

Company's Email Address	Company's Telephone Number/s	Mobile Number
compliance@vantage.ph	250-8700	09175954785

No. of Stockholders	Annual Meeting Month/Day	Fiscal Year Month/Day
603	09/29	12/31

CONTACT PERSON INFORMATION

The designated contact person ***MUST*** be an Officer of the Corporation

Name of Contact Person	Email Address	Telephone Number/s	Mobile Number
Ms. Ma. Angelica Cabanit	Angelica.cabanit@philequity.net	8250-8741	0917-590-7176

Contact Person's Address

15TH Floor Phil. Stock Exchange, 5th Ave. cor 28th St. Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City

Note: In case of death, resignation or cessation of office of the officer designated as contact person, such incident shall be reported to the Commission within thirty (30) calendar days from the occurrence thereof with information and complete contact details of the new contact person designated.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC FORM 17-A

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 17 OF THE SECURITIES REGULATION CODE AND SECTION 141 OF THE CORPORATION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

1. For the calendar year ended: **December 31, 2023**

2. SEC Identification Number: **ASO92-007059**

3. BIR Tax Identification No.: **002-010-620**

4. Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter:
VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC.

5. Province, Country or other jurisdiction of Incorporation or organization:
Philippines

6. [ ] (SEC Use Only)
Industry Classification Code

7. Address of Principal Office: **15TH Floor Phil. Stock Exchange, 5th Ave. cor 28th St. Bonifacio Global City, Taguig**

8. Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(632) 250-8738**

9. Former name, former address, and former fiscal year, if changed since last report

10. Securities registered pursuant to Sections 4 and 8 of the RSA

Title of Each Class	Number of Shares of Common Stock Outstanding
Common Stock, P1.00 par value	**4,199,582,266 (Net of Treasury Shares of 135,599,500)**

11. Are any or all of these securities listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange
Yes [**X**] No [ ]

12. Check whether the registrant:
a) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 17 of the Securities Regulation Code (SRC) and SRC Rule 17 (a)-1 thereunder and Sections 26 and 141 of the Corporation Code of the Philippines during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports):
Yes [**X**] No [ ]

b) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days
Yes [**X**] No [ ]

13. Aggregate market value of the voting stock held by non-affiliates as of 31 Dec 2023
P3,802,504,261

PART I – BUSINESS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Business

Vantage Equities, Inc. (the "Corporation"), formerly iVantage Corporation, was incorporated in 20 October 1992 and is organized as an investment and financial holding company. It has authorized capital stock of One Billion Nine Hundred Million Pesos (P1,900,000,000), all of which are in common shares with a par value of P1.00 per share. Of the authorized capital stock, 1,788,312,570 are outstanding and 111,687,430 remain unsubscribed. On 12 January 2009, Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) approved the increase of authorized capital stock of the Corporation to Two Billion Two Hundred Fifty Million Pesos P2,250,000,000.00. Furthermore, the SEC has authorized the Corporation to issue 447,078,142 common shares out of its authorized but unissued capital stock to cover the twenty five percent (25%) stock dividend declared by the Corporation's Board of Directors on 4 June 2008 and ratified by its shareholders on 27 June 2008. As of 31 March 2012, the Corporation has an authorized capital stock of Two Billion Two Hundred Fifty Million Pesos (P2,250,000,000.00) divided into 2,250,000,000 common shares with par value of P1.00 per share. Out of the authorized capital stock, 2,235,390,633 shares are issued, of which 135,599,500 shares are in treasury.

On August 1, 2015, the BOD and two-thirds (2/3) of the outstanding capital of the Company approved the increase in the authorized capital stock from 2,250,000,000 shares with par value of ₱1.00 per share in 2014 to 5,000,000,000 shares with par value of ₱1.00 per share in 2015. The SEC approved the increase in the authorized capital stock on October 27, 2015.

On May 19, 2015, the BOD approved the declaration of stock dividends equivalent to a total of ₱2.10 billion representing 2,099,791,133 shares at ₱1.00 par value per share, payable to all stockholders of record as of January 8, 2016. The said dividends were paid on February 3, 2016. The two-thirds (2/3) of the outstanding capital of the Company approved the dividend declaration on August 1, 2015.

The Corporation reverted to its original name by majority vote of the Board of Directors in November 2007, which the Securities and Exchange Commission subsequently approved in April 2008. The change in corporate name is consistent with the Company's re-alignment of its investment focus towards the broad financial sector vis-a-vis its information technology focus during the early 2000's.

On June 20, 2017, the Board of Directors (BOD) approved Article 3 of Articles of Incorporation to change its principal address from 2005 East Tower PSE Centre, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Metro Manila, Philippines to 15th Floor Phil. Stock Exchange, 5th Avenue corner 28th Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila, Philippines. The Amended Articles of Incorporation was approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 26, 2017.

Purpose

The Company was originally organized with the primary purpose of oil and gas exploration, and investments and developments as among its secondary purposes. On 3 October 2000, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) approved the change in the Corporation's primary purpose to financial holdings and investments, including but not limited to information technology companies and related ventures. Since the Registrant is an investment holding company, it is not competing in terms of sales and is not dependent upon a single customer or a few customers. Also, it needs no government approval of principal products or services and no cost and effect of compliance with environmental laws.

Investments

In June 2006, the Corporation divested its shareholdings in International Exchange Bank ("iBank"), its largest single investment at that time. The iBank sale generated ₱ 2.9 billion in cash and a ₱1.6 billion gain, capping an 11-year investment period that yielded a 16% compound annual return. The PSE Index, by comparison, only broke even during the same period. The divestment was timely in light of the substantial decline in financial markets in the following years.

The Corporation decided to invest its ₱2.9 billion "war chest" in portfolio of equity and fixed-income securities. The mandate is to attain above market returns while adhering to prudent risk parameters, i.e. credit, liquidity and market risk. For this purpose, the Company hired its current President in October 2006 along with a team of finance professionals. The current team is also tasked to further professionalize management of the Vantage Group of Companies.

The operating subsidiaries that comprise the Vantage Group are the following:

Vantage Financial Corporation (formerly e-Business Services, Inc) **- 100% ownership**

eBiz traces its beginnings as the first Asia-Pacific direct agent of Western Union, an International money transfer service provider. Aside from money transfer services, eBiz also offers Philequity Mutual Funds, eLoad, Bayad Center bills payment center and Cebu Pacific, Air Asia and FETA ticketing services. Starting from just 3 service centers in 1999, eBiz today operates 145 branches located in major cities and hubs throughout the country.

The company-owned branches are complemented by a network of sub-agents that effectively enables eBiz to extend its geographic reach to over 1,500 locations nationwide. eBiz agent-partners include some of the biggest commercial banks, supermarket chains and pawnshops in the country.

On January 23, 2018, the Securities and Exchange Commission approved the amendment of its Articles of Incorporation to change its company name from E-Business Services, Inc. to Vantage Financial Corporation.

iCurrencies – 100% ownership

iCurrencies, Inc. was incorporated on 3 February 2000 and started commercial operations on 31 May 2000. iCurrencies is organized primarily to engage in the business of buying and selling of foreign currencies.

In May 2001, the iCurrencies effectively stopped its business of buying and selling currencies as a result of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Circular No. 264, issued on 26 October 2000. Among others, the new circular required additional documentation for sale of foreign currencies and required Foreign Exchange Corporations (FxCorps) to have a minimum paid-up capital of ₱50.0 million.

The Circular effectively aligned the regulations under which FxCorps are to operate to that of banks. To avoid duplication and direct competition with its previous major stockholder, iCurrencies decided to stop its business of buying and selling foreign currencies. The stockholders likewise decided not to increase its paid-up capital.

In the meantime, iCurrencies is sustained by income on its investments and interest income on its funds while awaiting for regulatory changes.

Philequity Balanced Fund, Inc. – 100% ownership

The Fund is engaged in selling its capital to the public and investing the proceeds in diversified portfolio of peso-denominated fixed-income and equity securities.

On November 11, 2017, the Board of Directors (BOD) decided to shorten the corporate life of the Fund until December 31, 2017.

Philequity Foreign Currency Fixed Income, Inc. – 100% ownership

The Fund is engaged in selling its capital to the public and investing the proceeds in diversified portfolio of foreign currency denominated fixed-income securities.

On November 11, 2017, the Board of Directors (BOD) decided to shorten the corporate life of the Fund until December 31, 2017

<u>Philequity MSCI Philippines Index Fund, Inc. (PMPI) – 69.486% ownership</u>

PMIF was incorporated in the Philippines, and was registered with the SEC on December 15, 2017 under the Philippine ICA as an open-end mutual fund company. PMIF is engaged to subscribe for, invest and re-invest in, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of securities of all kinds, including all types of stocks, bonds, debentures, notes, mortgages, or other obligations, commercial papers, acceptances, scrip, investment contracts, voting trust, certificates, certificates of interest, and any receipts, warrants, certificates, or other instruments representing any other rights or interests therein, or in any property or assets created or issued by any all persons, firms, associations, corporations, organizations, government agencies or instrumentalities thereof; to acquire, hold, invest and reinvest in, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of, real properties of all kinds; and generally to carry on the business of an Open-End Investment Company in all the elements and details thereof as prescribed by law.

In January 2019, PMPI launched its shares to the public

<u>Philequity Alpha One Fund, Inc. (PAOF) – 100% ownership</u>

PAOF was incorporated in the Philippines, and was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on February 13, 2019. The primary activities of the Fund are to subscribe for, invest and re-invest in, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of securities of all kinds, to acquire, hold, invest and reinvest in, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of real properties of all kinds; and generally to carry on the business of an open-end investment company in all the elements and details thereof as prescribed by law.

In December 9, 2019, PAOF launched its units to the public.

<u>Philequity Global Fund Fund, Inc. (PGF) – 100% ownership</u>

PGF was incorporated in the Philippines, and was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on June 24, 2019. The primary activities of the Fund are to subscribe for, invest and re-invest in, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of securities of all kinds, to acquire, hold, invest and reinvest in, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of real properties of all kinds; and generally to carry on the business of an open-end investment company in all the elements and details thereof as prescribed by law.

As of December 31, 2023, the Fund has not yet started its commercial operations pending the registration under the Philippine Investment Company Act (Republic Act No. 2629) as an open-end mutual fund company with the SEC. In January 20, 2021, SEC issued to the Fund its permit to offer securities for sale.

<u>Philequity Management, Inc. ("PEMI") – 51% ownership</u>

Philequity Management, Inc. (PEMI) is an investment management company established in 1993. PEMI is proud to be the investment manager and principal distributor of Philequity Fund, Inc. (PEFI), the Philippines' best performing equity mutual fund. PEFI has been awarded by the Philippine Investment Funds Association (PIFA) as the best performing equity fund in the 10-year category, 2nd place in the 3 and 5-year categories.

<u>Philequity Dynamic Allocation Fund, Inc. ("PDAFI") – 99.99% ownership</u>

Philequity Dynamic Allocation, Inc. (the Fund) was incorporated in the Philippines and was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on July 05, 2023. The primary activities of the Fund are to issue units for participation and to subscribe for, invest and re-invest in, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of securities of all kinds, to acquire, hold, invest and reinvest in, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of real properties of all kinds; and generally to carry on the business of an open-end investment company in all the elements and details thereof as prescribed by law. On September 30, 2023, the Fund has not yet started its commercial operations pending the registration under the Philippine Investment Company Act (Republic Act no . 2629) as an open-end investment company with SEC.

Philequity Peso Bond Fund, Inc. (PPBF) was also recognized by PIFA garnering 2nd place in the 5-year return category. Likewise, Philequity Dollar Income Fund, Inc. (PDIF) earned 1st place in the 5-year return category.

Government Regulation and Environmental Compliance
The Corporation does not need any government approval for its principal products or services and is not required to comply with specific environmental laws.

Distribution Methods of Products and Services
The Corporation, being a financial holding and investment company, has no distribution methods of products and services.

Size and Strength of the Subsidiaries' Competitors

Vantage Financial Corporation - 100% ownership
eBiz has a relatively strong competition among Western Union's direct agents and sub-agents. Agents primarily compete through location and customer service. It appears that the competition with other money transfer companies like Moneygram, Xoom, iRemit does not substantially affect the business of the Corporation. Competition however with local money transfer companies like Cebuana Pera Padala and Palawan Pedala has increasingly been affecting the business of the Company in domestic money transfer.

Philequity Management, Inc. ("PEMI") – 51% ownership
The Philippine mutual fund industry continues to grow with 71 funds as of December 2023 from 68 funds a year ago according to data tracked by the Philippine Investment Funds Association. The industry continues to benefit from increased public interest on alternative investments that offer potentially higher yields over regular savings accounts and time deposits. The industry's net assets however shrank 18% to P 231 billion from P283 billion a year ago as risks in capital markets continue to remain high. Investors instead returned to safety, returning to time deposits, savings accounts and even taking advantage of the high yields in individual bonds.

The industry is divided into 5 categories – stock, bond, balanced, money market, and feeder funds. Majority of total assets under management (AUM) is invested in bond funds (29%) and stock funds (28%) funds which make up 57% of total market share. Philequity Management, Inc. (PEMI) only offers seven funds to the public -- Philequity Fund, Inc. (PEFI), Philequity PSE Index Fund, Inc. (PPSE), Philequity Dividend Yield Fund, Inc. (PDYF), Philequity MSCI Philippines Index Fund, Inc. (PMPI), Philequity Alpha One Fund, Inc. (PAOF), Philequity Peso Bond Fund, Inc. (PPBF), and Philequity Dollar Income Fund, Inc. (PDIF) which only competes against other stock and bond funds.

Investors often use a funds' performance as a gauge for comparison when choosing a mutual fund. In terms of performance, investors look at funds that have the highest return in their respective category as the basis for choosing a fund-- the higher the return, the more attractive the fund. Investors also look to a funds' outperformance over the respective benchmark as a second form of comparison. The greater the outperformance over the benchmark, the more attractive the fund. It is important to note that not all benchmarks in a fund category are aligned. For instance, a stock fund uses 100% the Philippine Stock Exchange Index (PSEi) as its benchmark while another stock fund might use a 90-10 approach where 90% is composed of the PSEi and 10% is composed of a 91-day T-bill. As a result, investors tend to use consistency as the basis, where a fund (1) consistently outperforms its peers and (2) consistently outperforms its respective benchmark.

The industry does not have an aligned fee structure charged to their clients and as a result, investors look for the lowest sales load, management fee and exit fees and other fees involved that are charged by a mutual fund. Mutual funds that charge the lowest fees and have a lower minimum holding period are considered the main competitors of PEMI in terms of fees. Investors can also use a company's expense ratio to gauge the effectiveness of the fund's expense management. PEMI consistently monitors the fees charged by its competitors to ensure the mutual funds it offers remains in a competitive space amongst its peers.

In terms of distribution, PEMI's main competitors in the industry are BPI Asset Management, First Metro Asset Management, ATR Asset Management, and Sun Life Asset Management. All four companies have vast distribution channels through their network of branches or through their network of agents/financial advisors. PEMI on the other hand has agreed to partner with financial institutions such as stock brokerages to distribute the funds. This has proven to be a low-cost and effective strategy for fund distribution.

PEMI operating results as of December 31, 2023

Gross profit fell by 1.4% to P170 million as a result of lower fees collected for the early redemptions and higher cost of sales. The Philippine Stock Exchange Index (PSEi) had another volatile year as the index moved from a high of 7095 in mid-January to a low of 5962 by the end of October only to move back up again to 6450 by year end but fell short of making a positive return, closing the year down 1.06% at 6450. With the exception of the Philequity Alpha One Fund, all other mutual funds were up for the year with the Dividend Yield Fund gaining the most at 2.58% followed by the MSCI Phils. Index Fund returning 2.13%, Philequity Fund at 1.03% and the PSE Index Fund at 0.34%. The bond funds on the other hand also saw gains with the Philequity Peso Bond Fund returning 4.35% and the Philequity Dollar Income Fund gaining 1.73%. Apart from trading gains, the funds also saw net redemptions for the year amounting to P445 million, up from P260 million in 2022. This was understandable as the PSEi has traded in a range for the past 11 years and is still at a loss from the 9000-level high seen in 2018.

General and administrative expenses increased by 31% to P30 million due to higher professional fees. Net income for the year however was 13% higher versus the previous year at P177 million due to an increase in interest income which short term placements earning as high as 6% per annum versus a high of 1% per annum a year ago.

Financial Performance

The Company derived its revenues from various activities:

	2023	2022	2021
Trading and investment securities gain /(losses)-net	126,641,561	-464,741,003	45,189,268
Money transfer service income	114,969,093	135,133,672	192,807,698
Service income	227,729,033	246,236,422	264,552,473
Share in foreign exchange differential	79,804,022	92,852,823	121,203,399
Interest income	494,942,544	257,133,062	194,986,594
Money changing gain	82,154,915	8,645,517	60,756,236
Income from business partners	18,426,280	22,140,227	55,133,845
Dividend income	26,835,620	30,391,442	13,579,262
	1,171,503,068	327,792,162	948,208,775

The breakdown of trading and investment securities gains (losses) - net follows:

	2023	2022	2021
Financial Assets at FVPL			
Realized gain (loss) on sale taken to profit or loss	**(₱40,006,616)**	(₱15,255,377)	₱52,611,460
Unrealized gains (losses) on changes in fair value	**166,648,177**	(449,485,626)	(7,422,192)
	₱126,641,561	(₱464,741,003)	₱45,189,268

Total interest income as follows:

	2023	2022	2021
Cash and cash equivalents	**₱193,821,014**	**₱72,331,562**	₱12,464,836
Financial assets at FVTPL	**301,121,530**	**184,801,500**	182,521,758
	₱494,942,544	**₱257,133,062**	₱194,986,594

As of December 31, 2023, the Company has a total of 428 employees as broken down below and is not subject to Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA).

Position	No. Of Employees	Anticipated No. of Additional Employees
Executive/Senior Officer	10	3
Managers	13	3
Supervisors	28	5
Prof	6	5
Specialist	40	10
Associate	331	15
TOTAL	**428**	**41**

Financial Risk Management

The main risks arising from the Group's financial instruments are liquidity risk, credit risk and market risk. The BOD reviews and approves the policies for managing each risk and these are summarized below:

Credit Risk is the risk that the Group will incur a loss because its customers or counterparties fail to discharge their contractual obligations. The Group manages and controls credit risk by trading only with recognized, creditworthy third parties. It is the Group's policy that all customers who wish to trade on credit terms are subject to credit verification procedures. In addition, receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis with the result that the Group's exposure to bad debts is not significant.

Since the Group trades only with recognized third parties, there is no requirement for collateral.

The Company's maximum exposure to credit risk is equal to the carrying values of its financial assets since it does not hold any collateral or other credit enhancements that will mitigate credit risk exposure.

The fair values of financial assets at FVPL and AFS investments represent the credit risk exposure as of the reporting date but not the maximum risk exposure that could arise in the future as a result of changes in fair value of the said instruments.

There are no significant concentrations of credit risk within the Group.
Liquidity Risk is the risk that the Group will be unable to meet its obligations when they fall due under normal and stress circumstances. To limit the risk, the Group closely monitors its cash flows and ensures that credit facilities are available to meet its obligations as and when they fall due. The Group also has a committed line of credit that it can access to meet liquidity needs. Any

excess cash is invested in short-term investments. These placements are maintained to meet maturing obligations.

Market Risk is the risk of change in fair value of financial instruments from fluctuation in market prices (price risk), foreign exchange rates (currency risk) and market interest rates (interest rate risk), whether such change in price is caused by factors specific to the individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all instruments traded in the market.

The Group is exposed to the risk that the value of the Group's financial assets will be adversely affected by the fluctuations in the price level or volatility of one or more of the said assets. The two main components of the risks recognized by the Group are systematic risk and unsystematic risk.

Systematic risk is the variability in price caused by factors that affect all securities across all markets (e.g. significant economic or political events). Unsystematic risk, on the other hand, is the variability in price caused by factors which are specific to the particular issuer (corporation) of the debt or equity security. Through proper portfolio diversification, this risk can be minimized as losses on one particular debt or equity security may be offset by gains in another.

To further mitigate these risks, the Group ensures that the investment portfolio is adequately diversified taking into consideration the size of the portfolio.

Item 2. Properties

Vantage Equities, Inc. - Parent

Office Condominium - In December 2017 the acquired office units by the company were turned over, located at 15th floor Phil. Stock Exchange, 5th Avenue cor. 28th St. Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Office Improvements - These are improvements made to the Company's office space and being depreciated over an estimated useful life of 10 years accounted for on a straight line basis.

Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment - These equipments are used by the Company in conducting its daily operations and located at 15th floor Phil. Stock Exchange, 5th Avenue cor. 28th St. Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.. These assets are being depreciated over an estimated useful life of 3 to 5 years and accounted for on a straight line basis.

Transportation Equipment - These equipments are used by the Company in conducting its daily operations and depreciated over 5 years and accounted for on a straight line basis.

Vantage Financial Corporation - 100% ownership

Transportation Equipment - These equipments are used by the Company in conducting its daily operations and being depreciated over an estimated useful life of 4-5 years.

Leasehold Improvements - The Company leases the spaces occupied by its branches with varying period of up to fifteen (15) years and renewable on such terms and conditions as shall be mutually accepted by the Company and the lessors. These leases are accounted for on a straight-line basis over 2 to 5 years or over the lease term, whichever period is shorter.

Office Furniture and Equipment - This furniture and equipment are used by the Company in conducting its daily operations and being depreciated over an estimated useful life of 3 years. These assets are located at the Company's Head Office in 15th floor Phil. Stock Exchange, 5th Avenue cor. 28th St. Bonifacio Global City, Taguig. and various branches all over the Philippines.

Software License and Software Development – These pertains to the accounting software used by the company and amortized over a period 3 years accounted for on a straight line basis.

eBiz Financial Services, Inc. – 100% ownership

The Company does not own any properties and has already shortened its term of existence.

iCurrencies, Inc. – 100% ownership

The Company does not own any properties and already effectively stopped its business of buying and selling of currencies in May 2001 as a result of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Circular No, 264, issued on October 26, 2000.

Philequity Balanced Fund, Inc. – 100% ownership

The Fund is not yet offered to the public and does not own any properties and has shortened its term of existence in 2017.

Philequity Foreign Currency Fixed Income Fund, Inc. – 100% ownership

The Fund is not yet offered to the public and does not own any properties and has shortened its term of existence in 2017

Philequity MSCI Philippines Index Fund, Inc. – 68.15% ownership

The Company does not own any properties

Philequity Alpha One Fund, Inc. – 100% ownership

The Company does not own any properties

Philequity Global Fund, Inc. – 100% ownership

The Company does not own any properties

Philequity Management, Inc. – 51% ownership

IT Equipment - These equipments are used by the Company in conducting its daily operations.

Office Condominium - In December 2017 the acquired office units by the company were turned over, located at 15th floor Phil. Stock Exchange, 5th Avenue cor. 28th St. Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Office Equipment - These equipments are depreciated over the estimated useful life of 3 years. These office equipments are located at 15th floor Phil. Stock Exchange, 5th Avenue cor. 28th St. Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Office Furniture - This furniture is used by the Company in conducting its daily operations and being depreciated over an estimated useful life of 3 years. Said office furniture are located in 15th floor Phil. Stock Exchange, 5th Avenue cor. 28th St. Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

Transportation equipment - This is used by the Company in conducting its daily operations and being depreciated over an estimated useful life of 5 years.
These properties are free from mortgage or lien. The Company has no plan of acquiring a property in the next twelve months.

Item 3. Legal Proceedings

3.1.**Criminal Case No. MC-09-12289**,
captioned *"People of the Philippines vs.Noriel G.Requiso"*; for: Qualified Theft
RTC 214, Mandaluyong City

This is a criminal case filed by e-Business as private complainant against accused Noriel Requiso on December 9, 2008 after the latter unlawfully took the sum of Php 1,150,000.00 from the vault of E-Business' Edsa Market Place. On June 5, 2009, E-Business filed a Motion to Cancel Passport of the accused who was then known to be abroad. However, the Court denied aforesaid motion. Considering that the warrant of arrest cannot be implemented since accused whereabouts is unknown, the instant case is archived.

3.2. **NLRC NCR Case No. Sub-RAB 1-7-05-0343-15,**
captioned *"Emma Concepcion Antipuesto vs. e-Business Services, Inc., and/or Edmundo Bunyi, Jr.; NLRC, Dagupan City"*

Complainant Antipuesto filed this case against e-Business for alleged non-payment/underpayment of salaries and other benefits in the total amount of Php216,494,.68.
On the December 10, 2015, Labor Arbiter awarded the benefits being claimed by complainant prompting E-Business to file a partial appeal. NLRC granted the appeal and deleted the award of performance bonus for 2014 amounting to Php 106,800.00

3.3. **NLRC NCR Case No. RAB IV-03000345-15L,**
captioned *"Nancy Zaran, et. al vs. e-Business Services, Inc., Atty. Vida Bocar, Jesus Maagma and Edmundo Bunyi Jr.; NLRC Calamba City"*

Complainant Zaran filed this case against e-Business for alleged illegal suspension and illegal dismissal.

3.4. **NLRC NCR Case No. RAB IV-03-003545-15L,**
captioned,*"Vantage Equities and e-Business Services, Inc. vs. Atty. Vida Bocar, Commission on Bar Discipline, Pasig City"*

On August 3, 2015 e-Business together with Vantage Equities filed an administrative case against Atty. Vida Bocar, their former legal counsel for violation of the lawyer's Code of Professional Responsibility for appearing as lawyer/counsel for the opposing party in a labor case. E-Business and Vantage filed their Position Paper on March 30, 2016 while respondent Bocar filed her Position paper on April 29, 2016.

3.5 **NLRC - NCR** Case **No. 03-06308-19 Jeffrey R. Bote vs. Vantage Equities Inc et al**

Complainant Bote filed for illegal dismissal (actual) and other monetary claims. Labor Arbiter finds that the respondent validly and legally dismissed the complainant. Hence, monetary claims were also denied.

3.6 **NLRC - NCR NLRC Case No. 01-01912-19 Maria Luz Estrada vs. Vantage Financial Corporation et al.**

Complainant Estrada filed for illegal dismissal (constructive) and other monetary claims. This case has been closed already.

3.7 **Criminal Case No. 9144-V-2022, 9145-V-2022, 9146-V-2022, 9147-V-2022**
captioned "People of the Philippines vs. Jonna Isabelle Pardo": For Qualified Theft and Falsification of documents

This is a criminal case filed by VFC against qualified theft and falsification of documents. The presented documents indicate that the respondents misappropriated the funds designated to Western Union Electric Bill payments and also acquired customers cash through falsified Automated Customer receipts by forging client signatures. A warrant of Arrest was issued on April 18, 2022 and promulgation is scheduled for June10, 2024.

Item 4. Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders

No matter was submitted to a vote of the security holders during the fourth quarter of 2023.

PART II – OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 5. Market for Registrant's Common Equity and Related Stockholder Matters

	2023		2022		2021	
	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High
1st Quarter	0.71	0.75	0.71	0.84	0.97	1.08
2nd Quarter	0.71	0.73	0.69	0.84	0.9	1.05
3rd Quarter	0.76	0.80	0.71	0.79	0.82	1.00
4th Quarter	0.77	0.78	0.71	0.83	0.81	0.89

As of 31 December 2023, there were 606 shareholders of the 4,199,582,266 common shares issued and outstanding. As of the latest practicable trading date, 31 December 2023, the Registrant's shares were traded at the price of P0.77 per share in Philippine Stock Exchange.

On May 19, 2015, the BOD approved the declaration of stock dividends equivalent to a total of ₱2.10 billion representing 2,099,791,133 shares at ₱1.00 par value per share, payable to all stockholders of record as of January 8, 2016. The said dividends was paid on February 3, 2016. The two-thirds (2/3) of the outstanding capital of the Company approved the dividend declaration on August 1, 2015.

On August 1, 2015, the BOD and two-thirds (2/3) of the outstanding capital of the Company approved the increase in the authorized capital stock from 2,250,000,000 shares with par value of ₱1.00 per share in 2014 to 5,000,000,000 shares with par value of ₱1.00 per share in 2015. The SEC approved the increase in the authorized capital stock on October 27, 2015.

On November 10, 2009, the BOD approved the proposal to buy back from the market up to Three Hundred Million Pesos (P300,000,000.00) worth of shares of the Corporation. As of December 31, 2018, the total number of shares repurchased from the market is 135,599,500 worth P190.46 million.

On June 4, 2008, the BOD increased the Company's authorized capital stock from P1.9B to P2.25B, as well as the issuance of 25% stock dividend to all stockholders. This increase in capital stock was approved by the SEC on 12 January 2009, while the stock dividends were distributed to stockholders as of record date of 10 February 2009 on 06 March 2009.

In 2007, the Parent Company declared a five percent (5%) property dividend in favor of its shareholders-of-record as of 18 May 2007, payable in the form of common shares of Yehey! worth P89,415,629. In February 2008, the Parent Company distributed the property dividends declared.

There is no sale of unregistered securities within the past seven (7) years.

Top 20 shareholders as of December 31, 2023:

	STOCKHOLDERS' NAME	NATIONALITY	TYPE OF SHARES	No. of Shares
1	PCD NOMINEE CORP.	FILIPINO	Common	4,209,751,025
2	PCD NOMINEE CORPORATION (NON-FILIPINO)	OTHERS	Common	19,219,007
3	EAST PACIFIC INVESTORS CORPORATION	FILIPINO	Common	9,040,000
4	A. BROWN COMPANY, INC.	FILIPINO	Common	6,882,500
5	LUCIO W. YAN &/OR CLARA YAN	FILIPINO	Common	6,812,500
6	WILLY NG OCIER	FILIPINO	Common	4,616,000
7	RICARDO L. NG	FILIPINO	Common	3,248,750
8	MICHAEL SYIACO	FILIPINO	Common	3,000,000
9	AGAPITO C. BALAGTAS, JR.	FILIPINO	Common	2,875,000
10	APRICINIA B. FERNANDEZ	FILIPINO	Common	2,875,000
11	SUZANNE LIM	FILIPINO	Common	2,875,000
12	CYGNET DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	FILIPINO	Common	2,812,500
13	JERRY TIU	FILIPINO	Common	2,731,250
14	WILSON L. SY	FILIPINO	Common	2,300,000
15	BON S SYIACO	FILIPINO	Common	2,000,000
16	AVESCO MARKETING CORPORATION	FILIPINO	Common	1,437,500
17	MARY TAN DE JESUS	FILIPINO	Common	1,412,500
18	SEC ACCOUNT FAO: VARIOUS CUSTOMERS OF GUOCO SECURITIES (PHILIPPINES), INC.	FILIPINO	Common	1,265,000
19	CAMPOS, LANUZA & CO., INC.	FILIPINO	Common	1,161,500
20	FELY LEY	FILIPINO	Common	1,150,000

Dividends

The Company has declared 100% stock dividends with a record date and payment date of 8 January 2016 and 3 February 2016, respectively. There were no cash dividends declared for the past 7 years. The bylaws of the company prohibit the distribution of dividends that would impair the capital of the Company

Item 6. Management's Discussion and Analysis or Plan of Operations

In Millions (PHP)	2023	2022	2021
Balance Sheet			
Assets	11,978.47	11,426.64	11,485.85
Liabilities	281.87	306.21	358.5
Stockholder's Equity	11,696.60	11,120.43	11,127.35
Book Value Per Share	2.69	2.65	2.65
Income Statement			
Revenue	1,171.50	327.79	948.21
Expenses	543.54	334.14	478.12
Other Income/ (Charges)	0.55	0.3	
Net Income (Loss)	628.52	-6.05	470.08
Earnings per Share attributable to equity holders of the Parent Company	0.1296	-0.0177	0.0951

Financial ratios

	Formula	31-Dec-23	31-Dec-22
Current Ratio	Current Asset/Current Liabilities	4810.21%	4165.53%
Acid Test Ratio	(Cash Eq + Marketable Securities + Receivables)/ Current Liabilities	4797.88%	4158.74%
Solvency Ratio	Net Income/Total Liabilities	222.98%	-1.98%
Debt-to-Equity Ratio	Total Liabilities/Total Equity	2.41%	2.75%
Debt Ratio	Total Liabilities/Total Assets	2.35%	2.68%
Asset-to-Equity Ratio	Total Assets/Total Equity	102.41%	102.75%
Interest Rate Coverage Ratio	EBIT/Interest Expense	N/A	N/A
Return on Assets	Net Income/Average Total Asset	5.45%	-0.05%
Return on Equity	Net Income/Average Total Equity	5.51%	-0.05%
Net Profit Margin	Gross Profit/Net Income	135.58%	352.31%
Book value per share	(Total Shareholder Equity – Preferred Equity)/No. of Outstanding Shares	2.69	2.65

Results of Operations for the Year Ended 2023

While most of 2022 was focused on worrying about inflation and the Fed aggressively hiking rates to curb prices, we started off 2023 with hope that the Fed has done enough and that rate hikes may soon be over with. However, as early as February, we got high jobs reports in the US and in the Philippines, inflation accelerated again. This has markets seeing that the Fed would push for a "higher for longer" rate situation. Overall, coming from as low as 3.5, the 10y UST in the first quarter went to as high as above 4%, while the benchmark 9yr 10-69 local bond went to 6.375. Around this time, we also got news of the Silicon Valley Bank collapsing. Some other regional banks such as First Republic bank also swiftly fails. Then the big one, Credit Suisse, needed to be bought out by UBS, with help from the Swiss Government. In the end, 10y UST steadied at around 3.5 in the 1Q, while local bond 1069 ended up at around 6.125.

Second quarter, Fed hikes by 25bp as expected in May and pauses in June. During this time, VEI portfolio shifted some of its cash into longer dated government securities as it looks like that even if the Fed were to raise again, the view is that the end of Fed rate hikes are close at hand.

In the 3Q, we saw 10y USTs fall to 3.8 again on the optimism that Fed may be done with rate hikes and could actually soon cut rates. During this time, NASDAQ rises above 14000 and DJIA above 35k, on the back of the Magnificent 7 tech stocks. One surprise here was that Fitch moved to downgrade the US credit to AA+, citing political problems and the debt ceiling. We saw 10y UST jump to 4.11. In September, the Fed decides ultimately to pause, and the BSP does the same, viewed as a hawkish pause with inflation creeping up again, especially seen in rice prices.

In October, we see 10y UST climb as high as 4.8, a level not seen since 2006 as market shifts from expecting rate cuts to expecting that the Fed would have to hike again given that US data points are coming in hotter than expected. Meanwhile, BSP does an off cycle rate hike to address hot inflation in the PH. Towards the end of the year, fears of runaway inflation in October were more or less too extreme, and markets dial back the fear. Equities, unfazed, rise to all time highs in the US with the NASDAQ hitting 14200 but eventually settles lower on year end profit taking. 10y UST falls all the way to 3.79 but eventually settles at 3.85 as markets change their view from another Fed rate hike to 3 cuts in 2024. Local bonds follow suit, with the 1069 lifted below 6 to 5.85 but also finally settles at 6.

For the year 2023, the VEI Fixed Income portfolio generated a return of 6.59% as bond yields rallied into the end of December, on changing views about the path of interest rates. We have slowly been lengthening duration by buying into liquid longer tenors and opportunistic buying of corporate bonds with better premiums. The VEI Equity portfolio meanwhile returned 3.2% versus the PCOMP index benchmark at -1.8% as some of VEIs holdings saw a large upswing in the latter half of December.

Vantage Financial Corporation ("eBiz")

eBiz achieved a total revenue of PhP 330.93 million for the year as compared to last year's PhP 383.56 million, 13.72% decline. This was attributable to decrease in money transfer income and foreign exchange valuation losses of dollar assets.

The Company's direct and operating expenses decreased by 4.82% at PhP 300.18 million versus last year PhP 315.39 million. This is mainly attributable to decrease in communication, outsourced & security services.

eBiz posted a total comprehensive income of PhP 19.942 million in 2023, compared to last year's PhP 53.90 or a decrease of 63.97%.

Philequity Management, Inc.

Service Income for the year amounted to PhP 234.18 million, versus last year's PhP 249.34 million, 6.08% decrease as a result lower management fees due to decrease of assets being managed.

Total cost of services for the year amounted to PhP 69.20 million, decreased by 10.45% from PhP 77.28 million last year .

As a result, total comprehensive income for the year increased by 7.69% with aggregate amount of Php167.03 million previously at PhP155.10 million.

Other Matters

The Parent Company and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Vantage Financial Corporation, continuously enter into currency forward transactions with bank counterparties to hedge their foreign exchange risk. The nominal amounts of these contracts are off-balance sheet while revaluation gains or losses are recognized as Miscellaneous Asset or Miscellaneous Liability, respectively.

Causes for any material changes (+/-5% or more) in the financial statements

Income Statement items - Y2023 versus Y2022

127.25% increase in trading and investment securities gains
Mainly due to fixed income performance for the period.

14.92% decrease in money transfer service income
Due to decrease of number business partners

14.05% decrease in foreign exchange differential
Due to lower under management assets accounts

850.26% increase in money changing gain
Due to higher FX rate volume and rate performance.

95. 11% decrease in other income
Due to lower or no extraordinary gain for the period.

7.52*% decrease in service income*
Due to lower under management assets accounts

11.70% decrease in dividend income
Due to higher holdings with dividends

92.48% increase in interest income
Due to higher money market placement for the period

9.13% decrease in income from business partners
Due to decrease of number business partners

8.52% decrease in cost of sales
Due to decrease in commission paid to subagents from western union transactions.

45.39% increase in general and administrative expenses
Due to increase in outsourced managed services and key management personnel.

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Income Statement items - Y2022 versus Y2021

1128% increase in trading and investment securities gains
Mainly due to negative market performance for the period.

23% increase in foreign exchange differential
Due to lower international money transfer transactions

123.81% increase in dividend income
Due to higher holdings with dividends

6.92% decrease in service income
Due to lower asset under management

32% decrease in interest income
Due to higher money market placement for the period

63% decrease in income from business partners
Due to decrease of number business partners

29% decrease in commission expense
Due to decrease in commission paid to subagents from western union transactions

25.96% decrease in general and administrative expenses
Due to decrease in salaries and wages and depreciation of fixed assets

Balance Sheet items – Y2023 versus Y2022

9.16% decrease in cash and cash equivalents
Due to higher outstanding investments in short-term placements at the end of the year

15.38% increase in financial assets at fair value through profit and loss
Due to higher outstanding investments in fixed income at the end of the year

65.08% increase in prepayments and other current assets
Attributable to increase in excess tax credits under MCIT.

8.43% increase in Right of Use Assets
Due to expired lease contracts and decrease contracts within the scope of PFRS 16 .

98.92% increase in deferred tax assets
Due to unrealized forex loss, retirement costs & MCIT.

28.80% decrease in other noncurrent assets
Due to decrease in lease security deposits.

6.86% decrease in accounts payable
*d*ue to lower liability to sub-agents from Western union transactions.

7.31% decrease in current lease liabilities
Due to lease contracts renewal within the scope of PFRS 16 .

56.45% decrease in income tax payable
Due to increase in manpower cost & increase in income subject to final tax.

93.04% decrease in deferred tax liabilities
Due to change in assumption of pension liabilities.

25.26% increase in noncurrent lease liabilities
Due to lease contracts renewal within the scope of PFRS 16

63.03% increase in retirement liabilities.
Due to change in assumption of pension liabilities

Balance Sheet items – Y2022 versus Y2021

25.96% increase in cash and cash equivalents
Due to higher outstanding investments in short-term placements at the end of the year

84.89% increase in loans and receivables
Due to increase in receivable from Western Union

160% increase in prepayments and other current assets
Attributable to increase in excess tax credits

6.43% decrease in Right of Use Assets
Due to decrease of contracts within the scope of PFRS 16

82% decrease in deferred tax assets
Due to unrealized forex loss and decrease of contracts within the scope of PFRS 16

10.29% decrease in other noncurrent assets
Due to decrease in security deposits

5.04% decrease in accounts payable
*d*ue to lower liability to sub-agents

76% decrease in income tax payable
Due to lower taxable income

8.27% increase in retirement liabilities
Due to change in assumption of pension liabilities

Item 7. Financial Statements and Other Information

The audited consolidated financial statements and schedules listed in the accompanying index to Financial Statements and Supplementary Schedules are filed as part of this Form 17-A.

Information on Independent Accountant

SGV & Co. is the external accountant of the Company. The aggregate fees billed for each of the last three years for professional services rendered by the Company's external auditors in connection with annual audit of the Consolidated and Parent Company Financial Statements for statutory and regulatory filings are summarized below:

	2023	2022	2021
Audit fee	**2,999,000**	**2,798,580**	**2,665,851**
Tax Services	-	-	-
Other Fees	**299,900**	**279,858**	**266,585**
TOTAL	**3,298,900**	**3,078,438**	**2,932,436**

The Independent Accountant does not render tax accounting compliance, advice, planning and other forms of tax services for the Corporation. The Independent Accountant also does not render other services for the Corporation.

Geographic Concentration of Investments

	Number of Investors	Percentage of Investment	Number of Shares
Philippines	595	99.5089%	4,178,959,575
Foreign	11	0.4911%	20,622,691

Level of FATCA Compliance

The fund has implemented standard procedures to be FATCA-compliant. Currently, the number of investors in the company qualifying as a US person is below 1% of the total investors.

Item 8. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure

There are no changes and matters of disagreement with accountants on any accounting & financial disclosures the last two (2) most recent fiscal years.

PART III – CONTROL AND COMPENSATION INFORMATION

Item 9. Directors and Executive Officers of the Registrant

Office	Period Served	Name	Citizenship	Age
Director	2002 to Present	Valentino C. Sy	Filipino	67
CEO	2005 to 2017			
Chairman	2005 to Present			
Director	2006 to Present	Edmundo P. Bunyi, Jr.	Filipino	58
President CEO	2017 to Present			
Director	2003 to Present	Joseph L. Ong	Filipino	70
Treasurer	2005 to Present			
Director	2003 to Present	Ignacio B. Gimenez	Filipino	79
Director	1999 to Present	Willy N. Ocier	Filipino	66
Director	2003 to Present	Roberto Z. Lorayes	Filipino	79
Director	1993 to 2000 & 2005 to Present	Wilson L. Sy	Filipino	70
Director	2013 to Present	Gregorio T. Yu	Filipino	65
Director	2017 to Present	Timothy Bryce A. Sy	Filipino	42
Director	2017 to Present	Darlene Mae A. Sy	Filipino	36
Independent	2021 to Present	Andy O. Co	Filipino	69
Independent	2018 to Present	Bert Hontiveros	Filipino	70
Independent	2023 to Present	Antonio C. Moncupa, Jr.	Filipino	66
Compliance Officer	2010 to Present	Ma. Angelica Cabanit	Filipino	54
Corporate Secretary	2020 to Present	Jonathan P. Ong	Filipino	56

In accordance with the Corporation's By-Laws, the members of the Board of Directors are elected annually and therefore serve for a year after election.

The following is a brief write-up of the Board of Directors and Executive Officers.

Valentino C. Sy
Mr. Sy is currently the Chairman of Vantage Equities, Inc. and Vantage Financial Corporation and Director of Philequity Management, Inc. He is a former Director of Wealth Securities (1998 to 2011). He is also the President of Equinox International Corp (1996 to present). He holds a degree in Industrial Management Engineering from the De La Salle University (1977).

Edmundo Marco P. Bunyi, Jr.
Mr. Bunyi is currently the President and CEO of Vantage Equities, Inc. He is also Vice Chairman and CEO of Vantage Financial Corporation (formerly e-Business Services, Inc.) and President of Philequity Management, Inc. (All since 2006). Previously, he was formerly SVP and Treasurer of International Exchange Bank (1995-2006). He holds a degree in Management Engineering from the Ateneo de Manila University (1985).

Joseph L. Ong
Mr. Ong is both the Treasurer and a Director of Vantage Equities, Inc., Vantage Financial Corporation and Philequity Management. Mr. Ong is also the President of Chemcenter Corporation. Previously, he was connected with Exxon Chemicals serving various functions in sales, marketing, audit, and logistics operation both here and abroad. He was also a former director of Petroenergy Resources Corporation from 2007 to 2009. Mr. Ong holds a degree in Chemical Engineering, magna cum laude, from De La Salle University.

Ignacio B. Gimenez
Mr. Gimenez is a Director of Vantage Equities Inc., and Vantage Financial Corporation. Concurrently, he is also the Chairman and President of the following mutual funds: Philequity Fund, Inc., Philequity Dollar Income Fund, Inc., Philequity Peso Bond Fund, Inc., Philequity PSE Index Fund, Inc. (2006 to present), Philequity Dividend Yield Fund (2014 to present), Philequity MSCI Philippines Index Fund, Inc. (2018 to present) and Philequity Alpha One Fund, Inc. (2019 to Present). At the same time, he also holds positions as Vice President and Trustee of Philippine Investment Funds Association (PIFA) and as Corporate Secretary of I.B. Gimenez Securities, Inc. He holds a graduate degree in Business Administration from the Asian Institute of Management (1970) and a college degree from the University of the Philippines (1967).

Roberto Z. Lorayes
Mr. Lorayes is a Director of Vantage Equities, Inc. and Vantage Financial Corporation, Inc. (1994 to present). Concurrently, he is the Chairman of Philequity Management, Inc. In the past, he served as Chairman of the Philippine Stock Exchange (1993 to 1994) and Investment Companies Association of the Philippines (2005-2008). He also served as President of Manila Stock Exchange (1991-1992), UBP Securities (1989-1993), Citicorp (1987-1989), CT Corp, Scringeour, Vickers (1987-1989), and as a director of Philippine Central Depository (1995-1996). He received his Bachelor of Science in Commerce degree and Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree in De La Salle University (1966). He holds a Masters degree in Business Management from Ateneo de Manila University (1969).

Willy N. Ocier
Mr. Ocier is a Director of Vantage Equities, Inc., Vantage Financial Corporation and Philequity Management. At the same time, he is also the Chairman and President of Pacific Online Systems Corporation (1999 to present). Concurrently, he is the Chairman of the Boards of the following corporations: APC Group, Inc. (2005 to present), Premium Leisure Corp. (1999 to present). He earned his Economics degree from the Ateneo de Manila University (1977).

Darlene Mae A. Sy
Ms. Sy is a Director of Vantage Equities, Inc. (2017 to Present) and Head of Sales and Marketing of Philequity Management, Inc. She also serves as a Director of Wealth Securities, Inc. She is licensed as a Fixed Income Salesman and as a Certified Investment

Solicitor with the Securities and Exchange Commission. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of British Columbia.

Timothy Bryce A. Sy
Mr. Sy is a Director of Vantage Equities, Inc. and President of Vantage Financial Corporation (2017 to Present). He is also a director of Asian Alliance Holdings Corp. (2015 to present). He holds an MBA from Kellogg School of Management (2010) and an undergraduate degree from Northwestern University (2003) in Illinois USA.

Wilson L. Sy
Mr. Sy is a Director of Vantage Equities, Inc. and Vantage Financial Corporation. He is also a Director and Chief Investment Officer of Philequity Management, Inc. He is the Chairman of Wealth Securities, Inc. (2016-present), Vice Chairman of Asian Alliance Holdings, Corp. and serves as Director of the Philippine Stock Exchange (2016 – present) and Eastwest Banking Corporation (2016 – present). He was a former Chairman of the Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc. (1994 to 1995). He holds a degree in Management Engineering from the Ateneo de Manila University (1975).

Andy O. Co
Mr. Co is an Independent Director of Vantage Equities, Inc., Vantage Financial Corporation and Philequity Management. Concurrently, he is also the President of Technicom Electronics Corp., the largest distributor of Plantronics and Polycom products in the Philippines since 1990. Mr. Co obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of the Philippines, Diliman in 1975.

Bert C. Hontiveros
Mr. Hontiveros is an Independent Director of Vantage Equities, Inc., Vantage Financial Corporation and Philequity Management. Concurrently, he is the General Manager of HB Design Power Systems (2000 to present). He obtained his Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering from University of the Philippines in 1975.

Gregorio T. Yu
Mr. Yu is an Independent Director of Vantage Equities, Inc., Vantage Financial Corporation and Philequity Management. At the same time, he is a director of the following companies: Philippine National Reinsurance Corporation, I-Remit, Inc. (2007 to present)., Unistar Credit and Finance Corporation, Glyph Studios, Inc., Prople BPO Inc, Jupiter Systems Inc., Nexus Technologies, Inc. (2001 to present), Wordtext Systems Inc., CMB Partners Inc., Ballet Philippines, Manila Symphony Orchestra. Concurrently, he is also the chairman of the following companies: CATS Motors Inc., CATS Asian Cars Inc. and CATS Automobile Corp. (2000 to present). He is currently a Trustee of Xavier School, Inc. and Xavier School Educational and Trust Fund, Inc (1993 to present). He has been a Director and a Member of Executive Committee and Audit Committee of the International Exchange Bank (1995-2006) and Director of Philippine Airlines Inc. (2014 – 2021). He graduated from De la Salle University with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics (Honors Program 1978), summa cum laude. Mr. Yu holds a graduate degree in Business Administration from Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania (1983) where he was in the Director's Honor List.

Antonio C. Moncupa, Jr.
Mr. Moncupa is the Independent Director of Philequity Management, Inc (2023 to Present). Concurrently, he is also the Independent Director of Vantage Equities, Inc. and Vantage Financial Corporation. After 37 years, Mr. Moncupa retired from Banking in early 2023. Right before retirement, he served as CEO of EastWest Bank, Chairman and President of the Bankers Association of the Philippines, Chairman of East West Rural Bank and East West Insurance Brokers, and director of EastWest Ageas Life Insurance, Philippine Payments Management, Inc., the Philippine Dealing System group of Companies. He was also in the board of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines and Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement. Mr. Moncupa completed his degrees in Accounting and Economics from De La Salle University and his MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

Atty. Jonathan P. Ong
Atty. Ong is the Corporate Secretary of Vantage Equities, Inc., Vantage Financial Corporation, Philequity Management and the following funds: Philequity Fund, Inc., Philequity PSE Index Fund, Inc., Philequity Dividend Yield Fund, Inc., Philequity Peso Bond Fund, Inc., Philequity Dollar Income Fund, Inc., Philequity MSCI Philippines Index Fund, Inc. and Philequity Alpha One Fund, Inc. (2020 to Present). He obtained his Bachelor of Science (Economics) degree from the U.P. School of Economics on April 2, 1989 and his Bachelor of Laws degree from the U.P. College of Law on April 24, 1993. He took the bar examinations in September 1993 and was admitted to the Philippine Bar on March 15, 1994. He joined the law firm of Atty. Mario E. Ongkiko sometime in 1994. In June 1996 he became in-house counsel of the erstwhile International Exchange Bank until August 31, 2006. He then joined Maybank Philippines (MPI) in November 2006 as the Head of its Legal Department, and was appointed as its Corporate Secretary in May 2007, positions which he held until July 19, 2019. He is also the Corporate Secretary of the affiliates of MPI in the Philippines – Philmay Property, Inc. and Philmay Holdings, Inc. He is currently special counsel to the Disini Buted and Disini law offices, which he advises on matters involving banking and litigation, and a senior associate at the Valerio Law Offices.

Ma. Angelica D. Cabanit
Ms. Cabanit is the Compliance Officer of Vantage Equities, Inc., Vantage Financial Corporation, Philequity Management and the following funds: Philequity Fund, Inc., Philequity PSE Index Fund, Inc., Philequity Peso Bond Fund, Inc., Philequity Dollar Income Fund, Inc. (2010 to Present), Philequity Dividend Yield Fund, Inc. (2014 to Present), Philequity MSCI Philippines Index Fund, Inc. (2018 to Present) and Philequity Alpha One Fund, Inc. (2019 to Present). Ms. Cabanit is a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Commerce major in Accounting from St. Scholastica's College (1989).

Independent Directors
The nomination, pre-screening and election of independent directors were made in compliance with the requirements of the Revised Code of Corporate Governance and the Securities and Exchange Commission's Guidelines on the Nomination and Election of Independent Directors which have been adopted and made part of the Corporation's By-Laws. The Nomination Committee constituted by the Company's Board of Directors, indorsed the respective nominations given in favor of Mr. Andy Co (by Mr. Wilson Sy), Mr. Yu (by Mr. Edmundo Marco P. Bunyi, Jr.) Mr. Bert Hontiveros (by Ms. Darlene A. Sy) as Independent Directors.

The Nomination Committee, composed of Mr. Lorayes (Chairman), Mr. Yu and Mr. Ong, has determined that these nominees for independent directors possess all the qualifications and have none of the disqualifications for independent directors as set forth in the Company's Amended Manual on Corporate Governance and Rule 38 of the Implementing Rules of the Securities Regulation Code (SRC).

The nominees, whose required information are discussed above, are in no way related to the stockholders who nominated them and have signified their acceptance of the nominations. These nominees are expected to attend the scheduled Annual Stockholders' Meeting

Family relationships among Directors:
Messrs. Valentino Sy and Wilson Sy are brothers.
Mr. Kevin Sy, Mr. Timothy Bryce Sy and Ms. Darlene Mae Sy are children of Mr.Wilson Sy.

Independent Director
Mr. Andy O. Co and Mr. Bert Hontiveros were re-elected as the independent directors of the Company in compliance with the requirements of Rule 38 of the Securities Regulation Code.

Involvement in Certain Legal Proceedings
The Company and its major subsidiaries and associates are not involved in, nor are any of their properties subject to, any material legal proceedings that could potentially affect their operations and financial capabilities.

Except as provided below, the Company is not aware of any of the following events wherein any of its directors, nominees for election as director, executive officers, underwriter or control person were involved during the past five (5) years:

(a) any bankruptcy petition filed by or against any business of which any of the above persons was a general partner or executive officer either at the time of the bankruptcy or within two years prior to that time;
(b) any order, judgment, or decree, not subsequently reversed, suspended or vacated, of any court of competent jurisdiction, domestic or foreign, permanently or temporarily enjoining, barring, suspending or otherwise limiting the involvement of any of the above persons in any type of business, securities, commodities or banking activities; and,
(c) any finding by a domestic or foreign court of competent jurisdiction (in civil action), the SEC or comparable foreign body, or a domestic or foreign exchange or electronic marketplace or self regulatory organization, that any of the above persons has violated a securities or commodities law, and the judgment has not been reversed, suspended, or vacated.

In May, 2013, the BIR filed a P169.83M case for tax evasion against Philmay Property, Inc. (PPI) an affiliate of Maybank Philippines, Inc. Included in the case were its President and CEO – Mr. Ong Seet Joon, Treasurer – Atty. Rafael A. Morales, Corporate Secretary – Atty. Jonathan P. Ong, Sales and Marketing Head – Mr. Benjamin Q. Lira and Accounting Associate Michelle F. Reyes. The case arose from PPI's supposed tax deficiencies, as follows: tax deficiencies, including surcharge and interest: P37.81 million in income tax deficiency P73.13 million in value-added tax deficiencies P15.57 million in documentary stamp tax deficiency P43.32 million in expanded withholding tax. The proceedings in the DOJ were suspended because PPI questioned the assessments on which the tax evasion case was based on with the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA). On May 23, 2018 the CTA second division issued a decision cancelling and withdrawing the assessments on which the tax evasion case of the BIR was based on, but ordered PPI to pay the amount of P276,381.24 as deficiency DST for fiscal year 2009, plus interest and surcharges, which it did. The BIR filed a motion for reconsideration but it was denied. The BIR elevated the decision of the CTA 2nd division to the CTA en banc. On February 5, 2020 the CTA en banc affirmed with modification the decision of the CTA 2nd Division and declared the assessments on which the BIR's case for tax evasion was based on as null and void. The BIR appealed this to the Supreme Court in February 2020.

Significant Employees
No significant employees are expected by the Corporation to make a significant contribution to the business.

Item 10. Executive Compensation
Except for Messrs. Edmundo P. Bunyi, Jr., all of the Company's directors and officers have not received any form of compensation from inception up to present other than a per diem meetings attended and annual directors' bonuses. There is no employment contract between the Company and the above-named executive officer or current executive officers. In addition, except as provided below, there are no compensatory plans or arrangements with respect to named executive officers that resulted in or will result from the resignation, retirement or termination of such executive director or from a change-in-control in the Company.

Summary Compensation Table (Annual Compensation)

Name and Principal Position	Year	Annual Compensation
Valentino C. Sy		
Chairman		
Edmundo P. Bunyi, Jr.		
President & CEO		
Joseph L. Ong		
Treasurer		
All officers and directors as a group	2023	6,720,000
	2022	6,430,769
	2021	6,433,333

Item 11. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management

1. Security Ownership of Certain Record and Beneficial Owners

Title of Class	Name and Address of Record/Beneficial Owner	Relationship with the Company	Record (r) Beneficial (b) Owner	Citizenship	Number of Shares	Percent of Class
Common	PCD Nominee Corp. (*) G/F MSE Building Ayala Avenue, Makati	Stockholder	r	Filipino	4,209,751,025	97.107%

Stockholders with more than 5% ownership

Title of Class	Name and Address of Record/Beneficial Owner	Relationship with the Company	Record (r) Beneficial (b) Owner	Citizenship	Number of Shares	Percent of Class
Common	Creative Wisdom, Inc	Stockholder	r	Filipino	1,768,701,436	42.12%
Common	Wealth Securities, Inc.	Stockholder	r	Filipino	218,239,000	5.2%
Common	Lavenders and Blue Hydrangeas, Inc	Stockholder	r	Filipino	210,535,000	5.01%

(*)PCD Nominee Corporation (PCDNC) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Philippine Central Depository, Inc. (PCD). The beneficial owners of the shares under the name of PCDNC are PCD's participants who hold the shares in their own behalf or in behalf of their respective clients.

2. Security Ownership of Management

The following table shows the share beneficially owned by the directors and executive officers of the Company as of 31 December 2023:

Title of Class	Name	No. of Shares	Citizenship	Percentage
Common	Timothy Bryce A. Sy	204,025,500	Filipino	4.86
Common	Darlene Mae A. Sy	201,712,000	Filipino	4.8
Common	Wilson L. Sy	133,300,000	Filipino	3.17
Common	Willy N. Ocier	19,564,480	Filipino	0.47
Common	Antonio C. Moncupa	14,029,000	Filipino	0.33
Common	Edmundo P. Bunyi, Jr.	12,525,000	Filipino	0.3
Common	Gregorio T. Yu	5,200,000	Filipino	0.12
Common	Bert C. Hontiveros	1,946,000	Filipino	0.05
Common	Valentino C. Sy	350,000	Filipino	0.01
Common	Ignacio B. Gimenez	25,000	Filipino	0
Common	Roberto Z. Lorayes	50,000	Filipino	0
Common	Joseph L. Ong	25,000	Filipino	0
Common	Andy O. Co	10,000	Filipino	0
All Directors and Officers as a group		592,761,980		14.11

Voting Trust Holders of 5% or More

There is no party which holds any voting trust or any similar agreement for 5% or more of Vantage's voting securities.

Changes in Control

The Company is not aware of any arrangement that may result in a change in control of the Company.

Item 12. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions

The Company has not been a party during the last two (2) years to any other transaction or proposed transaction, in which any director or executive officer of the Company, or any security holder owning 10% or more of the securities of the Company or any member of the immediate family of such persons, had a direct or indirect material interest.

Vantage Equities, Inc. is not under the control of any parent company.

The following table presents the balances of intercompany transactions of the Group as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021.

		2023		
Related Party	**Category**	**Amount/ Volume**	**Outstanding Balance**	**Nature, terms and conditions**
FAUSI (Associate)	**Reimbursable expenses (Other receivables)**	**₱515,513**	**₱61,246**	**On demand, noninterest bearing and unsecured**
		2022		
Related Party	Category	Amount/ Volume	Outstanding Balance	Nature, terms and conditions
FAUSI (Associate)	Reimbursable expenses (Other receivables)	₱515,513	₱61,246	On demand, noninterest bearing and unsecured
		2021		
Related Party	Category	Amount/ Volume	Outstanding Balance	Nature, terms and conditions
FAUSI (Associate)	Reimbursable expenses (Other receivables)	₱515,513	₱61,246	On demand, noninterest bearing and unsecured

Remunerations of Directors and Other Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Group, directly or indirectly. The Group considers the members of the Executive Committee to constitute key management personnel for purposes of PAS 24, *Related Party Disclosures*.

The remuneration of the Group's key management personnel is P25.25M in 2023 and P 19.15 in 2022.

PART IV – CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Company has been monitoring compliance with SEC Memorandum Circular No. 6, Series of 2009, as well as other relevant SEC circulars and rules on good corporate governance. All directors, officers, and employees complied with all the leading practices and principles on good corporate governance as embodied in the Corporation's Manual. The Company complied with the appropriate performance self-rating assessment and performance evaluation system to determine and measure compliance with the Manual of Corporate Governance.

PART V – EXHIBITS AND SCHEDULES

Item 14. Exhibits and Reports on SEC Form 17-C

a. Exhibits – See accompanying index to exhibits.

The following exhibit is filed as a separate section of this report:
Subsidiaries of the Company
The other exhibits, as indicated in the Index to Exhibits are either not applicable to the Company or require no answer.

b. Reports on SEC Form 17 – C
- Filed on September 29, 2023
Results of Annual Stockholder's Meeting held on September 29, 2023

- Filed on September 29, 2023
2023 Annual Stockholders' Meeting Record Date

VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC
INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES

FORM 17 – A, Item 7

These schedules, which are required by Part IV (a) of RSA Rule 48, have been omitted because they are either not required, not applicable or the information required to be presented is included in the Company's consolidated financial statements or the notes to consolidated financial statements.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 17 of the Code and Section 141 of the Corporation Code, this report is signed on behalf of the issuer by the undersigned, thereto duly authorized, in the City CITY OF MANILA on APR 2 9 2024.

VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC.
Issuer

By:

VALENTINO C. SY
Chairman
TIN: 122-335-536

EDMUNDO MARCO P. BUNYI, JR.
President and CEO
TIN: 107-184-956

MA. ANGELICA CABANIT
Compliance Officer
TIN: 117-484-974

JOSEPH L. ONG
Treasurer
TIN: 108-789-427

ATTY. JONATHAN ONG
Corporate Secretary
TIN: 162-906-632

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to me before this APR 2 9 2024 at CITY OF MANILA, affiants exhibiting to me their Tax Identification Numbers.

Doc. No. 435
Page No. 88
Book No. CXLVII
Series of 2024.

ATTY. GARY CAMITAN AURE
NOTARY PUBLIC, CITY OF MANILA
ROLL NO 60777 IBP LIFETIME NO 14599-02-02/2018, PASIG CITY
PTR NO 1327787 01/02/2024 MANILA
COMMISSION NO 2023-019-01/01/2023 UNTIL DEC 31, 2024 MANILA
MCLE NO VII-0001848-10/20/2019 VALID UNTIL APRIL 14, 2025 P.C
OFFICE: BURGUNDY TRANSPACIFIC PLACE TAFT AVE. MALATE, MLA.

C O V E R   S H E E T
for
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SEC Registration Number

A	S	0	9	2	0	0	7	0	5	9

C O M P A N Y   N A M E

VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

PRINCIPAL OFFICE *(No. / Street / Barangay / City / Town / Province)*

15th Floor Philippine Stock Exchange, 28th St. Corner 5th Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila

Form Type	Department requiring the report	Secondary License Type, If Applicable
AAFS	SEC	N/A

C O M P A N Y   I N F O R M A T I O N

Company's Email Address	Company's Telephone Number	Mobile Number
investorrelations@vantage.ph	8250-8750	N/A

No. of Stockholders	Annual Meeting (Month / Day)	Fiscal Year (Month / Day)
603	10/28	12/31

CONTACT PERSON INFORMATION

The designated contact person ***MUST*** be an Officer of the Corporation

Name of Contact Person	Email Address	Telephone Number/s	Mobile Number
Ms. Ma. Angelica Cabanit	angelica.cabanit@philequity.net	8250-8741	0917-590-7176

CONTACT PERSON's ADDRESS

15th Floor, Philippine Stock Exchange Tower, 28th St. Corner 5th Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila

NOTE 1 : *In case of death, resignation or cessation of office of the officer designated as contact person, such incident shall be reported to the Commission within thirty (30) calendar days from the occurrence thereof with information and complete contact details of the new contact person designated.*

2 : *All Boxes must be properly and completely filled-up. Failure to do so shall cause the delay in updating the corporation's records with the Commission and/or non-receipt of Notice of Deficiencies. Further, non-receipt of Notice of Deficiencies shall not excuse the corporation from liability for its deficiencies.*

SGV
Building a better working world

SyCip Gorres Velayo & Co.
6760 Ayala Avenue
1226 Makati City
Philippines

Tel: (632) 8891 0307
Fax: (632) 8819 0872
ey.com/ph

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Stockholders and Board of Directors
Vantage Equities, Inc.
15th Floor, Philippine Stock Exchange Tower,
28th St. Corner 5th Ave., Bonifacio Global City
Taguig City, Metro Manila

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Vantage Equities, Inc. and its Subsidiaries (the Group), which comprise the consolidated statements of financial position as at December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the consolidated statements of income, consolidated statements of comprehensive income, consolidated statements of changes in equity and consolidated statements of cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2023, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the Group as at December 31, 2023 and 2022, and their consolidated financial performance and their consolidated cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2023 in accordance with Philippine Financial Reporting Standards (PFRSs).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with Philippine Standards on Auditing (PSAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants in the Philippines (Code of Ethics) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the consolidated financial statements in the Philippines, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

We have fulfilled the responsibilities described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements* section of our report, including in relation to these matters. Accordingly, our audit included the performance of procedures designed to respond to our assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements. The results of our audit procedures, including the procedures performed to address the matters below, provide the basis for our audit opinion on the accompanying consolidated financial statements.

Key Audit Matter

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. For the matter below, our description of how our audit addressed the matter is provided in that context.

Information Technology Environment Supporting the Remittance Business

The Group is highly dependent on the reliability and continuity of its information technology (IT) environment to support the automated data processing of its remittance business. This IT environment is key to the Group's revenue generation activity and is relied upon in many aspects of its financial reporting process. We, therefore, considered the testing of the controls over IT processes of the remittance business to address the IT process risks as a key audit matter.

Audit response

We performed procedures to obtain an understanding of the remittance business' IT environment, which covers the IT applications and supporting infrastructure, IT processes and IT personnel. We obtained an understanding and performed testing of the IT controls over program changes to the IT applications, user access management to the IT applications and databases, and management of IT operations. To the extent applicable, we performed testing of the design and operation of the IT controls of the applications supporting the remittance related revenue process and the financial reporting process. We evaluated and considered the results of the testing of controls in the design and extent of our substantive audit procedures.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the SEC Form 20-IS (Definitive Information Statement), SEC Form 17-A and Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2023, but does not include the consolidated financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The SEC Form 20-IS (Definitive Information Statement), SEC Form 17-A and Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2023 are expected to be made available to us after the date of this auditor's report.

Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information and we will not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audits of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above when it becomes available and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audits, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with PFRSs, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Group's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with PSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with PSAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is Janeth T. Nuñez-Javier.

SYCIP GORRES VELAYO & CO.

Janeth T. Nuñez-Javier

Janeth T. Nuñez-Javier
Partner
CPA Certificate No. 111092
Tax Identification No. 900-322-673
BOA/PRC Reg. No. 0001, April 16, 2024, valid until August 23, 2026
BIR Accreditation No. 08-001998-069-2023, October 23, 2023, valid until October 22, 2026
PTR No. 10079984, January 6, 2024, Makati City

April 29, 2024

VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	December 31	
	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 7)	**₱4,180,784,277**	₱4,602,128,820
Receivables (Note 8)	**527,113,872**	497,955,076
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (Note 9)	**7,080,571,632**	6,136,599,508
Prepaid expenses and other current assets (Note 11)	**30,282,938**	18,344,827
Total Current Assets	**11,818,752,719**	11,255,028,231
Noncurrent Assets		
Investment in associate (Note 12)	**119,228**	119,228
Property and equipment (Note 13)	**102,644,114**	107,724,443
Right-of-use assets (Note 20)	**27,284,443**	25,162,329
Deferred tax assets (Note 23)	**3,402,728**	1,710,561
Other noncurrent assets (Note 14)	**26,267,800**	36,895,557
Total Noncurrent Assets	**159,718,313**	171,612,118
	₱11,978,471,032	₱11,426,640,349
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and other current liabilities (Note 15)	**₱229,277,162**	₱246,175,684
Lease liabilities - current portion (Note 20)	**12,600,681**	15,238,314
Income tax payable	**3,823,661**	8,780,645
Total Current Liabilities	**245,701,504**	270,194,643
Noncurrent Liabilities		
Deferred tax liabilities (Note 23)	**722,623**	10,388,899
Lease liabilities - net of current portion (Note 20)	**20,995,157**	16,761,324
Retirement liabilities (Note 21)	**14,448,792**	8,862,394
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	**36,166,572**	36,012,617
Total Liabilities	**281,868,076**	306,207,260
Equity		
Equity attributable to equity holders of the Parent Company:		
Capital stock (Note 22)	**4,335,181,766**	4,335,181,766
Cumulative net unrealized gains on changes in fair value of financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	**70,000**	70,000
Remeasurement gains on retirement plan (Note 21)	**9,414,074**	11,425,504
Retained earnings	**6,724,143,910**	6,223,877,092
Treasury stock (Note 22)	**(190,460,934)**	(190,460,934)
	10,878,348,816	10,380,093,428
Non-controlling interests	**818,254,140**	740,339,661
Total Equity	**11,696,602,956**	11,120,433,089
	₱11,978,471,032	₱11,426,640,349

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME

	Years Ended December 31		
	2023	2022	2021
REVENUES (Note 17)	**₱1,171,503,068**	₱327,792,162	₱948,208,775
COST OF SERVICES (Note 18)	**(292,574,554)**	(349,110,819)	(368,483,559)
GROSS INCOME (LOSS)	**878,928,514**	(21,318,657)	579,725,216
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES (Note 19)	**(140,357,755)**	(78,104,466)	(105,484,149)
INTEREST EXPENSE (Notes 16 and 20)	**(1,808,506)**	(8,174,603)	(4,226,803)
UNREALIZED FOREIGN EXCHANGE GAIN (Note 10)	**6,830,548**	42,559,839	21,322,066
REALIZED FOREIGN EXCHANGE GAIN (Note 10)	**2,495,853**	127,195,968	57,325,710
OTHER INCOME - NET	**554,463**	297,892	–
INCOME BEFORE INCOME TAX	**746,643,117**	62,455,973	548,662,040
PROVISION FOR INCOME TAX (Note 23)			
Current	**25,724,483**	41,605,970	59,726,673
Deferred	**(3,969,887)**	2,689,157	16,539,018
Final	**96,368,051**	24,211,997	2,311,765
	118,122,647	68,507,124	78,577,456
NET INCOME (LOSS)	**₱628,520,470**	(₱6,051,151)	₱470,084,584
Attributable to:			
Equity holders of the Parent Company (Note 25)	**₱544,251,521**	(₱74,180,861)	₱399,551,536
Non-controlling interest	**84,268,949**	68,129,710	70,533,048
	₱628,520,470	(₱6,051,151)	₱470,084,584
Basic/Diluted Earnings (Loss) Per Share Attributable to Equity Holders of the Parent Company (Note 25)	**₱0.1296**	(₱0.0177)	₱0.0951

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Years Ended December 31		
	2023	2022	2021
NET INCOME (LOSS)	**₱628,520,470**	(₱6,051,151)	₱470,084,584
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Item that do not recycle to profit or loss in subsequent periods:			
Remeasurement gains on retirement plan, net of tax (Note 21)	**(1,659,368)**	2,707,636	2,145,101
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)	**₱626,861,102**	(₱3,343,514)	₱472,229,685
Attributable to:			
Equity holders of the Parent Company	**₱542,944,215**	(₱70,999,312)	₱401,510,165
Non-controlling interests	**83,916,887**	67,655,797	70,719,520
	₱626,861,102	(₱3,343,515)	₱472,229,685

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	For the Years Ended December 31, 2023							
	Attributable to the Equity holders of the Parent Company							
	Capital Stock (Note 22)	**Net Unrealized Gains on Changes in Fair Value of Financial Assets at FVOCI Investments**	**Remeasurement Gains on Retirement Plan** (Note 21)	**Retained Earnings**	**Treasury Stock** (Note 22)	**Total**	**Non-controlling Interest** (Note 22)	**Total Equity**
Balance at January 1, 2023	**₱4,335,181,766**	**₱70,000**	**₱11,425,504**	**₱6,223,877,092**	**(₱190,460,934)**	**₱10,380,093,428**	**₱740,339,661**	**₱11,120,433,089**
Issuance of shares during the year	–	–	–	–	–	–	**5,703,596**	**5,703,596**
Redemption of shares during the year	–	–	–	–	–	–	**(11,706,004)**	**(11,706,004)**
Total comprehensive income for the year	–	–	**(2,011,430)**	**544,251,521**	–	**542,240,091**	**83,916,887**	**626,156,978**
Others	–	–	–	**(43,984,703)**	–	**(43,984,703)**		**(43,984,703)**
Balance at December 31, 2023	**₱4,335,181,766**	**₱70,000**	**₱9,414,074**	**₱6,724,143,910**	**(₱190,460,934)**	**₱10,878,348,816**	**₱818,254,140**	**₱11,696,602,956**
Balance at January 1, 2022	₱4,335,181,766	₱70,000	₱8,243,954	₱6,298,057,953	(₱190,460,934)	₱10,451,092,739	₱676,254,510	₱11,127,347,249
Issuance of shares during the year	–	–	–	–	–	–	8,429,260	8,429,260
Redemption of shares during the year	–	–	–	–	–	–	(11,999,906)	(11,999,906)
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	3,181,550	(74,180,861)	–	(70,999,312)	67,655,797	(3,343,515)
Balance at December 31, 2022	₱4,335,181,766	₱70,000	₱11,425,504	₱6,223,877,092	(₱190,460,934)	₱10,380,093,427	₱740,339,661	₱11,120,433,088
Balance at January 1, 2021	₱4,335,181,766	₱70,000	₱6,285,325	₱5,898,506,417	(₱190,460,934)	₱10,049,582,574	₱599,614,717	₱10,649,197,291
Issuance of shares during the year	–	–	–	–	–	–	5,920,273	5,920,273
Total comprehensive income for the year	–	–	1,958,629	399,551,536	–	401,510,165	70,719,520	472,229,685
Balance at December 31, 2021	₱4,335,181,766	₱70,000	₱8,243,954	₱6,298,057,953	(₱190,460,934)	₱10,451,092,739	₱676,254,510	₱11,127,347,249

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	Years Ended December 31		
	2023	2022	2021
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Income before tax	**₱746,643,117**	₱62,455,973	₱548,662,040
Adjustments for:			
Interest income (Notes 7, 8, 9, and 17)	**(494,942,544)**	(257,133,062)	(194,986,594)
Depreciation and amortization (Notes 13, 18 and 20)	**40,346,849**	42,187,781	61,691,784
Dividend income (Notes 9 and 17)	**(26,835,620)**	(30,391,442)	(13,579,262)
Unrealized foreign exchange gain (Note 10)	**(6,830,548)**	(42,559,839)	(21,322,066)
Trading gains (losses) (Notes 9 and 18)	**(126,641,561)**	449,485,626	7,422,192
Interest expense (Notes 16 and 20)	**1,808,506**	8,174,603	4,226,803
Retirement cost (Notes 18, 19 and 21)	**3,029,012**	3,182,200	3,250,218
Operating income before working capital changes	**136,577,212**	235,401,840	395,365,115
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Decrease (increase):			
Receivables	**(11,436,573)**	(435,420,006)	271,332,396
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	**(868,509,928)**	800,232,343	(285,304,194)
Prepaid expenses and other assets	**(4,400,279)**	(11,287,155)	(3,811,663)
Decrease in accounts payable and other current liabilities	**(16,898,522)**	(13,974,030)	(99,514,616)
Net cash provided by (used in) operations	**(764,668,090)**	574,952,992	278,067,038
Interest paid	**–**	(8,174,603)	(791,667)
Income tax paid	**(127,049,518)**	(100,553,042)	(43,501,706)
Dividends received	**25,817,879**	48,823,305	13,616,189
Interest received	**478,238,062**	421,118,291	201,408,852
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	**(387,661,667)**	936,166,943	448,798,706
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Acquisition of			
Property and equipment (Note 13)	**(8,111,776)**	(3,704,605)	(804,455)
Software and licenses	**–**	(2,656,527)	–
Cash used in investing activities	**(8,111,776)**	(6,361,132)	(804,455)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from:			
Borrowings	**–**	2,000,000,000	350,000,000
Issuance of subsidiary's share to NCI (Note 22)	**5,703,596**	8,429,260	5,920,273
Payment of:			
Notes payable (Note 16)	**–**	(2,000,000,000)	(350,000,000)
Redemption of capital stock (Note 22)	**–**	–	–
Redemption of subsidiary's share to NCI (Note 22)	**(11,706,004)**	(11,999,906)	–
Lease liabilities (Note 20)	**(26,399,240)**	(20,164,668)	(24,555,770)
Net cash used in financing activities	**(32,401,648)**	(23,735,314)	(18,635,497)

(Forward)

	Years Ended December 31		
	2023	2022	2021
Effect of Changes in Exchange Rates	**₱6,830,548**	₱42,559,839	₱22,973,155
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	**(428,175,091)**	948,630,335	452,331,908
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	**4,602,128,820**	3,653,498,485	3,201,166,577
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD (Note 7)	**₱4,180,784,277**	₱4,602,128,820	₱3,653,498,485

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements.

VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. **General Information**

Corporate Information

Vantage Equities, Inc. (the Parent Company) was incorporated in the Philippines and was registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on October 20, 1992. The primary business of the Company is to invest in, acquire by purchase, exchange, assignment or otherwise of the capital stock, bonds, debentures, promissory notes and similar financial instruments. The Company's shares are publicly traded in the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE).

The Parent Company's principal address is 15th Floor, Phil. Stock Exchange, 5th Avenue corner 28th Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Parent Company and the following subsidiaries (collectively referred to as the "Group"):

	Place of	Percentage of Ownership		
Name of Subsidiaries	Incorporation	**2023**	2022	2021
Vantage Financial Corporation (Formerly VFC Services, Inc.) (VFC)	Philippines	**100.00**	100.00	100.00
eBIZ Financial Services, Inc. (eBIZ Financial)*	Philippines	**100.00**	100.00	100.00
iCurrencies, Inc. (iCurrencies)	Philippines	**100.00**	100.00	100.00
Philequity Balanced Fund, Inc. (PBF)	Philippines	**100.00**	100.00	100.00
Philequity Foreign Currency Fixed Income Fund, Inc. (PFCFF)	Philippines	**100.00**	100.00	100.00
Philequity Alpha One Fund, Inc.(PAOF)**	Philippines	**100.00**	100.00	100.00
Philequity Global Fund, Inc.(PGF)***	Philippines	**100.00**	100.00	100.00
Philequity MSCI Philippines Index Fund, Inc. (PMIF)	Philippines	**69.49**	68.15	67.32
Philequity Management, Inc. (PEMI)	Philippines	**51.00**	51.00	51.00
PhilequityDynamic Allocation Fund, Inc. (PDAFI)	Philippines	**99.99**	-	-

**Indirectly owned through VFC*
***Incorporated on February 13, 2019*
**** Incorporated on June 24, 2019*

The Parent Company is the ultimate parent of the Group.

As of December 31, 2023, the clearances for liquidation of iCurrrencies, PBF, and PFCFF are pending with the SEC.

VFC

VFC was incorporated in the Philippines and is engaged in the fund transfer and remittance services, both domestic and abroad, of any form or kind of currencies or monies, as well as in conducting money exchange transactions as may be allowed by law and other allied activities relative thereto. VFC has an existing International Representation Agreement (Agreement) with Western Union Financial Services, Inc. (Western Union) covering its fund transfer and remittance services until December 20, 2026. VFC receives remuneration for the services provided to Western Union in accordance with the terms stipulated in the Agreement.

On January 23, 2018, the SEC approved the amendment of its Articles of Incorporation to change its company name from VFC Services, Inc. to Vantage Financial Corporation.

eBiz Financial
eBiz Financial is wholly owned by VFC. eBiz Financial was incorporated on April 11, 2005 and started commercial operations on May 9, 2005. eBiz Financial is engaged in general financing business. On April 7, 2015, eBiz Financial's BOD decided to shorten its term of existence until October 31, 2015. This was approved by the stockholders on August 1, 2015. The Company plans to complete the cancellation of its registration with the BIR and local government unit in 2024.

iCurrencies
iCurrencies, Inc. was incorporated on February 3, 2000 and started commercial operations on May 31, 2000. iCurrencies is organized primarily to engage in the business of buying and selling of foreign currencies.

In May 2001, iCurrencies effectively ceased its business of buying and selling currencies as a result of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Circular No. 264, issued on October 26, 2000. Among others, the circular required additional documentation for sale of foreign currencies and required Foreign Exchange Corporations (FxCorps) to have a minimum paid-up capital of ₱50.00 million.

The Circular effectively aligned the regulations under which FxCorps are to operate to that of banks. To avoid duplication and direct competition with its previous major stockholder, iCurrencies ceased its business of buying and selling foreign currencies.

PBF
PBF was incorporated in the Philippines, and was registered with the SEC on May 6, 2008 under the Philippine Investment Company Act (ICA) (Republic Act 2629) as an open-end mutual fund company. PBF is engaged in selling its capital to the public and investing the proceeds in diversified portfolio of peso-denominated fixed-income and equity securities. The initial investment amounted to ₱25.00 million.

The fund has obtained tax clearance from the BIR in 2019, however, clearance for liquidation is still pending with the SEC as of December 31, 2023.

PFCFF
PFCFF was incorporated in the Philippines, and was registered with the SEC on April 10, 2008 under the Philippine ICA as an open-end mutual fund company. PFCFF is engaged in selling its capital to the public and investing the proceeds in diversified portfolio of foreign currency denominated fixed-income securities. As of December 31, 2017, PFCFF has not yet launched its capital shares to the public. The initial investment amounted to ₱25.00 million.

The fund has obtained tax clearance from the BIR in 2019, however, clearance for liquidation is still pending with the SEC as of December 31, 2023.

PAOF
PAOF was incorporated in the Philippines, and was registered with the SEC on February 13, 2019. The primary activities of the Fund are to subscribe for, invest and re-invest in, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of securities of all kinds, to acquire, hold, invest and reinvest in, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of real properties of all kinds; and generally to carry on the business of an open-end investment company in all the elements and details thereof as prescribed by law.

On August 30, 2019, the SEC approved the Fund's application to register the Offer Units under the provisions of the Securities Regulation Code of the Philippines (Republic Act No. 8799). On December 9, 2019, PAOF launched its units to the public.

PGF

PGF was incorporated in the Philippines, and was registered with the SEC on June 24, 2019. On January 20, 2021, the SEC approved the Fund's registration as an open-end mutual fund company. The primary activities of the Fund are to subscribe for, invest and re-invest in, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of securities of all kinds, to acquire, hold, invest and reinvest in, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of real properties of all kinds; and generally to carry on the business of an open-end investment company in all the elements and details thereof as prescribed by law.

PMIF

PMIF was incorporated in the Philippines, and was registered with the SEC on December 15, 2017 under the Philippine ICA as an open-end mutual fund company. PMIF is engaged to subscribe for, invest and re-invest in, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of securities of all kinds, including all types of stocks, bonds, debentures, notes, mortgages, or other obligations, commercial papers, acceptances, scrip, investment contracts, voting trust, certificates, certificates of interest, and any receipts, warrants, certificates, or other instruments representing any other rights or interests therein, or in any property or assets created or issued by any all persons, firms, associations, corporations, organizations, government agencies or instrumentalities thereof; to acquire, hold, invest and reinvest in, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of, real properties of all kinds; and generally to carry on the business of an Open-End Investment Company in all the elements and details thereof as prescribed by law.

On January 2019, PMIF launched its shares to the public.

PEMI

PEMI was incorporated in the Philippines on March 15, 1994 and is primarily engaged in the management of mutual funds.

PEMI serves as the full fund manager of the following Mutual Funds (collectively referred to as "the Funds"):

- Philequity Fund, Inc. (PEFI)
- Philequity Dollar Income Fund, Inc. (PDIF)
- Philequity Peso Bond Fund, Inc. (PPBF)
- Philequity PSE Index Fund, Inc. (PPSE)
- Philequity Dividend Yield Fund, Inc. (PDYF)
- Philequity MSCI Philippines Index Fund, Inc.(PMIF)
- Philequity Alpha One Fund, Inc.(PAOF)
- Philequity Global Fund, Inc. (PGF)

2. Material Accounting Policy Information

Basis of Preparation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis, except for financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL) and fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI), which are measured at fair value. The consolidated financial statements are presented in Philippine peso and all values are rounded to the nearest peso unit except when otherwise indicated.

The financial statements of the Group provide comparative information in respect of the previous period.

Statement of Compliance
The accompanying consolidated financial statements are prepared in compliance with the Philippine Financial Reporting Standards (PFRSs).

Basis of Consolidation
The financial statements of the subsidiaries are prepared based on the same reporting period as the Parent Company using consistent accounting policies. All significant intra-group balances, transactions, income, expenses and profits and losses resulting from intra-group transactions are eliminated in full in the consolidation.

Subsidiaries are fully consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the Group. Control is achieved when the Parent Company is exposed, or has rights, to variable returns from its involvement with the investee and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the investee. Specifically, the Parent Company controls an investee if and only if the Parent Company has:

- power over the investee (i.e., existing rights that give it the current ability to direct the relevant activities of the investee);
- exposure or rights to variable returns from its involvement with the investee; and
- the ability to use its power over the investee to affect its returns.

When the Parent Company has less than a majority of the voting or similar rights of an investee, the Parent Company considers all relevant facts and circumstances in assessing whether it has power over an investee, including:

- the contractual arrangement with the other voting shareholders of the investee;
- rights arising from other contractual arrangements; and
- the Parent Company's voting rights and potential voting rights.

Assets, liabilities, income, expenses and other comprehensive income (OCI) of a subsidiary are included in the consolidated financial statements from the date the Parent Company gains control until the date the Parent Company ceases to control the subsidiary.

A change in the ownership interest of a subsidiary, without a loss of control, is accounted for as an equity transaction.

If the Parent Company loses control over a subsidiary, it:

- derecognizes the assets (including goodwill) and liabilities of the subsidiary;
- derecognizes the carrying amount of any non-controlling interest;
- derecognizes the cumulative translation differences recorded in equity;
- recognizes the fair value of the consideration received;
- recognizes the fair value of any investment retained;
- recognizes any surplus or deficit in profit or loss; and
- reclassifies the Parent Company's share of components previously recognized in OCI to profit or loss or retained earnings, as appropriate, as would be required if the Parent Company had directly disposed of the related assets and liabilities.

Non-Controlling Interest
Non-controlling interest represents the portion of profit or loss and net assets not owned, directly or indirectly, by the Parent Company and are presented in the consolidated statement of income, consolidated statement of comprehensive income, and within equity in the consolidated statement of financial position, separately from equity attributable to the Parent Company.

Profit or loss and each component of OCI are attributed to the equity holders of the Parent of the Group and to the non-controlling interests, even if this results in the non-controlling interests having a deficit balance. When necessary, adjustments are made to the financial statements of subsidiaries to bring their accounting policies into line with the Group's accounting policies.

Changes in Accounting Policies and Disclosures
The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous financial year, except for the adoption of new standards effective in 2023. The Group has not early adopted any standard, interpretation or amendment that has been issued but is not yet effective.

Unless otherwise indicated, adoption of these new standards did not have an impact on the consolidated financial statements of the Group.

- Amendments to PAS 1, *Presentation of Financial Statements*, and PFRS Practice Statement 2, *Disclosure of Accounting Policies*

  The amendments provide guidance and examples to help entities apply materiality judgements to accounting policy disclosures. The amendments aim to help entities provide accounting policy disclosures that are more useful by:

  - Replacing the requirement for entities to disclose their 'significant' accounting policies with a requirement to disclose their 'material' accounting policies, and
  - Adding guidance on how entities apply the concept of materiality in making decisions about accounting policy disclosures

  The amendments to the Practice Statement provide non-mandatory guidance.

- Amendments to PAS 8, *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*, *Definition of Accounting Estimates*

  The amendments introduce a new definition of accounting estimates and clarify the distinction between changes in accounting estimates and changes in accounting policies and the correction of errors. Also, the amendments clarify that the effects on an accounting estimate of a change in an input or a change in a measurement technique are changes in accounting estimates if they do not result from the correction of prior period errors.

- Amendments to PAS 12, *Income Taxes*, *Deferred Tax Related to Assets and Liabilities Arising from a Single Transaction*

  The amendments narrow the scope of the initial recognition exception under PAS 12, so that it no longer applies to transactions that give rise to equal taxable and deductible temporary differences.

  The amendments also clarify that where payments that settle a liability are deductible for tax purposes, it is a matter of judgement (having considered the applicable tax law) whether such deductions are attributable for tax purposes to the liability recognized in the financial statements (and interest expense) or to the related asset component (and interest expense).

Current versus Noncurrent Classification
The Group presents assets and liabilities in the consolidated statement of financial position based on current or noncurrent classification. An asset is current if:

- Expected to be realized or intended to be sold or consumed in the normal operating cycle;
- Held primarily for the purpose of trading;
- Expected to be realized within twelve months after the reporting period; or
- Cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period.

All other assets are classified as noncurrent.

A liability is current when:

- It is expected to be settled in the normal operating cycle;
- It is held primarily for the purpose of trading;
- It is due to be settled within twelve months after the reporting period; or
- There is no unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period

All other liabilities are classified as noncurrent.

Deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities are classified as noncurrent assets and liabilities, respectively.

Foreign Currency Transactions
Transactions in foreign currencies are initially recorded in the Group's functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the functional currency using the Philippine peso based on the Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP) closing rate, prevailing at the reporting date and foreign currency-denominated income and expenses, at prevailing exchange rates at the date of transaction.

Foreign exchange differences arising from revaluation and translation of foreign currency denominated assets and liabilities are credited to or charged against operations in the year in which the rates change. All differences are taken to the consolidated statement of income.

Non-monetary items that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated using the prevailing closing exchange rate as of the date of initial transaction.

Unrealized foreign exchange gain (loss)
This account pertains to the unrealized foreign exchange gain earned by the Group from the revaluation of their US$ denominated short-term deposits and Non-Deliverable Forward (NDF) contracts. Any foreign exchange gain earned is lodged as unrealized since, upon maturity of the deposits, the entire proceed, including interest earned, is retained in the Group's US$ bank account. Unrealized foreign exchange gain is recognized for the valuation of foreign currency denominated short-term deposits and revaluation of the NDF at month-end.

Cash and Cash Equivalents
Cash includes cash on hand and in banks. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with original maturities of three (3) months or less from the date of acquisition and that are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fair Value Measurement

The Group measures financial instruments at fair value at each statement of financial position date. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement is based on the presumption that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either:

- In the principal market for the asset or liability; or
- In the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability.

The principal or the most advantageous market must be accessible to the Group.

The fair value of an asset or a liability is measured using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming that market participants act in their economic best interest. A fair value measurement of a non-financial asset takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use.

The Group uses valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data are available to measure fair value, maximizing the use of relevant observable inputs and minimizing the use of unobservable inputs.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the consolidated financial statements are categorized within the fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

- Level 1 - Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2 - Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable.
- Level 3 - Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

For assets and liabilities that are recognized in the consolidated statement of financial position on a recurring basis, the Group determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorization (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting date.

Financial Instruments - Initial Recognition and Subsequent Measurement

Date of recognition

The Group recognizes a financial asset or a financial liability in the consolidated statement of financial position when it becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Purchases or sales of financial instruments that require delivery of assets and liabilities within the time frame established by regulation or convention in the marketplace are recognized on the trade date.

Initial recognition of financial instruments

Financial instruments are initially recognized at fair value of the consideration given. The initial measurement of financial instruments includes transaction costs, except for financial instruments at financial assets at FVTPL.

'Day 1' difference

Where the transaction price in a non-active market is different to the fair value from other observable current market transactions in the same instrument or based on a valuation technique whose variables include only data from observable market, the Group recognizes the difference between the transaction price and fair value (a 'Day 1' difference) in profit or loss in the consolidated statement of income unless it qualifies for recognition as some other type of asset. In cases where transaction price used is made of data which is not observable, the difference between the transaction price and model value is only recognized in profit or loss in the consolidated statement of income when the inputs become observable or when the instrument is derecognized. For each transaction, the Group determines the appropriate method of recognizing the 'Day 1' difference amount.

There were no 'Day 1' differences recognized in profit or loss in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income in 2023, 2022 and 2021.

Classification and subsequent measurement of financial instruments
Financial assets
Financial assets are classified in their entirety based on the contractual cash flows characteristics of the financial assets and the Group's business model for managing financial assets. The Group classifies its financial assets into the following categories: financial assets at FVTPL, financial assets at FVOCI with recycling of cumulative gains and losses (debt instruments), financial assets designated at FVOCI with no recycling of cumulative gains and losses upon derecognition (equity instruments) and financial assets measured at amortized cost.

Contractual cash flows characteristics
The Group assesses whether the cash flows from the financial asset represent "solely payment of principal and interest" or "SPPI" on the principal amount outstanding. Instruments with cash flows that do not represent as such are classified at FVTPL.

'Principal' for the purpose of this test is defined as the fair value of the financial asset at initial recognition and may change over the life of the financial asset (for example, if there are repayments of principal or amortization of the premium/discount).

In making this assessment, the Group determines whether the contractual cash flows are consistent with a basic lending arrangement, i.e., interest includes consideration only for the time value of money, credit risk and other basic lending risks and costs associated with holding the financial asset for a particular period of time.

In contrast, contractual terms that introduce a more than de minimis exposure to risks or volatility in the contractual cash flows that are unrelated to a basic lending arrangement do not give rise to contractual cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the amount outstanding. In such cases, the financial asset is required to be measured at FVTPL.

Business model
The Group determines its business model at the level that best reflects how it manages groups of financial assets to achieve its business objective. The Group's business model is not assessed on an instrument-by-instrument basis, but at a higher level of aggregated portfolios and is based on observable factors such as:

- How the performance of the business model and the financial assets held within that business model are evaluated and reported to the entity's key management personnel;
- The risks that affect the performance of the business model (and the financial assets held within that business model) and, in particular, the way those risks are managed;
- How managers, if any, of the business are compensated.

The business model assessment is based on reasonably expected scenarios without taking ‘worst case’ or ‘stress case’ scenarios into account. If cash flows after initial recognition are realized in a way that is different from the Group's original expectations, the Group does not change the classification of the remaining financial assets held in that business model, but incorporates such information when assessing newly originated or newly purchased financial assets going forward.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Group has financial assets at FVOCI amounting to ₱0.5 million included in the statement of financial position under ‘Other noncurrent assets’ (see Note 14).

Financial assets at FVTPL
Debt financial assets that do not meet the amortized cost criteria, or that meet the criteria but the Group has chosen to designate as at FVTPL at initial recognition, are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Equity investments are classified as at FVTPL, unless the FVTPL designates an investment that is not held for trading as at FVOCI at initial recognition. The Group’s financial assets at FVTPL include equity securities held for trading purposes and equity investments not designated as at FVOCI.

A financial asset is held for trading if:

- it has been acquired principally for the purpose of selling it in the near term; or
- on initial recognition it is part of a portfolio of identified financial instruments that the Group manages together and has evidence of a recent actual pattern of short-term profit-taking; or
- it is a derivative that is not designated and effective as a hedging instrument or a financial guarantee.

Financial assets at FVTPL are carried at fair value and gains and losses on these instruments are recognized as ‘Trading and investment securities gain (losses) - net’ in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income. Interest earned on these investments is reported in the consolidated statement of income under ‘Interest income’ while dividend income is reported in the consolidated statement of income under ‘Dividend income’ when the right of payment has been established.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Group’s financial assets at FVTPL consists of investments in corporate bonds, government securities, equity securities, mutual funds and derivate assets.

Derivatives classified as FVTPL
Derivative financial instruments are initially recognized at fair value on the date in which a derivative transaction is entered into and are subsequently re-measured at fair value. Derivatives are carried as financial assets at FVTPL when the fair value is positive and as financial liabilities at FVTPL when the fair value is negative. Any gains or losses arising from changes in fair values of derivatives (except those accounted for as accounting hedges) are taken directly to the consolidated statement of income under ‘Unrealized foreign exchange gain’. The Group have currency forwards (NDF) which are considered as stand-alone derivatives as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Derivatives embedded in non-derivative host contracts that are not financial assets within the scope of PFRS 9 (e.g., financial liabilities and non-financial host contracts) are treated as separate derivatives when their risks and characteristics are not closely related to those of the host contracts and the host contracts are not measured at FVTPL.

The Group assesses the existence of an embedded derivative on the date it first becomes a party to the contract, and performs re-assessment only where there is a change to the contract that significantly modifies the contractual cash flows.

Financial assets at amortized cost
Debt financial asset is measured at amortized cost if both of the following conditions are met:
(i) it is held within a business model whose objective is to hold financial assets in order to collect contractual cash flows; and
(ii) the contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

Debt financial assets meeting these criteria are measured initially at fair value plus transaction costs. They are subsequently measured at amortized cost using the effective interest method less any impairment in value, with the interest calculated recognized as 'Interest income' in the statement of income. The Group's financial assets at amortized cost consist of 'Cash and cash equivalents', 'Receivables', and security deposits (included under 'Other noncurrent assets')

Reclassifications of financial assets
The Group reclassifies its financial assets when, and only when, there is a change in the business model for managing the financial assets. Reclassifications shall be applied prospectively by the Group and any previously recognized gains, losses or interest shall not be restated.

Financial liabilities
Financial liabilities are classified as financial liabilities at FVTPL and other financial liabilities. Financial liabilities are classified as at FVTPL when the financial liability is either held for trading or it is designated as at FVTPL.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022 the Group financial assets (liabilities) at FVTPL amounted to ₱7.08 billion and (₱5.02 million), respectively (see Note 9).

Other financial liabilities
This category pertains to financial liabilities that are not held for trading or not designated as at FVTPL at the inception of the liability. Other financial liabilities are recognized initially at fair value and are subsequently carried at amortized cost, taking into account the impact of applying the effective interest method of amortization (or accretion) for any related premium, discount and any directly attributable transaction costs.

This category includes 'Accrued expenses and other liabilities'.

Derecognition of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities
Financial assets
A financial asset (where applicable, a part of a financial asset, or part of a group of financial assets) is derecognized when:

- the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired; or
- the Group retains the right to receive cash flows from the asset, but has assumed an obligation to pay them in full without material delay to a third party under a "pass-through" arrangement; or
- the Group has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset and either (a) has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, or (b) has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset but has transferred the control over the asset.

Where the Group has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from an asset or has entered into a pass-through arrangement, and has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset nor transferred control over the asset, the asset is recognized to the extent of the Group's continuing involvement in the asset. Continuing involvement that takes the form of a guarantee over the transferred asset is measured at the lower of original carrying amount of the asset and the maximum amount of consideration that the Group could be required to repay.

Financial liabilities
A financial liability is derecognized when the obligation under the liability is discharged or cancelled or has expired. Where an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as a derecognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability, and the difference in the respective carrying amounts is recognized in the consolidated statement of income.

Offsetting Financial Instruments
Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount is reported in the consolidated statement of financial position if, and only if, there is a currently enforceable legal right to offset the recognized amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or to realize the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

The Group assesses that it has a currently enforceable right of offset if the right is not contingent on a future event, and is legally enforceable in the normal course of business, event of default, and event of insolvency or bankruptcy of the Group and all of the counterparties. This is not generally the case with master netting agreements where the related assets and liabilities are presented gross in the consolidated statement of financial position.

Impairment of Financial Assets
PFRS 9 requires the Group to record ECL for all loans and other debt financial assets not classified as at FVTPL, together with loan commitments and financial guarantee contracts. ECL represent credit losses that reflect an unbiased and probability-weighted amount which is determined by evaluating a range of possible outcomes, the time value of money and reasonable and supportable information about past events, current conditions and forecasts of future economic conditions. ECL allowances will be measured at amounts equal to either (i) 12-month ECL or (ii) lifetime ECL for those financial instruments which have experienced a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition.

The 12-month ECL is the portion of lifetime ECL that results from default events on a financial instrument that are possible within the 12 months after the reporting date. Lifetime ECL are credit losses that results from all possible default events over the expected life of the financial asset.

Definition of default
Generally, the Group defines a financial asset as in default for purposes of calculating ECL when the contractual payments are past due for more than 90 days. As part of the qualitative assessment, the Group also considers and a variety of instances that may indicate unlikeliness to pay to determine if a counterparty has defaulted.

Significant increase in credit risk
To determine whether there has been a significant increase in credit risk (SICR) in the financial assets, the Group compares credit risk at initial reporting date against credit risk as at the reporting date. The Group uses judgment combined with relevant reasonable and supportable historical and forward-looking information which are available without undue cost and effort in calculating ECL. The Group assumes that instruments with an external rating of "investment grade" from published data providers or other reputable agencies and maturities of less than 1 year at reporting date are low credit risk financial instruments and accordingly, does not have SICR since initial recognition.

For treasury exposures, a downgrade of two notches for investment grade and one notch for non-investment grade security indicates SICR since origination. The Group also presumes a SICR for receivables that are past due for 30 days. Consideration of events which caused the downgrade is relevant. Evaluation should also include historical and forward-looking information.

Assessment of ECL on a collective basis
The Group evaluates impairment of financial assets individually for those that are individually significant and collectively for those that are not. The Group groups the financial assets based on profile of customer and its payment terms and history for the collective impairment.

Staging assessment
A three-stage approach for impairment of financial assets is used, based on whether there has been a significant deterioration in the credit risk of a financial asset. These three stages then determine the amount of impairment to be recognized.

For non-credit-impaired financial instruments:
- Stage 1 is comprised of all non-impaired debt financial assets which have not experienced a SICR since initial recognition. The Group recognizes a 12-month ECL for Stage 1 debt financial assets.
- Stage 2 is comprised of all non-impaired debt financial assets which have experienced a SICR since initial recognition. The Group recognizes a lifetime ECL for Stage 2 debt financial assets.

For credit-impaired financial instruments:
Financial instruments are classified as Stage 3 when there is objective evidence of impairment.

ECL parameters and methodologies
For financial assets such as “Receivables”, the Group applied the simplified approach using provision matrix that considers historical loss experience adjusted for current conditions and forward-looking inputs and assumptions. For ‘Cash and cash equivalents’, the Group applied the general approach in measuring ECL that considers assessment of significant increase in credit risk and adjustments for forward-looking information.

Forward-looking information
The Group incorporates forward-looking information into both its assessment of whether the credit risk of a financial asset has increased significantly since initial recognition and its measurement of ECL. A broad range of forward-looking information are considered as economic outputs such as Consumer Price Index (CPI), exchange rates, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rates, imports and exports, Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi), stock prices and unemployment rates. The inputs and models used for calculating ECL may not always capture all characteristics of the market at the date of the financial statements. To reflect this, qualitative adjustments or overlays are occasionally made as temporary adjustments when such differences are significantly material.

The key forward-looking economic variables used in each of the economic scenarios for the ECL calculations are unemployment rate, household expenditure, PSE all shares index, interest rate benchmark for 3 months and 20 years.

Write-off policy
The Group writes off its financial assets when it has been established that all efforts to collect and/or recover the loss has been exhausted. This may include the other party being insolvent, deceased or the obligation being unenforceable.

Investments in Subsidiaries and Associates

Investment in subsidiaries

Subsidiaries pertain to all entities over which the Group has control. Control is achieved when the Group is exposed, or has rights, to variable returns from its involvement with the investee and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the investee. When the Group has less than a majority of the voting or similar rights of an investee, the Group considers all relevant facts and circumstances in assessing whether it has power over an investee, including:

- the contractual arrangement with the other vote holders of the investee;
- rights arising from other contractual arrangements; and
- the Group's voting rights.

Investment in associates

Associates are entities which the Group has significant influence. Significant influence is the power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions of the investee, but is not control or joint control over those policies. In the consolidated financial statements, investments in associates are accounted for using the equity method.

Under the equity method, an investment in an associate is carried in the consolidated statement of financial position at cost plus post-acquisition changes in the Group's share in the net assets of the associate, less any allowance for impairment losses. Goodwill relating to an associate is included in the carrying value of the investment and is not amortized nor tested for impairment. The Group's share in an associate's post-acquisition profits or losses is recognized in the consolidated statement of income, and its share of post-acquisition movements in the associate's equity reserves is recognized directly in consolidated statement of comprehensive income. The cumulative post-acquisition movements are adjusted against the carrying amount of the investment. When the Group's share of losses in an associate equals or exceeds its interest in the associate, including any other unsecured receivables, the Group does not recognize further losses, unless it has incurred obligations or made payments on behalf of the associate. Profits and losses resulting from transactions between the Group and the associate are eliminated to the extent of the interest in the associate.

Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and amortization and any impairment in value. The initial cost of property and equipment consists of its construction cost or purchase price and any costs directly attributable to bringing the property and equipment to its working condition and location for its intended use.

Expenditures incurred after the property and equipment have been put into operation, such as repairs and maintenance, are normally charged to expense in the year in which such costs are incurred. In situations where it can be clearly demonstrated that the expenditures have resulted in an increase in the future economic benefits expected to be obtained from the use of an item of property and equipment beyond its originally assessed standard of performance, the expenditures are capitalized as additional costs of property and equipment.

The cost of an item of property and equipment also includes costs of dismantlement, removal or restoration and the related obligation that the Group incurs at the end of the useful life of property and equipment.

When each major repairs and maintenance is performed, its cost is recognized in the carrying amount of the item of property and equipment as a replacement if the recognition criteria are satisfied. Such costs are capitalized and amortized over the next major repairs and maintenance activity.

Depreciation and amortization commences once the property and equipment are available for use and are computed using the straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the property and equipment as follows:

Office condominium	20 years
Furniture and fixtures	3-10 years
Office improvements	10 years
Transportation equipment	4-5 years
Server and network equipment	3 years
Leasehold improvements	2-5 years or term of lease, whichever period is shorter

The useful lives, residual values, and depreciation and amortization method are reviewed periodically to ensure that the periods, residual values, and method of depreciation and amortization are consistent with the expected pattern of economic benefits from items of property and equipment. Fully depreciated assets are retained in the accounts until they are no longer in use and no further depreciation and amortization are charged to the consolidated statement of income.

When property and equipment are sold or otherwise disposed of, the cost and related accumulated depreciation, amortization and any impairment in value are eliminated from the accounts and any resulting gain or loss is credited to or charged against the consolidated statement of income.

Construction in progress represents properties under construction or development and is stated at cost. This includes costs of construction, equipment, borrowing costs directly attributable to such asset during the construction period and other direct costs. Construction in progress is not depreciated until such time when the relevant assets are substantially completed and available for its intended use.

Software

Development costs of software, which are included under ‘Other noncurrent assets’ account in the consolidated statement of financial position, are capitalized and treated as intangible assets because their costs are not an integral part of the related hardware. Amortization is computed using the straight-line method over their estimated useful life of 3 years for software and 2 years for website.

Impairment of Non-financial assets

The Group assesses at each reporting date whether there is an indication that a non-financial asset may be impaired. If any such indication exists, or when an annual impairment testing for an asset is required, the Group makes an estimate of the asset’s recoverable amount. An asset’s recoverable amount is the higher of an asset’s or cash-generating unit’s (CGU’s) fair value less costs to sell and its value in use and is determined for an individual asset, unless the asset does not generate cash inflows that are largely independent of those from other assets or groups of assets, in which case the recoverable amount is assessed as part of the CGU to which it belongs. Where the carrying amount of an asset or CGU exceeds its recoverable amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to its recoverable amount.

In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. Impairment losses are recognized in the consolidated statement of income in the expense category consistent with the function of the impaired asset.

An assessment is made at each reporting date as to whether there is any indication that previously recognized impairment losses may no longer exist or may have decreased. If such indication exists, the recoverable amount is estimated. A previously recognized impairment loss is reversed only if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the asset's recoverable amount since the last impairment loss was recognized. If that is the case, the carrying amount of the asset is increased to its recoverable amount. That increased amount cannot exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation and amortization, had no impairment loss been recognized for the asset in prior years. Such reversal is recognized in the consolidated statement of income. After such reversal, the depreciation and amortization charge is adjusted in future periods to allocate the asset's revised carrying amount, less any residual value, on a systematic basis over its remaining useful life.

Goodwill

Goodwill acquired in a business combination is initially measured as the excess of the aggregate of the consideration transferred, the amount recognized for any non-controlling interest and the fair value of the acquirer's previously-held interest, if any, over the fair value of the net assets acquired. Following initial recognition, goodwill is measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. Goodwill is reviewed for impairment annually, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may be impaired.

Impairment is determined for goodwill by assessing the recoverable amount of the investment in PEMI, the cash-generating unit to which the goodwill relates. This requires an estimation of the value in use of the investment. Estimating the value in use requires the Group to make an estimate of the expected future cash flows from the investment and also to choose a suitable discount rate in order to calculate the present value of those cash flows. The discount rate reflects management's estimate of the risks specific to the investment.

Where the recoverable amount of the investment is less than the carrying amount of the investment, an impairment loss is recognized. Impairment loss relating to goodwill cannot be reversed in future periods.

Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognized to the extent that it is probable that economic benefits will flow to the Group and the revenue can be reliably measured. Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received. The Group assesses its revenue arrangements against specific criteria in order to determine if it is acting as principal or agent. The Company has concluded that it is acting as principal in all of its revenue arrangements.

PFRS 15, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers,* establishes a five-step model to account for revenue arising from contracts with customers. The five-step model is as follows:

a. Identify the contract(s) with a customer
b. Identify the performance obligations in the contract
c. Determine the transaction price
d. Allocate the transaction price to the performance obligation in the contract
e. Recognize revenue when (or as) the entity satisfies a performance obligation

Under PFRS 15, revenue is recognized at an amount that reflects the consideration to which an entity expects to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods or services to a customer.

The standard requires the Group to exercise judgement, taking into consideration all of the relevant facts and circumstances when applying each step of the model to contracts with their customers. The standard also specifies the accounting for the incremental costs of obtaining a contract and the costs directly related to fulfilling a contract.

Service income
Service income comprises PEMI's management and other related income. Fees earned from management services provided by the Group to the managed funds over a period of time are recognized over time as the services are rendered and in accordance with the Management and Distribution Agreement. Management fees are computed using a fixed percentage based on the average NAV of the managed funds computed on a daily basis.

Money transfer service income
This represents the commission received by the Group from Western Union for every money transfer service provided by the former for the latter. Revenue is recognized when the money transfer service with the customer has been processed, which is when Western Union acknowledges the transaction. The Group concluded that it is acting as an agent on its remittance services with Western Union. The Group is providing to Western Union a series of distinct services that are substantially the same and have the same pattern of transfer. Accordingly, the revenue on remittance services is recognized over time. The Group has applied the "right to invoice" practical expedient in measuring the revenue recognized over time.

Share in foreign exchange differential
Western Union establishes the rates (on a daily basis) by which the currency in which money transfer service transaction at originating currency is converted to the payment currency. A foreign exchange differential gain arises when the rate set by Western Union at the date of receipt of the cash at the originating currency is different from the rate set on the date of the actual release of the cash under the payment currency. Share from foreign exchange differential based on the percentage as agreed with Western Union is recognized when remittance service is rendered and the originating currency is converted to the payment currency. The Group concluded that it is acting as an agent on its remittance services with Western Union. The Group is providing to Western Union a series of distinct services that are substantially the same and have the same pattern of transfer. Accordingly, the revenue on remittance services is recognized over time. The Group has applied the "right to invoice" practical expedient in measuring the revenue recognized over time.

Money changing gain
Money changing gain is related to the Group's retail foreign exchange operations in the branches. Funds received from the customers denominated in the originating currency are translated to the payment currency based on the exchange rate set by the Western Union (WU). The difference from the specified exchange rate and the current BAP closing rate is recognized as money changing gain. Income from money changing is recognized when the money exchange service has been rendered.

Income from business partners
This represents fees received by the Group from partner companies for other retail services in the branches including over-the-counter payment collection and airline ticketing services. Income from business partners are recognized at the time the services are rendered.

Other income - net
Other revenues include web development and production, media sales, portal and E-commerce revenues and digital public relations (PR) and digital strategy revenues. Revenue from web development and production is recognized based on the percentage of completion method. The stage of completion is assessed by reference to the stage of completion of the development, including completion of services provided for post-delivery service support. Revenue from media sales, portal and E-commerce is recognized at the time that services are rendered. Revenue from PR and digital strategy is recognized when services are rendered in accordance with the provisions of the contracts.

The following specific recognition criteria must also be met before revenue is recognized outside the scope of PFRS 15:

Trading and investment securities gains (losses)- net
Trading and investment securities gains (losses) - net includes all gains and losses from changes in fair value of financial assets at FVTPL, derivatives and gains and losses from disposal of debt financial assets at FVOCI and financial assets at FVTPL and other financial instruments. Revenue recognized from disposal of debt financial assets at FVOCI is gross of the commission expense paid to the broker. Revenue is recognized on trade date upon receipt of confirmation of sale of investments from counterparties.

Interest income
Interest income on interest-bearing placements is recorded on a time proportion basis taking into account the effective yield of the asset.

Dividend income
Dividend income is recognized when the right to receive payment is established.

Realized foreign exchange gain
Realized foreign exchange gain pertains to the realized gain from the settlement of US$ denominated NDF and from the buy and sell of US$ denominated currency. Realized gain from NDF pertains to the difference between the agreed upon forward rate and the fixing rate used in the actual settlement of the NDF, translated into Philippine peso. While realized gain from the buy and sell of US$ denominated currency is the difference between the spot rate from the day the currency was bought to the day it was sold. Realized foreign exchange gain is recognized when the transactions are settled and gains are translated into Philippine peso.

Expense Recognition
Expenses are recognized when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in an asset or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

Cost of services and sales
Cost of services and sales, which include personnel costs and other expenses incidental to the Group's primary services, are expensed as incurred.

General and administrative expenses
General and administrative expenses, which include the cost of administering the business and are not directly associated with the generation of revenue, are expensed as incurred.

Finance Costs
Finance costs consist of interest and other costs that an entity incurs in connection with the borrowing of funds. Finance costs are calculated using the EIR method in accordance with PFRS9 and recorded as interest expense once incurred.

Leases
The Group assesses at contract inception whether a contract is, or contains a lease. A contract contains a lease if it conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. The Group applies a single recognition and measurement approach for all leases, except for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets. The Group recognizes lease liabilities to make lease payments and ROU assets representing the right-of-use the underlying assets.

(a) ROU assets

The Group recognizes right-of-use assets at the commencement date of the lease (i.e., the date the underlying asset is available for use). Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, and adjusted for any remeasurement of lease liabilities. The cost of right-of-use assets includes the amount of lease liabilities recognized, initial direct costs incurred, and lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received and estimate of costs to be incurred by the lessee in dismantling and removing the underlying asset, restoring the site on which it is located or restoring the underlying asset to the condition required by the terms and conditions of the lease.

Unless the Group is reasonably certain to obtain ownership of the leased asset at the end of the lease term, the recognized right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of its estimated useful life and the lease term as follow:

	Years
Head Office space	5 years
Branch Office space	1 to 10 years

Depreciation of ROU asset is presented under “Depreciation and amortization” in Cost of Services (Note 18) and General and Administrative Expenses (see Note 19).

Right-of-use assets are subject to impairment. Refer to the accounting policies in section Impairment of non-financial assets.

(b) Lease liabilities

At the commencement date of the lease, the Group recognizes lease liabilities measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term.

The lease payments include fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments) less any lease incentives receivable, variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, and amounts expected to be paid under residual value guarantees. The lease payments also include the exercise price of a purchase option reasonably certain to be exercised by the Group and payments of penalties for terminating a lease, if the lease term reflects the Group exercising the option to terminate. Variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate are recognized as expense (unless they are incurred to produce inventories) in the period on which the event or condition that triggers the payment occurs.

In calculating the present value of lease payments, the Group uses its incremental borrowing rate at the lease commencement date if the interest rate implicit in the lease is not readily determinable. After the commencement date, the amount of lease liabilities is increased to reflect the accretion of interest, presented under “Interest expense”, and reduced for the lease payments made. In addition, the carrying amount of lease liabilities is remeasured if there is a modification, a change in the lease term, a change in the lease payments (e.g., changes to future payments resulting from a change in an index or rate used to determine such lease payments) or a change in the assessment of an option to purchase the underlying asset.

(c) Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The Group applies the short-term lease recognition exemption to its leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less from the commencement date and do not contain a purchase option, and low-value assets recognition exemption to its leases of branch spaces that are considered of low value (i.e., below ₱250,000). Lease payments on short-term leases and leases of low-value assets are recognized as expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

<u>Retirement Cost</u>
VFC has a funded, noncontributory defined benefit retirement plan and the Parent Company, and PEMI have unfunded, noncontributory defined benefit retirement plans covering substantially all of their regular employees.

The net defined benefit liability or asset is the aggregate of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period reduced by the fair value of plan assets (if any), adjusted for any effect of limiting a net defined benefit asset to the asset ceiling. The asset ceiling is the present value of any economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plan or reductions in future contributions to the plan.

The cost of providing benefits under the defined benefit plans is actuarially determined using the projected unit credit method. This method reflects services rendered by employees up to the date of valuation and incorporates assumptions concerning employees' projected salaries. Actuarial valuations are conducted with sufficient regularity, with option to accelerate when significant changes to underlying assumptions occur.

Defined benefit costs comprise of the following:

a. service cost;
b. net interest on the net defined benefit liability or asset; and
c. remeasurements of net defined benefit liability or asset.

Service costs, which include current service costs, past service costs and gains or losses on non-routine settlements are recognized as expense in profit or loss. Past service costs are recognized when plan amendment or curtailment occurs.

Net interest on the net defined benefit liability or asset is the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability or asset that arises from the passage of time, which is determined by applying the discount rate based on government bonds to the net defined benefit liability or asset.Net interest on the net defined benefit liability or asset is recognized as expense or income in the consolidated statement of income.

Remeasurements comprising actuarial gains and losses, return on plan assets and any change in the effect of the asset ceiling (excluding net interest on defined benefit liability) are recognized immediately in OCI in the period in which they arise. Remeasurements are not reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods.

Plan assets are assets that are held by a long-term employee benefit fund or qualifying insurance policies. Plan assets are not available to the creditors of the Group, nor can they be paid directly to the Group. Fair value of plan assets is based on market price information. When no market price is available, the fair value of plan assets is estimated by discounting expected future cash flows using a discount rate that reflects both the risk associated with the plan assets and the maturity or expected disposal date of those assets (or, if they have no maturity, the expected period until the settlement of the related obligations). If the fair value of the plan assets is higher than the present value of the defined benefit obligation, the measurement of the resulting defined benefit asset is limited to the present value of economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plan or reductions in future contributions to the plan.

The Group's right to be reimbursed of some or all of the expenditure required to settle a defined benefit obligation is recognized as a separate asset at fair value when and only when reimbursement is virtually certain.

Income Taxes

Current Tax

Current income tax assets and liabilities for the current and prior periods are measured at the amount expected to be recovered from or paid to the taxation authorities. The tax rates and tax laws used to compute the amount are those that are enacted or substantively enacted at the statement of financial position date. The Company periodically evaluates positions taken in the tax returns with respect to situations in which applicable tax regulations are subject to interpretations and establishes provisions where appropriate.

Deferred tax

Deferred tax is provided on all temporary differences at the statement of financial position date between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts for financial reporting purposes.

Deferred tax liabilities are recognized for all taxable temporary differences, except:

- Where the deferred tax liability arises from the initial recognition of goodwill or of an asset or liability in a transaction that is not a business combination and, at the time of the transaction, affects neither the accounting income nor taxable income; and
- In respect of taxable temporary differences associated with investments in subsidiaries, associates and interests in joint ventures, where the timing of the reversal of the temporary differences can be controlled will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

Deferred tax assets are recognized for all deductible temporary differences, carryforward of unused tax credits from excess minimum corporate income tax (MCIT) over regular corporate income tax (RCIT) and unused net operating loss carryover (NOLCO), to the extent that it is probable that future taxable income will be available against which the deductible temporary differences and carryforward of unused MCIT and unused NOLCO can be utilized, except:

- Where the deferred tax asset relating to the deductible temporary difference arises from the initial recognition of an asset or liability in a transaction that is not a business combination and, at the time of the transaction, affects neither the accounting profit nor taxable profit or loss; and
- In respect of deductible temporary differences associated with investments in subsidiaries, associates and interests in joint arrangements, deferred tax assets are recognized only to the extent that it is probable that the temporary differences will reverse in the foreseeable future and taxable profit will be available against which the temporary differences can be utilized.

The carrying amount of deferred tax assets is reviewed at each statement of financial position date and reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that sufficient future taxable income will be available to allow all or part of the deferred tax assets to be utilized. Unrecognized deferred tax assets are reassessed at each statement of financial position date and are recognized to the extent that it has become probable that future taxable income will allow the deferred tax asset to be recovered.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured at the tax rates that are applicable to the period when the asset is realized or the liability is settled, based on tax rates (and tax laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the statement of financial position date.

Deferred tax relating to items recognized outside profit or loss is recognized outside profit or loss. Deferred tax items are recognized in correlation to the underlying transaction either in other comprehensive income or directly in equity.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset if a legally enforceable right exists to set off current tax assets against current tax liabilities and the deferred taxes relate to the same taxable entity and the same taxation authority.

<u>Value-added Tax (VAT)</u>
Revenues, expenses, and assets are recognized net of the amount of VAT, if applicable.

When VAT from sales of goods and/or services (output VAT) exceeds VAT passed on from purchases of goods or services (input VAT), the excess is recognized as a payable in the consolidated statement of financial position. When VAT passed on from purchases of goods or services (input VAT) exceeds VAT from sales of goods and/or services (output VAT), the excess is recognized as an asset in the consolidated statement of financial position to the extent of the recoverable amount.

<u>Equity</u>
Capital stock is measured at par value for all shares issued and outstanding. When the shares are sold at a premium, the difference between the proceeds and the par value is credited to 'Capital paid-in excess of par value' account. Direct costs incurred related to equity issuance, such as underwriting, accounting and legal fees, printing costs and taxes are chargeable to 'Capital paid-in excess of par value' account. If the 'Capital paid-in excess of par value' is not sufficient, the excess is charged against the 'Retained earnings'.

When the Parent Company issues more than one class of stock, a separate account is maintained for each class of stock and the number of shares issued.

Own equity instruments which are acquired (treasury shares) are deducted from equity and accounted for at weighted average cost. No gain or loss is recognized in the consolidated statement of income on the purchase, sale, issue or cancellation of the Parent Company's own equity instruments.

'Retained earnings' represents accumulated earnings of the Group less dividends declared.

<u>Redeemable Units</u>
A put table financial instrument is classified as an equity instrument if it has all of the following features:

It entitles the Group to a pro-rata share of a Fund's net assets in the event of a fund's liquidation;
- The instrument is in the class of instruments that is subordinate to all other classes of instruments;
- All financial instruments in the class of instruments that is subordinate to all other classes of instruments have identical features;
- The instrument does not include any contractual obligation to deliver cash or another financial asset other than the Group's right to a pro-rata share of a Fund's net assets; and
- The total expected cash flows attributable to the instrument over the life of the instrument are based substantially on the profit or loss, the change in the recognized net assets or the change in the fair value of the recognized and unrecognized net assets of a fund over the life of the instrument.

In addition to the instrument having all the above features, a fund must have no other financial instrument or contract that has:

- Total cash flows based substantially on the profit or loss, the change in the recognized net assets or the change in the fair value of the recognized and unrecognized net assets of the Fund; and
- The effect of substantially restricting or fixing the residual return to the puttable instrument holders.

The Group classified the redeemable units as financial liabilities presented as 'Net assets attributable to unitholders of a mutual fund subsidiary' in the liability section of the statement of financial position and measure them at fair value.

Dividends on Common Shares
Dividends on common shares are recognized as a liability and deducted from equity when approved by the respective BOD and shareholders of the Parent Company and its subsidiaries while stock dividends are deducted from retained earnings upon distribution. Dividends for the year that are approved after reporting are dealt with as subsequent events.

Basic/Diluted Earnings (Loss) Per Share
Basic earnings per share (EPS) is determined by dividing net income (loss) attributable to common shareholders by the weighted average number of shares outstanding during the year with retroactive adjustments for any stock split and stock dividends declared.

Diluted EPS is calculated by dividing the net income (loss) attributable to common shareholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the year adjusted for the effects of any dilutive potential common shares.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Parent Company does not have dilutive potential common shares.

Provisions
Provisions are recognized when the Group has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event; it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

If the effect of the time value of money is material, provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a pretax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and, where appropriate, the risks specific to the liability. Where discounting is used, the increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognized as an interest expense. Provisions are reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate. If it is no longer probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, the provision is reversed.

Where the Group expects some or all of a provision to be reimbursed, the reimbursement is recognized as a separate asset but only when the reimbursement is virtually certain that the expense relating to any provision is presented in the consolidated statement of income, net of any reimbursement.

Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets
Contingent liabilities are not recognized in the consolidated financial statements. These are disclosed in the notes to consolidated financial statements unless the probability of an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits is remote. Contingent assets are not recognized in the consolidated financial statements but are disclosed in the notes to consolidated financial statements when an inflow of economic benefits is probable.

Events After the Reporting Period
Any post year-end events after reporting date that provide additional information about the Group's financial position at the reporting date (adjusting events), if any, are reflected in the consolidated financial statements. Post year-end events that are not adjusting events, if any, are disclosed in the notes to consolidated financial statements, when material.

Segment Reporting
The Group's operating businesses are organized and managed separately according to the nature of the products and services provided, with each segment representing a strategic business unit that offers different products and serves different markets. Financial information on business segments is presented in Note 6. The Group's assets producing revenues are located in the Philippines (i.e., one geographical location). Therefore, geographical segment information is no longer presented.

Standards Issued but Not Yet Effective
Pronouncements issued but not yet effective up to the date of issuance of the Group's consolidated financial statements are listed below. The listing consists of standards and interpretations issued, which the Group reasonably expects to be applicable at a future date. The Group intends to adopt the following pronouncements when they become effective. Adoption of these pronouncements is not expected to have a significant impact on the consolidated financial statements unless otherwise indicated.

Effective beginning on or after January 1, 2024
- Amendments to PAS 1*, Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current*
- Amendments to PFRS 16*, Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback*
- Amendments to PAS 7 and PFRS 7*, Disclosures: Supplier Finance Arrangements*

Effective beginning on or after January 1, 2025
- PFRS 17, *Insurance Contracts*
- Amendments to PAS 21*, Lack of exchangeability*

Deferred effectivity
- Amendments to PFRS 10, *Consolidated Financial Statements*, and PAS 28, *Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture*

3. **Significant Accounting Judgments, Estimates and Assumptions**

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with PFRS requires the management to make judgments and estimates that affect the reported amounts of revenues, expenses, assets, and liabilities and the accompanying disclosures, as well as disclosure of contingent assets and contingent liabilities, if any. Future events may occur which will cause the judgments and assumptions used in arriving at the estimates to change. The effects of any change in judgments and estimates are reflected in the consolidated financial statements as they become reasonably determinable.

Judgments and estimates are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Judgments
The following are the critical judgments and key assumptions that have a significant risk of material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year:

a. *Operating lease commitments - Group as a lessee*
The Group has entered into lease contracts for its office spaces and branches. It has determined that it has not acquired all the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the leased properties because of the following factors: (a) the Group will not acquire the ownership of the leased assets upon termination of the lease; and (b) the Group has no option to purchase the asset at a price that is sufficiently lower than the fair value at the date of the option (c) the lease term is only for a period of one year renewable annually. The Group's lease commitments are discussed in Note 20.

b. *Determining the timing of satisfaction of performance obligations*
Assessing when the Group satisfies a performance obligation, i.e. transfer control of a promised good or service to the customer, over time or point in time involves significant judgment. Accordingly, it affects the timing of revenue recognition for these performance obligations.

Based on management's assessment, performance obligations related to remittance services (money transfer service income, share in foreign exchange differential, income from business partners and income from money changing services), are series of distinct services that are satisfied over time. As the Group renders the services, the customers simultaneously receive and consumes the benefits provided by the Group's performance of these services.

In measuring the revenue to be recognized over time, management assessed that output method faithfully depicts the Group's performance in transferring control of the services to the customers. Since the Group bills a fixed price per transaction with the customers upon satisfaction of the performance obligations, management believes that this right to consideration from a customer corresponds directly with the value to the customer of the Group's performance completed to date. Accordingly, the Group has applied the "right to invoice" practical expedient in measuring the revenue recognized over time.

c. *Recognition of deferred tax assets*
Deferred tax assets are recognized for all deductible temporary differences to the extent that it is probable that taxable income will be available against which the differences can be utilized. Significant management judgment is required to determine the amount of deferred tax assets to be recognized, based upon likely timing and level of future taxable income.

The deductible temporary differences for which deferred tax assets and liabilities were recognized in the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 are disclosed in Note 23.

Estimates
The key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below:

a. *Fair value of financial instruments*
The fair values of derivative assets and liabilities recognized or disclosed in the consolidated financial statements cannot be derived from active markets, these are determined using a valuation technique that include the use of mathematical model. The inputs to this model are taken from observable markets where possible, but where this is not feasible, a degree of judgment is required

in establishing fair values. The judgments include considerations of liquidity and identification of comparable investments and applicable credit spreads to arrive at adjusted quoted market prices.

The carrying values and corresponding fair values of derivative asset and liabilities as well as the manner in which fair values were determined are discussed in more detail in Note 5.

Derivative assets and liabilities recognized in the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 are disclosed in Note 9.

b. *Leases -Estimating the incremental borrowing rate*
The Group cannot readily determine the interest rate implicit in the lease, therefore, it uses its incremental borrowing rate (IBR) to measure lease liabilities. The IBR is the rate of interest that the Group would have to pay to borrow over a similar term, and with a similar security, the funds necessary to obtain an asset of a similar value to the right-of-use asset in a similar economic environment.

The IBR therefore reflects what the Group 'would have to pay', which requires estimation when no observable rates are available or when they need to be adjusted to reflect the terms and conditions of the lease. The Group estimates the IBR using observable inputs such as market interest rates when available and is required to make certain entity-specific estimates.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Group's lease liabilities are disclosed in Note 20.

c. *Credit losses on financial assets*
The Group reviews its debt financial assets subject to ECL annually with updating provisions as necessary. The measurement of credit losses requires judgment, in particular, the estimation of amount and timing of future cash flows and collateral values when determining the credit losses and the assessment of SICR. Elements of the model used to calculate ECL that are considered accounting estimates and judgments, include among others:

- Segmentation of financial assets to determine appropriate ECL model and approach
- Criteria for assessing whether there has been SICR in the debt financial assets and so allowances be measured on a lifetime ECL basis and the qualitative assessment
- Segmentation of financial assets when ECL is calculated on a collective basis
- Development of ECL models, including formula and various inputs
- Selection of forward-looking macroeconomic variables and scenarios

The gross carrying amounts of financial assets subject to ECL as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 are disclosed in Note 4, while the related ECL allowances for credit losses are disclosed I n Note 8. The allowance for credit losses on these financial assets amounted to ₱16.85 million as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively (see Note 8).

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4. **Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies**

The Group's principal financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, receivables, financial assets at FVTPL, account payable and other liabilities. The Group also has various other financial assets and liabilities such as deposits.

The main risks arising from the Group's financial instruments are credit risk, liquidity risk and market risks. The BOD reviews and approves the policies for managing each risk and these are summarized below.

Credit risk
Credit risk is the risk that the Group will incur a loss because its customers or counterparties failed to discharge their contractual obligations. The Group manages and controls credit risk by trading only with recognized, creditworthy third parties. It is the Group's policy that all customers who wish to trade on credit terms are subject to credit verification procedures. In addition, receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis so that the Group's exposure to credit losses is not that significant. Since the Group trades only with recognized third parties, there is no requirement for collateral.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Group's maximum exposure to credit risk is equal to the carrying values of its financial assets since it does not hold any collateral or other credit enhancements that will mitigate credit risk exposure.

The fair values of financial assets at FVTPL and financial assets at FVOCI represent the credit risk exposure as of the reporting date but not the maximum risk exposure that could arise in the future as a result of changes in fair value of the said instruments.

The Group's trade and other receivables are assessed for impairment based on its lifetime ECL. The allowance for credit losses amounting to ₱16.85 million and ₱12.26 million as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, pertain to fully-impaired trade and other receivables.

Credit quality per class of financial assets
The table below shows the credit quality of the Group's financial assets based on its stage classification as of December 31, 2023 and 2022. The amounts presented are gross of impairment allowances.

	2023				
	Stage 1	**Stage 2**	**Stage 3**	**Simplified approach**	**Total**
Neither past due nor impaired					
Grade A					
Cash and cash equivalents*	**₱3,972,550,933**	**₱ -**	**₱-**	**₱-**	**₱3,972,550,933**
Receivables	-	-	-	**447,834,591**	**447,834,591**
Deposits (included in "Other noncurrent assets")	**10,974,863**	-	-	-	**10,974,863**
Grade B					
Receivables		**58,234,978**			**58,234,978**
Grade C					
Receivables			**21,044,303**		**21,044,303**
Impaired					
Receivables	-	-		**16,852,258**	**16,852,258**
	₱ 3,983,525,796	**₱ 58,234,978**	**₱21,044,303**	**₱464,686,849**	**₱ 4,527,491,926**

**Excludes cash on hand*

	2022				
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Simplified approach	Total
Neither past due nor impaired					
Grade A					
Cash and cash equivalents*	₱4,291,212,833	₱–	₱–	₱–	₱4,291,212,833
Receivables	–	–	–	497,955,076	497,955,076
Deposits (included in "Other noncurrent assets")	18,298,672	–	–	–	18,298,672
Impaired					
Receivables	–	–	–	12,262,375	12,262,375
	₱4,309,511,505	₱–	₱–	₱510,217,451	₱4,819,728,956

**Excludes cash on hand*

Receivables under Grade A are all current. Based on assessment of qualitative and quantitative factors that are indicative of the risk of default, the Group assessed that these are considered to have low credit risk and therefore, expected credit losses were assessed to be insignificant.

Impaired receivables are fully provided by allowance as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

The table below shows the credit quality of the Group's neither past due nor impaired financial assets based on historical experience with the corresponding third parties.

	2023			
	Grade A	**Grade B**	**Grade C**	**Total**
Cash and cash equivalents*	**₱3,972,550,933**	**₱–**	**₱–**	**₱3,972,550,933**
Receivables:				
Due from:				
Western Union	**342,086,336**	–	–	**342,086,336**
Business partners	**51,357,345**	–	–	**51,357,345**
Brokers	**192,861**	–	–	**192,861**
Trade receivables	**–**	**42,330,381**	**37,896,561**	**80,226,942**
Interest receivable	**54,198,049**	–	–	**54,198,049**
Receivable from related parties and employees	–	**1,307,036**	–	**1,307,036**
Others	–	**14,597,561**	–	**14,597,561**
Deposits (included in "Other noncurrent assets")	–	**10,974,863**	–	**10,974,863**
	₱4,420,385,524	**₱ 69,209,841**	**₱ 37,896,561**	**₱ 4,527,491,926**

**Excludes cash on hand*

	2022			
	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Total
Cash and cash equivalents*	₱4,291,212,833	₱–	₱–	₱4,291,212,833
Receivables:				
Due from:				
Western Union	369,506,301	–	–	369,506,301
Business partners	35,344,172	–	–	35,344,172
Brokers	–	–	–	–
Trade receivables	–	18,778,889	34,051,036	52,829,925
Interest receivable	37,493,567			37,493,567
Receivable from related parties and employees	–	2,224,123	–	2,224,123
Others	–	12,819,363	–	12,819,363
Deposits (included in "Other noncurrent assets")		18,298,672	–	18,298,672
	₱4,733,556,873	₱52,121,047	₱34,051,036	₱4,819,728,956

**Excludes cash on hand*

The Group rates its financial assets based on internal and external credit rating system. The credit quality of treasury exposures is generally monitored through the external ratings of eligible external credit assessment rating institutions.

Credit Quality	**External Rating**				
Investment Grade (Grade A)	Aaa	Aa	A	Baa	Ba
Non-Investment Grade (Grade B)	Ba	B	Caa	Ca	C
Impaired (Grade C)	D				

Grade A financial assets pertain to those investments with counterparties of good credit standing or receivables from clients or customers that consistently pay on or before the maturity date.

Grade B accounts are active accounts with minimal to regular instances of payment, default, due to collection issues. These accounts are typically not impaired as the counterparties generally respond to the Group's collection efforts and update their payment accordingly.

Grade C include those receivables being collected on due dates with varying collection efforts required, ranging from minimum to moderate that may require close monitoring.

Cash and cash equivalents are classified as Grade A because these are deposited with reputable banks.

Financial assets at FVTPL are classified as Grade A since these mostly pertain to investments in listed companies and government-issued bonds.

Liquidity risk
Liquidity risk is the risk that the Group will be unable to meet its payment obligations when they fall due under normal and stressful circumstances. To limit this risk, the Group closely monitors its cash flows and ensures that credit facilities are available to meet its obligations as and when they fall due. Any excess cash is invested in short-term money market placements. These placements are maintained to meet maturing obligations.

Financial assets
Except for financial assets at FVTPL, the analysis into maturity groupings is based on the remaining period from the end of the reporting period to the contractual maturity. For financial assets at FVTPL, the analysis into maturity groupings is based on the expected dates on which the assets will be realized.

Financial liabilities
The maturity grouping is based on the remaining period from the end of the reporting period to the contractual maturity date. When counterparty has a choice of when the amount is paid, the liability is allocated to the earliest period in which the Group can be required to pay.

The table below shows the financial assets and financial liabilities' liquidity information which includes coupon cash flows categorized based on the expected date on which the asset will be realized and the liability will be settled.

	2023					
	On Demand	**Less than 3 Months**	**3 to 12 Months**	**1 to 5 years**	**More than 5 years**	**Total**
Financial Assets						
Cash and cash equivalents*	**₱1,117,183,411**	**₱2,855,367,522**	**₱–**	**₱–**	**₱–**	**₱3,972,550,933**
Receivables:						
Due from:						
Western Union	**342,086,336**	–	–	–	–	**342,086,336**
Business partners and brokers	**51,550,206**	–	–	–	–	**51,550,206**
Trade receivable	**80,226,942**	–	–	–	–	**80,226,942**
Receivable from related parties and employees	–	**1,307,036**	–	–	–	**1,307,036**
Others**	–	**68,795,610**	–	–	–	**68,795,610**
Financial assets at FVTPL:						
Mutual funds	**948,384,506**	–	–	–	–	**948,384,506**
Equity securities	–	**717,551,379**	–	–	–	**717,551,379**
Corporate bonds*	–	–	**1,327,630,542**	–	–	**1,327,630,542**
Government bonds*	–	–	**4,138,571,611**	–	–	**4,138,571,611**
Other noncurrent assets:						
Deposits	–	–	–	**14,820,388**	–	**14,820,388**
	₱ 2,538,601,524	**₱3,643,021,547**	**₱5,466,202,153**	**₱ 14,820,388**	**₱–**	**₱11,662,645,612**

(Forward)

	2023					
	On Demand	**Less than 3 Months**	**3 to 12 Months**	**1 to 5 years**	**More than 5 years**	**Total**
Financial Liabilities						
Accounts payable and other liabilities:						
Due to sub-agents and brokers	**₱14,143,835**	**₱–**	**₱–**	**₱–**	**₱–**	**₱14,143,835**
Due to stockholders	**107,648,502**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**107,648,502**
Accrued expenses	**–**	**65,293,119**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**65,293,119**
Trade payable	**18,154,855**		**–**	**–**	**–**	**18,154,855**
Others***	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**668,725**	**668,725**
Financial liabilities at FVTPL:						
Derivative liability	**–**	**(562,000)**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**(562,000)**
	₱139,947,192	**₱64,731,119**	**₱–**	**₱–**	**₱668,725**	**₱205,347,036**

**Includes future interest (excluding cash on hand).*
***Others include advances to suppliers and other non-trade receivables.*
****Excludes statutory payables.*

	2022					
	On Demand	Less than 3 Months	3 to 12 Months	1 to 5 years	More than 5 years	Total
Financial Assets						
Cash and cash equivalents*	₱1,590,825,123	₱2,995,440,572	₱–	₱–	₱–	₱4,586,265,695
Receivables:						
Due from:						
Western Union	369,506,301	–	–	–	–	369,506,301
Business partners and brokers	35,344,172	–	–	–		35,344,172
Trade receivable	52,829,925	–	–	–	–	52,829,925
Receivable from related parties and employees	–	2,224,123	–	–	–	2,224,123
Others**	–	50,312,930	–	–	–	50,312,930
Financial assets at FVTPL:						
Mutual funds	940,062,806	–	–	–	–	940,062,806
Equity securities	–	916,849,124	–	–	–	916,849,124
Corporate bonds*	–	75,386,730	2,157,501,447	–	–	2,232,888,177
Government bonds*	–	194,804,357	3,268,953,256	–	–	3,463,757,613
Other noncurrent assets:						
Deposits	–	–	–	17,671,967	–	17,671,967
	₱2,988,568,327	₱4,235,017,836	₱5,426,454,703	₱17,671,967	₱–	₱12,667,712,833
Financial Liabilities						
Accounts payable and other liabilities:						
Due to sub-agents and brokers	₱15,140,216	₱–	₱–	₱–	₱–	₱15,140,216
Accrued expenses	–	98,705,294	–	–	–	98,705,294
Trade payable	–	120,293,711	–	–	–	120,293,711
Others***	–	–	–	–	1,191,784	1,191,784
Financial liabilities at FVTPL:						
Derivative liability	–	5,020,950	–	–	–	5,020,950
	₱15,140,216	₱224,019,955	₱–	₱–	₱1,191,784	₱240,351,955

**Includes future interest (excluding cash on hand).*
***Others include advances to suppliers and other non-trade receivables.*
****Excludes statutory payables.*

The Group has committed lines of credit that it can access to meet its liquidity needs. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Group has available credit lines with various banks amounting to ₱1.35 billion.

Market risk
Market risk is the risk of change in fair value of financial instruments from fluctuation in market prices (price risk), foreign exchange rates (currency risk) and market interest rates (interest rate risk), whether such change in price is caused by factors specific to the individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all instruments traded in the market.

The Group is exposed to the risk that the value of the Group's financial assets will be adversely affected by the fluctuations in the price level or volatility of one or more of the said assets. The two main components of the risks recognized by the Group are systematic risk and unsystematic risk.

Systematic risk is the variability in price caused by factors that affect all securities across all markets (e.g. significant economic or political events). Unsystematic risk, on the other hand, is the variability in price caused by factors which are specific to the particular issuer (corporation) of the debt or equity security. Through proper portfolio diversification, this risk can be minimized as losses on one particular debt or equity security may be offset by gains in another.

To further mitigate these risks, the Group ensures that the investment portfolio is adequately diversified taking into consideration the size of the portfolio.

a. *Foreign currency risk*
The Group has transactional currency exposures. The Group's financial instruments which are denominated in foreign currency include cash and cash equivalents, receivables, financial assets at FVTPL. The Group maintains several United States dollar (US$) accounts to manage its foreign currency denominated transactions.

The Group's financial assets and liabilities denominated in U.S. dollar are as follows:

	2023	2022
Cash and cash equivalents	**$2,931,079**	US$5,983,364
Receivables	**6,268,120**	122,602
Investments	**5,341,585**	8,442,392
	14,540,783	14,548,358
Due to sub-agents	**(29,425)**	(32,116)
Net foreign currency-denominated assets	**14,511,358**	14,516,242
Currency forwards	**(5,000,000)**	(14,850,000)
Net exposure	**$9,511,358**	(US$333,758)

In translating the foreign currency denominated assets and liabilities into peso amounts, the exchange rates used are ₱55.37 to US$1 and ₱55.76 to US$1 as of December 31, 2023, and December 31, 2022, respectively.

The following table presents the impact on the Group's income before income tax due to change in the fair value of its monetary assets and liabilities, brought about by a reasonably possible change in the U.S. dollar to Peso exchange rate, with all other variables held constant. There is no other impact on equity other than those affecting earnings.

	2023		2022	
	Effect on Net Income before Tax	**Effect on Net Income before Tax**	Effect on Net Income before Tax	Change in Foreign Exchange Rate
Increase	**(₱656,890)**	**+0.90%**	₱259,803	+0.90%
Decrease	**656,890**	**-0.90%**	(259,803)	-0.90%

The increase in U.S. dollar to Peso rate means weaker Peso against the U.S. dollar while decrease in U.S. dollar to Peso exchange rate means stronger Peso against the U.S. dollar.

b. *Equity price risk*
Equity price risk is the risk that the fair value of quoted FVTPL equity investments will fluctuate as a result of changes in the value of individual stock investments.

The table below demonstrates the sensitivity to a reasonably possible change in Philippine stock index (PSEi), with all other variables held constant, of the Group's equity classified as FVTPL equity investments, as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

	2023		2022	
	% Variance on Equity Price	**% Variance on Equity Price**	% Variance on Equity Price	% Variance on Equity Price
Increase	**12.890%**	**₱51,903,772**	14.137%	₱82,316,651
Decrease	**-12.890%**	**(51,903,772)**	-14.137%	(82,316,651)

The table below demonstrates how the change in the investment portfolio of the Group's mutual funds affects profit or loss with a reasonably possible change in the NAVPs for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 with all other variables held constant:

	2023		2022	
	% Variance on Net Asset Value	**% Variance on Net Asset Value**	% Variance on Net Asset Value	% Variance on Equity Price
Increase	**12.890%**	**₱109,242,741**	14.137%	₱114,959,938
Decrease	**-12.890%**	**(109,242,741)**	-14.137%	(114,959,938)

c. *Interest rate risk*
Interest rate risk arises from the possibility that changes in interest rates will affect future cash flows or the fair values of financial instruments. The Group's exposure to market risk for changes in interest rates relates primarily to the Group's investments.

The Group's market risk policy requires it to manage interest rate risk by maintaining appropriate mix of fixed and variable rate instruments. The policy also requires it to manage the maturities of interest-bearing financial assets.

The following table demonstrates the sensitivity of the Group's FVTPL debt securities to a reasonably possible change in interest rates for the year ended December 31, 2023, and 2022:

	2023	2022
Change in Basis Points	**Effect on Profit/Loss**	Effect on Profit/Loss
Increase by 100	**(₱131,695,920)**	(₱113,426,395)
Decrease by100	**139,543,775**	119,481,804

Capital management
The primary objectives of the Group's capital management are to safeguard the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, so that it can continue to provide returns for shareholders and benefits for other stakeholders and to maintain an optimal capital structure to reduce the cost of capital. The management considers capital stock and retained earnings as core capital of the Group.

The Group manages its capital structure and makes adjustments to it, in light of changes in economic conditions. To maintain or adjust the capital structure, the Group may adjust the dividend payment to shareholders, return capital to shareholders or issue new shares.

The Group monitors capital on the basis of the debt-to-equity ratio. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Group has no interest-bearing long-term debt.

The debt-to-equity ratio as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 are as follows:

	2023	2022
Total debt (a)	**₱281,868,076**	₱306,207,260
Total equity (b)	**11,696,602,956**	11,120,433,089
Debt-to-equity ratio (a/b)	**0.0241**	0.0275

5. **Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement is based on the presumption that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either in the principal market for the asset or liability, or in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability. Fair values are obtained from quoted market prices, discounted cash flow models and option pricing models, as appropriate.

The following methods and assumptions are used to estimate the fair value of each class of financial instruments:

Cash and cash equivalents, receivables, accounts payable and other current liabilities and notes payable
The carrying amounts approximate fair values due to the short-term nature of these financial instruments.

Financial assets and liabilities at FVTPL (except derivatives)
Fair values are generally based on quoted market prices. For the Group's equity investments, fair values are determined based on quoted closing prices or bid price in cases when the former is not available in the PSE for 2023 and 2022. For the Group's fixed income investments, fair values are determined based on BVAL reference rates for 2023 and 2022, respectively.

If market prices are not readily available or if the securities are not traded in an active market, fair values are estimated using either values obtained from independent parties offering pricing services or adjusted quoted market prices of comparable investments or using the discounted cash flow methodology. For unquoted equity securities for which no reliable basis for fair value measurement is available, these are carried at cost net of impairment, if any. For the Group's mutual funds, fair values are estimated using published net asset value (NAV).

Rental deposit
Fair values are estimated using the discounted cash flow methodology using the interpolated benchmark rates. The discount rate used in estimating the fair values of rental deposits ranges from 1.00% to 3.00% as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Derivative instruments (included under financial assets and liabilities at FVTPL)
Fair values are calculated by reference to the prevailing interest differential and spot exchange rate as of the reporting date, taking into account the remaining term to maturity of the derivative instruments. For the stock warrants, fair values are determined based on quoted prices.

Net assets attributable to unitholders of a mutual fund subsidiary
Fair values are estimated using published net asset value (NAV).

The fair value hierarchy as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 follows:

	2023				
	Carrying Value	**Level 1**	**Level 2**	**Level 3**	**Total**
Assets measured at fair value					
Financial assets at FVTPL (Note 9):					
Government bonds	**₱4,138,571,611**	**₱1,436,871,032**	**₱2,701,700,579**	**₱–**	**₱4,138,571,611**
Corporate bonds	**1,327,630,542**	**1,327,630,542**		**–**	**1,327,630,542**
Equities	**717,551,379**	**717,551,379**		**–**	**717,551,379**
Mutual funds	**896,256,100**		**896,256,100**	**–**	**896,256,100**
Derivative Assets	**562,000**		**562,000**	**–**	**562,000**
	₱ 7,080,571,632	**₱3,482,052,953**	**₱948,384,506**	**₱–**	**₱ 7,080,571,632**
Financial liabilities at FVTPL					
Derivative liabilities (Note 15)	–	–	–	–	–
Assets for which fair values are disclosed					
Rental deposits (Note 14)	**₱14,820,388**	**₱–**	**₱–**	**₱14,820,388**	**₱14,820,388**

	2022				
	Carrying Value	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Assets measured at fair value					
Financial assets at FVTPL (Note 9):					
Government bonds	₱3,344,886,436	₱3,344,886,436	₱–	₱–	₱3,344,886,436
Corporate bonds	941,384,395	941,384,395	–	–	941,384,395
Equities	916,849,124	916,849,124	–	–	916,849,124
Mutual funds	940,062,806	–	940,062,806	–	940,062,806
	₱6,143,182,761	₱5,203,119,955	₱940,062,806	₱–	₱6,143,182,761
Financial liabilities at FVTPL					
Derivative liabilities (Note 15)	₱5,020,950	₱–	₱5,020,950	₱–	₱5,020,950
Assets for which fair values are disclosed					
Rental deposits(Note 14)	₱18,298,672	₱–	₱–	₱18,298,672	₱18,298,672

Fair value measurement of financial assets and liabilities under Level 2 were based on interest rates and yield curves, implied volatilities and foreign exchange spread. The Level 3 input used in the fair value measurement of the Company's rental deposits is the interpolated benchmark rates. Significant increases (decreases) in discount rate would result in a significantly lower (higher) fair value of rental deposits.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, there are no transfers into and out of Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 fair value hierarchy.

6. Segment information

For management purposes, the Group is organized into major operating business segments as follows:

a. Investment holdings
The investment holdings segment deals in the acquisition and sale of financial instruments.

b. Remittance services
The remittance services segment provides the infrastructure and services as the largest direct agent for money transfer of Overseas Filipino Workers. Beyond the remittance business, this segment facilitates the fulfillment of e-commerce transactions and serves as a payment platform for any Business to Business (B2B) or Business to Customers (B2C) initiative.

c. Mutual fund management

This segment deals in the management of mutual funds. Subject to the management agreements with the respective funds, PEMI shall manage the resources and operations of the funds. The services contemplated include Investment and re-investment of the assets of the entities in accordance with the investment policies or guidelines and in conformity with the entities' prospectus(es) and applicable Philippine laws and regulations; Preparation and submission of such information and data relating to economic conditions, industries, business, corporations, or securities; Coordination of the activities of, and extension of all necessary cooperation or assistance to, the custodian bank, the auditors and the legal counsel of the entities, without prejudice to the direct responsibility of such firms to the entities; Representation with government offices, instrumentalities and agencies, including all work required in registering the funds' securities, obtaining proper licenses and permits-complying with other legal requirements including those requirements relevant to PEMI's own operations, and submitting regular reports to various government agencies; Accounting, bookkeeping, clerical and other administrative services in the ordinary conduct of the Funds' activities, other than those services provided by the custodian, the auditors and the legal counsel; Transactions with stockbrokers for the account of the entities in connection with PEMI's investment and reinvestment of the funds' assets. In addition, PEMI shall provide such office space and other administrative facilities as the entities shall reasonably require in the ordinary conduct of its business.

Management monitors the operating results of each segment. The measure presented to manage segment performance is the segment income before tax. Segment income before tax is based on the same accounting policies as the consolidated net income except that intersegment revenues are eliminated only at the consolidation level. Transfer pricing between segments are on arm's length basis in a manner similar to transactions with third parties.

The Executive Committee (Excom) is actively involved in planning, approving, reviewing, and assessing the performance of each Group's segment. The Excom oversees the Group's decision making process. The Excom's functions are supported by the heads of each of the segments, which provide essential input and advice in the decision-making process. The Chief Operating Decision Maker is the Chief Executive Officer.

The management income earned from various funds managed by the Group comprised 21.41%, 27.78%, and 27.78% of Group's total revenue in 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

The following table presents earnings and other information of operating segments presented in accordance with PFRS:

	2023				
	Investment Holdings	**Remittance Services**	**Mutual Fund Management**	**Eliminations**	**Consolidated**
Earnings Information					
Revenues	**₱ 548,114,337**	**₱ 321,614,180**	**₱ 311,860,210**	**(₱10,085,659)**	**₱ 1,171,503,068**
Cost of services	**2,775,815**	**246,402,499**	**70,196,518**	**-**	**319,374,832**
Depreciation and amortization	**289,476**	**37,202,865**	**2,854,508**	**-**	**40,346,849**
Interest expense		**1,887,061**	**-**	**(78,555)**	**1,808,506**
Segment income before tax	**509,965,027**	**30,747,395**	**207,809,200**	**(1,878,505)**	**746,643,117**
Provision for income tax	**67,481,878**	**10,582,193**	**40,058,576**	**-**	**118,122,647**
Net income	**442,483,149**	**20,165,202**	**167,750,624**	**(1,878,505)**	**628,520,470**
Other Information					
Segment assets	**9,467,224,873**	**1,368,882,019**	**1,647,697,464**	**(505,333,324)**	**11,978,471,032**
Segment liabilities	**13,809,865**	**113,790,208**	**159,597,420**	**(5,329,417)**	**281,868,076**
Costs to acquire property and equipment					**8,111,776**

	2022				
	Investment Holdings	Remittance Services	Mutual Fund Management	Eliminations	Consolidated
Earnings Information					
Revenues	(₱225,490,936)	₱273,033,018	₱282,602,961	(₱2,352,881)	₱327,792,162
Cost of services and sales	6,060,993	265,773,802	77,276,024	–	349,110,819
Depreciation and amortization	1,951,497	36,169,848	4,799,390	(732,954)	42,187,781
Interest expense	6,322,917	1,980,561	–	(128,875)	8,174,603
Segment income before tax	(196,309,688)	68,161,320	188,417,802	2,186,538	62,455,973
Provision for income tax	18,925,275	17,235,458	32,346,391	–	68,507,124
Net income (loss)	(215,234,963)	50,925,863	156,071,411	2,186,538	(6,051,151)
Other Information					
Segment assets	9,045,035,999	1,379,661,324	1,463,015,895	(454,489,617)	11,433,223,601
Segment liabilities	28,711,221	143,986,394	141,947,981	(1,855,083)	312,790,513
Costs to acquire property and equipment	–	–	–	–	3,704,605

	2021				
	Investment Holdings	Remittance Services	Mutual Fund Management	Eliminations	Consolidated
Earnings Information					
Revenues	₱289,905,328	₱393,097,826	₱273,419,316	(₱8,213,695)	₱948,208,775
Cost of services and sales	5,323,783	302,262,130	60,897,646	–	368,483,559
Depreciation and amortization	4,368,105	49,168,222	8,155,457	–	61,691,784
Interest expense	791,667	3,435,136	-	–	4,226,803
Segment income before tax	306,121,226	59,941,331	187,100,849	(4,501,366)	548,662,040
Provision for income tax	18,797,725	16,823,006	42,956,725	–	78,577,456
Net income	287,323,501	43,118,325	144,144,124	(4,501,366)	470,084,584
Other Information					
Segment assets	9,268,837,550	1,375,895,534	1,310,272,781	(469,154,806)	11,485,851,059
Segment liabilities	33,147,724	196,470,512	144,002,350	(15,116,776)	358,503,810
Costs to acquire property and equipment				–	(804,455)

Eliminating entries pertaining to revenue represents the elimination of accumulated market gains from the Parent Company's mutual fund investments in PMIF, PAOF, PGF, PBF and PFCFF. Eliminating entries for segment assets is the net effect of eliminating the cost of the Parent Company's investment in its subsidiaries, and any intercompany receivables. While eliminating entry for segment liabilities represent elimination of intercompany payables.

PEMI qualifies as a subsidiary with significant non-controlling interest. The financial information under the mutual fund management segment pertains solely to PEMI.

7. Cash and Cash Equivalents

This account consists of:

	2023	2022
Cash on hand	**₱208,233,344**	₱310,915,987
Cash in banks	**1,117,183,411**	1,279,909,136
Cash equivalents	**2,855,367,522**	3,011,303,697
	₱4,180,784,277	₱4,602,128,820

Cash in banks earn interest at the prevailing bank deposit rates. Cash equivalents are made for varying periods of one to three months depending on the immediate cash requirements of the Group. Cash equivalents earn annual interest rates ranging from 1.00% to 4.90% in 2023, 0.13% to 5.50% in 2022 0.13% to 0.88% in 2021.

Interest income from cash and cash equivalents amounted to ₱193.82 million, ₱72.33 million and ₱12.46 million in 2023, 2022 and 2021 respectively (see Note 17).

8. Receivables

This account consists of:

	2023	2022
Due from:		
Western Union	**₱342,086,336**	₱369,506,301
Business partners	**51,357,345**	35,344,172
Brokers	**192,861**	–
Trade receivables	**80,226,942**	52,829,925
Accrued interest receivable	**54,198,049**	37,493,567
Receivable from related parties and employees	**1,307,036**	2,224,123
Others	**14,597,561**	12,819,363
	543,966,130	510,217,451
Less: Allowance for credit losses	**(16,852,258)**	(12,262,375)
	₱527,113,872	₱497,955,076

Due from Western Union represents pay-outs of VFC for fund transfers and remittance services, which were not yet reimbursed by Western Union as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Due from business partners include receivables from counterparty banks for cash to be delivered to the branches.

The terms and conditions of receivables are as follows:

- Due from Western Union, sub-agents, and business partners generally have one to four days' term.
- Due from broker is usually collectible within three days.
- Trade receivables include receivables from advertising and web development services which are normally collectible within two to four months after billing is made. This also includes management and commission income earned from the funds managed by the Group.
- Other receivables are all short-term in nature.

Details of allowance for credit losses as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 are as follows:

	2023	2022
Trade receivables	**₱16,612,946**	₱12,023,063
Others	**239,312**	239,312
	₱16,852,258	₱12,262,375

In 2023 and 2022, receivables amounting to ₱16.85 million were carried at Stage 3 and there were no transfers into and out of Stage 3.

The rollforward analysis of allowance for credit losses follow:

	2023			
	Trade receivables	**Receivable from sale of investment**	**Others**	**Total**
Balance at January 1, 2023	**₱12,023,063**	**₱–**	**₱239,312**	**₱12,262,375**
Provisions	**4,589,883**	**–**	**–**	**4,589,883**
Balance at December 31 , 2023	**₱16,612,946**	**₱–**	**₱239,312**	**₱16,852,258**

	2022			
	Trade receivables	Receivable from sale of investment	Others	Total
Balance at January 1 and December 31	₱12,023,063	₱–	₱239,312	₱12,262,375

9. Investment Securities

Financial Assets at FVTPL

This account consists of investments in:

	2023	2022
Government bonds	**₱4,138,571,611**	₱3,344,886,436
Corporate bonds	**1,327,630,542**	941,384,395
Mutual funds	**896,256,100**	933,479,553
Equities	**717,551,379**	916,849,124
Derivative assets	**562,000**	–
	₱7,080,571,632	₱6,136,599,508

In 2023, 2022 and 2021, interest income from government and corporate bonds amounted to ₱301.12 million, ₱184.80 million and ₱182.52 million, respectively (see Note 17).

Government bonds
Government bonds include peso-denominated securities which earn interest ranging from 3.375% to 8.125% in 2023, 2.70% to 8.13% in 2022 and 1.90% to 5.50% in 2021. It also includes dollar-denominated bonds with interest rates ranging from 3.75% to 4.10% in 2023, 2022 and 2021.

Corporate bonds
Corporate bonds include peso-denominated securities which earn interest ranging from 4.20% to 6.43% in 2023, 2.75% to 6.37% in 2022 and 2.00% to 5.10% in 2021. It also includes dollar-denominated securities with interest rates ranging from 2.13% to 4.75%in 2023, 2.13% to 7.38% in 2022 and 2.13% to 7.38% in 2021.

Equity securities
Quoted equity securities pertain to investments in stocks listed in the PSE.

Dividend income earned from FVTPL equity securities amounted to ₱26.84 million, ₱30.39 million and ₱13.58 million in 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively (see Note 17).

Derivative instruments
The Group's outstanding currency forward contracts have an aggregate notional amount of US$5 million and US$14.85 million as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the weighted average forward contract rate is ₱54.40 to US$1 and ₱54.49 to US$1. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Group is in a net buy US dollar position.

The movements in the Group's derivative instruments presented under 'Financial Assets at Fair Value through Profit or Loss' or 'Accounts Payable and Other Current Liabilities' in the statements of comprehensive income are as follows:

	2023	2022
Balance at beginning of year		
Derivative assets	**₱–**	₱–
Derivative liabilities	**(5,020,950)**	(13,754,703)
	(5,020,950)	(13,754,703)
Fair value changes	**8,642,008**	(182,179,373)
Settled transactions (Note 10)	**(3,059,058)**	195,934,076
	5,582,950	13,754,703
Balance at end of year		
Derivative assets	**562,000**	–
Derivative liabilities (Note 15)	**–**	(5,020,950)
	₱562,000	(₱5,020,950)

In 2023, 2022 and 2021, settled transactions amounted to ₱3.05 million, ₱195.34 million and ₱79.88 million, respectively. Settled transactions are recognized in 'Realized foreign exchange gain (loss)' (see Note 10).

Trading and investment securities gain (loss) from financial assets at FVTPL consists of (see Note 17):

	2023	2022	2021
Realized gain (loss) from sale of:			
Equity securities	**(₱38,009,713)**	(₱16,677,550)	₱16,747,148
Bonds	**(1,996,903)**	1,422,173	35,864,312
	(40,006,616)	(15,255,377)	52,611,460
Changes in fair value of:			
Bonds	**134,096,036**	(199,816,948)	90,073,113
Equity securities	**23,988,460**	(174,879,374)	(133,643,417)
Mutual funds	**8,563,681**	(74,789,304)	36,148,112
	166,648,177	(449,485,626)	(7,422,192)
	₱126,641,561	(₱464,741,003)	₱45,189,268

Mutual Funds
Mutual funds represent investment in shares/units of:

	2023	2022
Philequity Fund, Inc. (PEFI)	**₱564,379,398**	₱558,646,243
Philequity Dividend Yield Fund, Inc. (PDYF)	**148,680,341**	190,488,134
Philequity PSE Index Fund, Inc. (PPSE)	**124,762,832**	124,345,176
Philequity Alpha One fund, Inc. (PAOF)	**58,475,848**	60,000,000
	₱896,256,100	₱933,479,553

Movement in the Group's mutual fund investment is shown below:

	2023	2022
Beginning	**₱933,479,553**	₱1,008,268,857
Revaluation	**(37,223,453)**	(74,789,304)
	₱896,256,100	₱933,479,553

Investment in shares of PEFI, PDYF and PPSE are valued at net asset value per share (NAVPS). NAVPS is computed by dividing net assets (total assets less total liabilities) by the total number of redeemable shares issued and outstanding as of reporting date. The assets consist of equity shares listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE).

10. Foreign Exchange Income

Breakdown of the foreign exchange income is presented below:

	2023	2022	2021
Realized Foreign Exchange Gain (Losses)			
Derivative assets (liabilities) (Note 9)	₱3,059,058	(₱195,934,076)	₱79,880,469
Money changing	(563,205)	323,130,044	(22,554,759)
	₱2,495,853	₱127,195,968	₱57,325,710
Unrealized Foreign Exchange Gains (Losses)			
Cash and cash equivalents	**(₱563,176)**	₱1,740,377	₱6,252,051
Receivables	**750,440**	(19,387)	1,140,848
Debt instruments	**(4,804,471)**	45,894,478	27,559,163
Due to sub-agent	–	(34,679)	(1,651,089)
Derivatives	**11,447,755**	(5,020,950)	(11,978,907)
	₱6,830,548	₱42,559,839	₱21,322,066

Realized foreign exchange gains (losses) pertains to the amount realized upon the settlement of the Group's derivative assets and realized gain from the buy and sell of US$ denominated currency.

Unrealized foreign exchange gains (losses) pertain to the translated gains from foreign currency denominated financial instruments and the translated revaluation of derivative assets at FVTPL at year-end.

11. Prepaid Expenses and Other Current Assets

This account consists of:

	2023	2022
Prepaid expenses	**₱24,261,040**	₱12,505,163
Input value added tax	**5,728,162**	1,183,689
Others	**293,736**	4,655,975
	₱30,282,938	₱18,344,827

Prepaid expenses pertain to prepayments for office rent, utilities, insurance and taxes.

Others include leased branch spaces construction and renovation deposits paid by the Group in 2023 and 2022.

12. Investment in Associate

Details of investments in an associate follow:

Acquisition cost:	
Fifth Agency Unified Services, Inc. (FAUSI)	₱300,000
Allowance for impairment	(180,772)
	₱119,228

There are no movements in the allowance for impairment on investment in FAUSI. Investment in an associate represents VFC' 25.00% ownership in FAUSI. FAUSI was incorporated in the Philippines on August 10, 2004 and started commercial operations on April 4, 2005. FAUSI is engaged in electronic commerce and trading, through the internet-based facilities and other on-line transactions, including but not limited to the development and marketing of goods and services and electronic value or debit cards.

On February 4, 2008, the BOD has decided to stop and wind down FAUSI's operations effective March 2008. In 2012, the BOD approved the liquidation of FAUSI. On November 13, 2015, the BOD decided to shorten FAUSI's term of existence until November 15, 2015. This was approved by the stockholders on December 4, 2015.

The following table presents the financial information of FAUSI (amounts in thousands):

Year	Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Loss
2023	**₱916**	**₱641**	**(₱41)**
2022	₱916	₱641	(₱41)

FAUSI has no noncurrent assets and noncurrent liabilities as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

FAUSI is a private company and there is no quoted market price available for its shares.

In June 2017, FAUSI has obtained their clearance from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to distribute and settle remaining assets and liabilities.

As of December 31, 2023, FAUSI has not received SEC clearance to distribute and settle its remaining assets and liabilities.

13. Property and Equipment

This account consists of:

	2023						
	Office Condominium	**Leasehold Improvements**	**Transportation Equipment**	**Furniture and Fixtures**	**Server and Network Equipment**	**Office Improvements**	**Total**
Cost							
Balance at beginning of year	**₱124,147,287**	**₱208,293,269**	**₱36,792,800**	**₱170,378,926**	**₱22,718,050**	**₱12,187,454**	**₱574,517,786**
Additions	–	**4,170,847**	**1,191,550**	**1,305,925**	**1,443,454**		**8,111,776**
Balance at end of year	**124,147,287**	**212,464,116**	**37,984,350**	**171,684,851**	**24,161,504**	**12,187,454**	**582,629,562**
Accumulated Depreciation and Amortization							
Balance at beginning of year	**36,531,679**	**196,309,415**	**35,581,760**	**166,532,775**	**22,666,748**	**9,170,966**	**466,793,343**
Depreciation	**686,032**	**7,903,694**	**752,321**	**1,141,474**	**283,395**	**2,425,189**	**13,192,105**
Balance at end of year	**37,217,711**	**204,213,109**	**36,334,081**	**167,674,249**	**22,950,143**	**11,596,155**	**479,985,448**
Net Book Value	**₱86,929,576**	**₱8,251,007**	**₱1,650,269**	**₱4,010,602**	**₱1,211,361**	**₱591,299**	**₱102,644,114**

	2022						
	Office Condominium	Leasehold Improvements	Transportation Equipment	Furniture and Fixtures	Server and Network Equipment	Office Improvements	Total
Cost							
Balance at beginning of year	₱124,147,287	₱207,682,912	₱36,792,800	₱167,284,678	₱22,718,050	₱12,187,454	₱570,813,181
Additions	–	610,357	–	3,094,248	–	–	3,704,605
Balance at end of year	124,147,287	208,293,269	36,792,800	170,378,926	22,718,050	12,187,454	574,517,786
Accumulated Depreciation and Amortization							
Balance at beginning of year	33,087,186	188,090,746	33,965,631	163,661,400	22,166,894	6,749,022	447,720,879
Depreciation	3,444,493	8,218,669	1,616,129	2,871,375	499,854	2,421,944	19,072,464
Balance at end of year	36,531,679	196,309,415	35,581,760	166,532,775	22,666,748	9,170,966	466,793,343
Net Book Value	₱87,615,608	₱11,983,854	₱1,211,040	₱3,846,151	₱51,302	₱3,016,488	₱107,724,443

Office condominium pertains to office units acquired by the Group.

Fully depreciated assets are retained in the account until they are no longer in use and no further depreciation and amortization are charged against current operations. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the cost of fully depreciated assets still being used in operations amounted to ₱399.73 million and ₱360.16 million, respectively.

Depreciation and amortization for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021 are as follows:

	2023	2022	2021
Property and equipment	**₱13,192,105**	₱19,072,464	₱30,348,024
Right-of-use assets (Note 20)	**24,064,819**	17,954,884	25,906,143
Software and website costs (Note 14)	**3,089,925**	5,160,433	5,437,617
	₱40,346,849	₱42,187,781	₱61,691,784

The table below presents the allocation of depreciation and amortization between cost of services and general and administrative expenses.

	2023			2022			2021		
	Cost of services (Note 18))	**General and administrative expenses (Note 19)**	**Total**	Cost of services (Note 18)	General and administrative expenses (Note 19)	Total	Cost of services (Note 18)	General and administrative expenses (Note 19)	Total
Property and equipment	**₱7,305,543**	**₱5,886,562**	**₱13,192,105**	₱9,857,262	₱9,215,202	₱19,072,464	₱9,706,934	₱20,641,090	₱30,348,044
Right-of-use assets (Note 22)	**24,064,819**	**–**	**24,064,819**	17,954,884	–	17,954,884	25,906,143	–	33,369,471
Software and website costs (Note 14)	**2,471,940**	**617,985**	**3,089,925**	4,128,346	1,032,087	5,160,433	4,350,094	1,087,523	5,437,617
	₱33,842,302	**₱6,504,547**	**₱40,346,849**	₱31,940,492	₱10,247,289	₱42,187,781	₱39,963,171	₱21,728,613	₱61,691,784

14. Other Noncurrent Assets

This account consists of:

	2023	2022
Rental and other deposits	**₱17,660,264**	₱22,505,122
Software and website costs	**4,802,552**	7,892,477
Goodwill	**3,654,985**	3,654,985
Financial assets at FVOCI	**500,000**	500,000
Deferred input VAT	**–**	1,587,513
Others (Note 21)	**222,408**	1,327,875
	26,840,215	37,467,972
Less: Allowance for credit and impairment losses	**(572,415)**	(572,415)
	₱26,267,800	₱36,895,557

Rental and other deposits include payments required under the lease contracts of EBSI and PEMI's branches with the lessor as a security deposit for the rented premises. This will be returned upon termination of the lease agreement.

The goodwill recognized in the consolidated statement of financial position pertains to the acquisition cost of PEMI in 1994. In 2023, 2022 and 2021, no provision for impairment was provided for the recognized goodwill.

The movements in software and website costs follow:

	2023	2022
Cost		
Balance at beginning of year	**₱52,513,660**	₱49,857,133
Additions	**-**	2,656,527
Balance at end of year	**52,513,660**	52,513,660
Accumulated Amortization		
Balance at beginning of year	**44,621,183**	39,460,750
Amortization (Notes 13, 18 and 19)	**3,089,925**	5,160,433
Balance at end of year	**47,711,108**	44,621,183
	₱4,802,552	₱7,892,477

15. **Accounts Payable and Other Current Liabilities**

This account consists of:

	2023	2022
Due to Stockholders (Note 24)	**₱107,648,502**	₱107,648,502
Trade payables	**18,154,855**	120,293,711
Accrued expenses	**65,293,119**	92,122,041
Output VAT	**18,739,038**	7,532,093
Due to sub-agents and brokers	**14,143,835**	15,140,216
Expanded withholding tax	**3,127,574**	3,759,635
Derivative liabilities (Note 9)	**–**	5,020,950
Others	**2,170,239**	2,307,038
	₱229,277,162	₱246,175,684

Due to sub-agents and brokers are noninterest-bearing and are normally settled on a two to four days' term. Due from sub-agents arises from money transfer services and are shown net of related payables to the same sub-agents. Sub-agent accounts with net payable balances are shown under 'Accounts payable and other current liabilities' in the consolidated statement of financial position.

Accrued expenses consists of accruals for profit sharing costs, vacation leave and sick leave conversion, insurance, security services, cash delivery services, utilities, media buys and others.

Trade payables, accrued expenses and other payables are all short-term in nature. These are normally settled on a 60 to 90-day term.

Other payables include merchant deposits, sundry credits, Pag-ibig and Philhealth premiums and other dues.

16. **Notes Payable**

In 2022, the Group availed of various unsecured peso denominated short-term loans from local bank with terms ranging from 1 to 30 days with annual interest rate of 3.75%.

The rollforward of short-term loans in 2022 follows:

	2023	2022
Loans outstanding at beginning of year	**₱–**	₱–
Loan availments	**–**	2,000,000,000
Loan payments	**–**	(2,000,000,000)
Loans outstanding at end of year	**₱–**	₱–

Interest expense incurred on short-term loans amounted to Nil, ₱6.32 million and ₱0.79 million in 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

17. Revenues

Set out below is the disaggregation of the Group's revenues from contracts with customers and revenues not covered under PFRS 15 for the year ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021:

	2023			
	Investment Holdings	**Remittance services**	**Mutual Fund Management**	**Total**
Revenues within the scope of PFRS 15:				
Money transfer service income	**₱–**	**₱114,969,093**	**₱-**	**₱114,969,093**
Service income	**–**		**227,729,033**	**227,729,033**
Share in foreign exchange differential	**–**	**79,804,022**	**–**	**79,804,022**
Money changing gain	**–**	**82,154,915**	**–**	**82,154,915**
Income from business partners	**–**	**18,329,992**	**–**	**18,329,992**
Revenues outside the scope of PFRS 15:				
Interest income (Notes 7, 8 and 9)	**394,283,527**	**24,488,911**	**76,170,106**	**494,942,544**
Trading and investment securities gains - net (Note 9)	**126,641,560**	**–**	**–**	**126,641,560**
Dividend income (Note 9)	**26,835,620**	**–**	**–**	**26,835,620**
Other Income		**86,663**	**9,625**	**96,288**
	₱ 547,760,707	**₱ 319,833,596**	**₱ 303,908,765**	**₱ 1,171,503,068**

	2022			
	Investment Holdings	Remittance services	Mutual Fund Management	Total
Revenues within the scope of PFRS 15:				
Money transfer service income	₱–	₱135,133,672	₱–	₱135,133,672
Service income	–	–	246,236,422	246,236,422
Share in foreign exchange differential	–	92,852,823	–	92,852,823
Money changing gain	–	8,645,517	–	8,645,517
Income from business partners	–	20,171,648	–	20,171,648
Revenues outside the scope of PFRS 15:				
Interest income (Notes 7, 8 and 9)	218,785,806	5,085,327	33,261,929	257,133,062
Trading and investment securities gains - net (Note 9)	(464,741,003)	–	–	(464,741,003)
Dividend income (Note 9)	30,391,442	–	–	30,391,442
Other income	–	1,968,579	–	1,968,579
	(₱215,563,755)	₱263,857,566	₱279,498,351	₱327,792,162

	2021			
	Investment Holdings	Remittance services	Mutual Fund Management	Total
Revenues within the scope of PFRS 15:				
Money transfer service income	₱–	₱192,807,698	₱–	₱192,807,698
Service income	–	–	264,552,473	264,552,473
Share in foreign exchange differential	–	121,203,399	–	121,203,399
Money changing gain	–	60,756,236	–	60,756,236
Income from business partners	42,903,214	11,321,056	–	54,224,270
Revenues outside the scope of PFRS 15:				
Interest income (Notes 7, 8 and 9)	188,494,588	837,083	5,654,923	194,986,594
Trading and investment securities gains - net (Note 9)	45,189,268	–	–	45,189,268
Dividend income (Note 9)	13,579,262	–	–	13,579,262
Other income	10,130	895,763	3,682	909,575
	₱290,176,462	₱387,821,235	₱270,211,078	₱948,208,775

Total interest income follows:

	2023	2022	2021
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 7)	**₱193,821,014**	₱72,331,562	₱12,464,836
Financial assets at FVTPL (Note 9)	**301,121,530**	184,801,500	182,521,758
	₱494,942,544	₱257,133,062	₱194,986,594

PEMI acts as the fund manager of the Funds. As fund manager of the Funds, PEMI is entitled to the following, pursuant to the Management and Distribution Agreement dated March 14, 2003 and entered into with the Funds which is effective year on year unless terminated by both parties:

a. Management income of a maximum of 1.50% per annum is computed based on daily net asset value (NAV) of the Funds. On a monthly basis, PEMI bills the Fund management fee based on the average monthly computed NAV, payable the following month. The NAV shall be determined in accordance with the procedures agreed upon by the parties.

b. The Funds shall remit to PEMI for sales commission of a maximum of 3.50% of the gross investment based on tiered-front end sales schedules charged to shareholders. This is recorded as ‘Receivables’ (Note 8) and collectible the following month.

PEMI recognized management and commission income (presented as ‘Service income’) amounting ₱227.73 million and ₱246.24 million and ₱264.55 million in 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

In January 2021 VEI, as parent company of VFC, and Western Union, amended the Representation Agreement with Western Union expiring December 2026. The amendment essentially lifts exclusivity for inbound or receive transactions effective January 2021 in exchange for a lower share of commissions on said transactions and a $1.00 million signing bonus for VEI as the Parent Company of VFC. The Agreement provides for WU to pay the signing bonus to VEI who in turn will ensure VFC complies with its obligations under the Agreement. VEI has strong oversight over VFC’s management and operations and provides back-office support to VFC. VEI recognized income from business partner amounting to ₱42.90 million in 2021.

18. **Cost of Services**

This account consists of:

	2023	2022	2021
Personnel costs	**₱ 94,730,088**	₱117,897,369	₱121,630,564
Service and commission expense	**52,214,903**	62,106,969	86,435,896
Outside services	**29,479,120**	38,808,969	38,807,688
Depreciation and amortization (Note 13)	**33,842,302**	31,940,492	39,963,171
Cash delivery services	**20,978,723**	27,634,618	30,396,902
Rent (Note 20)	**24,073,689**	31,098,857	18,810,600
Travel and transportation	**12,062,770**	14,881,890	10,671,075
Communication, light and water	**11,520,548**	10,296,571	9,451,276
Supplies	**4,636,696**	5,272,140	4,639,494
Taxes and licenses	**4,356,377**	3,951,291	4,248,002
Repairs and maintenance	**2,823,177**	3,367,057	2,362,379
Entertainment, amusement and recreation	**974,446**	564,361	478,626
Retirement expense (Note 21)	**752,295**	454,559	442,818
Advertising	**129,420**	835,676	145,068
	₱ 292,574,554	₱349,110,819	₱368,483,559

Services and commission fees refer to sales load and trail commissions paid to distributors and agents of the Group. The trail commission is based on the average net asset value (NAV) held by the distributor or agent in the relevant fund managed by the Group. This also include amount paid to the Group's sub-agents as their share in the commission income earned by the Group from WU. Included herein as well is the commission fee paid by the Group to its broker upon sale of its equity securities.

Branch personnel costs consist of trainings and seminar costs, basic salaries, overtime pay and other employee benefits.

Outside services pertain to payroll payments for contracted security guards and utilities/maintenance workers of all branches.

Rent represents short-term lease of branch offices.

Cash delivery services represent charges paid to contracted banks for the delivery of cash to several branches of the Group.

19. **General and Administrative Expenses**

This account consists of:

	2023	2022	2021
Personnel costs	**₱ 67,884,141**	₱24,286,246	₱37,064,890
Legal and Professional fees	**33,178,704**	6,795,214	12,980,403
Travel and transportation	**7,436,997**	11,663,869	6,609,462
Depreciation and amortization (Note 14)	**6,504,547**	10,247,289	21,728,613
Taxes and licenses	**4,694,228**	8,674,979	8,737,672
Retirement expense (Note 21)	**2,276,717**	2,727,641	2,807,400
Membership fees and other dues	**1,449,912**	3,984,652	3,235,499
Supplies	**1,219,015**	1,370,443	1,294,412
Commission expense	**845,422**	1,229,652	3,211,877
Insurance	**731,006**	980,956	1,517,223
Repairs and maintenance	**717,056**	846,683	2,127,192
Entertainment, amusement and recreation	**533,515**	669,720	553,754
Outside services	**461,487**	430,638	512,606
Advertising	**26,822**	3,901	10,909
Provision for credit and impairment losses (Notes 8 and 12)	**4,589,883**		
Others	**7,808,303**	4192583	3092237
	₱ 140,357,755	₱78,104,466	₱105,484,149

Personnel costs consist of trainings and seminar costs, basic salaries, overtime pay and other employee benefits.

Utilities expense represents payments for the telephone and telefax expenses and internet charges of the Group.

Others consist of bank charges, parking fees, notarial fees, postage and courier and miscellaneous expenses.

20. **Leases**

VFC leases their office spaces and the space occupied by VFC branches with varying periods of up to 5 years, and are renewable on such terms and conditions mutually acceptable to both parties. Various lease contracts include escalation clauses, most of which bear annual rent increase ranging from 5.00% to 10.00%.

Right-of-use Assets
The rollforward analysis of right-of-use account follows:

Cost	**2023**	2022
Beginning Balance	**₱78,428,898**	₱124,436,191
Termination/Derecognition	**(31,606,327)**	(62,233,674)
Additions	**26,186,933**	16,226,381
Ending Balance	**73,009,504**	78,428,898
Accumulated Amortization		
Beginning Balance	**53,266,569**	97,545,359
Amortization	**24,064,819**	17,954,884
Termination/Derecognition	**(31,606,327)**	(62,233,674)
Ending Balance	**45,725,061**	53,266,569
	₱27,284,443	₱25,162,329

Lease Liabilities
The rollforward analysis of lease liabilities are as follows:

	2023	2022
Beginning Balance	**₱31,999,639**	₱34,086,240
Additions	**26,186,933**	16,226,381
Interest expense	**1,808,506**	1,851,686
Payments	**(26,399,240)**	(20,164,668)
	₱33,595,838	₱31,999,639

Lease liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position as follows:

	2023	2022
Current lease liabilities	**₱12,600,681**	₱15,238,314
Noncurrent lease liabilities	**20,995,157**	16,761,324
	₱33,595,838	₱31,999,638

The following are the amounts recognized in the statement of income:

	2023	2022
Depreciation expense of right-of-use assets	**₱23,331,865**	₱17,954,884
Interest expense on lease liabilities	**1,808,506**	1,851,686
Rent expense	**24,073,689**	31,098,856
Total amount recognized in statement of income	**₱49,214,060**	₱50,905,426

Shown below is the maturity analysis of the undiscounted future lease payments under non-cancelable leases:

	2023	2022
Within 1 year	**₱15,832,553**	₱16,240,970
More than 1 year to 2 years	**7,832,974**	10,858,469
More than 2 years to 3 years	**3,251,975**	4,058,171
More than 3 years to 4 years	**543,662**	1,597,314
	₱27,461,164	₱32,754,924

21. **Retirement Plan**

The Parent Company and PEMI have unfunded, noncontributory defined benefit pension plans covering substantially all of their qualified employees. VFC has a funded, noncontributory defined benefit pension plan. The funds of the plan of VFC are being administered and managed by the Trust and Investment Services Group of a commercial bank.

The amounts of defined benefit plans are presented in the statements of financial position as follows:

	2023	2022
Retirement liability	**₱14,448,792**	₱8,862,394
Retirement assets presented under 'Other Noncurrent Assets - Others'	**-**	(1,105,159)
Net retirement liability	**₱14,448,792**	₱7,757,235

The breakdown of 'Retirement expense' follows:

	2023	2022	2021
General and administrative expenses (Note 19)	**₱2,276,717**	₱2,727,641	₱2,807,400
Cost of services (Note 18)	**752,295**	454,559	442,818
	₱3,029,012	₱3,182,200	₱3,250,218

Remeasurement gains related to pension plans recognized in OCI follow:

	2023	2022
Actuarial changes in actuarial assumptions in the defined benefit obligation	**(₱1,781,812)**	₱5,307,690
Actuarial changes in actuarial assumptions in return on plan assets	**649,256**	(1,697,507)
Total	**(2,431,068)**	3,610,183
Income tax effect	**771,710**	902,547
	(₱1,659,368)	₱2,707,636

The movement in the Group's retirement liability, present value of defined benefit obligation and fair value of plan assets in 2023 and 2022 follows:

	2023		
	Present value Of DBO	**Fair Value of Plan Assets**	**Net Retirement Liability**
At January 1	**₱23,338,235**	**₱15,006,033**	**₱ 8,331,902**
Expense recognized in statements of income:			
Current service cost	**2,449,868**		**2,449,868**
Net interest cost	**1,647,574**	**1,068,430**	**579,144**
	4,097,442	**1,068,430**	**3,029,012**
Remeasurements in OCI			
Actuarial changes arising from:			
Return on plan assets		**(649,256)**	**649,256**
Changes in financial assumptions	**4,527,835**		**4,527,835**
Deviations of experience from assumptions	**(2,089,213)**		**(2,089,213)**
	2,438,622	**(649,256)**	**3,087,878**
At December 31	**₱29,874,299**	**₱15,425,507**	**₱14,448,792**

	2022		
	Present value Of DBO	Fair Value of Plan Assets	Net Retirement Liability
At January 1	₱24,091,836	₱15,906,618	₱8,185,218
Expense recognized in statements of income:			
Current service cost	2,817,933	–	2,817,933
Net interest cost	1,161,189	796,922	364,267
	3,979,122	796,922	3,182,200
Remeasurements in OCI			
Actuarial changes arising from:			
Return on plan assets	–	(1,697,507)	1,697,507
Changes in financial assumptions	(5,869,674)	–	(5,869,674)
Deviations of experience from assumptions	561,984	–	561,984
	(5,307,690)	(1,697,507)	(3,610,183)
At December 31	₱22,763,268	₱15,006,033	₱7,757,235

The fair values of plan assets of Vantage Financial only by each class as at the end of the reporting periods are as follows:

	2023	2022
Cash and cash equivalents:		
Time deposit	**₱5,795,359**	₱5,596,711
Savings deposit	–	3,656
Investment in Mutual Funds- FVTPL	–	8,753,385
Investment in private corporate debt – FVTPL	**8936740**	–
FVOCI investments:		
Investment in UITF	**260,812**	670,722
Accumulated market gains – UITF	**454,493**	–
Accrued interest income	**50,226**	17,490
	15,497,631	₱15,041,964
Trustee fee payable	**72,424**	(35,931)
	₱15,425,207	₱15,006,033

The carrying values of the plan assets approximate fair values as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

The principal actuarial assumptions used in determining retirement liability of the Parent Company and some of its subsidiaries as of January 1, 2023 and 2022 are shown below:

	January 1, 2023			January 1, 2022		
	Average remaining working life	**Average remaining working life**	**Average remaining working life**	Average remaining working life	Discount rate	Future salary Increase
Parent Company	**5.58 years**	**6.80%**	**3.50%**	15.0 years	3.77%	3.50%
VFC	**4.63 years**	**7.12%**	**3.50%**	5.05 years	5.01%	3.50%
PEMI	**8.38 years**	**7.10%**	**3.50%**	7.42 years	5.03%	3.50%

The assumptions used in computing for the present value of the obligation of the Parent Company and significant subsidiaries as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 follow:

	December 31, 2023			December 31, 2022		
	Average remaining working life	**Average remaining working life**	**Average remaining working life**	Average remaining working life	Discount rate	Future salary Increase
Parent Company	7.67 years	6.07%	4.00%	5.58 years	6.80%	3.50%
VFC	4.42 years	6.08%	4.00%	4.63 years	7.12%	3.50%
PEMI	9.11 years	6.08%	4.00%	8.38 years	7.10%	3.50%

The sensitivity analysis below has been determined based on reasonably possible changes of each significant assumption on the defined benefit obligation as of the end of the reporting period, assuming all other assumptions were held constant:

	December 31, 2023					
	Parent Company		**VFC**		**PEMI**	
	Possible fluctuations	**Increase (decrease)**	**Possible fluctuations**	**Increase (decrease)**	**Possible fluctuations**	**Increase (decrease)**
Discount rate	**1.00%**	**(₱304,478)**	**1.00%**	**(₱1,884,343)**	**1.00%**	**(₱650,083)**
	-1.00%	**351,614**	**-1.00%**	**2,212.93**	**-1.00%**	**764,874**
Future salary increase	**1.00%**	**362,512**	**1.00%**	**2,251,614**	**1.00%**	**777,617**
	-1.00%	**(332369)**	**-1.00%**	**(1,971,460)**	**-1.00%**	**(679,213)**
Estimated working lives	**10.00%**	**42,384**	**10.00%**	**351,004**	**10.00%**	**85,730**
	-10.00%	**(42,384)**	**-10.00%**	**(351,004)**	**-10.00%**	**-(85,730)**

	December 31, 2022					
	Parent Company		VFC		PEMI	
	Possible fluctuations	Increase (decrease)	Possible fluctuations	Increase (decrease)	Possible fluctuations	Increase (decrease)
Discount rate	+1.00%	(₱116,649)	+1.00%	(₱1,492,480)	+1.00%	(₱465,382)
	-1.00%	117,305	-1.00%	1,741,006	-1.00%	540,422
Future salary increase	+1.00%	124,351	+1.00%	1,802,430	+1.00%	559,068
	-1.00%	(129,067)	-1.00%	(1,578,772)	-1.00%	(491,978)
Estimated working lives	+10.00%	419	+10.00%	232,294	+10.00%	53,414
	-10.00%	(419)	-10.00%	(232,294)	-10.00%	(53,414)

Shown below is the maturity analysis of the Group's undiscounted benefit payments:

	December 31, 2023			December 31, 2022		
	Parent Company	**Parent Company**	**Parent Company**	Parent Company	VFC	PEMI
Less than one year	**₱–**	**₱–**	**₱–**	₱–	₱838,296	₱–
More than 1 year up to 5 years	**5,510,955**	**4,915,023**		5,594,299	934,350	–
More than 5 years up to 10 years	–	**11,442,602**	**3,104,624**	–	1,111,112	–
More than 10 years up to 15 years	**6,957,450**	**15,600,029**	**5,148,483**	2,645,299	1,220,215	–
More than 15 years up to 20 years	–	**29,871,046**	**3,323,071**	–	1,382,599	2,447,321
More than 20 years	**13,395,729**	**66,824,331**	**26,587,228**	2,326,371	1,976,629	–

22. **Equity**

Capital stock

The details of this account as of December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021 are shown below:

	2023		2022		2021	
	Shares	**Amount**	Shares	Amount	Shares	Amount
Authorized shares (at par value of ₱1 per share)	**5,000,000,000**	**5,000,000,000**	5,000,000,000	5,000,000,000	5,000,000,000	5,000,000,000
Issued shares, beginning	**4,335,181,766**	**₱4,335,181,766**	4,335,181,766	₱4,335,181,766	4,335,181,766	₱4,335,181,766
Treasury stock	**(135,599,500)**	**(190,460,934)**	(135,599,500)	(190,460,934)	(135,599,500)	(190,460,934)
Outstanding shares	**₱4,199,582,266**	**₱4,144,720,832**	₱4,199,582,266	₱4,144,720,832	4,199,582,266	₱4,144,720,832

The track record of the Parent Company's registration of securities in compliance with the Securities Regulation Code Rule 68 Annex 68-D 1(I) follows:

a. Authorized Shares

Date of SEC Approval	Type of Shares	Authorized Number of Shares
October 27, 2015	Common	5,000,000,000
January 12, 2009	Common	2,250,000,000
October 20, 1992	Common	1,900,000,000

b. Stock Dividends

Date of SEC Approval	Percentage
December 18, 2015	100%
January 12, 2009	25%

c. Number of Shareholders

Year End	Number of shareholders
December 31, 2023	603
December 31, 2022	603

Also, the Group's retained earnings corresponding to the cost of treasury stocks amounting to ₱190.46 million is not available for dividend declaration as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Issuance and redemption of shares to non-controlling interest

In 2023, 2022 and 2021, PMIF issued 7,659,344, 8,429,260 and 6,788,030 shares from the unissued portion of its authorized capital stock to non-controlling interest. The ownership of minority decreased by ₱0.77 million, increased by ₱1.64 million and decreased by ₱17.69 million in 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively. In 2023, various shareholder redeemed 11,627,726 shares of PMIF for ₱9.97 million.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, percentage of ownership interest of the Parent Company in PMIF is 69.49% and 68.15%, respectively.

Retained earnings
In the consolidated financial statements, a portion of the Group's retained earnings corresponding to the accumulated net earnings of the subsidiaries amounting to ₱1.83 billion and ₱1.64 billion as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, is not available for dividend declaration. This accumulated equity in net earnings becomes available for dividend declaration upon receipt of dividends from the investees, subject also to SEC rules on dividend declaration.

Capital Management
The primary objectives of the Parent Company's capital management are to safeguard the Parent Company's ability to continue as a going concern, so that it can continue to provide returns for shareholders and benefits for other stakeholders and to maintain an optimal capital structure to reduce the cost of capital.

The management considers capital stock and retained earnings as core capital of the Parent Company.

23. **Income Tax**

Provision for (benefit from) income tax consists of:

	2023	2022	2021
Current:			
RCIT	**₱25,724,483**	₱41,520,277	₱64,094,482
Final	**96,368,051**	24,211,997	2,311,765
MCIT	–	85,693	746,234
Impact of CREATE Act	–	–	(5,114,043)
	122,092,534	65,817,967	62,038,438
Deferred income tax	**(3,969,887)**	2,689,157	16,539,018
	₱118,122,647	₱68,507,124	₱78,577,456

Provision for current income tax represents the corporate income tax of the Parent Company, PEMI and VFC.

President Rodrigo Duterte signed into law on March 26, 2021 the CREATE Act to attract more investments and maintain fiscal prudence and stability in the Philippines. Republic Act (RA) 11534 or the CREATE Act introduces reforms to the corporate income tax and incentives systems. It takes effect 15 days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation or April 11, 2021.

The following are the key changes to the Philippine tax law pursuant to the CREATE Act which have an impact on the Group:

- Effective July 1, 2020, regular corporate income tax (RCIT) rate is reduced from 30.00% to 25.00% for domestic and resident foreign corporations.
- Minimum corporate income tax (MCIT) rate reduced from 2.00% to 1.00% of gross income effective July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023.

On June 20, 2023, the Bureau of Internal Revenue issued Revenue Memorandum Circular (RMC) No. 69-2023 reverting the MCIT rate to 2% of gross income effective July 1, 2023 pursuant to the CREATE Act. Consequently, the Company recognized MCIT using the effective rate of 1.5% in 2023 in accordance with RMC 69-2023.

Components of the net deferred tax assets and liabilities of the Group follow:

	2023	2022
Deferred tax assets on:		
Allowance for impairment and credit losses	**₱2,798,606**	₱1,102,556
Lease liabilities	**288,919**	208,800
Retirement liability	**315,203**	1,170,601
	3,402,728	2,481,957
Deferred tax liabilities on:		
Unrealized foreign exchange gain	**(822,329)**	(10,377,041)
OCI remeasurements on pension	**99,706**	(783,253)
	(722,623)	(11,160,294)
Net deferred tax asset (liability)	**₱2,680,105**	(₱8,678,337)

The details of deductible temporary differences and carryforward benefits of NOLCO and MCIT for which no deferred tax asset had been recognized in the consolidated statements of financial position as management believes that there will be no sufficient future taxable income against which these can be applied, are as follows:

	2023	2022
Allowance for impairment and credit losses	**₱47,179,789**	₱7,852,152
NOLCO	**54,087,252**	23,402,628
MCIT	**611,956**	1,578,403
Others	**2,135,699**	2,135,699
	₱103,402,740	₱34,968,882

On September 30, 2020, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has issued Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 25-2020 to implement Section 4 (bbbb) of Republic Act No. 11494, otherwise known as “Bayanihan to Recover as One Act”, allowing qualified businesses or enterprises which incurred net operating loss for taxable years 2020 and 2021 to carry over the same as a deduction from its gross income for the next five (5) consecutive taxable years immediately following the year of such loss.

As of December 31, 2023, the Group has available NOLCO which can be claimed as deduction from the regular taxable income for the next three (3) consecutive taxable years immediately following the year of such loss. Details are as follows:

Inception Year	Amount	Applied/ Expired	Balance	Expiry Year
2022	₱9,158,326	₱–	₱9,158,326	2025
2023	30,684,624	–	30,684,624	2026
	₱39,842,950	₱–	₱39,842,950	

As of December 31, 2023, the Group have incurred NOLCO for taxable years 2020 and 2021 which can be claimed as deduction from the regular taxable income for the next five (5) consecutive taxable years pursuant to Bayanihan 2. Details are as follows:

Inception Year	Amount	Applied/Expired	Balance	Expiry Year
2020	₱11,938,538	₱–	₱11,938,538	2025
2021	2,305,764	–	2,305,764	2026
	₱14,244,302	₱–	₱14,244,302	

Details of the Group's MCIT are as follows:

Inception Year	Amount	Applied/Expired	Balance	Expiry Year
2020	₱994,978	₱994,978	₱–	2023
2021	497,974	–	497,732	2024
2022	85,693	–	85,693	2025
2023	28,531		28,531	2026
	₱1,607,176	₱994,978	₱611,956	

The reconciliation of income before income tax computed at the statutory income tax rate to the provision for income tax as shown in the consolidated statements of income is as follows:

	2023	2022	2021
Statutory income tax	**25.00%**	25.00%	25.00%
Income tax effects of:			
Tax-paid income	**(4.52%)**	(73.22%)	(4.45%)
Changes in unrecognized deferred tax assets	**2.29%**	7.19%	(1.07%)
Nondeductible expenses	**0.01%**	174.16%	0.45%
Nontaxable income	**(5.06%)**	(0.19%)	(3.79%)
Excess MCIT over RCIT	**0.00%**	0.14%	0.13%
Impact of CREATE Act	**0.00%**	0.00%	(0.89%)
Others	**(1.90%)**	(21.92%)	(1.61%)
Effective income tax	**15.82%**	111.18%	13.77%

24. Related Party Transactions

Parties are considered to be related if one party has the ability to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial and operating decisions. This includes: (a) individuals owning, directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, control, or are controlled by, or under common control with, the Group; (b) associates; and, (c) individuals owning, directly or indirectly, an interest in the voting power of the Group that gives them significant influence over the Group and close members of the family of any such individual.

Related party transactions with subsidiaries are eliminated in the consolidated financial statements. These transactions are based on terms similar to those offered to non-related parties and are settled in cash.

The following table presents the balances of intercompany transactions of the Group as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021. Transactions with subsidiaries have been eliminated in the consolidated financial statements.

		2023		
Related Party	**Category**	**Amount/ Volume**	**Outstanding Balance**	**Nature, terms and conditions**
FAUSI (Associate)	**Reimbursable expenses (Other receivables)**	**₱–**	**₱61,246**	**On demand, noninterest bearing and unsecured**
Stockholders	**Advances from stockholders**		**107,648,502**	**On demand, noninterest bearing and unsecured**

		2022		
Related Party	Category	Amount/ Volume	Outstanding Balance	Nature, terms and conditions
FAUSI (Associate)	Reimbursable expenses (Other receivables)	₱–	₱61,246	On demand, noninterest bearing and unsecured
Stockholders	Advances from stockholders		107,648,502	On demand, noninterest bearing and unsecured

		2021		
Related Party	Category	Amount/ Volume	Outstanding Balance	Nature, terms and conditions
FAUSI (Associate)	Reimbursable expenses (Other receivables)	₱–	₱61,246	On demand, noninterest bearing and unsecured
Stockholders	Advances from stockholders		107,648,502	On demand, noninterest bearing and unsecured

Terms and conditions of transactions with other related parties
Outstanding balances at year-end are unsecured and settlement occurs in cash. There have been no guarantees provided or received for any related party receivables or payables. An assessment is undertaken each financial year through a review of the financial position of the related party and the market in which the related party operates. In 2023, 2022 and 2021, no provisions for credit losses were provided for the related parties' transactions.

Remunerations of Directors and Other Key Management Personnel
Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Group, directly or indirectly. The Group considers the members of the Executive Committee to constitute key management personnel for purposes of PAS 24, *Related Party Disclosures*.

Salaries and short-term benefits to the Group's key management personnel amounted to ₱25.25 million in 2023 and ₱19.15 million 2022 and 2021. Post-employment benefits amounted to ₱3.03 million, ₱3.18 million and ₱3.25 million in 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively. Director fees amounted to ₱6.72 million, ₱6.43 million and ₱6.85 million in 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

25. Basic/Diluted Earnings Per Share

	2023	2022	2021
(a) Net income attributable to equity holders of the Parent Company	**₱544,251,521**	(₱74,180,861)	₱399,551,536
(b) Divided by weighted average number of common shares	**4,199,582,266**	4,199,582,266	4,199,582,266
(c) Basic/Diluted earnings per share (a/b)	**₱0.1296**	(₱0.0177)	₱0.0951

As of December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021, the Parent Company does not have dilutive potential common shares.

26. Mutual Fund Operations

The following assets and liabilities held by PAOF in relation to the investment of the unitholders are not included in the consolidated statements of financial position as these are not assets and liabilities of PAOF:

	2023	2022
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	**₱25,700,042**	₱27,612,432
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	**229,881,806**	254,948,003
Other receivables	**453,887**	189,495
Liabilities		
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	**(1,196,566)**	(4,870,039)
	₱254,839,169	₱277,879,891

The movements in the net assets attributable to unitholders of PAOF in 2023 and 2022 follow:

	2023	2022
Balance beginning of year	**₱277,879,891**	₱270,454,882
Subscriptions	**449,197**	88,712,977
Redemptions	**(1,131,155)**	(47,318,300)
Net income attributable to unitholders	**−**	(33,969,668)
Balance at end of year	**₱254,839,169**	₱277,879,891

27. Contingencies

In the normal course of operations of the Group, there are outstanding commitments and contingent liabilities which are not reflected in the financial statements. The Group does not anticipate losses that will materially affect its assets and liabilities as a result of these transactions.

28. Approval for the Release of the Financial Statements

The accompanying consolidated financial statements were approved and authorized for issuance by the Parent Company's BOD on April 29, 2024.

SGV
Building a better working world

SyCip Gorres Velayo & Co.
6760 Ayala Avenue
1226 Makati City
Philippines

Tel: (632) 8891 0307
Fax: (632) 8819 0872
ey.com/ph

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
ON SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES**

The Stockholders and Board of Directors
Vantage Equities, Inc.
15th Floor, Philippine Stock Exchange Tower,
28th St. Corner 5th Ave., Bonifacio Global City
Taguig City, Metro Manila

We have audited, in accordance with Philippine Standards on Auditing, the consolidated financial statements of Vantage Equities, Inc. and Subsidiaries (the Group) as at December 31, 2023, for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated April 29, 2024. Our audits were made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole. The schedules listed in the Index to the Supplementary Schedules are the responsibility of the Group's management. These schedules are presented for the purpose of complying with Revised Securities Regulation Code Rule No. 68, and are not part of the basic consolidated financial statements. These schedules have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic consolidated financial statements and, in our opinion, fairly state, in all material respects, the financial information required to be set forth therein in relation to the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole.

SYCIP GORRES VELAYO & CO.

Janeth T. Nuñez-Javier

Janeth T. Nuñez-Javier
Partner
CPA Certificate No. 111092
Tax Identification No. 900-322-673
BOA/PRC Reg. No. 0001, April 16, 2024, valid until August 23, 2026
BIR Accreditation No. 08-001998-069-2023, October 23, 2023, valid until October 22, 2026
PTR No. 10079984, January 6, 2024, Makati City

April 29, 2024

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6760 Ayala Avenue
1226 Makati City
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Tel: (632) 8891 0307
Fax: (632) 8819 0872
ey.com/ph

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
COMPONENTS OF FINANCIAL SOUNDNESS INDICATORS

The Stockholders and Board of Directors
Vantage Equities, Inc. and Subsidiaries
15th Floor, Philippine Stock Exchange Tower,
28th St. Corner 5th Ave., Bonifacio Global City
Taguig City, Metro Manila

We have audited in accordance with Philippine Standards on Auditing, the consolidated financial statements of Vantage Equities, Inc. and Subsidiaries (the Group) as at December 31, 2023 and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated April 29, 2024. Our audits were made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic consolidated financial statements taken as a whole. The Supplementary Schedule on Financial Soundness Indicators, including their definitions, formulas, calculation, and their appropriateness or usefulness to the intended users, are the responsibility of the Group's management. These financial soundness indicators are not measures of operating performance defined by Philippine Financial Reporting Standards (PFRS) and may not be comparable to similarly titled measures presented by other companies. This schedule is presented for the purpose of complying with the Revised Securities Regulation Code Rule 68 issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission, and is not a required part of the basic consolidated financial statements prepared in accordance with PFRS. The components of these financial soundness indicators have been traced to the consolidated financial statements as at December 31, 2023 and 2022 and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2023 and no material exceptions were noted.

SYCIP GORRES VELAYO & CO.

Janeth T. Nuñez-Javier

Janeth T. Nuñez-Javier
Partner
CPA Certificate No. 111092
Tax Identification No. 900-322-673
BOA/PRC Reg. No. 0001, April 16, 2024, valid until August 23, 2026
BIR Accreditation No. 08-001998-069-2023, October 23, 2023, valid until October 22, 2026
PTR No. 10079984, January 6, 2024, Makati City

April 29, 2024

VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
INDEX TO SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES
DECEMBER 31, 2023

Schedules Required under Securities Regulation Code Rule 68

SCHEDULE I
RECONCILIATION OF RETAINED EARNINGS
AVAILABLE FOR DIVIDEND DECLARATION
DECEMBER 31, 2023

Vantage Equities, Inc.
15th Floor Philippine stock Exchange,
5th Avenue cor. 28th St. Bonifacio Global City,
Taguig City, Metro Manila, Philippines

Unappropriated retained earnings, beginning	**₱2,684,674,372**
Add: Net income actually earned/realized during the period	
Net income during the period closed to retained earnings	434,813,531
Less: Fair value adjustment (mark-to-market gains)	(177,206,337)
Net income actually earned (incurred) during the period	**257,607,194**
Less: Treasury shares	(190,460,934)
Total retained earnings, end available for dividend declaration	**₱2,751,820,632**

SCHEDULE II

MAP SHOWING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN AND AMONG PARENT AND SUBSIDIARIES

VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC. and SUBSIDIARIES
Schedule Showing Financial Soundness Indicators in Two Comparative Periods

	Formula	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2022
Current Ratio	Current Asset/Current Liabilities	4810.21%	4165.53%
Acid Test Ratio	(Cash Eq + Marketable Securities + Receivables)/Current Liabilities	4797.88%	4158.74%
Solvency Ratio	Net Income/Total Liabilities	224.07%	-1.98%
Debt-to-Equity Ratio	Total Liabilities/Total Equity	2.41%	2.75%
Debt Ratio	Total Liabilities/Total Assets	2.35%	2.68%
Asset-to-Equity Ratio	Total Assets/Total Equity	102.41%	102.75%
Interest Rate Coverage Ratio	EBIT/Interest Expense	N/A	N/A
Return on Assets	Net Income/Average Total Asset	5.40%	-0.05%
Return on Equity	Net Income/Average Total Equity	5.54%	-0.05%
Net Profit Margin	Gross Profit/Net Income	139.17%	352.31%
Book Value Per Share	(Total Shareholder Equity – Preferred Equity)/No. of Outstanding Shares	2.79	2.65

Vantage Equities, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Schedule A - Financial Assets
December 31, 2023

Name of issuing entity and association of each issue	Number of shares or principal amount of bonds or notes	Amount shown on the balance sheet	Valued based on market quotation at balance sheet date	Income accrued
Financial Assets at FVPL:				
Quoted				
Government bonds	4,413,156,185	₱4,138,571,611	₱4,138,571,611	
Corporate bonds	1,047,810,275	1,327,630,542	1,327,630,542	290,848,447
Equity securities	378,288,043	896,256,100	896,256,100	9,743,567
Mutual fund	167,782,867	717,551,379	717,551,379	–
Derivative asset	-	562,000	562,000	–

Vantage Equities, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Schedule B - Amounts Receivable from Directors, Officers, Employees, Related Parties and Principal Stockholders (Other than Related Parties)
December 31, 2023

Name of Debtor	Balance at beginning of period	Additions	Amounts Collected	Amounts Written-off	Current	Non-Current	Balance at end of period

None to Report.

Receivables from Directors, Officers, Employees, Related Parties and Principal Stockholders are subject to usual terms in the normal course of business.

Vantage Equities, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Schedule C - Amounts Receivable from Related Parties which are eliminated during the consolidation of financial statements
December 31, 2023

Name of Debtor	Balance at beginning of period	Additions	Amounts Collected (i)	Amounts Written-off (ii)	Current	Non-Current	Balance at end of period
Vantage Financial Corporation	₱–	₱–	₱–	₱–	₱–	₱–	₱–
Philequity MSCI Index Fund, Inc.	331,541	–	–	–	331,541	₱–	331,541
Total	₱331,541	₱331,541	₱–	₱–	₱331,541	₱–	₱331,541

(i) If collected was other than in cash, explain.
(ii) Give reasons to write-off.

Vantage Equities, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Schedule D - Long-Term Debt
December 31, 2023

Title of issue and type of obligation [i]	Amount authorized by indenture	Amount shown under caption "Current portion of long-term debt' in related balance sheet [ii]	Amount shown under caption "Long-Term Debt" in related balance sheet [iii]	Interest Rate %	Maturity Date

None to Report.

---

[i] Include in this column each type of obligation authorized.
[ii] This column is to be totalled to correspond to the related balance sheet caption.
[iii] Include in this column details as to interest rates, amounts or numbers of periodic instalments, and maturity dates.

Vantage Equities, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Schedule E - Indebtedness to Related Parties
(included in the consolidated financial statement of position)
December 31, 2023

Name of Related Parties [i]	Balance at beginning of period	Balance at end of period [ii]

None to Report.

---

[i] The related parties named shall be grouped as in Schedule D. The information called shall be stated for any persons whose investments shown separately in such related schedule.
[ii] For each affiliate named in the first column, explain in a note hereto the nature and purpose of any material increase during the period that is in excess of 10 percent of the related balance at either the beginning or end of the period.

Vantage Equities, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Schedule F - Guarantees of Securities of Other Issuers
December 31, 2023

Name of issuing entity of securities guaranteed by the company for which this statement is filed	Title of issue of each class of securities guaranteed	Total amount of guaranteed and outstanding [i]	Amount owned by person of which statement is filed	Nature of guarantee [ii]

None to Report.

(i) Indicate in a note any significant changes since the date of the last balance sheet file. If this schedule is filed in support of consolidated financial statements, there shall be set forth guarantees by any person included in the consolidation except such guarantees of securities which are included in the consolidated balance sheet.
(ii) There must be a brief statement of the nature of the guarantee, such as "Guarantee of principal and interest", "Guarantee of Interest", or "Guarantee of Dividends". If the guarantee is of interest, dividends, or both, state the annual aggregate amount of interest or dividends so guaranteed.

Vantage Equities, Inc. and Subsidiaries
Schedule G- Capital Stock
December 31, 2023

(Absolute numbers of shares)

Title of Issue [i]	Number of shares authorized	Number of shares issued and outstanding as shown under the related balance sheet caption	Number of shares reserved for options, warrants, conversion and other rights	Number of shares held by related parties [ii]	Directors, officers and employees	Others [iii]
Common	5,000,000,000	4,199,582,266	None to Report	None to Report	783,258,856	Directors buy 80 shares

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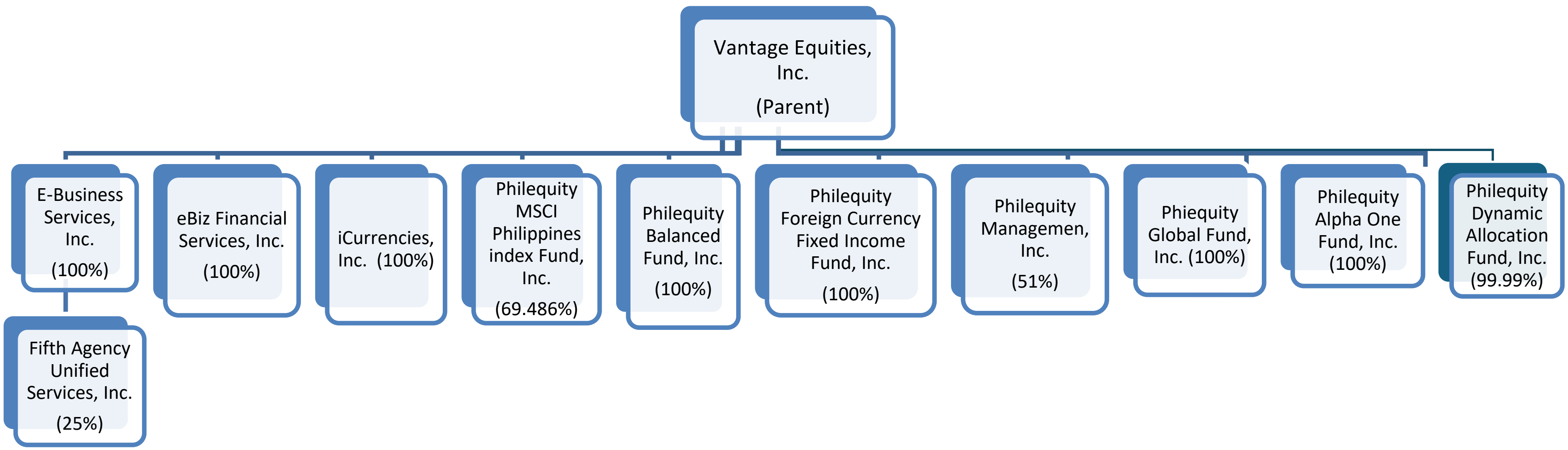
[i] Include in this column each type of issue authorized
[ii] Related parties referred to include persons for which separate financial statements are filed and those included in the consolidated financial statements, other than the issuer of the particular security.
[iii] Indicate in a note any significant changes since the date of the last balance sheet filed.

SCHEDULE II
MAP SHOWING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN AND AMONG PARENT AND SUBSIDIARIES



VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC.

STATEMENT OF MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The management of **Vantage Equities, Inc. and its Subsidiaries** is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements including the schedules attached therein, for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021, in accordance with the prescribed financial reporting framework indicated therein, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative to do so.

The Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

The Board of Directors reviews and approves the financial statements, including the schedules attached therein, and submits the same to stockholders.

Sycip, Gorres, Velayo and Co., the independent auditors, appointed by the stockholders has audited the financial statements of the Company in accordance with Philippine Standards on Auditing, and in their report to the stockholders, have expressed their opinion on the fairness of presentation upon completion of such audit.

VALENTINO C. SY	**EDMUNDO MARCO P. BUNYI JR.**	**JOSEPH L. ONG**
Chairman	Vice Chairman/CEO	Treasurer
TIN: 122-335-536	TIN: 107-184-956	TIN: 108-789-427

Signed this _____day of APR 2 9 2024.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to me before this APR 2 9 2024 at CITY OF MANILA, affiants exhibiting to me their Tax Identification Number.

Doc. No. 433
Page No. 88
Book No. CXXVII
Series of 2024.

ATTY. GARY CAMITAN AURE
NOTARY PUBLIC, CITY OF MANILA
ROLL NO 60777 IBP LIFETIME NO 14599-02-02/2018, PASIG CITY
PTR NO 1527787 01/02/2024 MANILA
COMMISSION NO 2023-018-01/01/2023 UNTIL DEC 31, 2024 MANILA
MCLE NO. VII-0001848-10/20/2019 VALID UNTIL APRIL 14, 2025 P.C
OFFICE: BURGUNDY TRANSPACIFIC PLACE TAFT AVE. MALATE, MLA.

Vantage Equities Inc <compliance@vantage.ph>

SEC eFast Initial Acceptance

noreply-cifssost@sec.gov.ph <noreply-cifssost@sec.gov.ph> Mon, Apr 29, 2024 at 11:20 PM

Greetings!

SEC Registration No: AS92007059
Company Name: VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC.
Document Code: AFS

This serves as temporary receipt of your submission.
Subject to verification of form and quality of files of the submitted report.
Another email will be sent as proof of review and acceptance.

Thank you.

REMINDER: TO ALL FILERS OF REPORTS IN THE e-FAST Please strictly follow the instruction stated in the form. Filings not in accordance with the prescribed template for the following reports will be automatically reverted by the system to the filer. 1. General Information Sheet (GIS-Stock) 2. General Information Sheet (GIS-Non-stock) 3. General Information Sheet (GIS- Foreign stock & non-stock) 4. Broker Dealer Financial Statements (BDFS) 5. Financing Company Financial Statements (FCFS) 6. Investment Houses Financial Statements (IHFS) 7. Publicly – Held Company Financial Statement 8. General Form for Financial Statements 9. Financing Companies Interim Financial Statements (FCIF) 10. Lending Companies Interim Financial Statements (LCIF) Per Section 18 of SEC Memorandum Circular No. 3 series of 2021, the reckoning date of receipt of reports is the date the report was initially submitted to the eFast, if the filed report is compliant with the existing requirements. A report, which was reverted or rejected, is considered not filed or not received. A notification will be sent to the filer, stating the reason for the reports rejection in the remarks box.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Headquarters, 7907 Makati Avenue,
Salcedo Village, Barangay Bel-Air, Makati City,
1209, Metro Manila, Philippines

VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC.

Vantage Equities Inc <compliance@vantage.ph>

Vantage Equities Inc CONSO_122023_AAFS_29APR_2024

2 messages

Vantage Equities Inc <compliance@vantage.ph> Mon, Apr 29, 2024 at 11:10 PM
To: ICTD Submission <ictdsubmission@sec.gov.ph>
Cc: MSRD COVID19 <msrd_covid19@sec.gov.ph>, Lily Yu <lily.yu@vantage.ph>, Angelica Cabanit <angelica.cabanit@philequity.net>, Cherry Lynne Ozenia-Garin <cherrylynne.ozenia@philequity.net>

Greetings
Enclosed herewith Vantage Equities Inc Conso AAFS as of and for the period ended 31 December 2023.

Thank you.
Vantage Equities, inc.

Vantage Equities Inc. and Subsidiaries_AAFS CONSO_122023.pdf
1043K

ICTD Submission <ictdsubmission+canned.response@sec.gov.ph> Mon, Apr 29, 2024 at 11:13 PM
To: compliance@vantage.ph

Thank you for reaching out to ictdsubmission@sec.gov.ph!

Your submission is subject for Verification and Review of the Quality of the Attached Document only for Secondary Reports. The Official Copy of the submitted document/report with Barcode Page (Confirmation Receipt) will be made available after 7 working days via order through the SEC Express at https://secexpress.ph/. For further clarifications, please call (02) 8737-8888.

--- NOTICE TO COMPANIES ---

Please be informed of the reports that shall be filed only through ictdsubmission@sec.gov.ph.

Pursuant to SEC MC Circular No. 3 s 2021, scanned copies of the printed reports with wet signature and proper notarization shall be filed in PORTABLE DOCUMENT FORMAT (pdf) through email at ictdsubmission@sec.gov.ph such as the following SECONDARY REPORTS:

1. 17-A 6. ICA-QR 11. IHAR 16. 39-AR 21. Monthly Reports
2. 17-C 7. 23-A 12. AMLA-CF 17. 36-AR 22. Quarterly Reports
3. 17-L 8. 23-B 13. NPM 18. PNFS 23. Letters
4. 17-Q 9. GIS-G 14. NPAM 19. MCG 24. OPC (Alternate Nominee)
5. ICASR 10. 52-AR 15.BP-FCLC 20.S10/SEC-NTCE-EXEMPT

Further, effective 01 July 2023, the following reports shall be submitted through https://efast.sec.gov.ph/user/login.

1. FORM MC 18 7. Completion Report
2. FORM 1 - MC 19 8. Certificate-SEC Form MCG- 2009
3. FORM 2- MC 19 9. Certificate-SEC Form MCG- 2002, 2020 ETC.
4. ACGR 10. Certification of Attendance in Corporate Governance
5. I-ACGR 11. Secretary's Certificate Meeting of Board Directors (Appointment)
6. MRPT

Please be informed that the submission of the abovementioned eleven (11) reports through the ictdsubmission@sec.gov.ph shall no longer be accepted. For further information, please access this link Notice for guidance on the filing of reports:

Likewise, the following reports shall be filed through the Electronic Filing and Submission Tool (eFAST) at https://efast.sec.gov.ph/user/login :

1. AFS 7. IHFS 13. SSF
2. GIS 8. LCFS 14. AFS with Affidavit of No Operation
3. BDFS 9. LCIF 15. AFS with NSPO Form 1,2, and 3
4. FCFS 10. OPC_AO 16. AFS with NSPO Form 1,2,3 and 4,5,6
5. FCIF 11. PHFS 17. FS - Parent
6. GFFS 12. SFFS 18. FS – Consolidated

For the submission and processing of compliance in the filing of Memorandum Circular No. 28 Series of 2020, please visit this link – https://apps010.sec.gov.ph/

For your information and guidance.

Thank you.

COVER SHEET

SEC Registration Number

A	S	O	9	2	-	0	0	7	0	5	9

Company Name

VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC.

Principal Office (No./Street/Barangay/City/Town/Province)

15th Floor, Philippine Stock Exchange Tower, 28th St. Corner 5th Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila

Form Type	Department requiring the report	Secondary License Type, If Applicable
AAFS	SEC	N/A

COMPANY INFORMATION

Company's Email Address	Company's Telephone Number/s	Mobile Number
compliance@vantage.ph	**250-8700**	**09175954785**

No. of Stockholders	Annual Meeting Month/Day	Fiscal Year Month/Day
		12/31

CONTACT PERSON INFORMATION

The designated contact person ***MUST*** be an Officer of the Corporation

Name of Contact Person	Email Address	Telephone Number/s	Mobile Number
Ms. Ma. Angelica Cabanit	**Angelica.cabanit@philequity.net**	**8250-8741**	**0917-590-7176**

Contact Person's Address

15TH Floor Phil. Stock Exchange, 5th Ave. cor 28th St. Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City

Note: In case of death, resignation or cessation of office of the officer designated as contact person, such incident shall be reported to the Commission within thirty (30) calendar days from the occurrence thereof with information and complete contact details of the new contact person designated.

VANTAGE
EQUITIES, INC.

STATEMENT OF MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The management of **Vantage Equities, Inc.** is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements including the schedules attached therein, for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, in accordance with the prescribed financial reporting framework indicated therein, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative to do so.

The Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

The Board of Directors reviews and approves the financial statements, including the schedules attached therein, and submits the same to stockholders.

Sycip, Gorres, Velayo and Co., the independent auditors, appointed by the stockholders has audited the financial statements of the Company in accordance with Philippine Standards on Auditing, and in their report to the stockholders, have expressed their opinion on the fairness of presentation upon completion of such audit.

Valeko Sy		
VALENTINO C. SY	**EDMUNDO MARCO P. BUNYI JR.**	**JOSEPH L. ONG**
Chairman	Vice Chairman/CEO	Treasurer
CTC No.:	CTC No.:	CTC No.:
TIN: 122-335-536	TIN: 107-184-956	TIN: 108-789-427

Signed this _____ day of APR 29 2024.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to me before this APR 29 2024 at CITY OF MANILA, affiants exhibiting to me their Community tax Certificates.

Doc. No. 432
Page No. 88
Book No. CXLVII
Series of 2024.

ATTY. GARY CAMITAN AURE
NOTARY PUBLIC, CITY OF MANILA
ROLL NO 60777 IBP LIFETIME NO 14599-02-02/2018, PASIG CITY
PTR NO 1527787-01/02/2024 MANILA
COMMISSION NO 2023-018-01/01/2023 UNTIL DEC 31, 2024 MANILA
MCLE NO. VII-0001848-10/20/2019 VALID UNTIL APRIL 14, 2025 P.C
OFFICE: BURGUNDY TRANSPACIFIC PLACE TAFT AVE. MALATE, MLA.

Vantage Equities, Inc.

Parent Company Financial Statements
December 31, 2023 and 2022
and for the years ended December 31, 2023,
2022 and 2021

and

Independent Auditor's Report

SGV
Building a better
working world

A member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited

SyCip Gorres Velayo & Co.
6760 Ayala Avenue
1226 Makati City
Philippines

Tel: (632) 8891 0307
Fax: (632) 8819 0872
ey.com/ph

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Stockholders and the Board of Directors
Vantage Equities, Inc.

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the parent company financial statements of Vantage Equities, Inc. (the Parent Company), which comprise the parent company statements of financial position as at December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the parent company statements of comprehensive income, statements of changes in equity and parent company statements of cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2023, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

In our opinion, the accompanying parent company financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Parent Company as at December 31,2023 and 2022, and its financial performance and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2023 in accordance with Philippine Financial Reporting Standards (PFRSs).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with Philippine Standards on Auditing (PSAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants in the Philippines (Code of Ethics) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the Philippines, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with PFRSs, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the parent company financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Parent Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the parent company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Parent Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with PSAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with PSAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the parent company's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the parent company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the parent company to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Report on the Supplementary Information Required Under Revenue Regulations 15-2010

Our audits are conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplementary information required under Revenue Regulations 15-2010 in Note 26 to the financial statements is presented for purposes of filing with the Bureau of Internal Revenue and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of the management of Vantage Equities, Inc. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the basic financial statements. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Janeth T. Nuñez-Javier
Partner
CPA Certificate No. 111092
Tax Identification No. 900-322-673
BOA/PRC Reg. No. 0001, April 16, 2024, valid until August 23, 2026
BIR Accreditation No. 08-001998-069-2023, October 23, 2023, valid until October 22, 2026
PTR No. 10079984, January 6, 2024, Makati City

April 29, 2024

VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC.
PARENT COMPANY STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	December 31	
	2023	2022
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 6)	**₱1,698,036,527**	₱2,286,741,968
Receivables (Note 7)	**53,628,752**	36,813,392
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (Note 8)	**6,830,142,624**	5,840,963,416
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	**1,841,227**	779,281
Total Current Assets	**8,583,649,130**	8,165,298,057
Noncurrent Assets		
Investments in subsidiaries (Note 10)	**433,761,231**	432,761,231
Property and equipment (Note 11)	**36,887,757**	37,177,233
Other noncurrent assets (Note 12)	**1,055,650**	333,529
Total Noncurrent Assets	**471,704,638**	470,271,993
	₱9,055,353,768	₱8,635,570,050
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities (Note 14)	**₱6,420,108**	₱9,592,650
Derivative liabilities (Note 8)	**-**	3,599,150
Income tax payable	**-**	85,693
Total Current Liabilities	**6,420,108**	13,277,493
Noncurrent Liability		
Retirement liability (Note 15)	**5,885,419**	4,112,250
Deferred tax liabilities (Note 20)	**-**	9,566,570
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	**5,885,419**	13,678,820
Total Liabilities	**12,305,527**	26,956,313
Equity		
Capital stock (Note 16)	**4,335,181,766**	4,335,181,766
Treasury stock (Note 16)	**(190,460,934)**	(190,460,934)
Retained earnings	**4,898,129,856**	4,463,316,324
Remeasurement gains on retirement plan (Note 15)	**197,553**	576,581
Total Equity	**9,043,048,241**	8,608,613,737
	₱9,055,353,768	₱8,635,570,050

See accompanying Notes to Parent Company Financial Statements.

VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC.
PARENT COMPANY STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Years Ended December 31		
	2023	2022	2021
TRADING AND INVESTMENT SECURITIES GAINS (LOSSES) - NET (Note 8)	**₱123,696,795**	(₱440,213,693)	₱48,551,092
INTEREST INCOME (Note 18)	**392,964,187**	218,414,320	188,386,266
INCOME FROM BUSINESS PARTNER (Note 19)	**-**	-	42,903,215
REALIZED FOREIGN EXCHANGE GAIN (Note 9)	**1,485,784**	15,364,496	15,459,396
UNREALIZED FOREIGN EXCHANGE GAINS (LOSSES) (Note 9)	**(643,321)**	36,386,005	26,575,676
DIVIDEND INCOME (Note 8)	**17,463,766**	23,459,352	7,929,930
RENTAL INCOME	**1,432,560**	-	-
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES (Note 17)	**(36,021,727)**	(20,814,398)	(23,844,178)
OTHER LOSSES - NET	**(65,640)**	(6,525,568)	(813,485)
INCOME (LOSS) BEFORE INCOME TAX	**500,312,404**	(173,929,486)	305,147,912
PROVISION FOR INCOME TAX (Note 20)	**65,498,872**	16,671,702	19,650,174
NET INCOME (LOSS)	**434,813,532**	(190,601,188)	285,497,738
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)			
Item that will not recycle to profit or loss in subsequent periods:			
Remeasurement gains (loss) on retirement plan – net of tax (Note 15)	**(379,028)**	346,605	251,604
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)	**₱434,434,504**	(₱190,947,793)	₱285,749,342
EARNINGS (LOSS) PER SHARE (Note 24)	**₱0.1035**	(₱0.0454)	₱0.0680

See accompanying Notes to Parent Company Financial Statements.

VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC.

PARENT COMPANY STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Capital Stock (Note 16)	**Treasury Stock** (Note 16)	**Retained Earnings**	**Remeasurement Gains (Losses) on Retirement Plan** (Note 15)	**Total**
Balance at January 1, 2023	**₱4,335,181,766**	**(₱190,460,934)**	**₱4,463,316,324**	**₱576,581**	**₱8,608,613,737**
Total comprehensive income for the year	**-**	**-**	**434,813,532**	**(379,028)**	**434,434,504**
Balance at December 31, 2023	**₱4,335,181,766**	**(₱190,460,934)**	**₱4,898,129,856**	**₱197,553**	**₱9,043,048,241**
Balance at January 1, 2022	₱4,335,181,766	(₱190,460,934)	₱4,653,917,512	₱229,976	₱8,798,868,320
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	(190,601,188)	346,605	(190,254,582)
Balance at December 31, 2022	₱4,335,181,766	(₱190,460,934)	₱4,463,316,324	₱576,581	₱8,608,613,737
Balance at January 1, 2021	₱4,335,181,766	(₱190,460,934)	₱4,368,419,774	(₱21,628)	₱8,513,118,978
Total comprehensive income for the year			285,497,738	251,604	285,749,342
Balance at December 31, 2021	₱4,335,181,766	(₱190,460,934)	₱4,653,917,512	₱229,976	₱8,798,868,320

See accompanying Notes to Parent Company Financial Statements.
Amount

VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC.

PARENT COMPANY STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	Years Ended December 31		
	2023	2022	2021
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Income (loss) before income tax	**₱500,312,403**	(₱173,929,486)	₱305,147,912
Adjustments for:			
Interest income (Note 18)	**(392,964,187)**	(218,414,320)	(188,386,266)
Unrealized foreign exchange loss (gain) (Note 9)	**643,321**	(36,386,005)	(26,575,676)
Dividend income (Note 8)	**(17,463,766)**	(23,459,352)	(7,929,930)
Unrealized market valuation loss (gain) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss (Note 8)	**(165,717,496)**	450,416,307	2,523,076
Depreciation and amortization (Notes 11)	**289,476**	1,951,496	4,368,106
Retirement costs (Note 15)	**641,040**	437,496	395,236
Operating income (loss) before working capital changes	**(74,259,209)**	616,136	89,542,458
Decrease (increase) in:			
Receivables	**(923,081)**	3,808,647	15,770,587
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	**(823,461,710)**	740,265,851	(287,265,852)
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	**(1,061,946)**	1,867,653	413,290
Other noncurrent assets	**(118,000)**	164,694	–
Increase (decrease) in accrued expenses and other current liabilities	**(6,771,694)**	(7,726,486)	9,197,099
Net cash generated from (used in) operations	**(906,595,640)**	738,996,495	(172,342,418)
Interest received	**377,495,071**	214,203,846	182,052,527
Dividends received	**17,040,605**	23,435,232	7,929,930
Income tax paid	**(75,002,157)**	(14,875,148)	(1,428,322)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	**(587,062,121)**	961,760,425	16,211,717
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Acquisition of investment in subsidiary (Note 10)	**(1,000,000)**	–	–
Net cash used in investing activities	**(1,000,000)**	–	–
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		–	–
Proceeds from notes payable	–	2,000,000,000	350,000,000
Payment of notes payable	–	(2,000,000,000)	(350,000,000)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	–	–	–
EFFECT OF CHANGES IN EXCHANGE RATE ON CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	**(643,321)**	36,386,005	16,880,176
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	**(588,705,442)**	998,146,430	33,091,893
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	**2,286,741,968**	1,288,595,538	1,255,503,645
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR (Note 6)	**₱1,698,036,527**	₱2,286,741,968	₱1,288,595,538

See accompanying Notes to Parent Company Financial Statements.

1. Corporate Information

Vantage Equities, Inc.(the Parent Company) was incorporated in the Philippines and was registered with the Philippine Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on October 20, 1992. The primary business of the Parent Company is to invest in, acquire by purchase, exchange, assignment or otherwise of the capital stock, bonds, debentures, promissory notes and similar financial instruments. The Parent Company's shares are publicly traded in the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE).

The Parent Company's principal address is 15th Floor Philippine Stock Exchange Tower, 28th St. Corner 5th Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

2. Summary of Material Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation
The accompanying parent company financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis, except for financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL) which are measured at fair value. The parent company financial statements are presented in Philippine peso, which is the Parent Company's functional and presentation currency, and all values are rounded to the nearest peso except when otherwise indicated.

Statement of Compliance
The accompanying parent company financial statements have been prepared in compliance with Philippine Financial Reporting Standards (PFRS). These may be obtained at the Parent Company's registered address as indicated in Note 1 to the parent company financial statements, at the SEC and at the PSE.

Changes in Accounting Policies and Disclosures
The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous financial year, except for the adoption of new standards effective in 2023. The Parent Company has not early adopted any standard, interpretation or amendment that has been issued but is not yet effective.

Unless otherwise indicated, adoption of these new standards did not have an impact on the financial statements of the Parent Company.

- Amendments to PAS 1 and PFRS Practice Statement 2, *Disclosure of Accounting Policies*

  The amendments provide guidance and examples to help entities apply materiality judgements to accounting policy disclosures. The amendments aim to help entities provide accounting policy disclosures that are more useful by:

  - Replacing the requirement for entities to disclose their 'significant' accounting policies with a requirement to disclose their 'material' accounting policies, and
  - Adding guidance on how entities apply the concept of materiality in making decisions about accounting policy disclosures

  The amendments to the Practice Statement provide non-mandatory guidance.

- Amendments to PAS 8, Definition of Accounting Estimates

  The amendments introduce a new definition of accounting estimates and clarify the distinction between changes in accounting estimates and changes in accounting policies and the correction of errors. Also, the amendments clarify that the effects on an accounting estimate of a change in an input or a change in a measurement technique are changes in accounting estimates if they do not result from the correction of prior period errors.

- Amendments to PAS 12*, Deferred Tax related to Asset and Liabilities arising from Single Transaction*

  The amendments narrow the scope of the initial recognition exception under PAS 12, so that it no longer applies to transactions that give rise to equal taxable and deductible temporary differences.

  The amendments also clarify that where payments that settle a liability are deductible for tax purposes, it is a matter of judgement (having considered the applicable tax law) whether such deductions are attributable for tax purposes to the liability recognized in the financial statements (and interest expense) or to the related asset component (and interest expense).

- Amendments to PAS 12, *International Tax Reform – Pillar Two Model Rules*

  The amendments introduce a mandatory exception in PAS 12 from recognizing and disclosing deferred tax assets and liabilities related to Pillar Two income taxes.

  The amendments also clarify that PAS 12 applies to income taxes arising from tax law enacted or substantively enacted to implement the Pillar Two Model Rules published by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), including tax law that implements qualified domestic minimum top-up taxes. Such tax legislation, and the income taxes arising from it, are referred to as 'Pillar Two legislation' and 'Pillar Two income taxes', respectively.

  The temporary exception from recognition and disclosure of information about deferred taxes and the requirement to disclose the application of the exception, apply immediately and retrospectively upon adoption of the amendments in June 2023.

  Meanwhile, the disclosure of the current tax expense related to Pillar Two income taxes and the disclosures in relation to periods before the legislation is effective are required for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023.

Summary of Material Accounting Policies

Current versus Noncurrent Classification
The Parent Company presents assets and liabilities in the parent company statement of financial position based on current or noncurrent classification.

An asset is current if:

- Expected to be realized or intended to be sold or consumed in the normal operating cycle
- Held primarily for the purpose of trading
- Expected to be realized within twelve months after the reporting period, or
  Cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period

All other assets are classified as noncurrent.

A liability is current when:

- It is expected to be settled in the normal operating cycle
- It is held primarily for the purpose of trading
- It is due to be settled within twelve months after the reporting period, or
- There is no unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting period

All other liabilities are classified as noncurrent.

Deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities are classified as noncurrent assets and liabilities, respectively.

Foreign Currency Transactions

For financial reporting purposes, the foreign currency-denominated monetary assets and liabilities of the Parent Company are translated in Philippine peso based on the Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP) closing rate prevailing at the statement of financial position date and foreign currency-denominated income and expenses, at the prevailing exchange rates as at the date of transaction. All differences are taken to the parent company statement of comprehensive income. Non-monetary items that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated using the prevailing closing exchange rate as of the date of initial transaction.

Non-monetary items measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when the fair value was determined

Unrealized foreign exchange gain (loss)

This account pertains to the unrealized foreign exchange gain earned by the Parent Company from the maturity of their US$ denominated short-term deposits and the revaluation made for their non-deliverable forward contracts (NDFs). Any foreign exchange gain earned is lodged as unrealized since, upon maturity of the deposits, the entire proceed, including interest earned, is retained in the Parent Bank's US$ bank account. Unrealized foreign exchange gain is recognized for the valuation of foreign currency denominated short-term deposits and revaluation of the NDF at month-end.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash includes cash on hand and in banks. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with original maturities of three (3) months or less from the date of acquisition and that are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fair Value Measurement

The Parent Company measures financial instruments at fair value at each statement of financial position date. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement is based on the presumption that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either:

- In the principal market for the asset or liability; or
- In the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability.

The principal or the most advantageous market must be accessible to the Parent Company.

The fair value of an asset or a liability is measured using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming that market participants act in their economic best interest. A fair value measurement of a non-financial asset takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use.

The Parent Company uses valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data are available to measure fair value, maximizing the use of relevant observable inputs and minimizing the use of unobservable inputs.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the parent company financial statements are categorized within the fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

- Level 1 – Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2 – Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable.
- Level 3 – Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

For assets and liabilities that are recognized in the parent company statement of financial position on a recurring basis, the Parent Company determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorization (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting date.

<u>Financial Instruments – Initial Recognition and Subsequent Measurement</u>
Date of recognition
The Parent Company recognizes a financial asset or a financial liability in the parent company statement of financial position when it becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Purchases or sales of financial instruments that require delivery of assets and liabilities within the time frame established by regulation or convention in the marketplace are recognized on the trade date.

Initial recognition of financial instruments
Financial instruments are initially recognized at fair value of the consideration given. The initial measurement of financial instruments includes transaction costs, except for financial instruments at financial assets at FVTPL.

'Day 1' difference
Where the transaction price in a non-active market is different to the fair value from other observable current market transactions in the same instrument or based on a valuation technique whose variables include only data from observable market, the Parent Company recognizes the difference between the transaction price and fair value (a 'Day 1' difference) in profit or loss in the parent company statement of income unless it qualifies for recognition as some other type of asset. In cases where transaction price used is made of data which is not observable, the difference between the transaction price and model value is only recognized in profit or loss in the parent company statement of income when the inputs become observable or when the instrument is derecognized. For each transaction, the Parent Company determines the appropriate method of recognizing the 'Day 1' difference amount.

In 2023, 2022 and 2021, there were no 'Day 1' differences recognized in profit or loss in the statement of comprehensive income.

Classification and subsequent measurement of financial instruments

Financial assets
For purposes of classifying financial assets, an instrument is an 'equity instrument' if it is a non-derivative and meets the definition of 'equity' for the issuer (under PAS 32, *Financial Instruments: Presentation*), except for certain non-derivative puttable instruments presented as equity by the issuer. All other non-derivative financial assets are 'debt instruments'.

Financial assets are classified in their entirety based on the contractual cash flows characteristics of the financial assets and the Parent Company's business model for managing financial assets. The Parent Company classifies its financial assets into the following categories: financial assets at FVTPL, financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) with recycling of cumulative gains and losses (debt instruments), financial assets designated at FVOCI with no recycling of cumulative gains and losses upon derecognition (equity instruments) and financial assets measured at amortized cost.

Contractual cash flows characteristics
The Parent Company assesses whether the cash flows from the financial asset represent "solely payment of principal and interest" or "SPPI" on the principal amount outstanding. Instruments with cash flows that do not represent as such are classified at FVTPL.

'Principal' for the purpose of this test is defined as the fair value of the financial asset at initial recognition and may change over the life of the financial asset (for example, if there are repayments of principal or amortization of the premium/discount).

In making this assessment, the Parent Company determines whether the contractual cash flows are consistent with a basic lending arrangement, i.e., interest includes consideration only for the time value of money, credit risk and other basic lending risks and costs associated with holding the financial asset for a particular period of time.

In contrast, contractual terms that introduce a more than de minimis exposure to risks or volatility in the contractual cash flows that are unrelated to a basic lending arrangement do not give rise to contractual cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the amount outstanding. In such cases, the financial asset is required to be measured at FVTPL.

Business model
The Parent Company determines its business model at the level that best reflects how it manages groups of financial assets to achieve its business objective. The Parent Company's business model is not assessed on an instrument-by-instrument basis, but at a higher level of aggregated portfolios and is based on observable factors such as:

- How the performance of the business model and the financial assets held within that business model are evaluated and reported to the entity's key management personnel;
- The risks that affect the performance of the business model (and the financial assets held within that business model) and, in particular, the way those risks are managed;
- How managers, if any, of the business are compensated.

The business model assessment is based on reasonably expected scenarios without taking 'worst case' or 'stress case' scenarios into account. If cash flows after initial recognition are realized in a way that is different from the Parent Company's original expectations, the Parent Company does not change the classification of the remaining financial assets held in that business model, but incorporates such information when assessing newly originated or newly purchased financial assets going forward.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Parent Company has no financial assets at FVOCI.

Financial assets at FVTPL
Debt financial assets that do not meet the amortized cost criteria, or that meet the criteria but the Parent Company has chosen to designate as at FVTPL at initial recognition, are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Equity investments are classified as at FVTPL, unless the FVTPL designates an investment that is not held for trading as at FVOCI at initial recognition.

The Parent Company's financial assets at FVTPL include equity securities held for trading purposes and equity investments not designated as at FVOCI.

A financial asset is held for trading if:

- it has been acquired principally for the purpose of selling it in the near term; or
- on initial recognition it is part of a portfolio of identified financial instruments that the Parent Company manages together and has evidence of a recent actual pattern of short-term profit-taking; or
- it is a derivative that is not designated and effective as a hedging instrument or a financial guarantee.

Financial assets at FVTPL are carried at fair value and gains and losses on these instruments are recognized as 'Trading and investment securities gains (losses) – net' in the parent company statement of comprehensive income. Interest earned on these investments is reported in the parent company statement of income under 'Interest income' while dividend income is reported in the parent company statement of income under 'Dividend income' when the right of payment has been established.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Parent Company's financial assets at FVTPL consists of investments in corporate bonds, government securities, equity securities, mutual funds and derivate assets.

Derivatives classified as FVTPL
Derivative financial instruments are initially recognized at fair value on the date in which a derivative transaction is entered into and are subsequently re-measured at fair value. Derivatives are carried as assets at FVTPL when the fair value is positive and as financial liabilities at FVTPL when the fair value is negative. Any gains or losses arising from changes in fair values of derivatives (except those accounted for as accounting hedges) are taken directly to the parent company statement of income under 'Unrealized foreign exchange gain (loss)'. The Parent Company has currency forwards (NDF) which are considered as stand-alone derivatives as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

Derivatives embedded in non-derivative host contracts that are not financial assets within the scope of PFRS 9 (e.g., financial liabilities and non-financial host contracts) are treated as separate derivatives when their risks and characteristics are not closely related to those of the host contracts and the host contracts are not measured at FVTPL.

The Parent Company assesses the existence of an embedded derivative on the date it first becomes a party to the contract, and performs re-assessment only where there is a change to the contract that significantly modifies the contractual cash flows.

Financial assets at amortized cost
Debt financial asset is measured at amortized cost if both of the following conditions are met:

(i) it is held within a business model whose objective is to hold financial assets in order to collect contractual cash flows; and
(ii) the contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

Debt financial assets meeting these criteria are measured initially at fair value plus transaction costs. They are subsequently measured at amortized cost using the effective interest method less any impairment in value, with the interest calculated recognized as 'Interest income' in the statement of income. The Parent Company's financial assets at amortized cost consist of 'Cash and cash equivalents', 'Receivables' and 'Investments at amortized cost'.

Reclassifications of financial assets
The Parent Company reclassifies its financial assets when, and only when, there is a change in the business model for managing the financial assets. Reclassifications shall be applied prospectively by the Parent Company and any previously recognized gains, losses or interest shall not be restated.

Financial liabilities
Financial liabilities are classified as financial liabilities at FVTPL and other financial liabilities. Financial liabilities are classified as at FVTPL when the financial liability is either held for trading or it is designated as at FVTPL.

As of December 31, 2022, the Parent Company has no financial liabilities at FVTPL.

Other financial liabilities
This category pertains to financial liabilities that are not held for trading or not designated as at FVTPL at the inception of the liability. Other financial liabilities are recognized initially at fair value and are subsequently carried at amortized cost, taking into account the impact of applying the effective interest method of amortization (or accretion) for any related premium, discount and any directly attributable transaction costs.

This category includes 'Accrued expenses and other liabilities'.

<u>Derecognition of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities</u>
Financial assets
A financial asset (where applicable, a part of a financial asset, or part of a group of financial assets) is derecognized when:

- the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired; or
- the Parent Company retains the right to receive cash flows from the asset, but has assumed an obligation to pay them in full without material delay to a third party under a "pass-through" arrangement; or
- the Parent Company has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset and either (a) has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, or (b) has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset but has transferred the control over the asset.

Where the Parent Company has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from an asset or has entered into a pass-through arrangement, and has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset nor transferred control over the asset, the asset is recognized to the extent of the Parent Company's continuing involvement in the asset. Continuing involvement that takes the form of a guarantee over the transferred asset is measured at the lower of original carrying amount of the asset and the maximum amount of consideration that the Parent Company could be required to repay.

Financial liabilities
A financial liability is derecognized when the obligation under the liability is discharged or cancelled or has expired. Where an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as a derecognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability, and the difference in the respective carrying amounts is recognized in the statement of income.

Offsetting Financial Instruments
Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount is reported in the statement of financial position if, and only if, there is a currently enforceable legal right to offset the recognized amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or to realize the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

The Parent Company assesses that it has a currently enforceable right of offset if the right is not contingent on a future event, and is legally enforceable in the normal course of business, event of default, and event of insolvency or bankruptcy of the Parent Company and all of the counterparties. This is not generally the case with master netting agreements where the related assets and liabilities are presented gross in the parent company statement of financial position.

Derecognition of Financial Assets and Liabilities
Financial assets
A financial asset (or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is derecognized where:

- the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired;
- the Parent Company retains the right to receive cash flows from the asset but has assumed an obligation to pay them in full without material delay to a third party under a "pass-through" arrangement; or
- the Parent Company has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset and either (a) has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership and retained control over the asset, or (b) has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, but has transferred control over the asset.

Where the Parent Company has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from an asset or has entered into a "pass-through arrangement", and has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset nor transferred control of the asset, the asset is recognized to the extent of the Parent Company's continuing involvement in the asset. Continuing involvement that takes the form of a guarantee over the transferred asset is measured at the lower of original carrying amount of the asset and the maximum amount of consideration that the Parent Company could be required to repay.

Impairment of Financial Assets
The Parent Company record the allowance for expected credit losses for all loans and receivables and other debt financial assets not held at FVTPL all referred to as 'financial instruments'. Equity instruments are not subject to impairment under PFRS 9.

ECL represents credit losses that reflect an unbiased and probability-weighted amount which is determined by evaluating a range of possible outcomes, the time value of money and reasonable and supportable information about past events, current conditions and forecasts of future economic conditions. ECL allowances are measured at amounts equal to either (i) 12-month ECL or (ii) lifetime ECL for those financial instruments which have experienced a significant increase in credit risk (SICR) since initial recognition (General Approach). The 12-month ECL is the portion of lifetime ECL that results from default events on a financial instrument that are possible within the 12 months after the reporting date. Lifetime ECL are credit losses that results from all possible default events over the expected life of a financial instrument.

Staging assessment
A three-stage approach for impairment of financial assets is used, based on whether there has been a significant deterioration in the credit risk of a financial asset. These three stages then determine the amount of impairment to be recognized.

For non-credit-impaired financial instruments:

- Stage 1 is comprised of all financial instruments which have not experienced a SICR since initial recognition or is considered of low credit risk as of the reporting date. The criteria for determining whether an account should be assessed under Stage 1 are as follows: (i) current or past due up to 30 days; (ii) unclassified. The Parent Company recognizes a 12-month ECL for Stage 1 financial instruments.
- Stage 2 is comprised of all financial instruments which have experienced a SICR as of reporting date compared to initial recognition. The Parent Company recognizes a lifetime ECL for Stage 2 financial instruments.

For credit-impaired financial instruments:

- Stage 3 is comprised of all financial assets that have objective evidence of impairment as a result of one or more loss events that have occurred after initial recognition with a negative impact on the estimated future cash flows of a loan or a portfolio of loans. The Parent Company's criteria for Stage 3 accounts are generally aligned with the definition of "default" which is explained in the next paragraph. The Parent Company recognizes a lifetime ECL for Stage 3 financial instruments.

Definition of "default" and "restored"
The Parent Company classifies loans, investments, receivables, or any financial asset as in default when it is credit impaired, becomes past due on its contractual payments for more than 90 days, considered non-performing, under litigation or is classified as doubtful or loss. As part of a qualitative assessment of whether a customer is in default, the Parent Company considers a variety of instances that may indicate unlikeliness to pay. When such events occur, the Parent Company carefully considers whether the event should result in treating the customer as defaulted. An instrument is considered to be no longer in default (i.e. restored) if there is sufficient evidence to support that full collection is probable and payments are received for at least six months.

Credit risk at initial recognition
The Parent Company uses internal credit assessment and approvals at various levels to determine the credit risk of exposures at initial recognition. Assessment can be quantitative or qualitative and depends on the materiality of the facility or the complexity of the portfolio to be assessed.

Significant increase in credit risk
The assessment of whether there has been a significant increase in credit risk is based on an increase in the probability of a default occurring since initial recognition. The SICR criteria vary by portfolio and include quantitative changes in probabilities of default and qualitative factors, including a backstop based on delinquency. For cash in bank, the credit risk of a particular exposure is deemed to have increased significantly since initial recognition if, based on the Parent Company's internal credit assessment, the borrower or counterparty is determined to require close monitoring or with well-defined credit weaknesses. If contractual payments are more than 30 days past due, the credit risk is deemed to have increased significantly since initial recognition. Days past due are determined by counting the number of days since the earliest elapsed due date in respect of which full payment has not been received. Due dates are determined without considering any grace period that might be available to the borrower. In subsequent reporting periods, if the credit risk of the financial instrument improves such that there is no longer a SICR since initial recognition, the Parent Company shall revert to recognizing a 12-month ECL.

ECL parameters and methodologies
ECL is a function of the probability of default (PD), loss given default (LGD) and exposure at default (EAD), with the timing of the loss also considered, and is estimated by incorporating forward-looking economic information and through the use of experienced credit judgment.

The PD is an estimate of the likelihood of default over a 12-month horizon for Stage 1 or lifetime horizon for Stages 2 and 3. The PD for each individual instrument is modelled based on historical data and is estimated based on current market conditions and reasonable and supportable information about future economic conditions. The Parent Company segments its credit exposures based on homogenous risk characteristics and developed a corresponding PD methodology for each portfolio. The PD methodology for each relevant portfolio is determined based on the underlying nature or characteristic of the portfolio, behavior of the accounts and materiality of the segment as compared to the total portfolio.

LGD is an estimate of the loss arising on default. It is based on the difference between the contractual cash flows due and those that the lender would expect to receive, including from any collateral. It makes use of defaulted accounts that have either been identified as cured, restructured, or liquidated.

The Parent Company segmented its LGD based on homogenous risk characteristics and calculated the corresponding segment-level averages.

EAD is an estimate of the exposure at a future default date, taking into account expected changes in the exposure after the reporting date, including repayments of principal and interest, and expected drawdowns on committed facilities.

Forward-looking information
The Parent Company incorporates forward-looking information into both its assessment of whether the credit risk of an instrument has increased significantly since its initial recognition and its measurement of ECL. A broad range of forward-looking information are considered as economic inputs, such as GDP growth, exchange rate, interest rate, inflation rate and other economic indicators. The inputs and models used for calculating ECL may not always capture all characteristics of the market at the date of the financial statements. To reflect this, qualitative adjustments or overlays are occasionally made as temporary adjustments when such differences are significantly material.

The key forward-looking economic variables used in each of the economic scenarios for the ECL calculations are unemployment rate, household expenditure, PSE all shares index, interest rate benchmark for 3 months and 20 years.

Write-offs
Financial assets are written off either partially or in their entirety only when the Parent Company has no reasonable expectation of recovering a financial asset in its entirety or a portion thereof.

Write-offs are charged against preciously established allowance for credit losses.

Investments in Subsidiaries
Investments in subsidiaries are carried in the statement of financial position at cost, less any impairment.

Using the cost method of accounting, the Parent Company recognizes income only to the extent that it receives distributions from the accumulated net income of the investee arising subsequent to the date of acquisition. Distributions received in excess of such profits are considered a recovery of investment and are recorded as a reduction of the cost of the investment.

The reporting date of the Parent Company and its subsidiaries are identical and the subsidiaries' accounting policies conform to those used by the Parent Company for like transactions and events in similar circumstances.

Property and Equipment
Property and equipment are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment in value. The initial cost of property and equipment consists of its purchase price, including import duties, taxes and any costs directly attributable to bringing the property and equipment to its working condition and location for its intended use.

Expenditures incurred after the property and equipment have been put into operation, such as repairs and maintenance, are normally charged against income in the year in which such costs are incurred. In situations where it can be clearly demonstrated that the expenditures have resulted in an increase in the future economic benefits expected to be obtained from the use of an item of property and equipment beyond its originally assessed standard of performance, the expenditures are capitalized as additional costs of property and equipment.

When each major repairs and maintenance is performed, its cost is recognized in the carrying amount of the item of property and equipment as a replacement if the recognition criteria are satisfied. Such costs are capitalized and amortized over the next major repairs and maintenance activity.

Depreciation is computed using the straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the property and equipment as follows:

	Years
Office condominium	20 years
Office improvements	10 years
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	3-10 years
Transportation equipment	5 years
Leasehold improvements	5 years or term of the lease, whichever period is shorter

When property and equipment are sold or otherwise disposed of, the cost and related accumulated depreciation or amortization and any impairment in value are eliminated from the accounts and any resulting gain or loss is credited to or charged against profit or loss in the parent company statement of comprehensive income.

Impairment of Non-financial Assets
The Parent Company assesses at each reporting date whether there is an indication that its non-financial assets may be impaired. When an indicator of impairment exists or when an annual impairment testing for an asset is required, the Parent Company makes an estimate of the asset's recoverable amount. An asset's recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's or cash generating unit's (CGU's) fair value less costs to sell and its value in use and is determined for an individual asset, unless the asset does not generate cash inflows that are largely independent of those from other assets or group of assets, in which case the recoverable amount is assessed as part of the CGU to which it belongs. Where the carrying amount of an asset or CGU exceeds its recoverable amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to its recoverable amount.

In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessment of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. In determining fair value less cost to sell, an appropriate valuation model is used. These calculations are corroborated by valuation multiples and other available fair value indicators. An impairment loss is charged to operations in the year in which it arises.

An assessment is made at each reporting date as to whether there is any indication that previously recognized impairment loss may no longer exist or may have decreased. If such indication exists, the Parent Company estimates the asset's or CGU's recoverable amount. A previously recognized impairment loss is reversed only if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the asset's recoverable amount since the last impairment loss was recognized. The reversal is limited so that the carrying amount of the asset does not exceed its recoverable amount, nor exceeds the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortization, had no impairment loss been previously recognized. Such reversal is recognized in the profit or loss in the parent company statement of comprehensive income. After such reversal, the depreciation or amortization is adjusted in future periods to allocate the asset's revised carrying amount, less any residual value, on a systematic basis over its remaining life.

Revenue Recognition
The Parent Company follows a five-step model to account for revenue arising from the contracts with customers. The five-step model is as follows:

a. Identify the contract(s) with customer
b. Identify the performance obligations in the contract
c. Determine the transaction price
d. Allocate the transaction price to the performance obligation
e. Recognize revenue when (or as) the entity satisfies a performance obligation

Revenue is recognized at an amount that reflects the consideration to which an entity expects to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods or services to a customer.

The Parent Company exercises judgment, taking into consideration all of the relevant facts and circumstances when applying each step of the model to contracts with their customers. The Parent Company is acting as principal in all revenue arrangements.

The following specific recognition criteria must also be met before revenue is recognized outside the scope of PFRS 15:

Trading and investment securities gains – net
Trading and investment securities gains – net represents gains from trading activities and changes in fair values of financial instruments at FVTPL. Revenue is recognized on trade date upon receipt of confirmation of sale of investments from counterparties.

Dividend income
Dividend income is recognized when the Parent Company's right to receive payment is established.

Interest income
Interest income is recognized in profit or loss for all instruments measured at amortized cost using the effective interest method.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortized cost of a financial asset or a financial liability and of allocating the interest income or interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts through the expected life of the financial instrument or, when appropriate, a shorter period to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability. When calculating the effective interest rate, the Parent Company estimates cash flows considering all contractual terms of the financial instrument but does not consider future credit losses.

The calculation Ies all fees paid or received between parties to the contract that are an integral part of the effective interest rate, transaction costs and all other premiums or discounts.

The following specific recognition criteria must also be met before revenue is recognized within the scope of PFRS 15:

Income from business partner
Income from business partner is recognized upon signing of the agreement.

<u>Expense Recognition</u>
Expenses are recognized when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in an asset or an increase in a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably.

General and administrative expenses
General and administrative expenses, which include the cost of administering the business are not directly associated with the generation of revenue, are expensed as incurred.

<u>Leases</u>
The determination of whether an arrangement is, or contains a lease, is based on the substance of the arrangement at inception date, and requires an assessment of whether the fulfillment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of a specific asset or assets and the arrangement conveys a right to use the asset. A reassessment is made after inception of the lease only if one of the following applies:

a. there is a change in contractual terms, other than a renewal or extension of the arrangement;
b. a renewal option is exercised or extension granted, unless that term of the renewal or extension was initially included in the lease term;
c. there is a change in the determination of whether fulfillment is dependent on a specified asset; or
d. there is a substantial change to the asset.

Where a reassessment is made, lease accounting shall commence or cease from the date when the change in circumstances gave rise to the reassessment for scenarios (a), (c) or (d) above, and at the date of renewal or extension period for scenario (b).

Parent Company as lessee
Leases where the lessor retains substantially all the risks and benefits of ownership of the assets are classified as operating leases. Operating lease payments are recognized as an expense in the profit or loss in the parent company statement of comprehensive income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Parent Company as a lessor
Leases where the Parent Company does not transfer substantially all the risks and benefits of ownership of the assets are classified as operating leases. Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating operating leases are added to the carrying amount of the leased asset and recognized over the lease term on the same basis as the rental income. Contingent rents are recognized as revenue in the year in which they are earned.

Retirement Costs
The Parent Company has an unfunded, non-contributory defined benefit retirement plan covering substantially all of its regular employees.

The net defined benefit liability or asset is the aggregate of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period reduced by the fair value of plan assets (if any), adjusted for any effect of limiting a net defined benefit asset to the asset ceiling. The asset ceiling is the present value of any economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plan or reductions in future contributions to the plan.

The cost of providing benefits under the defined benefit plans is actuarially determined using the projected unit credit method. This method reflects services rendered by employees up to the date of valuation and incorporates assumptions concerning employees' projected salaries. Actuarial valuations are conducted with sufficient regularity, with option to accelerate when significant changes to underlying assumptions occur.

Defined benefit costs comprise of the following:

a. service cost;
b. net interest on the net defined benefit liability or asset; and
c. remeasurements of net defined benefit liability or asset.

Service costs, which include current service costs, past service costs and gains or losses on non-routine settlements are recognized as expense in profit or loss. Past service costs are recognized when plan amendment or curtailment occurs. These amounts are calculated periodically by independent qualified actuaries.

Net interest on the net defined benefit liability or asset is the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability or asset that arises from the passage of time which is determined by applying the discount rate based on government bonds to the net defined benefit liability or asset. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability or asset is recognized as expense or income in profit or loss.

Remeasurements comprising actuarial gains and losses, return on plan assets and any change in the effect of the asset ceiling (excluding net interest on defined benefit liability) are recognized immediately in OCI in the period in which they arise. Remeasurements are not classified to profit or loss in subsequent periods.

Income Taxes

Current tax

Current tax assets and liabilities for the current period are measured at the amount expected to be recovered from or paid to the tax authorities. The tax rates and tax laws used to compute the amount are those that are enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date.

The Parent Company periodically evaluates positions taken in the tax returns with respect to situations in which applicable tax regulations are subject to interpretations and establishes provisions where appropriate.

Deferred tax

Deferred tax is provided, using the liability method, on all temporary differences and carryforward benefits of minimum corporate income tax (MCIT) and unused net operating loss carryover (NOLCO) at the reporting date between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts for financial reporting purposes.

Deferred tax liabilities are recognized for all taxable temporary differences. Deferred tax assets are recognized for all deductible temporary differences and carryforward benefits of unused tax credits from the excess of MCIT over regular corporate income tax (RCIT) and unused NOLCO, to the extent that it is probable that sufficient taxable income will be available against which the deductible temporary differences and carryforward benefits of unused tax credits from excess MCIT and unused NOLCO can be utilized. Deferred tax assets, however, are not recognized on temporary differences that arise from the initial recognition of an asset or liability in a transaction that is not a business combination and, at the time of the transaction, affects neither the accounting income nor taxable income or loss.

The carrying amount of deferred tax assets is reviewed at each reporting date and reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that sufficient taxable income will be available to allow all or part of the deferred tax assets to be utilized. Unrecognized deferred tax assets are reassessed at each reporting date and are recognized to the extent that it has become probable that future taxable income will allow the deferred tax assets to be recovered.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured at the tax rates that are expected to apply to the periods when the asset is realized or the liability is settled, based on tax rates (and tax laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date. Movements in deferred tax assets and liabilities arising from changes in tax rate are charged or credited to income for the year.

Deferred tax relating to items recognized directly in other comprehensive income are also recognized in other comprehensive income.

Value-added Tax (VAT)

Revenues, expenses, and assets are recognized net of the amount of VAT, if applicable.
When VAT from sales of goods and/or services (output VAT) exceeds VAT passed on from purchases of goods or services (input VAT), the excess is recognized as a payable in the parent company statement of financial position. When VAT passed on from purchases of goods or services (input VAT) exceeds VAT from sales of goods and/or services (output VAT), the excess is recognized as an asset in the statement of financial position to the extent of the recoverable amount.

Equity
Capital stock is measured at par value for all shares issued and outstanding. When the shares are sold at a premium, the difference between the proceeds and the par value is credited to ‘Capital paid-in excess of par value’ account. Direct costs incurred related to equity issuance, such as underwriting, accounting and legal fees, printing costs and taxes are chargeable to ‘Capital paid-in excess of par value’ account. If the ‘Capital paid-in excess of par value’ is not sufficient, the excess is charged against the ‘Retained earnings’.

When the Parent Company issues more than one class of stock, a separate account is maintained for each class of stock and the number of shares issued.

Own equity instruments which are acquired (treasury shares) are deducted from equity and accounted for at weighted average cost. No gain or loss is recognized in the parent company statement of income on the purchase, sale, issue or cancellation of the Parent Company’s own equity instruments.

‘Retained earnings’ represents accumulated earnings of the Parent Company less dividends declared.

Dividends on Common Shares
Dividends on common shares are recognized as a liability and deducted from equity when approved by the Board of Directors (BOD) and shareholders of the Parent Company while stock dividends are deducted from retained earnings upon distribution. Dividends for the year that are approved after reporting date are dealt with as subsequent events.

Basic/Diluted Earnings per Share
Basic earnings per share (EPS) is determined by dividing net income (loss) by the weighted average number of shares outstanding during the year with retroactive adjustments for any stock split and stock dividends declared.

Diluted EPS is calculated by dividing the net income attributable to common shareholders by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the year adjusted for the effects of any dilutive potential common shares. As of December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021, the Parent Company does not have dilutive potential common shares.

Provisions
Provisions are recognized when the Parent Company has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event and it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. If the effect of the time value of money is material, provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and, where appropriate, the risks specific to the liability. When discounting is used, the increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognized as an interest expense. Provisions are reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate. If it is no longer probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, the provision is reversed.

Where the Parent Company expects some or all of a provision to be reimbursed, the reimbursement is recognized as a separate asset but only when the reimbursement is virtually certain that the expense relating to any provision is presented in the profit or loss in the parent company statement of comprehensive income, net of any reimbursement.

Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets
Contingent liabilities are not recognized in the parent company financial statements but are disclosed in the notes to parent company financial statements unless the probability of an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits is remote. Contingent assets are not recognized in the parent company financial statements but are disclosed in the notes to parent company financial statement when an inflow of economic benefits is probable.

Events After the Reporting Date
Any post year-end events that provide additional information about the Parent Company's's financial position at the reporting date (adjusting events), if any, are reflected in the parent company financial statements. Post year-end events that are not adjusting events are disclosed in the notes to parent company financial statements when material.

Segment Reporting
The Parent Company's operating businesses are organized and managed separately according to the nature of the products and services provided, with each segment representing a strategic business unit that offers different products and serves different markets. Financial information on business segments is presented in Note 23.

The Parent Company's assets producing revenues are located in the Philippines (i.e., one geographical location). Therefore, geographical segment information is no longer presented.

Standards Issued but not yet Effective
Pronouncements issued but not yet effective are listed below. The Parent Company intends to adopt the following pronouncements when they become effective. Adoption of these pronouncements is not expected to have a significant impact on the Parent Company's financial statements.

Effective beginning on or after January 1, 2024
- Amendments to PAS 1*, Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current*
- Amendments to PFRS 16*, Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback*
- Amendments to PAS 7 and PFRS 7*, Disclosures: Supplier Finance Arrangements*

Effective beginning on or after January 1, 2025
- PFRS 17, *Insurance Contracts*
- Amendments to PAS 21*, Lack of exchangeability*

Deferred effectivity
- Amendments to PFRS 10, *Consolidated Financial Statements*, and PAS 28, *Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture*

3. **Significant Accounting Estimates**

The preparation of the parent company financial statements in accordance with PFRS requires the management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities, and the accompanying disclosures, as well as the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, if any. Future events may occur which will cause the judgments and assumptions used in arriving at the estimates to change. The effects of any change in estimates are reflected in the parent company financial statements as they become reasonably determinable.

Judgment is continually evaluated and is based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Judgment

a. *Recognition of deferred tax assets*
   Deferred tax assets are recognized for all deductible temporary differences to the extent that it is possible that taxable income will be available against which the differences can be utilized. Significant management judgment is required to determine the amount of deferred tax assets to be recognized, based upon likely timing and level of future taxable income.

   The deductible temporary differences for which deferred tax assets and liabilities were recognized in the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 are disclosed in Note 20.

Estimates

The key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below:

a. *Fair value of financial instruments*
   Where the fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities recognized or disclosed in the financial statements cannot be derived from active markets, these are determined using a variety of valuation techniques that include the use of mathematical models. The inputs to these models are taken from observable markets where possible, but where this is not feasible, a degree of judgment is required in establishing fair values. The judgments include considerations of liquidity and identification of comparable investments and applicable credit spread to arrive at adjusted quoted market prices.

   The carrying values and corresponding fair values of financial instruments as well as the manner in which fair values were determined are discussed in more detail in Note 5.

   Derivative assets and liabilities recognized in the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 are disclosed in Note 8.

b. *Credit losses on financial assets*
   The Parent Company reviews its debt financial assets subject to ECL annually with updating provisions as necessary. The measurement of credit losses requires judgment, in particular, the estimation of amount and timing of future cash flows and collateral values when determining the credit losses and the assessment of SICR. Elements of the model used to calculate ECL that are considered accounting estimates and judgments, include among others:

   - Segmentation of financial assets to determine appropriate ECL model and approach
   - Criteria for assessing whether there has been SICR in the debt financial assets and so allowances be measured on a lifetime ECL basis and the qualitative assessment
   - Segmentation of financial assets when ECL is calculated on a collective basis
   - Development of ECL models, including formula and various inputs
   - Selection of forward-looking macroeconomic variables and scenarios

   The gross carrying amounts of financial assets subject to ECL as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 are disclosed in Note 4, while the related ECL allowances for credit losses are disclosed in Note 7.

4. Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The Parent Company's principal financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, receivables, financial assets at FVTPL, investments at amortized cost, accrued expenses and other liabilities. The Parent Company also has various other financial assets and liabilities such as deposits.

The main risks arising from the Parent Company's financial instruments are credit risk, liquidity risk and market risks. The BOD reviews and approves the policies for managing each risk and these are summarized below.

Credit risk
Credit risk is the risk that the Parent Company will incur a loss because its customers or counterparties failed to discharge their contractual obligations. The Parent Company manages and controls credit risk by trading only with recognized, creditworthy third parties. It is the Parent Company's policy that all counterparties who wish to trade on credit terms are subject to credit verification procedures. In addition, receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis so that the Parent Company's exposure to credit losses is not significant. Since the Parent Company trades only with recognized third parties, there is no requirement for collateral.

Maximum exposure to credit risk
As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Parent Company's maximum exposure to credit risk is equal to the carrying values of its financial assets since it does not hold any collateral or other credit enhancements that will mitigate credit risk exposure.

The fair values of financial assets at FVTPL represent the credit risk exposure as of the reporting date but not the maximum risk exposure that could arise in the future as a result of changes in fair value of the said instruments.

The Parent Company's trade and other receivables and are assessed for impairment based on its lifetime ECL. The allowance for credit losses amounting ₱4.01 million as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 pertain to fully-impaired trade and other receivables.

Credit quality per class of financial assets
The tables below show the credit quality of the Parent Company's financial assets based on its stage classification as of December 31, 2023 and 2022. The amounts presented are gross of impairment allowances.

	2023			
	Stage 1	**Stage 2**	**Stage 3**	**Total**
Neither past due nor impaired				
Grade A				
Cash and cash equivalents*	**₱1,698,036,527**	**₱–**	**₱–**	**₱1,698,036,527**
Accrued interest receivable	–	**50,209,828**	–	**50,209,828**
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	**6,830,142,624**	–	–	**6, 830,142,624**
Grade B				
Trade receivable	–	**5,172,663**	–	**5,172,663**
Due from broker	–	**192,861**		**192,861**
Other receivables	–	**2,060,026**	–	**2,060,026**
Deposits (included in "Other noncurrent assets")	**431,516**	–	–	**431,516**
Grade C				
Impaired				
Trade receivable	–	–	**4,006,626**	**4,006,626**
	₱8,528,610,667	**₱57,635,378**	**₱4,006,626**	**₱8,590,252,671**

**Excludes cash on hand*

	2022			
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total
Neither past due nor impaired				
Grade A				
Cash and cash equivalents*	₱2,286,736,968	₱–	₱–	₱2,286,736,968
Accrued interest receivable	–	34,740,712	–	34,740,712
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	5,840,963,416	–	–	5,840,963,416
Grade B				
Trade receivable	–	4,595,861	–	4,595,861
Other receivables	–	1,244,133	–	1,244,133
Deposits (included in "Other noncurrent assets")	313,517	–	–	313,517
Grade C				
Impaired				
Trade receivable	–	–	4,006,626	4,006,626
	₱8,128,013,901	₱40,580,706	₱4,006,626	₱8,172,601,233

**Excludes cash on hand*

The table below shows the credit quality of the Parent Company's neither past due nor impaired financial assets based on historical experience with the corresponding third parties.

	2023			
	Grade A	**Grade B**	**Grade C**	**Total**
Cash and cash equivalents*	**₱1,698,036,527**	**₱–**	**₱–**	**₱1,698,036,527**
Receivables:				
Trade receivables	–	**5,172,663**	–	**5,172,663**
Due from broker	–	**192,861**	–	**192,861**
Interest receivable	**50,209,828**	–	–	**50,209,828**
Others		**2,060,026**		**2,060,026**
FVTPL investments:				
Government bonds	**4,434,335,172**			**4,434,335,172**
Corporate bonds	**1,031,866,980**			**1,031,866,980**
Mutual funds	**956,576,783**			**956,576,783**
Equity securities	**406,801,689**			**406,801,689**
Derivative assets	**562,000**	–	–	**562,000**
Deposits (included in "Other noncurrent assets")	–	**431,516**	–	**431,516**
	8,578,388,979	**7,857,066**	**-**	**8,586,246,045**

**Excludes cash on hand*

	2022			
	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Total
Cash and cash equivalents*	₱2,286,736,968	₱–	₱–	₱2,286,736,968
Receivables:				
Trade receivables	–	4,595,861	–	4,595,861
Due from broker	–	–	–	–
Interest receivable	–	34,740,712	–	34,740,712
Receivable from sale of investment	–	–	–	–
Others	–	1,244,133	–	1,244,133
FVTPL investments:				
Corporate bonds	941,384,395	–	–	941,384,395
Government bonds	3,344,886,436	–	–	3,344,886,436
Mutual funds	948,255,083	–	–	948,255,083
Equity securities	606,437,502	–	–	606,437,502
Derivative assets	–	–	–	–
Deposits (included in "Other noncurrent assets")	–	313,517	–	313,517
	₱8,127,700,384	₱40,894,223	₱–	₱8,168,594,607

**Excludes cash on hand*

The Parent Company rates its financial assets based on internal and external credit rating system. The credit quality of treasury exposures is generally monitored through the external ratings of eligible external credit assessment rating institutions.

Credit Quality	External Rating				
Investment Grade (Grade A)	Aaa	Aa	A	Baa	Ba
Non-Investment Grade (Grade B)	Ba	B	Caa	Ca	C
Impaired (Grade C)	D				

Grade A financial assets pertain to those investments with counterparties of good credit standing or receivables from clients or customers that consistently pay on or before the maturity date.

Grade B and C include those receivables being collected on due dates with varying collection efforts required, ranging from minimum to moderate that may require close monitoring.

Cash and cash equivalents are classified as Grade A because it is deposited with reputable banks.

Financial assets at FVTPL are classified as Grade A since these mostly pertain to investments in listed companies and government-issued bonds.

Liquidity risk
Liquidity risk is the risk that the Parent Company will be unable to meet its payment obligations when they fall due under normal and stressful circumstances. To limit this risk, the Parent Company closely monitors its cash flows and ensures that credit facilities are available to meet its obligations as and when they fall due. Any excess cash is invested in short-term money market placements. These placements are maintained to meet maturing obligations.

Financial assets
Except for other financial assets, the analysis into maturity groupings is based on the expected dates on which the assets will be realized. For other financial assets, the analysis into maturity groupings is based on the remaining period from the end of the reporting period to the contractual maturity date.

Financial liabilities
The maturity grouping is based on the remaining period from the end of the reporting period to the contractual maturity date. When counterparty has a choice of when the amount is paid, the liability is allocated to the earliest period in which the Parent Company can be required to pay.

The table below shows the financial assets and financial liabilities' liquidity information which includes coupon cash flows categorized based on the expected date on which the asset will be realized and the liability will be settled.

	2023					
	On Demand	**Less than 3 Months**	**3 to 12 Months**	**1 to 5 years**	**More than 5 years**	**Total**
Financial Assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	**₱339,036,527**	**₱1,359,000,000**	**₱–**	**₱–**	**₱–**	**₱1,698,036,527**
Receivables:						
Trade receivables	**5,172,663**	–	–	–	–	**5,172,663**
Due from broker	–	192,861	–	–	–	**192,861**
Interest receivables	–	50,209,828	–	–	–	**50,209,828**
Other receivables	–	1,588,849	–	–	–	**1,588,849**
FVTPL investment:						

(Forward)

	2023					
	On Demand	**Less than 3 Months**	**3 to 12 Months**	**1 to 5 years**	**More than 5 years**	**Total**
Quoted:						
Government bonds*	**₱–**	**₱**	**₱**	**₱1,821,356,397**	**₱2,612,978,776**	**₱4,434,335,173**
Corporate bonds*	**–**			**825,610,189**	**206,256,791**	**1,031,866,980**
Mutual funds	**956,576,783**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**956,576,783**
Equity securities	**406,801,689**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**406,801,689**
Deposits (included in 'Other noncurrent assets')	**–**	**–**	**431,516**	**–**	**–**	**431,516**
	₱1,707,587,662	**₱1,410,991,538**	**₱431,516**	**₱2,646,966,586**	**₱2,819,235,567**	**₱8,585,212,869**
Financial Liabilities						
Accrued expenses and other liabilities:						
Accrued expenses	**₱–**	**₱4,991,047**	**₱–**	**₱–**	**₱–**	**₱4,991,047**
Accounts payable	**–**	**390,383**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**390,383**
Derivative liabilities	**–**	**-**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**-**
Others	**–**	**477,520**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**477,520**
	₱–	**₱5,858,950**	**₱–**	**₱–**	**₱–**	**₱5,858,950**

**Includes accrued interest receivable, and future interest*

	2022					
	On Demand	Less than 3 Months	3 to 12 Months	1 to 5 years	More than 5 years	Total
Financial Assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	₱623,241,968	₱1,666,675,594	₱–	₱–	₱–	₱2,289,917,562
Receivables:						
Trade receivables	4,595,861	–	–	–	–	4,595,861
Due from broker	–	-	–	–	–	–
Receivable from related party	–	34,740,712	–	–	–	34,740,712
Interest receivables	–	1,244,133	–	–	–	1,244,133
Receivable from sale of investment						
Other receivables	948,255,083	–	–	–	–	948,255,083
FVTPL investment:	606,437,502	–	–	–	–	606,437,502
Quoted:	623,241,968	1,666,675,594	–	–	–	2,289,917,562
Mutual funds						
Equity securities	4,595,861	–	–	–	–	4,595,861
Government bonds*	–	194,804,357	3,268,953,256	–	–	3,463,757,613
Corporate bonds*	–	75,386,730	2,157,501,447	–	–	2,232,888,177
Deposits (included in 'Other noncurrent assets')	–	–	313,517	–	–	313,517
	₱2,182,530,414	₱1,972,851,526	₱5,426,768,220	₱–	₱–	₱9,582,150,160
Financial Liabilities						
Accrued expenses and other liabilities:						
Accrued expenses	₱–	₱7,835,461	₱–	₱–	₱–	₱7,835,461
Accounts payable	–	–	–	–	–	–
Derivative liabilities	–	3,599,150	–	–	–	3,599,150
Others	–	1,449,524	–	–	–	1,449,524
	₱–	₱12,884,135	₱–	₱–	₱–	₱12,884,135

**Includes accrued interest receivable, and future interest*

Market risk

Market risk is the risk of change in fair value of financial instruments from fluctuation in market prices (price risk), foreign exchange rates (currency risk) and market interest rates (interest rate risk), whether such change in price is caused by factors specific to the individual instrument or its issuer or factors affecting all instruments traded in the market.

The Parent Company is exposed to the risk that the value of its financial assets will be adversely affected by the fluctuations in the price level or volatility of one or more of the said assets. The two main components of the risks recognized by the Parent Company are systematic risk and unsystematic risk.

Systematic risk is the variability in price caused by factors that affect all securities across all markets (e.g. significant economic or political events). Unsystematic risk, on the other hand, is the variability in price caused by factors which are specific to the particular issuer (corporation) of the debt or equity security. Through proper portfolio diversification, this risk can be minimized as losses on one particular debt security may be offset by gains in another.

To further mitigate these risks, the Parent Company ensures that the investment portfolio is adequately diversified taking into consideration the size of the portfolio.

a. *Foreign currency risk*

The Parent Company has transactional currency exposures. The Parent Company's financial instruments which are denominated in foreign currency include cash and cash equivalents, receivables, and financial assets at FVTPL. The Parent Company maintains several United States dollar (US$) accounts to manage its foreign currency denominated transactions.

The Parent Company's financial assets and liabilities denominated in US$ are as follows:

	2023		2022	
Cash and cash equivalents	**$293,021**	**₱16,224,546**	$405,290	₱22,596,926
Financial assets at –VTPL - debt	**5,341,585**	**295,763,562**	8,442,392	470,705,566
Accrued interest receivable	**87,906**	**4,867,357**	118,631	6,614,266
Accounts recei–able - others	**26,624**	**1,474,195**	16,095	897,393
	5,749,136	**318,329,660**	8,982,408	500,814,151
Currency forwards	**(5,450,000)**	**(301,766,500)**	(7,950,000)	(443,252,250)
Net exposure	**$299,136**	**₱16,563,160**	$1,032,408	₱57,561,901

In translating the foreign currency denominated assets and liabilities into peso amounts, the exchange rate used was to ₱55.37 to US$1 and ₱55.755 to US$1 as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

The following table presents the impact on the Parent Company's income before income tax due to change in the fair value of its monetary assets and liabilities, brought out by a reasonably possible change in the US dollar to Peso exchange rate, with all other variable held constant. There is no other impact on equity other than those affecting earnings.

	2023		2022	
	Change in Foreign Exchange Rate	**Effect on Income before tax**	Change in Foreign Exchange Rate	Effect on Income before tax
Increase	**+0.90%**	**₱231,244**	+0.90%	₱803,644
Decrease	**-0.90%**	**(₱231,244)**	-0.90%	(₱803,644)

Equity price risk

Equity price risk is the risk that the fair value of quoted investments will fluctuate as a result of changes in the value of individual stock investment.

The table below demonstrates the sensitivity to a reasonably possible change in equity price, with all other variables held constant, of the Parent Company's equity. The impact on the Parent Company's equity already excludes the impact on transactions affecting the income before income tax. The possible change in equity prices was determined using historical closing prices of the benchmark 30-company Philippine stock index (PSEi).

	2023		2022	
	% Variance on Equity Price	**Effect on Equity**	% Variance on Equity Price	Effect on Equity
Increase	**12.890%**	**₱51,903,772**	14.137%	₱82,316,651
Decrease	**-12.890%**	**(₱51,903,772)**	-14.137%	(₱82,316,651)

The table below demonstrates how the change in the investment portfolio of the Parent Company's mutual funds affects income before income tax with a reasonably possible change in the net asset value for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 with all other variables held constant.

There is no other impact on the Parent Company mutual fund's equity account other than those already affecting the profit or loss in the statements of comprehensive income.

	2023		2022	
	% Variance on net asset value	**Effect on Equity**	% Variance on net asset value	Effect on Equity
Increase	**12.890%**	**₱109,242,741**	14.137%	₱114,959,938
Decrease	**-12.890%**	**(₱109,242,741)**	-14.137%	(₱114,959,938)

b. *Interest rate risk*

Interest rate risk arises from the possibility that changes in interest rates will affect future cash flows or the fair values of financial instruments. The Parent Company's exposure to market risk for changes in interest rates relates primarily to the Parent Company's debt securities booked at FVTPL and investments at amortized cost.

The Parent Company's market risk policy requires it to manage interest rate risk by maintaining appropriate mix of fixed and variable rate instruments. The policy also requires it to manage the maturities of interest-bearing financial assets.

The following table demonstrates the sensitivity of the Parent Company's FVTPL debt securities to a reasonably possible change in interest rates for the year ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

	2023	2022
Basis points	**Effect on Pre-Tax Equity**	Effect on Pre-Tax Equity
+100	**(₱131,695,920)**	(₱107,543,446)
-100	**₱139,543,775**	113,180,013

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Parent Company's interest-bearing financial assets and liabilities have fixed interest rates. As such, the Parent Company's exposure to interest rate risks is minimal.

5. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement is based on the presumption that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either in the principal market for the asset or liability, or in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability. Fair values are obtained from quoted market prices, discounted cash flow models and option pricing models, as appropriate.

The following methods and assumptions are used to estimate the fair value of each class of financial instruments:

Cash and cash equivalents, receivables and accrued expenses and other current liabilities
The carrying amounts of these financial assets and liabilities approximate fair values due to the relatively short-term maturity of these financial instruments.

Financial assets and liabilities at FVTPL
Fair values are generally based on quoted market prices. For the Parent Company's equity investments, fair values are determined based on quoted closing prices or bid price in cases when the former is not available in the PSE for 2023 and 2022. For the Parent Company's fixed income investments, fair values are determined based on BVAL reference rates for 2023 and 2022, respectively. If market prices are not readily available or if the securities are not traded in an active market, fair values are estimated using either values obtained from independent parties offering pricing services or adjusted quoted market prices of comparable investments or using the discounted cash flow methodology. For unquoted equity securities for which no reliable basis for fair value measurement is available, these are carried at cost net of impairment, if any. For the Parent Company's mutual funds, fair values are estimated using published net asset value (NAV).

Derivative instruments (included under financial assets at FVTPL)
Fair values are calculated by reference to the prevailing interest differential and spot exchange rate as of reporting date, taking into account the remaining term to maturity of the derivative instruments.

The fair value hierarchy as of December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021 follows:

	2023				
	Carrying Amount	**Level 1**	**Level 2**	**Level 3**	**Total**
Financial assets					
Financial assets at FVTPL:					
Government bonds	**₱4,434,335,172**	**₱4,434,335,172**	**₱–**	**₱–**	**₱4,434,335,172**
Corporate bonds	**1,031,866,980**	**1,031,866,980**	**–**	**–**	**1,031,866,980**
Mutual funds	**956,576,783**	**–**	**956,576,783**	**–**	**956,576,783**
Equity securities	**406,801,689**	**406,801,689**	**–**	**–**	**406,801,689**
Derivative assets	**562,000**	**–**	**562,000**	**–**	**562,000**
	₱6,830,142,624	**₱5,873,003,841**	**₱957,138,783**	**-**	**₱6,830,142,624**
Financial liability					
Derivative liability	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**

	2022				
	Carrying Amount	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Financial assets					
Financial assets at FVTPL:					
Corporate bonds	₱941,384,395	₱941,384,395	₱–	₱–	₱941,384,395
Government bonds	3,344,886,436	3,344,886,436	–	–	3,344,886,436
Mutual funds	948,255,083		948,255,083	–	948,255,083
Equity securities	606,437,502	606,437,502	–	–	606,437,502
Derivative assets			–		
	₱5,840,963,416	₱4,892,708,333	₱948,255,083	₱–	₱5,840,963,416
Financial liability					
Derivative liability	₱3,599,150	₱–	₱3,599,150	₱–	₱3,599,150

Fair value measurement of financial assets and liabilities under Level 2 were based on interest rates and yield curves, implied volatilities and foreign exchange spread.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, there are no transfers into and out of Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 fair value hierarchy.

6. Cash and Cash Equivalents

This account consists of:

	2023	2022
Cash on hand	**₱5,000**	₱5,000
Cash in banks	**339,031,527**	623,236,968
Cash equivalents	**1,359,000,000**	1,663,500,000
	₱1,698,036,527	₱2,286,741,968

Cash in banks earn interest at the prevailing bank deposit rates. Cash equivalents are made for varying periods of up to three months depending on the immediate cash requirements of the Parent Company and earn interest at the prevailing short-term deposit rates.

The table below shows the range of annual interest rates for cash equivalents.

	2023	2022	2021
Philippine peso	**1.20%-4.9%**	0.15%-5.50%	0.25%-0.75%
US dollar	**1.00%-3.15%**	0.03%-1.60%	0.13%-0.63%

In 2023, 2022 and 2021, interest income from cash and cash equivalents amounted to ₱91.84 million, ₱33.66 million and ₱7.27 million, respectively (see Note 18).

7. Receivables

This account consists of:

	2023	2022
Accrued interest receivable	**₱50,209,828**	₱34,740,712
Trade receivables	**5,172,663**	4,595,861
Due from broker	**192,861**	-
Other receivables	**2,060,026**	1,483,445
	57,635,378	40,820,018
Less: Allowance for impairment and credit losses (Note 13)	**(4,006,626)**	(4,006,626)
	₱53,628,752	₱36,813,392

Trade receivables are non-interest bearing and are normally collectible within two to four months after billing is made.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, receivables amounting to ₱4.01 million are fully provided and carried at Stage 3. There are no transfers into and out of Stage 3 in 2023 and 2022.

8. Investment Securities

Financial Assets at Fair Value through Profit or Loss
This account consists of the following:

	2023	2022
Government bonds	**₱4,434,335,172**	₱3,344,886,436
Corporate bonds	**1,031,866,980**	941,384,395
Mutual funds	**956,576,783**	948,255,083
Equities	**406,801,689**	606,437,502
Derivative assets	**562,000**	-
	₱6,830,142,624	₱5,840,963,416

Corporate Bonds
Corporate bonds include peso-denominated securities which earn interest ranging from 4.20% to 6.43%, 3.20% to 6.37% and 2.00% to 5.10% in 2023, 2022, and 2021, respectively. It also includes dollar-denominated securities with interest rates ranging from 2.13% to 4.75%, 2.13% to 4.75% and 2.13% to 7.38% in 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

Government Bonds
Government bonds include peso-denominated securities which earn interest ranging from 3.375% to 8.125%, in 2023, 3.38% to 8.13% in 2022 and 1.90% to 5.50% in 2021. It also includes dollar-denominated bonds with interest rates ranging from ranging from 3.75% to 4.10% in 2023, 2.13% to 4.10% in 2022 and 3.75% to 4.10% in 2021, respectively.

Mutual Funds
Mutual funds represent investment in shares and units of:

	2023	2022
Philequity Fund, Inc. (PEFI)	**₱564,379,398**	₱558,646,243
Philequity Dividend Yield Fund, Inc. (PDYF)	**148,680,341**	144,942,981
Philequity PSE Index Fund, Inc. (PPSE)	**124,762,832**	124,345,176
Philequity Alpha One Fund, Inc. (PAOF)	**58,475,848**	60,042,319
Philequity Balanced Fund, Inc. (PBF)	**30,195,561**	30,195,561
Philequity Foreign Currency Fixed Income Fund, Inc. (PFCFF)	**30,082,803**	30,082,803
	₱956,576,783	₱948,255,083

Movement in the Parent Company's mutual fund investment is shown below:

	2023	2022
Beginning	**₱948,255,083**	₱1,023,975,067
Revaluation	**8,321,700**	(75,719,984)
	₱956,576,783	₱948,255,083

Investment in shares of PEFI, PDYF, PBF, PCFFF, PPSE, and PAOF are valued at net asset value per share (NAVPS). NAVPS is computed by dividing net assets (total assets less total liabilities) by the total number of redeemable shares or units issued and outstanding as of reporting date.

Equity Securities
Quoted equity securities pertain to investments in stocks listed in the PSE.

Dividend income earned from FVTPL equity securities amounted to ₱17.46 million, ₱23.46 million, and ₱7.93 million in 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

Derivative Assets
As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, this account includes currency forward contracts entered into by the Parent Company to economically hedge the foreign exchange risk on certain US$-denominated assets. The Parent Company's outstanding currency forward contracts have an aggregate notional amount of US$5.00 million and US$7.95 million as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the weighted average forward contract rate is ₱54.40 to US$1 and ₱55.63 to US$1, respectively. The Parent Company is in a sell US dollar position as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

The movements in the Parent Company's derivative instruments are as follows:

	2023	2022	2021
Balance at beginning of year:			
Derivative assets	**₱-**	₱–	₱519,500
Derivative liabilities	**(3,599,150)**	(9,176,000)	–
	(3,599,150)	(9,176,000)	519,500
Fair value changes	**7,589,108**	(115,246,357)	5,410,693
Settled transactions	**(3,989,958)**	120,823,207	4,284,807
	4,161,150	5,576,850	9,695,500
Balance at end of year:			
Derivative assets	**562,000**	-	-
Derivative liabilities	**-**	(3,599,150)	(9,176,000)
	₱562,000	(₱3,599,150)	(₱9,176,000)

The net fair value changes on the Parent Company's currency forward contracts amounting to ₱7.58 million, ₱115.25 million and ₱5.41 million in 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively, are recognized in 'Unrealized foreign exchange gain/loss' in profit or loss in the parent company statement of comprehensive income.

Interest Income on Financial Assets at FVTPL
In 2023, 2022 and 2021, interest income from financial assets at FVTPL amounted to ₱301.12 million, ₱184.76 million and ₱181.12 million, respectively (see Note 18).

Trading and investment securities gains (losses) from financial assets at FVTPL consists of:

	2023	2022	2021
Realized gain (loss) from sale of:			
Bonds	**(₱1,996,903)**	₱1,422,173	₱35,864,312
Equity securities	**(40,023,799)**	8,780,441	15,209,856
	(42,020,702)	10,202,614	51,074,168
Changes in fair value of:			
Bonds	**134,096,037**	(199,816,949)	(133,643,417)
Equity securities	**23,988,460**	(174,879,374)	90,073,113
Mutual funds	**7,633,000**	(75,719,984)	41,047,228
	165,717,496	(450,416,307)	(2,523,076)
	₱123,696,795	(₱440,213,693)	₱48,551,092

9. Foreign Exchange Gain (Loss)

This account consists of gains and losses from the translation of the Parent Company's US$ denominated cash and cash equivalents and financial assets at FVTPL.

Breakdown of the foreign exchange income is presented below:

	2023	2022	2021
Realized Foreign Exchange Gain (Loss)			
Derivative assets (Note 8)	**₱3,989,958**	(₱120,823,207)	(₱4,284,807)
Currency trading	**(2,504,174)**	136,187,703	19,744,203
	1,485,784	15,364,496	15,459,396
Unrealized Foreign Exchange Gain (Loss)			
Cash and cash equivalents	**(4,804,471)**	39,985,155	16,880,176
Derivative assets (Note 8)	**4,161,150**	(3,599,150)	9,695,500
	(₱643,321)	₱36,386,005	₱26,575,676

Realized foreign exchange gain (loss) pertains to the amount realized upon the settlement of the Parent Company's derivative assets and realized gain from the buying and selling currencies.

Unrealized foreign exchange gain (loss) pertains to the translated gains from settlement of short-term deposits and the translated revaluation of derivative assets at FVTPL at year-end.

10. Investments in Subsidiaries

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Parent Company has investments in the following subsidiaries, which are accounted for under the cost method of accounting:

	2023		2022	
	% of Ownership	**Acquisition Cost**	% of Ownership	Acquisition Cost
Philequity MSCI Index Fund, Inc (PMIF)	**69.49**	**₱250,649,993**	68.15	250,649,993
Vantage Financial Corporation (VFC)	**100.00**	**132,925,065**	100.00	132,925,065
Philequity Management, Inc. (PEMI)	**51.00**	**32,407,700**	51.00	32,407,700
iCurrencies, Inc. (iCurrencies)	**100.00**	**14,778,473**	100.00	14,778,473
Philequity Global Fund, Inc. (PGFI)	**100.00**	**1,000,000**	100.00	1,000,000
Philequity Alpha One Fund, Inc. (PAOF)	**100.00**	**1,000,000**	100.00	1,000,000
Philequity Dynamic Allocation Fund, Inc. (PDAFI)	**99.99**	**1,000,000**	-	-
		₱433,761,231		₱432,761,231

The Parent Company's subsidiaries are all incorporated in the Philippines.

Investment in Philequity MSCI Index Fund, Inc. (PMIF)
As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Parent Company owns 250,618,397 common shares (with a par value of 1.00 per share) or 69.486% interest in PMIF.

PMIF was incorporated in the Philippines, and was registered with the SEC on December 15, 2017 under the Philippine ICA as an open-end mutual fund company. PMIF is engaged to subscribe for, invest and re-invest in, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of securities of all kinds, including all types of stocks, bonds, debentures, notes, mortgages, or other obligations, and/or similar financial instruments. Also, it will carry on the business of an Open-End Investment Company in all the elements and details thereof as prescribed by law.

In January 2019, PMIF launched its capital shares to the public.

Investment in VFC
As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Parent Company owns 799,999,981 common shares (with a par value of 1.00 per share) or 100% interest in VFC.

Investment in PEMI
As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Parent Company owns 3,640,000 common shares (with a par value of 100.00 per share) or 51%interest in PEMI.

Investment in iCurrencies
As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Parent Company owns 12,499,995 common shares (with a par value of 1.00 per share) or 100% interest in iCurrencies.

Investment in PGFI
Philequity Global Fund, Inc. was incorporated in the Philippines, and was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on June 24, 2019. The primary activities of the Fund are to subscribe for, invest and re-invest in, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of securities of all kinds, to acquire, hold, invest and reinvest in, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of real properties of all kinds; and generally to carry on the business of an open-end investment company in all the elements and details thereof as prescribed by law.

On January 20, 2022, the SEC approved the Fund's registration as an open-end mutual fund company.

Investment in PAOF
Philequity Alpha One Fund, Inc. was incorporated in the Philippines, and was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on February 13, 2019. The primary activities of the Fund are to subscribe for, invest and re-invest in, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of securities of all kinds, to acquire, hold, invest and reinvest in, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of real properties of all kinds; and generally to carry on the business of an open-end investment company in all the elements and details thereof as prescribed by law. On August 30, 2019, the SEC approved the Fund's application to register the Offer Units under the provisions of the Securities Regulation Code of the Philippines (Republic Act No. 8799).

On December 9, 2019, PAOF launched its units to the public.

Investment in PDAFI
Philequity Dynamic Allocation, Inc. (the Fund) was incorporated in the Philippines and was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on July 05, 2023. The primary activities of the Fund are to issue units for participation and to subscribe for, invest and re-invest in, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of securities of all kinds, to acquire, hold, invest and reinvest in, sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of real properties of all kinds; and generally to carry on the business of an open-end investment company in all the elements and details thereof as prescribed by law. On September 30, 2023, the Fund has not yet started its commercial operations pending the registration under the Philippine Investment Company Act (Republic Act no. 2629) as an open-end investment company with SEC.

Investment in PBF
As of December 31, 2023, the Parent Company owns 25,000,000 common shares (with a par value of 0.01 per share) or 100% interest in PBF. Investment in PBF is recorded as a mutual fund investment.

The fund has obtained tax clearance from the BIR, however, clearance for liquidation is still pending with the SEC as of December 31, 2023.

In 2023 and 2022, the Parent Company has not provided any allowance for impairment for its investment in PBF. The Parent Company believes that its investment is fully recoverable.

Investment in PFCFF
As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Parent Company owns 25,000,000 common shares (with a par value of 0.01 per share) or 100% interest in PFCFF. Investment in PFCFF is recorded as a mutual fund investment.

The fund has obtained tax clearance from the BIR, however, clearance for liquidation is still pending with the SEC as of December 31, 2023.

In 2023 and 2022, the Parent Company has not provided any allowance for impairment for its investment in PFCFF. The Parent Company believes that its investment is fully recoverable.

11. Property and Equipment

The components of and movements in this account follow:

	2023			
	Office Condominium and Improvements	**Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment**	**Transportation Equipment**	**Total**
Cost				
Balance at beginning and end of year	**₱52,696,797**	**₱27,901,228**	**₱14,281,523**	**₱94,879,548**
Accumulated Depreciation				
Balance at beginning of year	**15,519,564**	**27,901,228**	**14,281,523**	**57,702,315**
Depreciation (Note 17)	**289,476**	**-**	**-**	**289,476**
Balance at end of year	**15,809,040**	**27,901,228**	**14,281,523**	**57,991,791**
Net Book Value	**₱36,887,757**	**₱-**	**₱-**	**₱36,887,757**

	2022			
	Office Condominium and Improvements	Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	Transportation Equipment	Total
Cost				
Balance at beginning and end of year	₱52,696,797	₱27,901,228	₱14,281,523	₱94,879,548
Accumulated Depreciation				
Balance at beginning of year	14,057,406	27,899,059	13,794,354	55,750,819
Depreciation (Note 17)	1,462,158	2,169	487,169	1,951,496
Balance at end of year	15,519,564	27,901,228	14,281,523	57,702,315
Net Book Value	₱34,831,869	₱-	₱-	37,177,233

Fully depreciated assets are retained in the account until they are no longer in use and no further depreciation are charged against current operations. As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the cost of fully depreciated assets still being used in operations amounted to 42.18 million.

12. Other Noncurrent Assets

This account consists of:

	2023	2022
Deposits	**₱431,516**	₱313,517
Other assets	**242,427**	242,427
Deferred tax asset	**604,122**	-
	1,278,065	555,944
Less: Allowance for impairment and credit losses (Note 13)	**222,415**	222,415
	₱1,055,650	₱333,529

13. Allowance for Impairment and Credit Losses

Allowance for impairment and credit losses is as follows:

	2023	2022
Trade receivables (Note 7)	**₱4,006,626**	₱4,006,626
Other non-current assets (Note 12)	**222,415**	222,415
	₱4,229,041	₱4,229,041

The Parent Company has not recognized provision for credit and impairment losses in 2023 and 2022.

14. Accrued Expenses and Other Current Liabilities

This account consists of:

	2023	2022
Financial:		
Accrued expenses	**₱4,991,047**	₱7,835,461
Accounts payable	**390,383**	-
Others	**477,520**	1,449,524
	5,858,950	9,284,985
Nonfinancial:		
Withholding taxes	**503,494**	288,422
Sundry credits	**13,001**	-
Output value-added tax	**718**	-
Others	**43,945**	19,243
	561,158	307,665
	₱6,420,108	₱9,592,650

Accounts payable consists of payables to a third party and for the purchase of debt securities. This is usually payable within one (1) to two (2) trading days following the settlement convention.

Accrued expenses pertain to accrual of other employee benefits and professional fees.

Financial other current liabilities pertain to rental security deposit from Vantage Financial Services.

Nonfinancial other current liabilities mainly represent statutory payables such as Social Security System (SSS) premiums and other liabilities to the government.

15. Retirement Liability

The Parent Company has an unfunded, noncontributory defined benefit retirement plan covering substantially all of its regular employees. The latest actuarial valuation report is as of December 31, 2023.

Retirement expense included under 'General and administrative expenses' recognized in profit or loss in the statements of comprehensive income follow:

	2023	2022	2021
Service cost	**₱361,407**	₱281,536	₱293,308
Net interest cost	**279,633**	155,960	101,928
	₱641,040	₱437,496	₱395,236

The net retirement liability recognized in the statements of financial position follows:

	2023	2022
At January 1	**₱4,112,250**	₱ 4,136,894
Expense recognized in statements of comprehensive income:		
Current service cost	**361,407**	281,536
Net interest cost	**279,633**	155,960
	641,040	437,496
Remeasurements in OCI		
Actuarial changes arising from:		
Changes in financial assumptions	**759,771**	(76,955)
Deviations of experience from assumptions	**372,358**	(385,185)
	1,132,129	(462,140)
At December 31	**₱5,885,419**	₱4,112,250

The movement in remeasurement gains (losses) on retirement follow:

	2023	2022
At January 1	**₱576,581**	₱229,976
Actuarial changes arising from:		
Changes in financial assumptions	**289,702**	(76,955)
Deviations of experience from assumptions	**372,358**	(385,185)
Total remeasurement gains during the year	**662,060**	(462,140)
Income tax effect (Note 20)	**(283,032)**	(115,535)
Total remeasurement gains (loss), net of tax	**(379,028)**	346,605
At December 31	**₱197,553**	₱576,581

The principal actuarial assumptions used in determining the retirement liability as of January 1, 2023 and 2022 are shown below:

	2023	2022
Average working group age	**41 years**	45 years
Discount rate	**6.80%**	3.77%
Future salary increase	**3.50%**	3.50%

The sensitivity analysis below has been determined based on reasonably possible changes of each significant assumption on the defined benefit obligation as of the end of the reporting period, assuming all other assumptions were held constant:

		2023	2022
	Possible fluctuations	**Increase (decrease)**	Increase (decrease)
Discount rate	**+1.00%**	**(₱304,478)**	(₱116,649)
	-1.00%	**351,614**	117,305
Future salary increase	**+1.00%**	**362,512**	124,351
	-1.00%	**(332369)**	(129,067)
Average period of service of employees	**+10.00%**	**42,384**	419
	-10.00%	**(42,384)**	(419)

Shown below is the maturity analysis of the undiscounted benefit payments:

	2023	2022
More than 1 year to 5 years	**₱5,510,955**	₱5,594,299
More than 5 years	**20,353,179**	4,971,670
	₱25,864,134	₱10,565,969

The average duration of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period is estimated to be 18 years.

16. **Capital Stock**

The details of this account are shown below:

	2023		2022	
	Shares	**Amount**	Shares	Amount
Authorized shares (at par value of 1 per share)	**5,000,000,000**	**₱5,000,000,000**	5,000,000,000	₱5,000,000,000
Issued and Outstanding				
Balance at beginning of year	**4,335,181,766**	**4,335,181,766**	4,335,181,766	4,335,181,766
Treasury stock	**(135,599,500)**	**(190,460,934)**	(135,599,500)	(190,460,934)
Outstanding shares	**4,199,582,266**	**₱4,144,720,832**	4,199,582,266	₱4,144,720,832

The Parent Company has outstanding treasury shares of million shares amounting to ₱190.5 million as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, restricting the Parent Company from declaring an equivalent amount from unappropriated retained earnings as dividends.

The track record of the Parent Company's registration of securities in compliance with the Securities Regulation Code Rule 68 Annex 68-D 1(I) fols:

c. a. Authorized Shares

Date of SEC approval	Type of shares	Authorized number of shares
October 27, 2015	Common	5,000,000,000
January 12, 2009	Common	2,250,000,000
October 20, 1992	Common	1,900,000,0

d. b. Stock Dividends

Date of SEC approval	Percentage
December 18, 2015	100%
January 12, 2009	25%

c. Number of Shareholders

Year-end	Number of shareholders
December 31, 2023	603
December 31, 2022	603
December 31, 2021	607

Retained Earnings
After reconciling items, the retained earnings that is available for dividend declaration amounted to ₱4.90 billion as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023. Under the Corporation Code of the Philippines (the Code), a stock corporation is prohibited from retaining surplus profits in excess of 100.00% of its paid-in capital stock, except when qualified by any reasons mentioned in the Code.

Capital Management
The primary objectives of the Parent Company's capital management are to safeguard the Parent Company's ability to continue as a going concern, so that it can continue to provide returns for shareholders and benefits for other stakeholders and to maintain an optimal capital structure to reduce the cost of capital.

The management considers capital stock and retained earnings as core capital of the Parent Company.

The Parent Company manages its capital structure and makes adjustments to it in light of changes in economic conditions. To maintain or adjust the capital structure, the Parent Company may adjust the dividend payment to shareholders, return capital to shareholders or issue new shares. There were no changes made in the objectives, policies or processes during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022. To date, the Parent Company is not subject to any externally imposed capital requirements.

17. General and Administrative Expenses

This account consists of:

	2023	2022	2021
Salaries, wages and employee benefits	**₱15,691,802**	₱5,947,027	₱5,890,263
Professional fees	**9,662,568**	1,986,155	1,345,000
Transportation and communication	**2,835,155**	1,505,057	1,226,504
Director's fees	**2,766,667**	2,722,222	2,908,547
Taxes and licenses	**2,312,370**	3,412,512	2,794,502
Commission	**819,891**	1,216,887	3,206,496
Retirement expenses (Note 15)	**641,040**	437,497	395,236
Depreciation and amortization (Note 11)	**289,476**	1,951,497	4,368,106
Entertainment, amusement and recreation (Note 20)	**219,433**	311,913	410,906
Rent and utilities	**10,125**	75,974	151,055
Repairs and maintenance	**6,798**	455	56,756
Others	**766,402**	1,247,202	1,090,807
	₱36,021,727	₱20,814,398	₱23,844,178

Others include bank charges, office supplies, membership fees, training and seminar, periodicals and magazines, other insurance and other expenses.

18. Interest Income

This account consists of interest income from:

	2023	2022	2021
Financial assets at FVTPL (Note 8)	**₱301,121,530**	₱184,757,716	₱181,118,979
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 6)	**91,842,657**	33,656,604	7,267,287
	₱392,964,187	₱218,414,320	₱188,386,266

19. Income from Business Partner

In January 2021 VEI, as parent company of VFC, and Western Union, amended the Representation Agreement with Western Union expiring December 2026. The amendment essentially lifts exclusivity for inbound or receive transactions effective January 2021 in exchange for a lower share of commissions on said transactions and a $1.00 million signing bonus for VEI as the Parent Company of VFC. The Agreement provides for WU to pay the signing bonus to VEI who in turn will ensure VFC complies with its obligations under the Agreement. VEI has strong oversight over VFC's management and operations and provides back-office support to VFC.

20. **Income Taxes**

Provision for (benefit from) income tax consists of:

	2023	2022	2021
Current:			
Final	**₱74,916,463**	₱14,242,801	₱1,029,411
MCIT	**-**	85,693	746,476
Impact of CREATE Act in CY2020	**-**		(248,744)
	74,916,463	14,328,494	1,527,143
Deferred:			
Deferred income tax	**(9,417,591)**	2,343,208	16,273,209
Impact of CREATE Act in CY2020	**-**		1,849,822
	(9,417,591)	2,343,208	18,123,031
	₱65,498,872	₱16,671,702	₱19,650,174

Current tax regulations provide that the RCIT rate shall be 25.00% and interest allowed as a deductible expense shall be reduced by an amount of 20.00% of interest income subjected to final tax.

Current tax regulations provide for the ceiling on the amount of entertainment, amusement and recreation (EAR) expenses that can be claimed as a deduction against taxable income. Under the regulation, EAR expenses allowed as a deductible expense is limited to the actual EAR expenses paid or incurred but not to exceed 1.00% of net revenue. EAR amounted to ₱0.22 million, ₱0.31 million and ₱0.41 million in 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

The regulations also provide for MCIT of 1.00% on modified gross income and allow NOLCO. The MCIT and NOLCO may be applied against the Parent Company's income tax liability and taxable income, respectively, over a three-year period from the year of inception.

On September 30, 2021, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has issued Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 25-2020 to implement Section 4 (b) of Republic Act No. 11494, otherwise known as "Bayanihan to Recover as One Act", allowing qualified businesses or enterprises which incurred net operating loss for taxable years 2021 and 2020 to carry over the same as a deduction from its gross income for the next five (5) consecutive taxable years immediately following the year of such loss.

President Rodrigo Duterte signed into law on March 26, 2022 the CREATE Act to attract more investments and maintain fiscal prudence and stability in the Philippines. Republic Act (RA) 11534 or the CREATE Act introduces reforms to the corporate income tax and incentives systems. It takes effect 15 days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation or April 11, 2022.

The following are the key changes to the Philippine tax law pursuant to the CREATE Act which have an impact on the Parent Company:

- Effective July 1, 2021, regular corporate income tax (RCIT) rate is reduced from 30.00% to 25.00% for domestic and resident foreign corporations.

  Minimum corporate income tax (MCIT) rate reduced from 2.00% to 1.00% of gross income effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024.

Based on the provisions of Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 5-2021 dated April 8, 2021 issued by the BIR, the prorated MCIT rate of the Parent Company for CY2020 is 1.50%. This resulted in a lower provision for current income tax of ₱0.25 million for the year ended December 31, 2021. The reduced amounts will be reflected in the Parent Company's 2020 annual income tax return. However, for financial reporting purposes, the changes are recognized in the 2021 financial statements.

This also resulted to a write-down of the deferred tax assets of the Parent Company recognized as of December 31, 2020 by ₱1.85 million in the 2021 financial statements.

Components of the net deferred tax liabilities of the Parent Company are as follows:

	2023	2022
Deferred tax assets		
Unrealized foreign exchange losses	**₱1,201,118**	₱–
Deferred tax liability on:		
Unrealized foreign exchange gain	**(1,040,288)**	(₱9,096,501)
Retirement liability obligation	**443,292**	(470,069)
Deferred tax asset (liability)	**₱604,122**	(₱9,566,570)

The details of deductible temporary differences and carryforward benefits of NOLCO and MCIT for which no deferred tax asset had been recognized in the statements of financial position as management believes that there will be no sufficient future taxable income against which these can be applied, are as follows:

	2023	2022
Allowance for impairment and credit losses	**₱4,229,041**	₱4,229,041
Accrued retirement costs	**5,885,419**	4,112,251
NOLCO	**35,890,777**	12,592,210
MCIT	**611,956**	1,578,403
	₱46,617,193	₱23,551,905

Details of the Parent Company's NOLCO follow:

Inception Year	Amount	Utilized/Expired	Balance	Expiry Year
2023	₱30,684,624	₱–	₱30,684,624	2028
2022	2,900,389	–	2,900,389	2027
2021	2,305,764	–	2,305,764	2026
2020	7,386,057	7,386,057	–	2025
	₱43,276,834	₱7,386,057	₱35,890,777	

As of December 31, 2023, the MCIT that can be claimed as tax credit, with their corresponding expiry dates, are as follows:

Year Incurred	Amount	Expired	Balance	Expiry Year
2023	₱28,531	₱–	₱28,531	2026
2022	85,693	–	85,693	2025
2021	497,732	–	497,732	2024
2020	994,978	994,978	–	2023
	₱1,606,934	₱994,978	₱611,956	

The reconciliation of provision for income tax computed at the statutory income tax rate to the provision for (benefit from) income tax as shown in the statements of comprehensive income is as follows:

	2023	2022	2021
Statutory income tax	**125,078,101**	(₱43,482,371)	₱76,286,978
Impact of CREATE	**–**	–	1,601,078
Non-taxable income	**(30,907,789)**	103,409,504	(19,893,908)
Tax-paid income	**(23,576,482)**	(40,360,779)	(39,139,705)
Tax-exempt income	**(4,365,942)**	(5,864,838)	(248,419)
Nondeductible expenses	**(160,260)**	109,374	434,806
Change in unrecognized deferred tax assets	**(568,756)**	2,775,119	3,065,025
Excess of MCIT over RCIT	**-**	85,693	746,476
Effective income tax	**₱65,498,872**	₱16,671,702	₱19,650,174

21. Related Party Transactions

Parties are considered to be related if one party has the ability to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial and operating decisions. This includes: (a) individuals owning, directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, control, or are controlled by, or under common control with the Parent Company; and (b) individuals owning, directly or indirectly, an interest in the voting power of the Parent Company that gives them significant influence over the Parent Company and close members of the family of any such individual.

In the normal course of business, the Parent Company has transactions with other companies considered as related parties. These transactions are based on terms similar to those offered to non-related parties.

	2023		
	Amount/ Volume	**Outstanding Balance**	**Nature, Terms and Conditions**
Directors and Other Key Management Personnel (Other Related Parties)			
Directors' fees	**₱2,766,667**	**–**	Per diem and annual fees of Directors
Rental Income	**1,432,560**	**1,432,560**	Lease contract

	2022		
	Amount/ Volume	Outstanding Balance	Nature, Terms and Conditions
Directors and Other Key Management Personnel (Other Related Parties)			
Directors' fees	₱2,722,222	–	Per diem and annual fees of Directors

Terms and conditions of transactions with related parties

Outstanding balances at year-end are unsecured and settlement occurs in cash. There have been no guarantees provided or received for any related party receivables or payables. An assessment is undertaken each financial year through a review of financial position of the related party and the market in which the related party operates. In 2023 and 2022, no provision for credit losses were provided for with related parties transactions.

Remunerations of Directors and Other Key Management Personnel
Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Parent Company, directly or indirectly. The Parent Company considers the members of the Executive Committee to constitute key management personnel for purposes of PAS 24, *Related Party Disclosures.*

Salaries and short-term benefits to the Parent Company's key management personnel amounted to ₱7.35 million in 2023 and ₱3.25 million in 2022 and 2021. Post-employment benefits amounted to ₱0.61 million in 2023 and ₱0.40 million in 2022 and 2021 (see Note 15).

22. Leases

The Parent Company entered into lease a lease agreement with its subsidiary, Vantage Financial Corporation covering office spaces. The lease provides a fixed monthly rent with lease term of five (5) years.

As lessor, future minimum rental receivables under renewable operating leases as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 are as follows:

	2023	2022
Within one year	**₱2,865,120**	₱2,865,120
After one year but not more than five years	**5,730,240**	5,730,240
	₱8,595,360	₱8,595,360

In view of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors of the Parent Company approved the extension of grant of 30% rent concession to VFC for its rental fee of the BGC office of twelve (12) months for 2023 and 50% rent discount of twelve (12) months for 2022.

23. Segment Reporting

The Parent has one operating segment. The table below analyzes the Parent Company's revenue streams per investment type:

	2023	2022	2021
Financial asset at FVTPL	**₱442,282,090**	(₱231,996,625)	₱237,600,001
Cash and cash equivalents	**91,842,656**	33,656,604	7,267,286
	₱534,124,746	(₱198,340,021)	₱244,867,287

As the Parent Company has one operating segment, the assets and liabilities as reported in the statements of financial position are also the segment assets and liabilities.

The Parent Company's asset producing revenue are all located in the Philippines (i.e., one geographical location). Therefore, geographical segment information is no longer presented.

No investment income (loss) was derived from a single customer that constitutes 10.00% or more of the Parent Company's investment income (loss) in 2023, 2022 and 2021.

24. **Earnings (Loss) per Share**

Earnings per share is calculated by dividing the net income (loss) for the year by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the year (adjusted for any stock dividends).

The following table reflects the net income and share data used in the earnings per share computations:

	2023	2022	2021
Net income	**₱434,813,532**	(₱190,601,187)	₱285,497,738
Outstanding number of common shares (Note 16)	**4,199,582,266**	4,199,582,266	4,199,582,266
	₱0.1035	(₱0.0454)	₱0.0680

There were no potential dilutive common shares for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021.

25. **Approval of Release of Financial Statements**

The accompanying comparative financial statements of the Parent Company were authorized and approved for issuance by the Board of Directors on April 29, 2024.

26. **Supplementary Information Required Under Revenue Regulations (RR)15-2010**

Supplementary Information Required Under RR 15-2010
The Parent Company also reported and/or paid the following types of taxes for the year:

Value Added Tax (VAT)
The Parent Company is a VAT-registered company with output VAT declaration of ₱0.17 million for the year based on the total actual cash receipts on all fees earned amounted to ₱1.43 million. As of December 31, 2023, output VAT payable is ₱0.17 million.

Movements in input VAT in 2023 are as follows:

	Amount
Beginning of the year	₱625,284
Current year's domestic purchase of services	1,140,050
	1,765,334
Deferred input VAT applied	-
Claims for tax credit/refund and other adjustments	(178,230.70)
Ending balance	₱1,587,104

Taxes and Licenses
In 2023, the Parent Company reported and/or paid the following taxes and licenses fees under 'General and Administrative Expenses' in profit or loss in the statement of comprehensive income:

	Amount
Stock transfer tax	₱1,538,048
Documentary stamp tax	380
Municipal permits	304,362
Community Tax	-
Registration/License fee	384,220
Other taxes	85,360
	₱2,312,370

Withholding Taxes
As of December 31, 2023, total remittances and balance of withholding taxes follow:

	Total Remittances	Balance
Withholding taxes on compensation and benefits	₱617,378	(₱65,446)
Expanded withholding taxes	2,846,019	568,941
Ending balance	₱3,463,397	₱503,494

Tax Assessments and Cases
In 2023, the Parent Company has no deficiency tax assessment, whether protested or not, nor tax cases under preliminary investigation, litigation and or prosecution in courts or bodies outside the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Vantage Equities Inc <compliance@vantage.ph>

SEC eFast Initial Acceptance

1 message

noreply-cifssost@sec.gov.ph <noreply-cifssost@sec.gov.ph> Mon, Apr 29, 2024 at 11:17 PM

Greetings!

SEC Registration No: AS92007059
Company Name: VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC.
Document Code: AFS

This serves as temporary receipt of your submission.
Subject to verification of form and quality of files of the submitted report.
Another email will be sent as proof of review and acceptance.

Thank you.

REMINDER: TO ALL FILERS OF REPORTS IN THE e-FAST Please strictly follow the instruction stated in the form. Filings not in accordance with the prescribed template for the following reports will be automatically reverted by the system to the filer. 1. General Information Sheet (GIS-Stock) 2. General Information Sheet (GIS-Non-stock) 3. General Information Sheet (GIS- Foreign stock & non-stock) 4. Broker Dealer Financial Statements (BDFS) 5. Financing Company Financial Statements (FCFS) 6. Investment Houses Financial Statements (IHFS) 7. Publicly – Held Company Financial Statement 8. General Form for Financial Statements 9. Financing Companies Interim Financial Statements (FCIF) 10. Lending Companies Interim Financial Statements (LCIF) Per Section 18 of SEC Memorandum Circular No. 3 series of 2021, the reckoning date of receipt of reports is the date the report was initially submitted to the eFast, if the filed report is compliant with the existing requirements. A report, which was reverted or rejected, is considered not filed or not received. A notification will be sent to the filer, stating the reason for the reports rejection in the remarks box.

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Headquarters, 7907 Makati Avenue,
Salcedo Village, Barangay Bel-Air, Makati City,
1209, Metro Manila, Philippines

VANTAGE EQUITIES, INC.

Vantage Equities Inc <compliance@vantage.ph>

Vantage Equities Inc Parent AAFS_29APR_2024

2 messages

Vantage Equities Inc <compliance@vantage.ph> Mon, Apr 29, 2024 at 10:31 PM
To: ICTD Submission <ictdsubmission@sec.gov.ph>
Cc: MSRD COVID19 <msrd_covid19@sec.gov.ph>, Angelica Cabanit <angelica.cabanit@philequity.net>, Cherry Lynne Ozenia-Garin <cherrylynne.ozenia@philequity.net>

Greetings
Enclosed herewith Vantage Equities Inc Parent AAFS as of and for the period ended 31 December 2023.

Thank you.
Vantage Equities, inc.

Vantage Equities, Inc 122023_AAFS_PARENT_29APR_24.pdf
880K

ICTD Submission <ictdsubmission+canned.response@sec.gov.ph> Mon, Apr 29, 2024 at 10:34 PM
To: compliance@vantage.ph

Thank you for reaching out to ictdsubmission@sec.gov.ph!

Your submission is subject for Verification and Review of the Quality of the Attached Document only for Secondary Reports. The Official Copy of the submitted document/report with Barcode Page (Confirmation Receipt) will be made available after 7 working days via order through the SEC Express at https://secexpress.ph/. For further clarifications, please call (02) 8737-8888.

--- NOTICE TO COMPANIES --

Please be informed of the reports that shall be filed only through ictdsubmission@sec.gov.ph.

Pursuant to SEC MC Circular No. 3 s 2021, scanned copies of the printed reports with wet signature and proper notarization shall be filed in PORTABLE DOCUMENT FORMAT (pdf) through email at ictdsubmission@sec.gov.ph such as the following SECONDARY REPORTS:

1. 17-A 6. ICA-QR 11. IHAR 16. 39-AR 21. Monthly Reports
2. 17-C 7. 23-A 12. AMLA-CF 17. 36-AR 22. Quarterly Reports
3. 17-L 8. 23-B 13. NPM 18. PNFS 23. Letters
4. 17-Q 9. GIS-G 14. NPAM 19. MCG 24. OPC (Alternate Nominee)
5. ICASR 10. 52-AR 15.BP-FCLC 20.S10/SEC-NTCE-EXEMPT

Further, effective 01 July 2023, the following reports shall be submitted through https://efast.sec.gov.ph/user/login.

1. FORM MC 18 7. Completion Report
2. FORM 1 - MC 19 8. Certificate-SEC Form MCG- 2009
3. FORM 2- MC 19 9. Certificate-SEC Form MCG- 2002, 2020 ETC.
4. ACGR 10. Certification of Attendance in Corporate Governance
5. I-ACGR 11. Secretary's Certificate Meeting of Board Directors (Appointment)
6. MRPT

Please be informed that the submission of the abovementioned eleven (11) reports through the ictdsubmission@sec.gov.ph shall no longer be accepted. For further information, please access this link Notice for guidance on the filing of reports:

Likewise, the following reports shall be filed through the Electronic Filing and Submission Tool (eFAST) at https://efast.sec.gov.ph/user/login :

1. AFS 7. IHFS 13. SSF
2. GIS 8. LCFS 14. AFS with Affidavit of No Operation
3. BDFS 9. LCIF 15. AFS with NSPO Form 1,2, and 3
4. FCFS 10. OPC_AO 16. AFS with NSPO Form 1,2,3 and 4,5,6
5. FCIF 11. PHFS 17. FS - Parent
6. GFFS 12. SFFS 18. FS – Consolidated

For the submission and processing of compliance in the filing of Memorandum Circular No. 28 Series of 2020, please visit this link – https://apps010.sec.gov.ph/

For your information and guidance.

Thank you.

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2023

VANTAGE
EQUITIES, INC.

Message from Our CEO

Dear Stakeholders:

2023 was the year we finally put COVID-19 behind us. Malacañang lifted the state of public health emergency in July 2023, following the WHO's earlier declaration in May.

As the most severe lockdowns were lifted in 2022, we saw "revenge" consumer spending fuel economic growth. This phenomenon however softened in 2023 such that GDP grew at a lower 5.6% vs 7.6% the prior year. Interest rates were also higher in response to increasing inflationary pressures from firmer demand and higher commodity prices. Average BSP policy rates were 6.2% in 2023 vs 3.1% in 2022. The peso and PSE were at times volatile but were largely range bound in 2023.

Against this backdrop, your company continued to make gains in repairing its internal organization and internal processes that admittedly suffered during 2 years of debilitating COVID-related lockdowns. Notwithstanding the challenges, we remain steadfast in our commitment to sustainability, to our employees and the communities we serve.

We have embraced flexible work-from-home arrangements where feasible. This has lessened our employees' commute and contributed to reducing traffic and indirectly, carbon emissions. We also continually reinforce energy and water conservation in our operations and among our employees.

Moving forward, we plan to have more programs for our employees' holistic well-being and our customers' financial literacy and education.

Sincerely,

Edmundo Marco P. Bunyi Jr.
President and CEO

OUR VISION

To emerge as the premier investment holding company. We draw on our strong team experience and the network of our principal investors to generate superior returns to our stakeholders thereby contributing to the sustainable development of our economies.

OUR MISSION

To contribute to the sustainable development of our economies by building market-leading businesses through our focused approach and continuous enhancement of our shareholder's value.

OUR VALUES

INTEGRITY, EXCELLENCE, TEAMWORK AND BELIEF IN PEOPLE.

CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Company Details	
Name of Organization	Vantage Equities, Inc.
Location of Headquarters	Philippines
Location of Operations	15th Floor Phil. Stock Exchange Tower, 28th St. cor 5th Ave. Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City
Report Boundary: Legal entities (e.g. subsidiaries)	Vantage Equities, Inc. subsidiaries are: (1) Vantage Financial Corporation (100% owned) and (2) Philequity Management, Inc. (51% owned).
Business Model, including Primary Activities, Brands, Products, and Services	Vantage Equities, Inc. is a Philippine-based company incorporated on October 20, 1992. The company's primary business is investing in local financial instruments and marketable securities, such as equities and fixed-income securities. The shares of Vantage Equities are publicly traded in the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE). Subsidiaries and Affiliates: (1) *Philequity Management, Inc. (PEMI)* is an investment management company established in 1994. Their mission is to help clients achieve long-term financial investment returns by offering a range of mutual funds with varying investment risk-reward profiles. (2) *Vantage Financial Corporation (VFC, formerly known as e-Business Services, Inc.)* started as the first Asia-Pacific direct agent of Western Union. VFC has since partnered with other international remittance companies and widened its money transfer offering to its customers. Beyond money transfer services, VFC also offers money changing, bills payment, and ticketing services.
Reporting Period	January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023
Highest Ranking Person responsible for this report	Edmundo Marco P. Bunyi, Jr. President and CEO

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

GOVERNANCE OVERVIEW

Vantage Equities, Inc., along with its Board of Directors, Officers, and Employees, are dedicated to ensuring sound, prudent, and effective management practices. This commitment encompasses effective risk management, the establishment of efficient management information systems, facilitating access to dependable financial and operational data, fostering cost-efficient and profitable business operations, and ensuring compliance with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and contractual obligations.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Valentino C. Sy
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Valentino C. Sy
Edmundo P. Bunyi, Jr.
Roberto Z. Lorayes
Timothy A. Sy
Joseph L. Ong
Gregorio T. Yu
Willy N. Ocier
Wilson L. Sy
Darlene A. Sy
Ignacio B. Gimenez
Bert C. Hontiveros
Andy Co
Antonio C. Moncupa, Jr.

BOARD COMMITTEES

Corporate Governance Committee

Chairman	Bert C. Hontiveros
Member	Edmundo P. Bunyi Jr.
Member	Gregorio T. Yu
Member	Andy O. Co
Member	Antonio C. Moncupa, Jr.

Audit and Risk Committee

Chairman	Antonio C. Moncupa, Jr.
Member	Edmundo P. Bunyi Jr
Member	Bert C. Hontiveros
Member	Andy O. Co
Member	Gregorio T. Yu

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Corporate Governance Committee ensures the application of top corporate governance standards at VEI, fostering transparency, accountability, and ethical behavior. Responsibilities include creating and revising governance policies for the purpose of maintaining good governance amid a changing business landscape. Moreover, the committee oversees compliance with laws and regulations, staying updated on governance trends to refine VEI's governance practices.

THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

This committee performs the roles of the following committees: Audit Risk, Board Risk Oversight and Risk Management. It focuses on financial reporting, internal controls, and audit-related matters. It also covers enterprise-wide risk management as well as operational and compliance risks.

APPROACH TO RISK MANAGEMENT IN OPERATIONAL PLANNING

VEI recognizes and manages risks in line with the company's vision, mission, goals, and strategic plans. Understanding that risks cannot be entirely eliminated, VEI ensures the identification and management of both current and emerging risks are within acceptable limits. The Board of Directors is committed to embedding risk management as a fundamental aspect of all its activities.

COVERAGE AND BOUNDARIES

This is the second edition of Vantage Equities, Inc.'s Sustainability Reporting. The report covers the calendar year 2023. If needed for context, earlier years may be referenced for programs, projects, activities, or developments. Going forward, the VEI Sustainability Report will be prepared and released annually, with the reporting period aligned with the calendar year

SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

Vantage Equities Inc. is dedicated to nation-building through business excellence, prioritizing value creation, strategic partnerships, and synergistic growth. While embracing our business model, we aim to develop a more tailored sustainability approach, acknowledging our impact on society and the environment beyond economic value.

MATERIALITY MATRIX

During this second reporting cycle, VEI had planned to adhere to the GRI Standards: Core Option. As a financial institution specializing in investment management, VEI's operations extend across diverse sectors and regions. To maintain focus, we concentrated primarily on Vantage Equities, Inc. operations. During this process, VEI has identified, evaluated, and ranked material sustainability issues. The approach included thorough research, encompassing peer analysis and stakeholder interviews and analysis, to identify significant sustainability concerns affecting both the Company and the industry.

Vision	Objectives	Focus	Performance	Result
To become the leading investment holding company within our communities.	To create and deliver high quality of product or services to our customers	Inclusive Economic Performance	Job Creation Innovative Products and Services	Sustained Growth Positive Impact on Society and Environment
	To lessen the consumption of resources that has impact on environment	Environmental Responsible	Efficient utilization of energy, water and materials	
	To Look after the welfare of the Employees	Positive Social Impact	Positive Management System Customer Service Program	

MATERIALITY AND ITS BOUNDARIES

Material Topic	Topic Boundary
Economic Performance How VEI delivers sustainable returns to its shareholders and attains consistent market growth.	Within VEI and with Customers
Market Presence How VEI forge partnerships with world-class organizations	Within VEI, Customers and Business Partners
Compliance How VEI adheres to government requirements and meets global industry standards	Within VEI and Communities
Corporate Governance and Risk Management How VEI anchors its policies and practices on good governance , observes local and global practices and mitigates its risks through periodic assessments and analysis	Within VEI and Regulators
Environmentally Responsible Business Operations How VEI practices efficient utilization of its resources such as water and energy, mitigates impact on the environment by measuring and monitoring its emissions and preserves the natural biodiversity where it operates	Within VEI and Host Communities
Human Resource Development Welfare How VEI develops and retains its employees, provides training and skills development, defines career path and succession planning for its employees and provides a secure and conducive working environment	Within VEI
Customer Care and Service How VEI addresses the concerns of its customers and protects their privacy and customer rights and engages its customers in VEI's sustainability and CSR initiatives	Within VEI, Regulators and Customers

REPORTING PROCESS

VEI is following an approach based on GRI Standards. A breakdown of the broad steps taken are as follows:

Steps Taken:

1. *Build Corporate Capacity*
   VEI is in the process of going through GRI Standards training to understand and align with reporting requirements.

2. *Materiality Assessment*
   VEI is scheduled to assess its vision, operational procedures, and management methodologies, pinpointing crucial elements and their direct influence on the Group's value delivery and performance.

3. *Data Gathering*
   VEI will soon launch the process of collecting relevant stories and data based on the identified material topics to provide a comprehensive view of the Group's sustainability performance.

4. *Management Review and Validation of Material*
   VEI will then conduct a culminating validation exercise and approval process for the collected data and information to ensure accuracy and relevance, specifically focusing on material topics and disclosed data.

STAKEHOLDER OVERVIEW AND ENGAGEMENT

VEI has also interacted and has planned to interact with stakeholders through online surveys and informal discussions to grasp their perspectives on material aspects of our operations and their impacts.

Stakeholder	Description	Channels of Engagement
Investors, Shareholders	Financial backers and sources of vital funding who allow VEI to achieve intended results, substantial returns and shared value	Annual Stockholders' Meetings, Websites
Customers, Clients	Patrons of VEI's products and services	Surveys, Newsletters
Employees	Pillars of VEI who embody, carry out and fulfill our corporate vision, mission and objectives	Internal Communications, Performance Reviews, Trainings
Communities	Partners in community development and local economic growth	Community Involvement
Business Partners, Suppliers	Suppliers and service providers who partner with VEI	Business Meetings, Contracts, Policies
Regulators, Socio-Civic Organizations, Media	Collaborators in the pursuit of social progress and environmental sustainability	Compliance, Meetings Media Briefs

OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholder	Relevant Issues	Our Commitment
Investors, Shareholders	Economic Performance Corporate Governance and Risk Management Environmentally Responsible Business Operations	Building a strategic and diverse portfolio that deliver steady economic returns
Customers, Clients	Customer Care and Service Environmentally Responsible Business Operations	Implementation of customer-centric operations and innovations that enhance experiences and overall satisfaction
Employees	Human Resource Development and Welfare Economic Performance Compliance Environmentally Responsible Business Operations	Empowerment of our employees across all levels and fulfillment of their career aspirations, as well as providing quality healthcare to maintain prime physical and mental disposition
Communities	Local Community Development Economic Performance Market Presence	Creation of strategic and purposeful social investments and self-help opportunities
Business Partners, Suppliers	Compliance Economic Performance Customer Care and Service	Maintenance of good governance, transparency and accountability practices in everything we do
Regulators, Socio-Civic Organizations, Media	Compliance Indirect Economic Performance Environmentally Responsible Business Operations Human Resource Development and Welfare	Working efficiently, harmoniously and in an aboveboard manner towards the achievement of shared goals and mutual benefits

ECONOMIC

1 NO POVERTY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

It is the Group's utmost belief that business must be pursued not only for profit but also for the betterment of society. VEI thus commits its operations to continuously stimulate smaller economic activities that will, in most likelihood, yield greater productivity and profitability at the local level. As an investment company, VEI's indirect economic impacts primarily occur through the Group's component companies.

Component Companies	Total # of Employees
Vantage Financial Corporation (formerly E-Business Services, Inc.)	409
Philequity Management, Inc. (PEMI)	13

The Group continuously seeks out and assures investment decisions that are aligned with both core corporate strategy of the company as well as the greater core corporate values of integrity, excellence, teamwork and belief in people. The Group believes that by continuously upholding due diligence in looking and undertaking new investments the Company then is able to achieve greater levels of economic impact, realizing step by step the Group's vision of contributing to the sustainable development of the country's economy.

Direct Economic Value Generated & Distributed

Disclosure	Quantity
Direct Economic Value Generated	319,746,933
Direct Economic Value Distributed	
Operating Costs	226,332,148
Employee Wages and Benefits	164,249,906
Other Operating Costs	42,841,788
Taxes given to Government	121,804,557
Economic Value Retained	

This commitment is exemplified through the Group's subsidiary, Vantage Financial Corporation (VFC), formerly known as e-Business Services Inc., which primarily focuses on remittances as its core undertaking, specifically Western Union money transfer services. The company remains steadfast in its dedication to supporting the over 3.5-million-strong Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) community, recognizing their pivotal role in the Philippine economy. OFWs regularly remit and save to support their families in the country and Vantage Financial Corporation is dedicated to assisting them in this endeavor.

Beyond just this, Philequity Management, Inc. (PEMI), the mutual fund subsidiary of the Group, on the other hand, undertakes financial and investor education as its primary method of contributing to economic and social development. With regular newsletters on both its website and social media platforms, VEI provides a wide array of tools and resources designed to help consumers become informed investors. These resources cover topics such as the nature of mutual funds, their workings, and the associated benefits and risks. The Group is further also committed to promoting financial inclusion by launching programs aimed at enhancing the financial literacy of underserved Filipinos. These programs focus on two key areas: financial education and investment-building for small-time investors, with investment options starting for as low as one thousand pesos.

CLIMATE CHANGE

With climate change becoming an increasingly relevant risk for modern-day companies, VEI finds it prudent to now create climate change management strategies in order to confront this looming threat. Currently, however, VEI's operations are only minimally affected by climate change-related risks. At the same time, the Group acknowledges that it only has a minimal impact in contributing to climate change. But the Group is thus now on the lookout for opportunities in nuancing its business strategies and operations to be more climate-conscious and adaptive.

PROCUREMENT PRACTICES

Proportion of Spending on Local Suppliers

Disclosure	Quantity	Units
Percentage of procurement budget used for significant locations of operations that is spent on local suppliers	N/A	%

As a conglomerate of companies within the finance industry, procurement practices are not substantially material or relevant to the Group. The products, services, and operations of the Group are not heavily dependent on raw materials. The Group primarily only engages its suppliers for technology maintenance, third party services, and procurement of office suppliers, among others. Nonetheless, the Group strictly maintains a Supplier Accreditation policy to fully assure quality suppliers, contractors, and even other third party providers and to mitigate any risk of adverse effects on the Group's operations.

COMMITMENT TO ANTI-CORRUPTION

Rooted in the Group's core value of integrity, VEI upholds a commitment to zero tolerance for corruption and other related practices as corruption afterall can have far-reaching consequences, including financial, legal, and regulatory penalties. The Group's Code of Conduct and Discipline is the company's main guide in mandating all directors, officers, and employees conduct fair, professional, and ethical business transactions and operations. They are prohibited from using their position for personal gain or to benefit themselves or related parties. Other internal policies such as the Group's Whistleblowing Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy, Insider Trading Policy, and even PEMI's Written Supervisory and Internal Control Procedures, among others, also help guide the Group's commitment to preventing internal corruption-related violations specific to the operations of the company.

All employees are informed of the aforementioned policies and guidelines upon onboarding, as well as being regularly updated through necessary and relevant email cascades. Additionally, the Group regularly conducts refresher sessions on anti-corruption practices, updates policies to ensure best practices, and implements regular audits to ensure policy effectiveness insofar as assuring a corruption-free workplace within the Company. The Human Resources department also constantly opens its channels—both formal and informal—for any employee reports regarding any violations of the above policies.

Training on Anti-corruption Policies & Procedures

Disclosure	Quantity	Units
Percentage of employees to whom the organization's anti corruption policies and procedures have been communicated to	100	%
Percentage of business partners to whom the organization's anti-corruption policies and procedures have been communicated to	100	%
Percentage of directors and management that have received anti-corruption training	100	%
Percentage of employees that have received anti-corruption training	100	%

Thus far, the Group has seen zero corruption reports for the year 2023. This could be attributed to a high rate of employee commitment to excellence and integrity, as well as the Group's strengthened policies and procedures to assure zero incidents of corruption.

Incidents of Corruption

Disclosure	Quantity	Units
Number of incidents in which directors were removed or disciplined for corruption	**0**	**%**
Number of incidents in which employees were dismissed or disciplined for corruption	**0**	**%**
Number of incidents when contracts with business partners were terminated due to incidents of corruption	**0**	**%**

ENVIRONMENTAL

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Group acknowledges the need to consider the profound impacts climate change and its related risks can have on VEI's operations, clients, and communities. The Group commits itself in contributing to support the transition to a lower-carbon community, aligned even more with its vision of developing sustainable economies.

As an investment company, VEI has consciously invested its portfolio with funds aimed toward sustainable development, looking for investment avenues that promote sustainability while maximizing shareholder value. The Group believes that sustainable investing is the way to enhance the long-term return on our assets, enabling the company to achieve superior results while benefiting the communities the Company operates in and actively impacts. Incorporating an environmental, social, and governance (ESG) lens into VEI's investment decision-making enables the company to effectively manage risks in investment portfolios and identify opportunities related to ESG trends. Most recently, the Company invested P300M in BDO ASEAN Sustainability Bonds, the proceeds of which may be invested into specified green, social, or sustainability projects by the abovementioned bank.

Energy Consumption

Disclosure	Quantity	Units
Energy consumption (renewable sources)	N/A	GJ
Energy consumption (gasoline)	N/A	GJ
Energy consumption (LPG)	N/A	GJ
Energy consumption (diesel)	N/A	GJ
Energy consumption (electricity)	13,191.91	kWh

Beyond that, the Group is actively shifting its workplace culture to one that better meets the needs of today and in the future—one that the Group believes will ultimately reduce its present environmental impact. The following are the current action plans Management has actively taken in pursuit of this:

- Office environments are more eco-friendly and healthy, featuring improved air quality, enhanced thermal comfort, greater daylight exposure and low environmental-impact materials;
- Responsible use of paper as Management actively encourages to reduce and minimize the unnecessary use of resources, specifically of paper;
- Greater choice and flexibility so our employees can select the space that will help them be their most productive on a given day-whether in a traditional workspace or from home; and
- Greater collaboration, communication and innovation in developing climate-conscious business strategies.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

The Group takes pride in its impeccable record of environmental compliance with zero issues of non-compliance to date. This achievement reflects VEI's steadfast commitment to environmental sustainability and responsible business practices. The Group's proactive approach to environmental management involves ongoing efforts to enhance operations further such as converting to paperless operations, among others. Through these efforts, the Group demonstrates a dedication to environmental stewardship and a commitment to creating a better future for the planet and future generations.

Non-compliance with Environmental Laws and Regulations

Disclosure	Quantity	Units
Total amount of monetary fines for non-compliance with environmental laws and/or regulations	0	PHP
No. of non-monetary sanctions for non-compliance with environmental laws and/or regulations	0	#
No. of cases resolved through dispute resolution mechanism	0	#

SOCIAL

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

EMPLOYEE MANAGEMENT

VEI proudly believes in prioritizing employee welfare above all in order to ensure a healthy working environment aimed toward greater business productivity. The Group actively maintains healthy relationships with its employees through the hiring of highly qualified candidates, provision of acceptable compensation packages, and continuously providing opportunities for professional growth and development. Beyond this, the Group's Human Resources departments aim to achieve attrition and vacancy rates below the industry average.

Employee Hiring

Disclosure	Quantity	Units
Total number of employees	428	#
a. Number of female employees	334	#
b. Number of male employees	94	#
Total number of new employees	102	#
a. Number of new female employees	75	#
b. Number of new male employees	27	#
Attrition rate	27	%
Ratio of lowest paid employee against minimum wage		ratio

Beyond this, in terms of employee benefits and compensation, the Parent Company and PEMI have unfunded, noncontributory defined benefit pension plans covering substantially all of their qualified employees. On the other hand, Vantage Financial Corporation (VFC) has a funded, noncontributory defined benefit pension plan. The funds of the plan of VFC are being administered and managed by the Trust and Investment Services Group of a commercial bank. *VEI's pension liabilities as of year-end 2023 amounted to ₱ 8.8 million.*

Employee Benefits

List of benefits	Y/N	% of female employees who availed for the year	% of male employees who availed for the year
SSS	Y	100	100
PhilHealth	Y	100	100
Pag-ibig	Y	100	100
Parental leaves	Y	100	100
Vacation leaves	Y	100	100
Sick leaves	Y	100	100
Medical benefits (aside from PhilHealth	Y	100	100
Retirement fund	Y	100	100
Further education support	Y	0	0
Company stock options	N	0	0
Telecommuting	Y	13	25
Flexible-working hours	Y	13	25

List of benefits	Y/N	% of female employees who availed for the year	% of male employees who availed for the year
Others		N/A	N/A

Aside from these, employees are given a competitive benefits and compensation package which includes government-mandated benefits, 13th and 14th-month bonuses, performance bonuses, and other such related benefits. Beyond these, the Group commits to continually exploring programs, structures, and other opportunities towards engaging and developing the holistic well-being of its employees in the near future.

EMPLOYEE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Group believes in investing in the potential of its employees by providing opportunities for continuous learning and development to simultaneously strengthen the capabilities of the Group's current human capital, while also assuring the development of future talent towards business continuity in the company. VEI has established Individual Development Plans (IDP) for all employees of the company based on competency assessments, which are then further supplemented by regular Norming Sessions, or consultations with Departmental Heads and/or Managers as continuous checkpoints for progress and concerns. These IDPs are the basis of personal training and development plans, covering opportunities and potential milestones for the employee's professional growth as well as the provision of career and succession planning.

Employee Training & Development

Disclosure	Quantity	Units
Total training hours provided to employees		
a. Female employees	12,006	hours
b. Male employees	4,037	hours
Average training hours provided to employees		
a. Female employees	35	hours
b. Male employees	42	hours

For the year 2023, the Group has offered a series of training workshops and seminars to enrich employees' skills and development. These programs include, but are not limited to: New Employees' Orientation, Financial Literacy Program and Webinars, and International Money Transfer – Outbound Training. On average, an employee may reach as much as 30-40 hours of training and enrichment throughout the year, with access to many more available materials for self or group study.

LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS

The Group currently does not have any collective bargaining agreements nor does it have a workers' union. However, the Group does its utmost best to ensure employee satisfaction; both informal and formal channels of communication and grievances are continuously opened up to employees to address any issues and concerns that might arise in their professional life with VEI.

Labor-Management Relations

Disclosure	Quantity	Units
% of employees covered with Collective Bargaining Agreements	0	%
Number of consultations conducted with employees concerning employee-related policies	0	#

DIVERSITY, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, & ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

VEI values diversity across all ranks and aims to provide equal opportunity for all relevant stakeholders. As per the corporate values of integrity and excellence, the Group ensures that equal opportunity is provided to employees and no preference is given on the basis of gender, ethnicity or race. The Group commits to provide employees and applicants equal opportunity on the single basis of competency and not on the basis of any discriminatory factors, especially when it comes to diverse governing bodies and employees as well as the salaries and remuneration of women to men. Thus far, VEI is proud to boast that there were zero complaints from employees and applicants arising from issues related to diversity and equal opportunity.

Beyond just this, VEI aims to provide a safe and healthy working environment by ensuring that controls are in place to prevent and address incidents of discrimination through the provision of mechanisms to raise awareness on and to report incidents of discrimination. The Group assures formal channels of employee feedback and grievance mechanisms are available to all employees. The Group aims to provide employees and management a conducive environment free of discrimination. Thus far, the Group boasts of zero incidents of discrimination and corrective actions taken. The Group also implements a Whistleblowing Policy and Insider Trading Policy, while also thoroughly following through the regulations and sanctions put forth on the company's Code of Conduct & Discipline to address all complaints against its employees, officers and/or directors.

Gender Diversity & Equal Opportunity

Disclosure	Quantity	Units
% of female workers in the workforce	22	%
% of male workers in the workforce	78	%
Number of employees from indigenous communities and/or vulnerable sector[1]	0	#

It is likewise remarkable to note that opportunities exist in assuring VEI promotes a healthy sense of gender equality and, more specifically, women-centered benefits and programs in

[1] Vulnerable sector includes, elderly, persons with disabilities, vulnerable women, refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons, people living with HIV and other diseases, solo parents, and the poor or the base of the pyramid (BOP; Class D and E).

light of the Group's women-dominated workforce. The Human Department specifically has commitself itself to develop women-centered welfare programs, benefits packages, and other structures that primarily cater and benefit female employees.

WORKPLACE CONDITIONS, LABOR STANDARDS, & HUMAN RIGHTS

The Group is primarily based in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, with a constantly well-maintained physical office conducive to a healthy working environment. As such, much of the Group's health and safety risks are only limited to workplace injuries and sicknesses unlike other companies in manufacturing or construction.

Only Vantage Financial Corporation maintains a working environment outside the main headquarters of the business, specifically with its 150+ Western Union branches. Despite this, the Group fully assures full compliance with workplace health and safety standards as set forth by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). This is accomplished through conducting regular internal safety audits at these branches to ensure that facilities are well-equipped and meet the necessary safety standards. This includes ensuring that proper air conditioning, sufficient lighting, and other necessary equipment are in place to maintain a safe and healthy working environment for employees.

Occupational Health & Safety

Disclosure	Quantity	Units
Safe Man-Hours	2,880	hours
No. of work-related injuries	0	#
No. of work-related fatalities	0	#
No. of work related ill-health	0	#
No. of safety drills	4	#

Moreover, in terms of respecting the inherent dignity of VEI's workers and their humanity, the Group is deeply committed to upholding the exercise of human rights and takes any violations of these matters seriously. Beyond just issues related to discrimination, harassment, and breaches of employee rights, the Group, through its Code of Conduct and Discipline and other interrelated policies, commits to provide a workplace that inherently respects the due nature of human rights. As such, employee care hotlines such as *e-Biz Cares* and employee welfare check-ups like *Kamustahans with the President* are made available constantly to assure the operations of employee grievance mechanisms and to assure the state of employee welfare and satisfaction.

Labor Standards and Human Rights

Disclosure	Quantity	Units
No. of legal actions or employee grievances involving forced or child labor	0	Man-hours

Topic	Y/N	If Yes, cite reference in the company policy
Forced labor	YES	Company Code of Conduct & Discipline

Child labor	YES	Company Code of Conduct & Discipline
Human Rights	YES	Company Code of Conduct & Discipline

RELATIONSHIPS WITH COMMUNITIES

As a conglomerate of financial companies, the Group firmly believes in aligning its usual business operations with pursuits aimed at enhancing financial education and literacy. This undertaking would help shape customer preferences and democratize opportunities for investing—a market change that would remarkably be beneficial for VEI. Consequently, the Group has continuously been interested in creating and developing opportunities aimed at financial literacy and education, which are then aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) number 4 (Quality Education), number 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth), and, ultimately, number 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Significant Impacts on Local Community

Operations with significant (positive or negative) impacts on local communities	Venue	Vulnerable groups[2]	Does the particular operation have impacts on indigenous people (Y/N)?	Identified collective or individual rights of particular concern for the community	Mitigating measures or enhancement measures (if positive)
University partnerships for internship and employment opportunities	Head Office	Children and youth	N	N/A	N/A
Mutual Fund Training & Webinars	Virtual	N/A	N	N/A	N/A
Financial Education Program	Virtual and/or Onsite	N/A	N	N/A	N/A
Philequity Corner	Virtual & Print Media	N/A	N	N/A	N/A

As the Group is a conglomerate of financial companies primarily based in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, the Group finds itself with no direct relations and minimal impacts on indigenous peoples. Despite this, the Group expresses its explicit support in the empowerment of indigenous peoples and groups. This commitment opens opportunities for

[2] Vulnerable sector includes children and youth, elderly, persons with disabilities, vulnerable women, refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons, people living with HIV and other diseases, solo parents, and the poor or the base of the pyramid (BOP; Class D and E)

the Group to help support and engage these communities through targeted financial literacy programs, specific CSR efforts, and other interrelated initiatives.

Indigenous Peoples

Certificates	Quantity	Units
FPIC process is still undergoing	N/A	#
CP secured	N/A	#

CUSTOMER MANAGEMENT

Excellent customer service has always been the name of the game for many service-oriented companies. Thus, for the Group's subsidiaries of VFC and PEMI which are primarily customer-facing, customer satisfaction has been, time and time again, the main driving goal of annual strategic meetings. Note that with VEI being primarily a financial holdings and investment company, customer management is not a material concern for VEI; instead, for the purposes of this section below, the "Group" will refer to the subsidiaries of VFC and PEMI in the discussions below as they become the more material actors for discussion.

Customer Satisfaction

Disclosure	Score	Did a third party conduct the customer satisfaction study (Y/N)?
Customer satisfaction	Satisfactory	N

While the Group recognizes third party customer satisfaction studies as gold standards for assessing customer service performance, to date, the Group has only primarily employed self-surveys, informal studies, and customer and employee feedback to come to these findings above. The Group, however, does have plans to adopt third party customer satisfaction surveys in the future; in the meantime, the Group will continue to remain focused on developing customer service excellence programs and hold that such a pursuit will manifest in higher than average satisfaction scores in future surveys.

Marketing & Labelling

Disclosure	Quantity	Units
No. of substantiated complaints on marketing and labelling[3]	0	#
No. of complaints addressed	0	#

The Group also proudly reports zero substantiated complaints related to marketing and labeling. This indicates that its practices align with industry standards and meet customer expectations. Remarkably, the Group has addressed zero complaints in this domain. Swiftly handling any issues or concerns demonstrates the company's commitment to customer satisfaction and transparency.

[3] Substantiated complaints include complaints from customers that went through the organization's formal communication channels and grievance mechanisms as well as complaints that were lodged to and acted upon by government agencies.

In essence, marketing and labeling operations have been seamless, free from complaints or lingering issues. The Group's unwavering dedication to transparency and accurate marketing and labeling practices fosters customer trust and satisfaction, ensuring integrity across its operations.

Health & Safety

Disclosure	Quantity	Units
No. of substantiated complaints on product or service health and safety[4]	0	#
No. of complaints addressed	0	#

The Group's commitment to health and safety is evident through its track record of zero substantiated complaints regarding product or service health and safety. Additionally addressing zero complaints underscores the effectiveness of its management approach. This approach likely involves stringent quality control measures, comprehensive safety protocols, ongoing training for employees, and proactive monitoring of potential risks. By prioritizing health and safety at every stage, the Group ensures customer confidence and trust while maintaining regulatory compliance and upholding ethical standards.

Customer Privacy

Disclosure	Quantity	Units
No. of substantiated complaints on customer privacy	0	#
No. of complaints addressed	0	#
No. of customers, users and account holders whose information is used for secondary purposes	0	#

The Group processes the personal data of its data subjects, including stockholders in accordance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012. The Group manages the impacts on data privacy through the implementation of security measures for organizational, physical and technical aspects. Part of the Group's goals and targets related to privacy are zero breach and full compliance with the DPA and related laws and issuances as well as the requirements of the National Privacy Commission (NPC). The departments responsible for this are the Audit and Compliance Department and ICTG group, specifically in aiming for organizational security measures and physical security measures such as outlining of storage type and location of documents with personal data, rules on sharing of personal data with third parties, and technical security measures in the form of personal data back-up in electronic format, monitoring of security breaches, and regular testing of security measures.

[4] *Substantiated complaints include complaints from customers that went through the organization's formal communication channels and grievance mechanisms as well as complaints that were lodged to and acted upon by government agencies.

Data Security

Disclosure	Quantity	Units
No. of data breaches, including leaks, thefts and losses of data	0	#

Despite the Groups impressive track record of zero data breaches, the evolving landscape of cyber threats means that risks persist. Malicious actors continuously search for vulnerabilities to exploit, while human error remains a potential factor. Nonetheless, maintaining this zero breach record presents significant opportunities which may be notably because the Group assures that it has zero applications and software exposed to the internet. This record boosts VEI's reputation and inspires confidence among stakeholders, including clients, investors, and regulatory bodies.

The Group employs a comprehensive management approach to sustain its zero data breach record. This approach encompasses several key strategies such as:

1. Regular and comprehensive risk assessments are conducted proactively to identify potential vulnerabilities and threats to data security. This encompasses evaluating the security of IT infrastructure, applications, and data storage systems.
2. The Group employs a multi-layered approach to data security, integrating advanced encryption methods, firewalls, intrusion detection systems, and access controls.These measures are designed to prevent unauthorized access to sensitive data and protect against cyber threats.
3. The Group has also prioritized employee training and awareness programs to ensure that all staff members understand their roles and responsibilities in maintaining data security. This includes educating employees about common security risks, phishing scams, and best practices for handling sensitive information.
4. The Group also maintains continuous monitoring of its systems and networks to detect any signs of suspicious activity or potential security threats. This proactive approach allows the organization to identify and respond to security incidents promptly, minimizing disruptions to operations and customer service. Furthermore, the company remains dedicated to enhancing its data security measures continually to address emerging threats effectively.

By carefully executing these strategies, the Group efficiently handles data security risks while leveraging opportunities to enhance its reputation and competitive position in the market.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Group actively contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through its products and services.

Product or Service Contribution to UN SDGs

<table>
<tr><th>Key Products and Services</th><th>Societal Value / Contribution to UN SDGs</th><th>Potential Negative Impact of Contribution</th><th>Management Approach to Negative Impact</th></tr>
<tr><td>Remittance, Foreign Exchange, Bills Payment, & Ticketing Services</td><td rowspan="2">SDG 8.3
Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including access to financial services.

SDG 8.10
Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.

SDG 9.3
Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Mutual Funds & Investment Management</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
</table>

Through VFC, one of Vantage Equities's key products are remittance, foreign exchange, bills payment, and other financial services. Through such services and products, the Group is able to directly support **SDG 1**: No Poverty and **SDG 8**: Decent Work and Economic Growth by promoting economic growth and financial inclusion, providing jobs and economic stimulation in even rural parts of the country, among others. Additionally, through its products of mutual funds, investment management, and even, investments in sustainable businesses and initiatives through PEMI and VEI, the Group is able to actively contribute to **SDG 8**: Decent Work and Economic Growth and **SDG 9**: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, fostering job creation and innovation in sectors that promote sustainability.

Overall, the Group plays and will continue to play a significant role in advancing sustainable development through its financial services and investment strategies, contributing to various SDGs such as SDG 1, SDG 8, and SDG 9.

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