

OFFICIAL STATEMENT

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PDS Kicks Off Nationwide Access and Investor Information Drive

The PDS Group today hosted the commencement of its nationwide campaign to bring its trading market beyond the national market center and into the countryside and the launch of its nationwide activities for brokers, salesmen and investors. The event was held at the Marriott Hotel in Cebu, a key investment center outside the National Capital Region, and was highlighted by the ceremonial unveiling of its internet-based order taking system, the Fixed Income Broker Internet Order System ("FI-BIOS"), .

Joining PDS for the occasion were key stakeholders in the Government Securities (GS) market, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr), Regional and Area Heads of its Member Broker Participants, as well as investors from Cebu. The SEC, represented by Chairperson Fe B. Barin is the regulator of the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEX) trading market. The BTr, represented by the Treasurer of the Philippines, Mr. Roberto B. Tan, is the Issuer of Government Securities, the dominant fixed income instrument traded on the PDS infrastructure. The program attendees were graced with special messages from the honored guests and thereafter engaged in a roundtable forum to discuss the unique issues facing the investor community.

The FI-BIOS is a medium of access critical to bring the nationwide community of fixed income securities investors into the central marketplace. Brokers with the FI-BIOS facilities shall be able to provide their provincial client investors with up-to-the-minute market information from which to base investment decisions. More significantly, the FI-BIOS shall allow Brokers to enter client investor orders access into the central trading system in real time. The FI-BIOS as an electronic order system also offers Broker Heads as well as Market Regulators facilities to monitor the quality of service provided to client investors by their registered salespersons.

Vicente B. Castillo, President and CEO of the PDS Group, stated that "PDS welcomes every opportunity to bring our fixed income community together. The investor community lies at the heart of our market, and the launch of this drive not only marks the realization of the expansion of our reach to nationwide proportions, but more importantly, begins a new era in our fixed income market, where investors and the infrastructure alike, can work together in a spirit of cooperation and be engaged with each other in market development. With the FI-BIOS, we hope to equalize investor protection across the country - the price discovery, settlement efficiencies and protection, and best execution. The prospect of increased liquidity, and the knowledge that we are, little by little, bringing equality to investors far and wide, fortifies our continued efforts at developing our fixed income market."

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