SEC ADVISORY

This is to inform the public that "**AURA FINANCING CORPORATION/AURA FINANCE AND INVESTMENTS" (***AURA for brevity)* is **NOT REGISTERED AND AUTHORIZED AS AN ENTITY FOR FINANCING AND LENDING, NOR IS IT ALLOWED TO SOLICIT INVESTMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC.**

This Advisory is issued following the **successful entrapment operation conducted on 25 March 2026** by the Commission and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) against **AURA FINANCING CORPORATION / AURA FINANCE AND INVESTMENTS**, allegedly owned and operated by **Arvin Briones Licuan**, together with his employee, **Princess Dianne Nesteline Ramos**, for **soliciting investments from the public and engaging in unauthorized lending and financing activities** at its reported office address located at *NRN Apt. & Bldg., General Luna St., Brgy. 25, Laoag City, Ilocos Norte.*

Records of the Commission confirm that **AURA is NOT REGISTERED** as a corporation. It likewise has **NO SECONDARY LICENSE** to solicit investments or operate as a lending or financing company. Further, the individuals identified are not registered or authorized with the Commission as brokers, dealers, salesmen, or associated persons permitted to offer or sell securities to the public.

Based on the information gathered, AURA is actively engaged in the unauthorized lending and financing activities by **offering loan programs** ranging from **Php 6,000.00 to Php 20,000.00**, purportedly under a diminishing balance scheme with an imposed interest rate of six percent (6%) monthly, and requiring borrowers to remit fixed weekly contributions in the amount of Php 150.00. They are also promoting **membership packages** requiring the payment of various fees, including but not limited to membership fees, passbook fees, share capital contributions, savings deposits, and insurance payments.

Membership

Membership	Membership Fee	Passbook	Share Capital (subject to dividends)	Savings Deposit (subject to 6% annual interest)	Insurance
Regular (savings and investment)	150.00	50.00	500.00	200.00	100.00
Credit (savings, investment, and loan)	150.00	50.00	1,000.00	500.00	300.00

Such activities, by their nature, constitute the business of lending and/or financing, which, under existing laws, may only be undertaken by entities duly registered with the Commission and granted the appropriate secondary license. **In the absence of such registration and authority, the conduct of these lending operations is unauthorized** and considered in violation of Republic Act 9474 (Lending Company Regulation Act), Republic Act No. 8556 (Financing Company Act of 1998), the Truth in Lending Act, and related regulations.

Moreover, the manner in which these loan arrangements are offered particularly those requiring prior membership enrollment and mandatory contributions indicates that it may, in reality, function as **investment contracts.** In substance, these arrangements require pooling of money to a common fund with an expectation of earning profits and are derived primarily from efforts of its promoters. The form or designation of a scheme is not controlling and **it may be considered as securities when the elements of an investment contract are present.**

Consistent with this, AURA has also been **directly offering investment opportunities to the public**, requiring placement of money ranging from **₱10,000.00 to ₱100,000.00**, with representations of **guaranteed monthly returns of six percent (6%)**, subject to a lock-in period. As additional inducements, prospective investors are offered promotional incentives, such as complimentary haircuts and other services from partner establishments. It has likewise been represented that individuals investing ₱100,000.00 or more will be qualified as members of the board of directors. These representations are clearly intended to **entice and encourage the public to invest**.

Such schemes, by their nature and applying the ***Howey Test***, involve the **pooling of funds from the public with the expectation of profits derived primarily from the efforts of the promoters or organizers**, thereby falling squarely within the definition of an **"investment contract" under Section 3.1 of the SRC**. Accordingly, the **offer and sale of these instruments to the public without prior registration and without the necessary license** constitute violations of **Sections 8, 26, and 28 of the same Code. These acts may also constitute violations of Section 11, in relation to Section 3(f), of Republic Act No. 11765, otherwise known as the Financial Products and Services Consumer Protection Act.**

In view of the foregoing, the public is **strongly advised not to transact with or continue dealing with AURA**, including any of its lending or investment schemes, whether directly or through individuals or groups claiming to represent or promote its activities.

The public is further warned that any person who acts as a salesman, broker, dealer, agent, promoter, recruiter, influencer, endorser, or in any similar capacity in encouraging others to invest in AURA may be held criminally liable under Section 73 in relation to Section 11 of the Financial Products and Services Consumer Protection Act (FCPA). In addition, those who engage in unauthorized lending or financing activities without the required registration and license may face criminal and administrative sanctions, including imprisonment and fines as provided under Republic Act 9474 (Lending Company Regulation Act), Republic Act No. 8556 (Financing Company Act of 1998) and Republic Act No. 9474 (Lending Company Regulation Act of 2007).

Those who have been victimized or have information relating to the operations of **AURA FINANCING CORPORATION/AURA FINANCE AND INVESTMENTS** may visit SEC LAOAG EXTENSION OFFICE at 5th floor DAP AYAN CENTER, BRGY. 9, LAOAG CITY or through the **SEC iMessage Portal (https://imessage.sec.gov.ph/).**

For guidance of the public.

Makati City, 27 March 2026.

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