

# Fake job text scams likely to persist as joblessness worsens

By Arjay L. Balinbin  
Senior Reporter

FILIPINOS can expect more phishing attacks as unemployment in the country continues to worsen, experts said.

Cybercriminals use text messages to trick mobile phone users into visiting malicious websites to obtain their personal information, including banking information, credit cards, and addresses.

“The phishing machinery relies on urgency or something that’s closest to the hearts of consumers, so when you see it and it’s meaningful to you, you click on it,” Yeo Siang Tiong, general manager for Southeast Asia at Kaspersky, told *BusinessWorld* last week.

If unemployment rises, attacks can be expected to come “in the form of job scams,” he added.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the unemployment rate in the country jumped to a three-month high in May, while job quality deteriorated despite increased economic activity. Unemployed Filipinos rose by 165,000 month on month to 2.927 million in May.

There were 6.668 million underemployed Filipinos in May, 269,000 more than the 6.399 million underemployed in April.

Many of the job offers made by fraudsters pose as being from giant tech companies like Amazon.

“I’m an Amazon HR. You are invited to be part of our team. You can work from home. The hourly salary is P9,000. Accept the job,” read one of the phone messages from an unknown number. The message included a link to a website.

The PLDT group has said it blocked more than 600,000 text messages linked to smishing, hoaxes and spamming from January to May.

Meanwhile, Globe Telecom, Inc. said it blocked more than 138 million spam and scam messages from January to June 15 this year.

University of the Philippines Professor Emeritus Rene E. Ofreneo said he is not surprised that cybercriminals are taking advantage of the job situation in the country.

“Jobs available to Filipinos are inadequate, and for many Filipinos, job offers from abroad are a liberation, an economic liberation, because most of the jobs available locally are of low quality and low-paying, and in the first place, it’s very difficult to find jobs these days,” he said in a phone interview.

“It is important to warn Filipinos. They are really preying on those who are gullible and desperate for better life and better opportunities,” Mr. Ofreneo said.

Mr. Ofreneo added that the government and the private sector should immediately address unemployment and underemployment in the country.

“The inadequacy of available jobs needs to be looked into — meaning, inadequate in terms of our support, income

and skill matching — not just the level of joblessness,” he said in mixed English and Filipino.

**SECURITY SOFTWARE, STRATEGIES NEEDED** Kaspersky’s Mr. Yeo said Filipinos should have security software on their smartphones to protect themselves from cybercriminals.

“How much financial transactions do you do on your phone compared to your laptop? We used to install protection software on our laptops because we did most of our transactions there, but when we shifted to mobile, we didn’t change our behavior. This is probably because there’s a false sense of security,” he said.

Secuna, a cybersecurity testing platform, said the government and companies should rethink their cyberdefense strategies as cyberattacks are expected to further increase amid the shortage of cybersecurity talents in the country.

Citing a study by cybersecurity company Fortinet, Secuna said most organizations in the Philippines struggle to hire cybersecurity talents due to a skills shortage, resulting in more severe cyberattacks.

“The first line of defense is awareness. With the rising threat of cybercrime activities, it is most important that we reconsider and create new strategies to recognize vulnerabilities and their warning signs to stay one step ahead of cybercriminals, Secuna Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder Allan Jay “AJ” Dumanhug said in an e-mailed statement.

## Google launches fund for small, medium news organizations

GOOGLE has launched an equity fund to support small and medium news organizations, it said in a statement on Tuesday.

The News Equity Fund, also known as the Fund for Equal News, will provide financial aid and opportunities for news organizations “whose primary focus is to serve underrepresented communities,” Google said.

“Google’s goal is to support inclusion, empower a diverse news ecosystem, and in particular, to support small and medium-sized publishers in publishing original journalism content to underrepresented audiences around the world,” it said.

The company said registration is open until July 21, 11:59 p.m. (Pacific Time).

It said eligible news organizations are independent newsrooms employing one

to 50 full-time journalists that regularly produce original core news on underrepresented audiences.

These include for-profit and non-profit traditional news organizations, digital natives, newsletters, podcasts, radio and/or TV broadcasters, and trade press associations whose members cover underrepresented groups, Google said.

### FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or by typing the link <bit.ly/Google071422>

### JOB VACANCY

**Job Title:** Compliance Officer / Customer Service Manager

#### Minimum Job Qualifications/Description:

- Is required to assist in providing leadership and strategic direction, maintaining all required operational aspects including maintaining client relationships
- Be the first point of contact for any customer who has a question or an issue with a product or service the company sells
- Being Bi-lingual is a requisite. Fluent in Cantonese, Taiwanese and Mandarin language
- Dependent on clear and productive communication for successful execution
- A proven track record and the ability to understand client demands and requirements is essential to be able to carry out this role

**Company Name:** MD HVAC (PHILIPPINES) CORPORATION  
**Address:** Unit 1407 The Trade & Financial Tower, 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, corner 32<sup>nd</sup> St., Bonifacio Global City, The Fort, Taguig City, Metro Manila 1630 Philippines  
**Contact:** Ms. Hersheyann Panganiban  
**Email:** hersheyann@mdhvac.net

### JOB VACANCY

**Job Title:** Compliance Officer / Mandarin Marketing Manager

#### Minimum Job Qualifications/Description:

- Is required to provide leadership of all Marketing activities in order to gain new customers and keep existing customers.
- Maintain existing customers with as main objective increase the profitability of the company all in good coordination with colleagues and partners in China and Taiwan.
- Bachelor’s degree (or equivalent) in marketing, business, or related field
- Proven experience and track record in developing marketing plans and campaigns
- Strong project management, multitasking, and decision-making skills
- Being Bi-lingual is a requisite. Fluent in Cantonese, Taiwanese and Mandarin language

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**Contact:** Ms. Hersheyann Panganiban  
**Email:** hersheyann@mdhvac.net

### JOB VACANCY

**Job Title:** Mandarin Operations Manager

#### Minimum Job Qualifications/Description:

- Proven track record of experience as Operations Manager or similar role in the equivalent industry.
- Extensive experience in financial understanding, reporting analysis and financial presentation skills and the ability to communicate any findings at board levels.
- Knowledge of organizational effectiveness and operations management.
- Experience in budgeting and forecasting.
- Familiarity with business and financial principles.
- Bachelor’s degree (or equivalent) in a technical discipline, marketing, business, or a related field
- Being Bi-lingual is a requisite. Fluent in Cantonese, Taiwanese and Mandarin language

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**Contact:** Ms. Hersheyann Panganiban  
**Email:** hersheyann@mdhvac.net

### JOB VACANCY

**Job Title:** Compliance Officer / Mandarin Account Manager

#### Minimum Job Qualifications/Description:

- Is required to maintain all Account relationships with all existing and new clients all in coordination with colleagues and partners
- Demonstrable experience and track record in professionally managing sales, and account management in a professional manner.
- Ability to multitask and coordinate several responsibilities simultaneously.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Organizational skills and good attention to detail.
- Bachelor’s degree (or equivalent) in marketing, business, or related field
- Being Bi-lingual is a requisite. Fluent in Cantonese, Taiwanese and Mandarin language

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### JOB VACANCY

**50 INDONESIAN LANGUAGE CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE**  
**15 MALAYSIAN CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE**  
**10 THAI CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE**  
**10 VIETNAMESE CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE**

- Must be 4 years bachelor degree graduate in any course
- At least 1 year of experience in any related fields using computer as primary job tools
- Willing to work in high pressure environment
- Great communications skills and must be fluent in Indonesian/Bahasa/Malaysian/Vietnamese/Thai and English language

**MPOTECH Digital System Inc.**  
**Address:** 47th Floor, PBCOM Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave., Cor. V.A Ruffino St., Bel-Air, Makati City  
**Email:** trans.hr@ses-inc.asia

### JOB OPENING

**Company Name:** Ernst & Young Global Services (Philippines) Inc.

**Address:** 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> (Unit A & D) 16<sup>th</sup> Floors Cyber Sigma Building, Lawton Avenue, McKinley West, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Philippines

#### Contact Person and Contact details of the Company:

Rodwin G. De Guzman  
Rodwin.G.De.Guzman@gds.ey.com  
+63 939 932 1341

**Job Position:** Assistant Director

#### Job Description:

- Participate in Long/medium and short-range planning process
- Implement and drive Operational Workforce Planning to track, monitor, review, analyze and report progress against planning assumptions to ensure that actual staffing is consistent with the plan
- Define and supervise end-to-end resource management processes within the span – demand pipeline management, internal capacity review, Skills review, demand management, external recruitment coordination, headcount management, bench management and reporting/MIS
- Participate and provide insights to business leaders on business and Experience Management KPIs
- Define and implement robust stakeholder connects, governance and review channels
- Monitor the health of the business, track key metrics, analyze trends and provide analytical insights to the team and stakeholders
- Build processes and solutions to improve efficiency in the way of working for the team
- Lead complex projects related to planning and resource scheduling
- Drive opportunities for process improvement/change management

#### Basic Qualifications for the Position:

- Must be a graduate of a bachelor’s degree in Commerce or equivalent
- Excellent domain knowledge in resource management, demand planning and MIS
- Strong execution skills with focus on meeting timelines and delivering highest quality service and has a solution-oriented mindset
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills with strong working knowledge of MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint
- Strong time management, analytical skills, and stakeholder management skills
- With at least 8+ years of experience in directly supervising a team

**Monthly Salary Range:** PHP 70,000 – PHP 100,000

## Senate bill requiring telcos to cover all remote areas within three years refiled

A BILL seeking to require all public telecommunications entities and internet service providers to cover all unserved and underserved areas within three years has been refiled, a senator said on Wednesday.

Senate Bill No. 329, or The Better Internet Act, seeks to provide fast, reliable, secure and affordable internet to Filipinos all over the country.

“The internet has become a necessity as indispensable as electricity and water,” Senator Mary Grace S. Poe-Llamanzares said in a Wednesday statement. “We rely on it for health, education, business, government and more.”

The bill directs public telecommunications entities, or companies that require a Congressional franchise, and internet service providers, which operate without a franchise,

to adhere to minimum standards for connection, reception, pricing, and billing practices to uphold and protect consumer rights.

“Service providers must pick up and maintain an acceptable internet speed to boost connectivity across sectors and empower our people,” Ms. Poe said.

“Undoubtedly, the internet has become an essential tool to survive and thrive,” she noted. “We should therefore bolster public access to it.”

The National Telecommunications Commission will be tasked with enforcing providers’ compliance with internet speed, quality and consistency, as well as other coverage obligations.

Service providers are also encouraged to provide a higher internet speed to their customers. There is

no minimum internet speed requirement for free internet service.

Noncompliance will result in a maximum fine of P2 million per count of violation. The penalty is 1-2% of a service provider’s annual gross income if it earns less than P10 million.

“Ensuring access to fast and affordable internet connection is not only an option if we want our country and people to be competitive. It should be a priority,” Ms. Poe said.

According to the Speedtest Global Index, Manila, which has an average mobile internet speed of only 18.49 megabits per second, ranked 110<sup>th</sup> among 139 countries or territories in internet speed as of November 2020. It has the second slowest internet speed among the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

— **Alyssa Nicole O. Tan**

## Cebu Pacific, PAL announce additional domestic flights as demand increases

BUDGET carrier Cebu Pacific and flag carrier Philippine Airlines (PAL) are adding more flights to key domestic destinations, as demand for air travel continues to rise amid looser travel restrictions.

Cebu Pacific, operated by Cebu Air, Inc., on Wednesday said it will increase the number of flights from Cebu to Iloilo and Tacloban.

“We have seen consistent demand for these routes, and we hope to keep expanding our footprint as more people confidently fly again,” Cebu Pacific Chief Commercial Officer Xander Lao said in an e-mailed statement.

As the Gokongwei-led carrier expands capacity at its hubs outside Metro Manila, there will be two more weekly flights for Cebu-Iloilo and Cebu-Tacloban routes, starting Aug. 5.

Weekly flight frequency for Cebu-Iloilo route will increase to nine times from seven times weekly.

Meanwhile, the Cebu-Tacloban route will increase to 16 times from 14 times weekly.

The budget carrier said it fully restored its pre-pandemic domestic capacity in April. “The airline surpassed its December 2019 level for domestic capacity, as it (registered) 109% restoration in (the first week of) July 2022,” Mr. Lao told reporters during a gathering last week.

Cebu Pacific currently operates an average of 340 flights a day, covering 34 domestic and 18 international destinations. This is equivalent to around 64,000 seats offered in a day, the airline said.

Meanwhile, Philippine Airlines said there will be additional flights between Manila and Basco (Batanes) by the end of July.

PAL said the airline aims to help promote local tourism, as part of economic recovery efforts.

From July 24, a new Sunday frequency will bring PAL’s Manila-

Basco-Manila services to four flights weekly (every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday), it said in an e-mailed statement on Tuesday.

Starting Aug. 2, the Manila-Basco-Manila services will increase to seven weekly flights, giving travelers a full week of daily morning departures from both Manila and Basco, it added.

“PAL will continue to add more flights on other domestic routes to meet the travel needs of the flying public and promote tourism, while always prioritizing safety and health concerns,” PAL Senior Assistant Vice-President for Philippines Harry D. Inoferio said.

In May, the airline said it was on track to full restoration of pre-pandemic domestic flights.

As for the international flights, the airline expects to get back to 2019 levels — except for China market — by end of the year. — **Arjay L. Balinbin**

## Twitter sues Elon Musk to hold him to \$44-B deal

WILMINGTON, DE — Twitter, Inc. sued Elon Musk on Tuesday for violating his \$44-billion deal to buy the social media platform and asked a Delaware court to order the world’s richest person to complete the merger at the agreed \$54.20 per Twitter share.

“Musk apparently believes that he — unlike every other party subject to Delaware contract law — is free to change his mind, trash the company, disrupt its operations, destroy stockholder value, and walk away,” said the complaint.

The lawsuit sets in motion what promises to be one of the biggest legal showdowns in Wall Street history, involving one of the business world’s most colorful entrepreneurs in a case that will turn on staid contract language.

On Friday, Mr. Musk said he was terminating the deal because Twitter violated the agreement by failing to respond to requests for information regarding fake or spam accounts on the platform, which is fundamental to its business performance.

Mr. Musk, who is the chief executive officer of electric vehicle maker Tesla, Inc., did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The lawsuit accused Mr. Musk of “a long list” of violations of the merger agreement that “have cast a pall over Twitter and its business.” It said for the first time that employee attrition has been “on the upswing” since the deal was announced.

Twitter also accused Mr. Musk of “secretly” accumulating shares in the company between January and March without properly disclosing his substantial purchases to regulators, and said he “instead kept amassing Twitter stock with the market none the wiser.”

Shares of the social media platform closed at \$34.06 on Tuesday, up 4.3%, but sharply below the levels above \$50 where it traded when the deal was accepted by Twitter’s board in late April. The stock added another 1% after the bell.

Mr. Musk said he was terminating the merger because of the lack of information about spam accounts and inaccurate representations that he said amounted to a “material adverse event.” He also said executive departures amounted to a failure to conduct business in the ordinary course — although Twitter said it removed that language from the merger contract during negotiations.

Twitter also said it did not share more information with Mr. Musk regarding spam accounts because it feared he would build a competing platform after abandoning the acquisition.

Twitter called the reasons cited by Mr. Musk a “pretext” that lacked merit and said his decision to walk away had more to do with a decline in the stock market, particularly for tech stocks.

Tesla’s stock, the main source of Mr. Musk’s fortune, has lost around 30% of its value since the deal was announced and closed on Tuesday at \$699.21.

In a separate filing, Twitter asked the court to schedule a four-day trial in mid-September.

In a memo to Twitter staff on Tuesday, Twitter Chief Executive Parag Agrawal sought to reassure employees about the future.

“We will prove our position in court and we believe we will prevail,” he wrote in the note, which was seen by Reuters.

Legal experts have said that from the information that is public, Twitter would appear to have the upper hand.

“In its complaint, Twitter is taking a strong position that Musk had a case of buyer’s remorse — and that, and not bots, is the reason for his decision to walk away from the deal,” said Brian Quinn, a professor at Boston College Law School. “The facts Twitter presents here make an extremely strong argument in favor of Twitter getting this deal closed.”

Mr. Musk is among Twitter’s most-followed accounts and the lawsuit included images of several of his tweets, including a poop emoji, that the company said violated the merger’s “non-disparagement” clause.

Mr. Musk tweeted the emoji on May 16 in response to a pair of tweets by Mr. Agrawal, explaining the company’s efforts to fight spam accounts.

It also included an image of a text message Mr. Musk sent Mr. Agrawal after Twitter sought on June 28 reassurances about Mr. Musk’s financing for the deal.

“Your lawyers are using these conversations to cause trouble,” Mr. Musk texted to Mr. Agrawal. “That needs to stop.”

Twitter noted that after Mr. Musk said he was terminating the deal, he sent tweets on Monday that Twitter suggested his requests about spam were part of a plan to force spam data into the public sphere.

“For Musk, it would seem, Twitter, the interests of its stockholders, the transaction Musk agreed to, and the court process to enforce it all constitute an elaborate joke,” the lawsuit said. — **Reuters**