

Philippines ranks second on global cyberattack list

THE Philippines ranked the second among countries that saw the most cyberattacks worldwide last year amid the increased use of digital platforms due to the coronavirus pandemic, cybersecurity company Kaspersky said on Tuesday.

“We have seen how adversity, such as the pandemic, hastened the digital transformation among local businesses and customers alike. In the same vein, cybercriminals saw it as an opportunity to take advantage of the cybersecurity weaknesses of those jumping on the digital wave,” Chris Connell, Kaspersky managing director for Asia Pacific, said.

The company said data from the Kaspersky Security Network showed the 2022 global ranking was topped by Mongolia at 51.1%, followed by the Philippines with 49.8%, Ukraine with 49.6%, Greece with 49.5%, and Belarus with 49.1%.

It said the Philippines moved up two spots from the previous year.

The ranking is based on the number of web-based cyber threats detected and blocked by Kaspersky products.

Attempts of malware spread through removable drives declined to 25.06 million in 2022 from 35.83 million in 2021, placing the Philippines in 72nd place worldwide in 2022 from 70th in 2021.

Worms and file viruses accounted for the majority of local malware detected and blocked by Kaspersky products in the Philippines, while there were a number of cybercriminals who tried to penetrate systems through attacks via browsers.

Its products detected and foiled incidents 39.39 million attacks through browsers in 2022, down from the 50.54 million in 2021.

“Drive-by downloads and social engineering are the favorite attack methods used by cyber attackers to spread malware on their victims,” Kaspersky said.

“A drive-by download attack is when a user visits a website and unintentionally downloads a malicious code, while a social engineering attack is when a user downloads malware but was made to believe it’s a legitimate program. If a company employee connects to an unsecured Wi-Fi network or visits a non-work related website, such actions could result in disastrous and costly damage to company data,” it added.

Mr. Connell said businesses should ensure they have basic protection from cyberattacks.

“Secure the endpoint and then have encryption in place. As you expand, spending on the business and security should be in lockstep. It’s pointless to build a business that is not protected because once you’re compromised, it is costly to repair the damage. At the very least, it could look like losing opportunities for your business because of lost customer trust,” he said.

“As the country moves towards sustaining its recovery, I hope Filipino businesses will be as aggressive in protecting their devices and their data as cybercriminals are persistent in preying on them,” Mr. Connell added. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

Samsung launches two new Galaxy A series smartphones

By Brontë H. Lacsamana
Reporter

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS Co. officially launched in the Philippines its Galaxy A Series smartphones A34 and A54, which will be geared towards maximizing 5G connectivity and producing high-quality creative output like night photography.

To appeal to the Gen Z market in the Philippines, Samsung chose to launch the A34 and A54 smart-

phones as “flagship level devices at accessible A series prices.” “These are aspirational tools that will help Gen Z consumers live out their passions, be it singing, dancing, drawing, or content creation,” said Mark Jedwyn T. Que, product marketing manager of the Samsung Galaxy A series, at the March 13 media launch.

The A34 is priced at P19,990 for the 128GB variant and at P21,990 for the 256GB variant, while the A54 is priced at P24,990 for the 128GB model and P26,990 for the 256GB model.

Both devices offer 5G, LTE, and Wi-Fi connectivity and 5,000mAh batteries, with 25-watt fast charging.

Both have an AMOLED display with smooth 120Hz refresh rate. The A54 has a 6.6” screen, while the A34 has a 6.4” screen.

The former’s camera features a 50-MP main lens, a 12-MP ultrawide lens, and a 5-MP macro lens, while the latter has a 48-MP main lens, an 8-MP ultrawide lens, and a 5-MP macro lens.

“On top of improving the specs of our devices, design has been a

key thrust for Samsung this year, which makes them look more premium,” said Mr. Que, referring to the A34’s back panel which has a prism pattern and the A54’s back glass panel with glossy finish.

To support its technology, the A34 is powered by a MediaTek Dimensity 180 processor while the A54 runs on the Exynos 1380 processor.

The Galaxy A34 and A54 are available for pre-order starting March 15. They will be available nationwide via authorized Samsung mobile stores and dealers starting March 31.

India plans security testing for phones, crackdown on pre-installed apps

NEW DELHI — India plans to force smartphone makers to allow removal of pre-installed apps and mandate screening of major operating system updates under proposed new security rules, according to two people and a government document seen by Reuters.

The plan for new rules, details of which have not been previously reported, could extend launch timelines in the world’s No. 2 smartphone market and lead to losses in business from pre-installed apps for players including Samsung, Xiaomi, Vivo, and Apple.

India’s IT ministry is considering these rules amid concerns about spying and abuse of user data, said a senior government official, one of the two people who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity as the information is not yet public.

“Pre-installed apps can be a weak security point and we want to ensure no foreign nations, including China, are exploiting it. It’s a matter of national security,” the official added.

Chinese manufacturers account for more than half of all smartphone sales in India.

India’s minister for state for IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, however, said the news was “plain wrong” and that “there is no “security testing” or “crackdown” as story suggests.”

He added, in a post on Twitter, that there was an ongoing consultation between the government and the industry.

He did not elaborate.

India has ramped up scrutiny of Chinese businesses since a 2020 border clash between the neighbors, banning more than 300 Chinese apps, including TikTok. It has also intensified scrutiny of investments by Chinese firms.

Globally too, many nations have imposed restrictions on the use of technology from Chinese firms like Huawei and Hikvision on fears Beijing could use them to spy on foreign citizens. China denies these allegations.

Currently, most smartphones come with pre-installed apps that cannot be deleted, such as Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi’s app store GetApps, Samsung’s payment app Samsung Pay mini, and iPhone maker Apple’s browser Safari.

Under the new rules, smartphone makers will have to provide an uninstall option and new models will be checked for compliance by a lab authorized by the Bureau of Indian Standards agency, the two people with knowledge of the plan said.

The government is also considering mandating screening of every major operating system update before it is rolled out to consumers, one of the people said.

Reuters was first to report the deliberations on Tuesday.

A Feb. 8 confidential government record of an IT ministry meeting, seen by Reuters, states: “Majority of smartphones used in India are having pre-installed Apps/Bloatware which poses serious privacy/information security issue(s).”

The closed-door meeting was attended by representatives from Xiaomi, Samsung, Apple, and Vivo, the meeting record shows.

The government has decided to give smartphone makers a year to comply once the rule comes into effect, the date for which has not been fixed yet, the document added.

The companies did not respond to a request for comment.

‘MASSIVE HINDRANCE’

India’s fast-growing smartphone market is dominated by Chinese players. Xiaomi and BBK Electronics’ Vivo and Oppo account for 47% of total sales, Counterpoint data shows. South Korea’s Samsung has a 20% share and Apple has 3%.

While European Union regulations require allowing removal of pre-installed apps, it does not have a screening mechanism to check for compliance like India is considering. — **Reuters**

FULL STORY



Read the full story by scanning the QR code or by typing the link https://bit.ly/42Hqlo



NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS’ MEETING

Dear Stockholder:

Please be informed that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders (ASM) of **DOMINION HOLDINGS, INC., formerly BDO Leasing and Finance, Inc.** (the Corporation), will be conducted **VIRTUALLY** on **April 12, 2023**, Wednesday, at **3:00 p.m.**

The Agenda of the meeting is as follows:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Certification of Notice of Meeting and Determination of Existence of Quorum
- III. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Stockholders’ Meeting held on April 20, 2022
- IV. President’s Report and Approval of the Audited Financial Statements of the Corporation as of December 31, 2022
- V. Approval and Ratification of all Acts of the Board of Directors, Board Committees and Management during their respective terms of office
- VI. Election of the Board of Directors
- VII. Appointment of External Auditor
- VIII. Open Forum
- IX. Other Business that may properly be brought before the meeting
- X. Adjournment

Each agenda item for approval is explained in the Definitive Information Statement (DIS), with brief details and rationale here attached as **Annex “A”**.

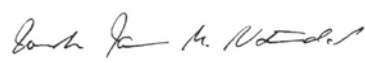
The Corporation’s Board of Directors has fixed **March 10, 2023** as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of, participation via proxy and remote communication, and voting *in absentia* at such meeting and any adjournment thereof.

Stockholders of record who wish to participate in the meeting via remote communication and to exercise their vote *in absentia* must notify the Office of the Corporate Secretary via email at <natividad.josephjason@bdo.com.ph>, and submit the required supporting documents no later than **April 5, 2023**. For the detailed registration and voting procedures, please visit <www.bdo.com.ph/dominion/2023ASM> and refer to the “**Guidelines for Participation via Remote Communication and Voting in Absentia**”.

Stockholders of record who wish to appoint a proxy shall submit their duly executed and signed proxies together with other documentary requirements which are set forth in the “**Guidelines for Participation via Remote Communication and Voting in Absentia**” no later than **April 5, 2023** to the Office of the Corporate Secretary at 21st Floor, BDO Towers Valero, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City via courier delivery or by email to <natividad.josephjason@bdo.com.ph>. Validation of proxies is set on **April 7, 2023**, at **10:00 a.m.** at the 21st Floor, BDO Towers Valero, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City. Stockholders of record may download and print the proxy form from the Corporation’s website <www.bdo.com.ph/dominion/2023proxyform>.

Successfully registered stockholders can cast their votes and will be provided access to the virtual meeting. All documents and information submitted shall be subject to verification and validation by the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

For complete information on the annual meeting, please visit <www.bdo.com.ph/dominion/2023ASM>.


JOSEPH JASON M. NATIVIDAD
Corporate Secretary



ANNEX “A”

AGENDA DETAILS AND RATIONALE

- I. **Call to order.** The Chairman, Atty. Elmer B. Serrano, will formally open the 2023 Annual Stockholders’ Meeting of Dominion Holdings, Inc. (the “Corporation”).
- II. **Certification of notice of meeting and determination of existence of quorum.** The Corporate Secretary, Atty. Joseph Jason M. Natividad, will certify that notice requirements for the 2023 ASM have been complied with in accordance with the Corporation’s By-Laws, Revised Corporate Code of the Philippines, and the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), and will attest whether a quorum is present for the valid transaction of the ASM and all the matters included in the Agenda.
- III. **Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Stockholders’ Meeting held on April 20, 2022.** The draft minutes was posted on the Company’s website within twenty-four (24) hours from adjournment of the meetings and are accessible at the Corporation’s website <www.bdo.com.ph/dominion/company-disclosures>. These minutes are subject to stockholders’ approval during this year’s meeting.
- IV. **President’s Report and Approval of the Corporation’s 2022 Audited Financial Statements.** The Report presents a summary of the performance of the Corporation in 2022. It includes the highlights of the AFS of the Corporation which are incorporated in the Definitive Information Statement (DIS).
- V. **Approval and Ratification of all Acts of the Board of Directors, Board Committees and Management during their respective terms of office.** These acts are covered by resolutions duly adopted by the Board in the normal course of business, including the designation of corporate signatories and authorized representatives, approval of related party transactions, regulatory compliances, and similar matters shall be submitted to the stockholders for their ratification. Significant acts and transactions are likewise covered by appropriate disclosures with the SEC and the PSE. These collective acts are the main keys to the successful performance of the Corporation in 2022.
- VI. **Election of the Board of Directors.** The nominees for directors for 2023-2024, including independent directors, will be presented to the stockholders for election. The profiles of the nominees will be provided as soon as the Final List of Candidates or Nominees is available at the end of the nomination process and will be included in the Definitive Information Statement.
- VII. **Appointment of External Auditor.** With the endorsement of the Audit Committee, the Board approved the reappointment of P&A Grant Thornton as the Company’s external auditor for 2023. P&A is one of the top auditing firms in the country and is duly accredited with the Securities and Exchange Commission.
- VIII. **Other Business that may properly be brought before the meeting.** All other matters that arise after the Notice of Meeting and Agenda have been sent out, or raised throughout the course of the meeting, and which need to be presented to the stockholders for consideration will be taken up under this item. Stockholders may raise such matters as may be relevant or appropriate to the occasion.
- IX. **Adjournment.** After consideration of all business, the Chairperson shall declare the meeting adjourned. This formally ends the 2023 Annual Stockholders’ Meeting of the Corporation.

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