

Globe, Nokia widen tie-up to offer new digital tools to businesses

GLOBE TELECOM, INC. said it has expanded its collaboration with Nokia Corp. to make network application programming interfaces (APIs) available to more users and businesses.

The Ayala-led telecommunications company said broader access to network data through APIs could create opportunities for enterprises to use advanced network capabilities across sectors such as banking, healthcare, automotive, and entertainment.

Under the agreement, Globe will gain access to Nokia's full portfolio of APIs through the Network Exposure Program (NEP), a cloud-native and programmable platform designed to streamline API services and enable interoperability within network environments.

"With cyberattacks on digital services accelerating, it is crucial that we make available the latest network-powered technologies to our enterprise

customers and help safeguard against fraud. We are now at the stage of testing how Nokia's NEP can support our customers in the banking and enterprise sectors," Globe Vice-President and Head of Globe Business Stella Christine D. Dizon said in a media release on Thursday.

Globe previously partnered with Nokia last year to test the NEP for the development of security-focused applications aimed at addressing mobile banking fraud.

"Nokia's open API solutions will empower Globe to rapidly develop and deploy new services, fostering innovation and creating new revenue streams by securely exposing network capabilities to developers and partners," Nokia Head of Network Monetization Platform Shkumbin Hamiti said.

Shares in Globe rose P28, or 1.75%, to close at P1,630 apiece on Thursday. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

SEC says new rules on board directors expected this quarter



THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) plans to introduce new rules within the first quarter setting fixed terms for independent directors, as part of efforts to strengthen corporate governance and accountability in listed companies.

Under the proposed rules, independent directors — board members who represent shareholders and help oversee company management — would serve three-year terms, with a maximum cumulative service of nine years.

The SEC also plans to stagger terms so that not all seats are renewed at the same time.

"This ensures that boards remain balanced and independent while giving companies time to plan leadership transitions," SEC Chairperson Francisco Ed. Lim said on Wednesday.

Currently, independent directors can serve up to nine years, with some companies allowed to extend their terms under special exemptions.

Mr. Lim said the SEC intends to enforce the nine-year cap more strictly going forward.

The changes aim to strengthen the role of independent directors in holding management accountable, protecting shareholder interests, and promoting transparency in company operations. — **Alexandria Grace C. Magno**

Ayala Land unit signs five-year office lease with LANDBANK

THE OFFICE leasing unit of Ayala Land, Inc. (ALI) has signed a five-year lease agreement with Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK) for 3,866.75 square meters of office and parking space at the Ayala Malls Manila Bay Corporate Center.

In a statement on Thursday, Ayala Land Offices, Inc. (ALO) said the space will be used by selected LANDBANK head office units, departments, and a subsidiary. The lease is scheduled to begin on June 1.

Under the agreement, LANDBANK is the lessee, Bay City Commercial Ventures Corp. is the lessor, and ALO will serve as the leasing manager.

ALO said the lease reflects its continuing efforts to meet evolving office requirements as organizations adjust their space needs.

Ayala Land reported combined revenues from office and commercial and industrial lot sales of P12.8 billion in the first nine months of 2025, up from P10.4 billion in the same period a year earlier.

The company attributed the increase to lot sales in the first half and sustained bookings in key locations, including the Makati central business district, Vertis North, and Arca South.

Shares in ALI were unchanged at P22.50 apiece on Thursday. — **Alexandria Grace C. Magno**

PLDT, Smart deploy technology to improve connectivity in remote areas

PLDT INC. and its wireless unit Smart Communications, Inc. have deployed new technologies to enhance internet connectivity in remote and geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs).

"By working hand-in-hand with our partners in government, we believe we can roll out a stronger, more resilient network faster and more efficiently," PLDT Chief Operating Officer Menardo G.

Jimenez, Jr. said in a media release on Thursday.

The Pangilinan-led telecommunications company said connecting underserved communities requires multiple solutions to ensure faster and more reliable internet services.

To reach GIDAs, PLDT said it will continue investing in network infrastructure and innovative technologies, while also strengthening partnerships with government agencies and industry stakeholders.

"PLDT's investments in innovating to enhance its network are aligned with the Group's broader thrust to deliver improved services to customers nationwide. It also supports PLDT and Smart's commitment to national development through strategic partnerships that expand digital access and enhance the delivery of essential services," the company added.

On Thursday, PLDT shares rose P26, or 1.95%, to close at P1,360 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

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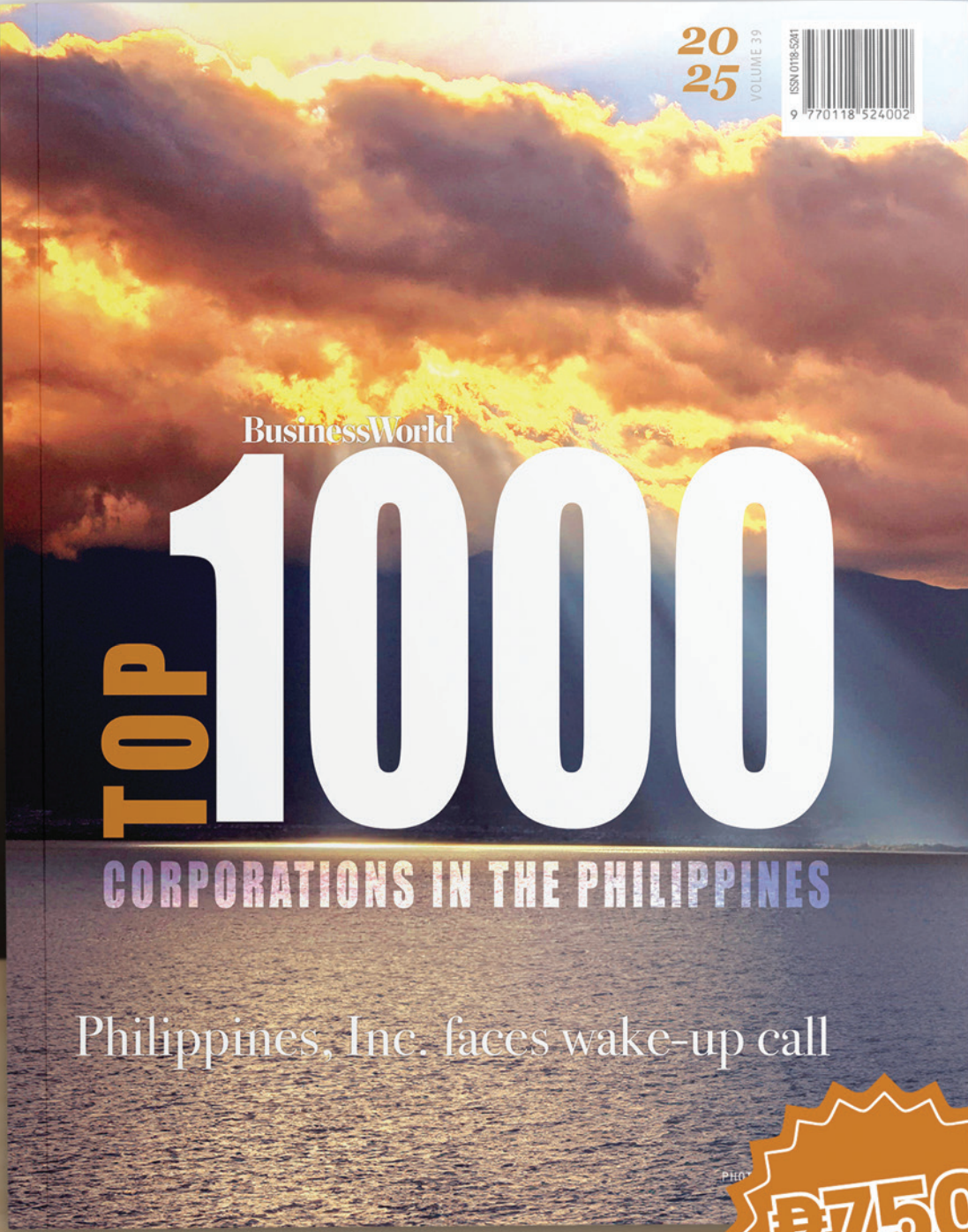
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