

Capitalization and Indebtedness

Not applicable.

Reasons for the Offer and Use of Proceeds

Not applicable.

Risk Factors

You should carefully consider all of the information in this annual report, including the risks and uncertainties described below. If any of the following risks actually occurs, it could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations and the trading price of our ADSs could decline and you could lose all or part of your investment.

Risks Relating to Us

If we are not able to adapt to changes and disruptions in technology and by over-the-top, or OTT, services and address changing consumer demand on a timely basis, we may experience a decline in the demand for our services, be unable to implement our business strategy and experience a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

The rapid change of technology and proliferation of OTT services, also known as VoIP services (such as Facebook, Skype, Viber, WhatsApp and other similar services), have disrupted our business. Due to the adoption of new technologies, changing customer habits, and the growing popularity of these new OTT services, our traditional revenue sources, such as short messaging service, or SMS, voice and international calling services, have declined, and we expect this trend to continue.

Growing mobile data usage in the Philippines, coupled with the prevalence of OTT services have negatively impacted our domestic calling service in recent years. OTT services continue to increasingly compete with us in voice and data services and continue to affect our business model. We are also facing growing competition from providers offering services using alternative wireless technologies and IP-based networks, including efforts by the Philippine government to roll-out its free WiFi services to various municipalities in the country. Moreover, net settlement payments between PLDT and other foreign telecommunications carriers for origination and termination of international call traffic between the Philippines and other countries, which have been our predominant source of foreign currency revenues, have been declining in recent years.

Our capital costs could increase as we phase out outdated and unprofitable technologies and invest in new ones. We may not be able to accurately predict technological trends or the success of new services in the market. In addition, there could be legal or regulatory restraints on our introduction of new services. If our services fail to gain acceptance in the marketplace, or if costs associated with implementation and completion of the introduction of these services materially increase, our ability to retain and attract customers could be adversely affected. We can neither assure you that we would be able to adopt or successfully implement new technologies and services nor assure you that future technological changes will not adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

The anticipated entry of a third major telecommunications player and/or increased competition from other telecommunications services providers may reduce our market share and decrease our profit margin, and we cannot assure you that any potential change in the competitive landscape of the telecommunications industry in the Philippines would not have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

Increasing competition among existing telecommunications services providers, as well as competition from new competitors, could materially and adversely affect our business and prospects by, among other factors, forcing us to lower our tariffs, reducing or reversing the growth of our customer base and reducing usage of our services. Competition in the mobile telecommunications industry is particularly intense, with network coverage, quality of service, product offerings, and price dictating subscriber preference, while competition in the fixed line side is beginning to escalate as well. Vital capacity and coverage expansion may continue to increase our capital expenditures. Recently, operators have grown more aggressive in maintaining and growing market share, especially in light of a maturing market. Our principal mobile competitor, Globe, has introduced aggressive marketing campaigns and promotions, such as unlimited voice, SMS, and data offers. It has also expressed interest to compete more actively in the fixed line segment, and has started to offer fixed line products and services.

In 2017, the Philippine government announced its intentions to introduce in the Philippines telecommunications market a third major company. The process for the establishment of this third major player is currently underway, and is heavily supported by the Philippine government. Media reports indicate that established international telecommunications companies are part of the shortlist. A third major player will likely adversely threaten our market share. Furthermore we believe that the third player, when it enters the market, may put forth aggressive offers to lure customers away from us and Globe. To maintain our competitive posture, we may need to match those offers and offer other incentives to prevent existing customers from switching. A loss of market share and increased costs to maintain our competitive posture will adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

In addition to the entry of a third major player, we cannot assure you that the number of providers of telecommunications services will not increase in the future or that competition for customers will not cause our mobile and fixed line subscribers to switch to other operators, or otherwise cause us to increase our marketing expenditures, lose customers or reduce our rates, resulting in a reduction in our profitability.

Our ability to compete effectively will depend on, among other things, network coverage, quality of service, price, our development of new and enhanced products and services, the reach and quality of our sales and distribution channels and our capital resources. It will also depend on how successfully we anticipate and respond to various factors affecting our industry, including new technologies and business models, changes in consumer preferences and demand for existing services, demographic trends and economic conditions. If we are not able to respond successfully to these competitive challenges, this could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

Our reliance on outsourcing and strategic sourcing arrangements, technology vendor contracts, and other partnerships and/or joint ventures may prevent us from meeting organizational targets or impact our brand image.

We have entered into a number of outsourcing agreements with technology vendors covering key operations in order to improve efficiencies and maximize knowledge transfer. These arrangements may disrupt existing operations and result in resistance among employees. Furthermore, any delays in implementation or failure to bring about the desired results will hamper our ability to meet our medium-term targets.

In particular, as part of our extensive capital expenditures program to overhaul our fixed and wireless networks infrastructure and our IT systems, we have entered into agreements with Amdocs and Huawei to upgrade and modernize a significant portion of our IT infrastructure. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to accomplish this transformation in a timely fashion, or at all, or in the manner intended. Furthermore, we cannot guarantee that such transformation will not result in service disruptions, network outages or encounter other issues that may detrimentally affect consumer experience. This may adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our business relies heavily as well on third party vendors, some of whom may encounter financial difficulties or consolidate with other vendors. This may result in shrinking the already limited pool of qualified vendors which in turn may materially impact their ability to fulfill their obligations and thereby impact our operations.

The mobile telecommunications industry in the Philippines may not continue to grow.

The majority of our total revenues are currently derived from the provision of mobile services to customers in the Philippines. As a result, we depend on the continued development and growth of this industry in the Philippines. The mobile penetration rate in the country, however, has already reached approximately 118% as at December 31, 2017, and thus the industry may well be considered mature. Further growth of the market depends on many factors beyond our control, including the continued introduction of new and enhanced mobile devices, the price levels of mobile handsets, consumer tastes and preferences, and the amount of disposable income of existing and potential subscribers. Any economic, technological or other developments resulting in a reduction in demand for mobile services or otherwise causing the Philippine mobile telecommunications industry to stop growing or reducing the rate of its growth, could materially harm our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

The licenses, franchises and regulatory approvals, upon which PLDT relies, may be subject to revocation or delay, which could result in the suspension of our services or abandonment of any planned expansions and could thereby have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

Failure to comply with the foreign ownership restrictions

Section 11, Article XII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that no franchise, certificate, or any other form of authorization for the operation of a public utility shall be granted except to citizens of the Philippines or to corporations of associations organized under the laws of the Philippines, at least 60% of whose capital is owned by such citizens. Exceeding the foreign ownership restrictions imposed under the Philippine Constitution may subject the Company to (1) sanctions set out in Section 14 of the Philippine Foreign Investments Act of 1991, as amended, comprising a fine not exceeding (a) the lower of (x) 0.5% of the total paid in capital of the Company and (y) Php5 million, in the case of a corporate entity, (b) Php200,000, in the case of the president of the Company or other responsible officers, and (c) Php100,000, in the case of other natural persons, which we refer to collectively as the Monetary Sanctions, and/or (2) the Philippine government commencing a *quo warranto* case in the name of the Republic of the Philippines against the Company to revoke the Company's franchise that permits the Company to engage in telecommunications activities.

We believe that as of the date of this report, PLDT is in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution, and this position was recently supported by the Supreme Court; however, we cannot assure you that subsequent changes in law or additional litigation would not result in a different conclusion. See Item 8. "Financial Information - Legal Proceedings" and Note 27 - *Provisions and Contingencies - In the Matter of the Wilson Gamboa Case and Jose M. Roy III Petition* to the accompanying audited consolidated financial statements in Item 18. "Financial Statements" for further discussion.

Failure to renew CPCNs

We operate our business under franchises, each of which is subject to amendment, termination or repeal by the Philippine Congress, and to various provisional authorities and CPCNs, which have been granted by the NTC and will expire between now and 2028. Some of our CPCNs and provisional authorities have already expired. Although we have filed applications for extension of these CPCNs and provisional authorities, we cannot assure you that the NTC will grant the applications for renewal. Failure to renew CPCNs can materially and adversely affect our ability to conduct the essential functions of our business, and therefore adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations. See Item 4. "Information on the Company - Licenses and Regulations" for more information.

Failure to comply with R.A. 7925

The Philippine Congress may revoke, or the Solicitor General of the Philippines may file a case against Smart and DMPI to revoke, the franchise of Smart and DMPI for their failure to comply with R.A. 7925, which requires making a public offering of at least 30% of the aggregate common shares of a telecommunications entity with regulated types of services. See Item 4. "Information on the Company - Material Effects of Regulation on our Business" for further discussion.

On May 19, 2017, Republic Act No. 10926 took effect which extended the Legislative Franchise of Smart. The law contains a provision which exempts Smart from the requirement of listing of shares if a grantee is wholly owned by a publicly listed company with at least thirty *per centum* (30%) of whose authorized capital stock is publicly listed. Thus, Smart is in compliance with RA 7925.

We cannot assure you that any of our franchise, permits or licenses will not be revoked and any such revocation could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial conditions or prospects.

Our business is significantly affected by laws and regulations, including regulations in respect of rates and taxes and laws relating to anti-competitive practices and monopoly.

The NTC regulates the rates we are permitted to charge for services that have not yet been deregulated, such as local exchange services. We cannot assure you that the NTC will not impose additional obligations on us that could lead to the revocation of our licenses if not adhered to and/or to the reduction in our total revenues or profitability. The NTC could adopt changes to the regulations or implement additional guidelines governing our

interconnection with other telecommunications companies or the rates and terms upon which we provide services to our customers. The occurrence of any of these changes could materially reduce our revenues and profitability.

The PLDT Group is also subject to a number of national and local taxes. We cannot assure you that the PLDT Group will not be subject to new, increased and/or additional taxes and that the PLDT Group would be able to impose or pass on additional charges or fees on its customers to compensate for the imposition of such taxes or charges, or for the loss of fees and/or charges.

Moreover, we are subject to laws and regulations relating to anti-competitive practices and anti-monopoly. The Philippine Competition Act came into effect on August 8, 2015 and prohibits practices that restrict market competition through anti-competitive agreements and abuse of a dominant position. It also requires parties to provide notification and obtain clearance for certain mergers and acquisitions. The Philippine Competition Act prescribes administrative and criminal penalties for violations of these prohibitions. While our business practices have not in the past been found to have violated any laws and regulations related to anti-competition and anti-monopoly, we cannot assure you that any new or existing governmental regulators will not, in the future, find our business practices to have an anti-competitive effect on the Philippine telecommunications industry, nor can we assure you that we will not be found to have violated the relevant laws and regulations relating to anti-competition and anti-monopoly in the future.

In particular, PLDT was engaged in litigation with the Philippine Competition Commission, or the PCC, relating to PLDT's investments in VTI, Bow Arken and Brightshare, or the SMC Transactions. Although the Court of Appeals, or CA, among other things, compelled the PCC to recognize that the SMC Transactions as deemed approved by operation of law, the CA did clarify that the deemed approved status of the SMC Transactions does not, however, remove the power of PCC to conduct post-acquisition review to ensure that no anti-competitive conduct is committed by the parties. Any future expansion in our services, particularly in our mobile services, could subject us to additional conditions in the granting of our provisional authorities by the NTC and to increased regulatory scrutiny, which could harm our reputation and business, and which could have a material adverse effect on our growth and prospects. In addition, the occurrence of any such event could impose substantial costs or cause interruptions or considerable delays in the provision, development or expansion of our services. See *Note 10 - Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures - Notice of Transaction filed with the Philippine Competition Commission, or PCC* to the accompanying audited consolidated financial statements in Item 18. "Financial Statements" for further discussion.

Changes in regulations or user concerns regarding privacy and protection of user data, or any failure to comply with such laws, could adversely affect our business.

Legislation such as R.A. 10173 or the Philippine Data Privacy Act of 2012, or the Privacy Act, its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other related issuances of the Philippine SEC recognizes as a policy of the Philippine government the protection of the fundamental human right of privacy, while ensuring the free flow of information to promote innovation and growth. The Privacy Act provides for the protection of personal data of Philippine data subjects, which are subjected to processing conducted by any natural and juridical person in the government or private sector. The Philippine SEC has been actively enforcing the implementation and compliance of entities covered by the Privacy Act since the release of its Rules in 2016.

We began the design and implementation of a Personal Data Privacy Policy (the "Policy") in 2016. This Policy requires the regular conduct of privacy impact assessments against business processes, products, and systems that involve any form of processing of personal data. Such assessments have resulted in major process overhauls and adjustments to contractual obligations of third-party business partners.

Failure to adhere to this Policy may result in penalties and sanctions against erring or negligent employees and third-party business partners. We have employed measures to ensure the protection of related data, so as to avoid the loss of customer confidence and damage to the PLDT brands, any of which could potentially have an adverse effect to business. We cannot, however, guarantee these measures will be successful.

Similar foreign regulatory bodies have likewise introduced data protection standards and regulations concerning cross border data processing. Some countries have achieved a more mature state of implementation, while other countries have yet to define or implement them. While the Philippines may generally be considered to be in the early stages of adoption, our exposure to international markets and partners which require cross border data processing may become a challenge in our operations. International laws need to be interpreted and considered in our policies and practices, which may consequently require material changes to internal business operations and practices. Complying with these varying international requirements may lead to substantial implementation costs or penalties in the case of non-compliance.

Inadequate handling of confidential information, including personal customer information by our corporate group, contractors and others, may adversely affect our credibility or corporate image.

We possess a substantial amount of personal information of our customers. In the event an information leak occurs, we might be subjected to penalties under the data privacy law, our credibility and corporate image may be significantly damaged, and we may experience an increase in cancellations of customer contracts and slower increase in additional subscriptions, any of which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations, financial condition and prospects.

Legislation and regulation of online payment systems could create unexpected costs, subject us to enforcement actions for compliance failures, or cause us to change our digital technology platforms or business models.

Regulators have been increasing their focus on online and mobile payment services, and recent regulatory and other developments could reduce the convenience or utility of our payment services for users. Governmental regulation of certain aspects of mobile payments systems under which PLDT operates could result in obligations or restrictions with respect to the types of products that we may offer to consumers, the payment card systems that link to our mobile payments systems, the jurisdictions in which our payment services or apps may be used, and higher costs, such as fees charged by banks to process funds through our mobile payments systems. Such obligations and restrictions could be further increased as more jurisdictions regulate payment systems. Moreover, if this regulation is used to provide resources or preferential treatment or protection to selected payments and processing providers, it could displace us from, or prevent us from entering into, or substantially restrict us from participating in, particular geographies.

Limitations in the amount of frequency spectrum or facilities made available to us could negatively affect our ability to maintain and improve our service quality and level of customer satisfaction, could increase our costs and could reduce our competitiveness.

The available radio frequency spectrum is one of the principal limitations on a wireless network's capacity, and there are limitations in the spectrum and facilities available to us to provide our services. Our future wireless growth will increasingly depend on our ability to offer innovative video products and data services and a wireless network that has sufficient spectrum and capacity to support these innovations. Improvements in our service depend on many factors, including continued access to and deployment of adequate spectrum.

Our competitiveness may decline if we cannot obtain the necessary or optimal allocation of spectrum from the Philippine government. If the Philippine government does not fairly allocate spectrum to wireless providers in general, revoke spectrum previously granted to us, or if we cannot acquire needed spectrum or deploy the services customers desire on a timely basis without burdensome conditions or at adequate cost while maintaining network quality levels, then our ability to attract and retain customers, and therefore maintain and improve our operating margins, could be materially adversely affected.

Other mobile service providers in the world may not adopt or use the technologies and the frequency bands that are compatible with ours, which could affect our ability to sufficiently offer international services.

If a sufficient number of mobile service providers do not adopt the technologies and the frequency bands that are compatible with ours, if mobile service providers switch to other technologies or frequency bands, or if there is a delay in the introduction and expansion of compatible technologies and frequency bands, we may not be able to offer international roaming or other international services as expected, which may adversely affect our business.

We may not be successful in our acquisitions of, and investments in, other companies and businesses, and may therefore be unable to fully implement our business strategy.

As growth slows or reverses in our traditional fixed line and mobile businesses, and as part of our strategy to grow other business segments, we make acquisitions and investments in companies or businesses to enter new businesses or defend our existing markets. The success of our acquisitions and investments depends on a number of factors, such as:

- our ability to identify suitable opportunities for investment or acquisition;
- our ability to reach an acquisition or investment agreement on terms that are satisfactory to us or at all;
- the extent to which we are able to influence or exercise control over the acquired company;

- the compatibility of the economic, business or other strategic objectives and goals of the acquired company with those of the PLDT Group, as well as the ability to execute the identified strategies in order to generate fair returns on the investment; and
- our ability to successfully integrate the acquired company or business with our existing businesses.

Any of our contemplated acquisitions and investments may not be consummated due to reasons or factors beyond our control. Even if any contemplated acquisitions and investments are consummated, we may not be able to realize any or all of the anticipated benefits of such acquisitions and investments and we cannot assure you that the consummation of such acquisitions and investments will not result in losses for a prolonged period of time. Moreover, if we are unsuccessful in our contemplated acquisitions and investments, we may not be able to fully implement our business strategy to maintain or grow certain of our businesses and our results of operations and financial position could be materially and adversely affected.

We are exposed to the fluctuations in the market values of our investments.

Given the nature of our business and our foray into the digital business, we have made investments in various start-up companies. For example, in 2014, we invested in Rocket Internet SE (formerly Rocket Internet AG), or Rocket, to drive the development of online and mobile payment solutions, the fair value of which has declined significantly since our investment. Due to the significant decline in fair value of our investment in Rocket Internet, we recognized a series of impairments that amount to, in the aggregate, P11,045 million, since then. See Item 5. "Operating and Financial Review and Prospects – Critical Accounting Policies" and Note 11 – Available-for-Sale Financial Investments – Investment of PLDT Online in Rocket Internet to the accompanying audited consolidated financial statements in Item 18. "Financial Statements" for more information. Credit ratings and market values of this investment and similar investments can be negatively impacted by liquidity, credit deterioration or losses, financial results, foreign exchange rates, or other factors. As a result, our investments could decline and result in a material impairment, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and operating results.

If we are unable to install and maintain telecommunications facilities and equipment in a timely manner, we may not be able to maintain our current market share and the quality of our services, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Our business requires the regular installation of new, and the maintenance of existing, telecommunications transmission and other facilities and equipment, which are being undertaken. The installation and maintenance of these facilities and equipment are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties, such as:

- shortages of equipment, materials and labor;
- delays in issuance of national and local government building permits;
- work stoppages and labor disputes;
- interruptions resulting from man-made events (e.g., sabotage), inclement weather and other natural disasters;
- rapid technological obsolescence
- inability of vendors to deliver on commitments
- unforeseen engineering, environmental and geological problems; and
- unanticipated cost increases.

Any of these factors could give rise to delays or cost overruns in the installation of new facilities or equipment or could prevent us from deploying our networks and properly maintaining the equipment used in our networks, and hence could affect our ability to maintain existing services and roll-out new services, for example, which could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

Actual or perceived health risks or other problems relating to mobile handsets or transmission masts could lead to litigation or decreased mobile communications usage.

The effects of, and any damage caused by, exposure to an electromagnetic field remain the subject of careful evaluations by the international scientific community. We cannot rule out that exposure to electromagnetic fields or other emissions originating from mobile handsets will not be identified as a health risk in the future. Our mobile business may be harmed as a result of any future alleged, or actual, health risk or the perception of any

health risk, which could result in a lower number of customers, reduced usage per customer or even potential consumer liability.

Our business relies on secure network infrastructure and computer systems, and any cyber-attacks against them, or the perception of such attacks, may materially adversely affect our operations, financial condition and results of operations.

Our business operations rely on us securely maintaining our network infrastructure and computer systems. A cyber-attack on our systems could cause service disruptions, damage to our systems and infrastructure, including damage to our physical assets, malfunction of our technology or services, accidental and/or deliberate misuse of our systems and other assets, alteration of our technology, publication of our proprietary technologies, methods, processes, business strategies and other confidential information, as well as unauthorized access to confidential information about our customers, including their financial information, any of which may lead to reputational harm, loss of confidence in our brand, litigation, regulatory actions and loss in customers, each of which, individually or in the aggregate may materially adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

During 2017, Smart subscribers reported cases of not being able to access popular websites or common mobile applications as well as frequent prompts for captcha verification (end-user validation which requires the user to input certain information or complete certain task to access the desired webpage). Upon investigation, it was revealed that spam emails and malware network activities were emanating from our subscribers' devices. Our IP ranges were consequently black-listed and tagged with poor reputation. To resolve the issue, we implemented several measures to prevent spam activity on our network.

In order to minimize our exposure to cyber security risks, we have deployed a multi-layered defense mechanism from the network to the host and up to the application level. However, we can neither assure you that any of such defenses will be effective against or neutralize the effects of any cyber incidents resulting from unintentional cyber security breaches or deliberate attacks on our network infrastructure or computer systems, nor assure you that our business will not be significantly disrupted in the event of such security breach or attack. If we fail to timely and effectively prevent the occurrence of any new or existing cyber security incidents, or fail to promptly rectify any such incidents, our business could be significantly disrupted, our results of operations could be materially and adversely affected, and the confidence of our stakeholders could be lost.

Cable and equipment theft, equipment failures, natural disasters, man-made events, terrorist acts and territorial disputes may materially adversely affect our operations.

Theft of telecommunication cables, major equipment failures or natural disasters, including severe weather, terrorist acts or other similar or related contingencies could adversely affect our wireline and wireless networks, including telephone switching offices, microwave links, third-party-owned local and long-distance networks on which we rely, our cell sites or other equipment, our customer account support and information systems, or employee and business records, and could have a material adverse effect on our operations.

Our businesses require substantial capital investment, which we may not be able to finance.

Our projects under development and the continued maintenance and improvement of our networks and services, including Smart's projects, networks, platforms and services, require substantial ongoing capital investment. Our consolidated capital expenditures totaled Php40,299 million, Php42,825 million and Php43,175 million for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, respectively. We currently estimate that our consolidated capital expenditures in 2018 will be approximately Php58 billion.

Future strategic initiatives could require us to incur significant additional capital expenditures. We may be required to finance a portion of our future capital expenditures from external financing sources, some of which have not yet been fully arranged. There can be no assurance that financing for new projects will be available on terms acceptable to us, or at all. If we cannot complete our development programs or other capital projects on time due to our failure to obtain the required financing, our growth, results of operations, financial condition and prospects could be materially and adversely affected.

Our results of operations and our financial position could be materially and adversely affected if the Philippine peso significantly fluctuates against the U.S. dollar.

A substantial portion of our capital expenditures, a portion of our indebtedness and related interest expense and a portion of our operating expenses are denominated in U.S. dollars and other foreign currencies, whereas most of our revenues are denominated in Philippine pesos. See *Note 21 – Interest-bearing Financial Liabilities* to the accompanying audited consolidated financial statements in Item 18. “Financial Statements”.

A depreciation of the Philippine peso against the U.S. dollar would increase the amount of our U.S. dollar-denominated debt obligations, capital expenditures, and operating and interest expenses in Philippine peso terms. In the event that the Philippine peso depreciates against the U.S. dollar, we may be unable to generate enough funds through operations and other means to offset the resulting increase in our obligations in Philippine peso terms. Moreover, a depreciation of the Philippine peso against the U.S. dollar may result in our recognition of significant foreign exchange losses, which could materially and adversely affect our results of operations. A depreciation of the Philippine peso could also cause us not to be in compliance with the financial covenants imposed on us by our lenders under certain loan agreements and other indebtedness. Further, fluctuations in the Philippine peso value and of interest rates impact the mark-to-market gains/losses of certain of our financial debt instruments, which were designated as non-hedged items.

The Philippine peso has been subject to significant depreciation in recent years with the Philippine peso depreciated by approximately 21% from a high of Php41.08 for year end 2012 to Php49.96 as at December 31, 2017 and further depreciated to Php52.29 as at March 26, 2018. We cannot assure you that the Philippine peso will not depreciate further and be subject to significant fluctuations going forward, due to a range of factors, including:

- political and economic developments affecting the Philippines, including the level of remittances from overseas Filipino workers;
- global economic and financial trends;
- the volatility of emerging market currencies;
- any interest rate increases by the Federal Reserve Bank of the United States and/or the BSP; and
- higher demand for U.S. dollars by both banks and domestic businesses to service their maturing U.S. dollar obligations or foreign exchange traders including banks covering their short U.S. dollar positions, among others.

Our debt instruments contain restrictive covenants which require us to maintain certain financial tests and our indebtedness could impair our ability to fulfill our financial obligations and service our other debt.

Our existing debt instruments contain covenants which, among other things, require PLDT to maintain certain financial ratios and other financial tests, calculated on the basis of IFRS at relevant measurement dates, principally at the end of each quarter period. For a description of some of these covenants, see *Note 21 – Interest-bearing Financial Liabilities* to the accompanying audited consolidated financial statements in Item 18. “Financial Statements”.

Our indebtedness and the requirements and limitations imposed by our debt covenants could have important consequences. For example, we may be required to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow to payments on our indebtedness, which could reduce the availability of our cash flow to fund working capital, capital expenditures and other general corporate requirements.

The principal factors that could negatively affect our ability to comply with the financial ratio covenants and other financial tests under our debt instruments are depreciation of the Philippine peso relative to the U.S. dollar, poor operating performance of PLDT and our consolidated subsidiaries, impairment or similar charges in respect of investments or other long-lived assets that may be recognized by PLDT and its consolidated subsidiaries, and increases in our interest expenses. Of our total consolidated debts, approximately 20% and 31% were denominated in U.S. dollars as at December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively. Considering our consolidated hedges and U.S. dollar cash balances allocated for debt, the unhedged portion of the consolidated debt amounts were approximately 8% in each of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and therefore these financial ratios and other tests are expected to be negatively affected by any weakening of the Philippine peso relative to the U.S. dollar.

If we are unable to meet our debt service obligations or comply with our debt covenants, we may need to restructure or refinance our indebtedness, seek additional equity capital or sell assets. An inability to effect these measures successfully could result in a declaration of default and an acceleration of maturities of some or all of

our indebtedness, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

Our subsidiaries could be limited in their ability to pay dividends to us due to internal cash requirements and their creditors having superior claims over their assets and cash flows, which could materially and adversely affect our financial condition.

A significant part of our total revenues and cash flows from operations are derived from our subsidiaries, particularly Smart. Smart has significant internal cash requirements for debt service, capital expenditures and operating expenses and as a result, may be financially unable to pay any dividends to PLDT. Although Smart has been making dividend payments to PLDT regularly since December 2002, there can be no assurance that PLDT will continue to receive these dividends or other distributions, or otherwise be able to derive liquidity from Smart or any other subsidiary or investee in the future.

Creditors of our subsidiaries generally have priority claims over our subsidiaries' assets and cash flows. We and our creditors will effectively be subordinated to the existing and future indebtedness and other liabilities, including trade payables, of our subsidiaries, except that we may be recognized as a creditor with respect to loans we have made to subsidiaries. If we are recognized as a creditor of a subsidiary, our claim will still be subordinated to any indebtedness secured by assets of the subsidiary and any indebtedness of the subsidiary otherwise deemed superior to the indebtedness we hold.

We may have difficulty meeting our debt payment obligations if we do not continue to receive cash dividends from our subsidiaries and our financial condition could be materially and adversely affected as a result.

A significant number of shares of PLDT's voting stock are held by four shareholders, which may not act in the interests of other shareholders or stakeholders in PLDT.

As at January 31, 2018, the First Pacific Group and its Philippine affiliates, NTT Communications and NTT DOCOMO, and JG Summit Holdings, Inc. and its affiliates, or JG Summit Group, collectively, beneficially own approximately 53.93% in PLDT's outstanding common stock (representing 31.83% of our overall voting stock). See Item 7. "Major Shareholders and Related Party Transactions" for further details regarding the shareholdings of NTT Communications and NTT DOCOMO in PLDT, and the rights granted pursuant to the Cooperation Agreement, Strategic Agreement and the Shareholders Agreement.

Additionally, all of PLDT's shares of voting preferred stock, which represent approximately 41% of PLDT's total outstanding shares of voting stock are owned by a single stockholder, BTF Holdings, Inc., or BTFHI.

The FP Parties and/or NTT Communications and/or NTT DOCOMO and/or JG Summit Group and/or BTFHI may exercise their respective voting rights over certain decisions and transactions in a manner that could be contrary to the interests of other shareholders or stakeholders in PLDT.

Failure to maintain effective internal control over financial reporting in accordance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 could adversely impact investor confidence and the market price of our common shares and ADSs, and have a material adverse effect on our business, our reputation, financial condition and results of operations.

We are required to comply with various Philippine and U.S. laws and regulations on internal control. However, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements because of its inherent limitations, including the possibility of human error, the circumvention or overriding of controls, or fraud. Therefore, even effective internal control over financial reporting can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements. If we fail to maintain the adequacy of our internal control over financial reporting, including our failure to implement required new or improved controls, or if we experience difficulties in their implementation, our business and operating results could be harmed, we could fail to meet our reporting obligations and there could be a material adverse effect on our business, our reputation, financial condition and results of operations, and the market prices of our common shares and ADSs could decline significantly.

We are unionized and are vulnerable to work stoppages, slowdowns or increased labor costs.

As at December 31, 2017, PLDT has three employee unions, representing in the aggregate 5,328, or 30%, of the employees of the PLDT Group. This unionized workforce could result in demands that may increase our

operating expenses and adversely affect our profitability. For instance, PLDT experienced a significant charge from its manpower rightsizing program in 2017, mainly incurred in the fixed-line business. See *Note 5 - Income and Expenses - Compensation and Employee Benefits* to the accompanying audited consolidated financial statements in Item 18. "Financial Statements". Each of our different employee groups may require separate collective bargaining agreements. If any group of our employees and PLDT are unable to reach agreement on the terms of their collective bargaining agreement or we were to experience widespread employee dissatisfaction, we could be subject to work slowdowns or stoppages. Any of these events would be disruptive to our operations and could harm our business.

Additionally, in 2017, PLDT received a Compliance Order from the Department of Labor and Employment of the Philippines, or DOLE, on July 3, 2017 in connection with the non-payment of statutorily required monetary benefits, including the 13th month salary, to certain contract workers. The Compliance Order held the PLDT Group liable for Php78.6 million. We cannot guarantee that PLDT or its subsidiaries will not be subject to similar proceedings or other labor-related regulatory activities, the results of which may have an adverse reputational and/or financial impact. See *Note 27 - Provisions and Contingencies* to the accompanying audited consolidated financial statements in Item 18. "Financial Statements".

The loss of key personnel or the failure to attract and retain highly qualified personnel could compromise our ability to effectively manage our business and pursue our growth strategy.

Our future performance depends on our ability to attract and retain highly qualified key technical, development, sales, services and management personnel. The loss of key employees could result in significant disruptions to our business, and the integration of replacement personnel could be costly and time consuming, could cause additional disruptions to our business, and could be unsuccessful. We cannot guarantee the continued employment of any of the members of our senior leadership team, who may depart our Company for any number of reasons, such as other business opportunities, differing views on our strategic direction or other personal reasons. Any inability to attract, retain or motivate our personnel could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and prospects.

Adverse results of any pending or future litigation, internal or external investigations and/or disputes may impact PLDT's cash flows, results of operations and financial condition.

We are currently involved in various legal proceedings. Our estimate of the probable costs for the resolution of these claims have been developed in consultation with our counsel handling the defense in these matters and is based upon our analysis of potential results. Our future financial performance could be materially affected by an adverse outcome or by changes in our estimates or effectiveness of our strategies relating to these proceedings and assessments.

For more information on PLDT's legal proceedings, see Item 8. "Financial Information - Legal Proceedings" and *Note 27 - Provisions and Contingencies* to the accompanying consolidated financial statements in Item 18. "Financial Statements." While PLDT believes the positions it has taken in these cases are legally valid, the final results of these cases may prove to be different from its expectations. In addition, there is no assurance that PLDT will not be involved in future litigation or other disputes, the results of which may materially and adversely impact its business and financial conditions.

Risks Relating to the Philippines

PLDT's business may be adversely affected by political or social or economic instability in the Philippines.

The Philippines is subject to political, social and economic volatility that, directly or indirectly, could have a material adverse impact on our ability to sustain our business and growth.

The Philippines, China and several Southeast Asian nations have been engaged in a series of long-standing territorial disputes over certain islands in the West Philippine Sea, also known as the South China Sea. Should these territorial disputes continue or escalate further, the Philippines and its economy may be disrupted and our operations could be adversely affected as a result. In particular, further disputes between the Philippines and China may lead both countries to impose trade restrictions on the other's imports. Any such impact from these disputes could adversely affect the Philippine economy, and materially and adversely affect our business, financial position and financial performance.

We cannot assure you that the political environment in the Philippines will be stable or that the current or any future government will adopt economic policies that are conducive to sustained economic growth or which do not