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LBC Express Holdings, Inc. LBC

PSE Disclosure Form 17-18 - Other SEC Forms/Reports/Requirements

Form/Report Type	Revised Manual on Corporate Governance
Report Period/Report Date	May 26, 2017

Description of the Disclosure

In compliance with the Revised Code of Corporate Governance of the Securities and Exchange Commission, we hereby submit LBC Express Holdings, Inc.'s Revised Manual on Corporate Governance. Said revisions have been approved by the Board of Directors in their meeting on 26 May 2017.

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LBC EXPRESS HOLDINGS, INC.

REVISED MANUAL ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ON AND CO (MAY 2017)1

The Board of Directors and Management, officers and staff of LBC EXPRESS HOLDINGS, INC. hereby commit themselves to the principles and best practices contained in this Manual, and acknowledge that the same may guide the attainment of the corporate goals.

Article 1: OBJECTIVE

This Manual shall institutionalize the principles of good corporate governance in the entire organization.

The Board of Directors and Management, employees and shareholders, believe that corporate governance is a necessary component of what constitutes sound strategic business management and will therefore undertake every effort necessary to create awareness within the organization as soon as possible.

Article 2: DEFINITION OF TERMS

Corporate Governance - the system of stewardship and control to guide organizations in a) fulfilling their long-term economic, moral, legal and social obligations towards their stakeholders.

Corporate governance is a system of direction, feedback and control using regulations, performance standards and ethical guidelines to hold the Board and senior management accountable for ensuring ethical behavior — reconciling long-term customer satisfaction with shareholder value — to the benefit of all stakeholders and society.

Its purpose is to maximize the organization's long-term success, creating sustainable value for its shareholders, stakeholders and the nation.

- Board of Directors the governing body elected by the stockholders that exercises the b) corporate powers of a corporation, conducts all its business and controls its properties;
- Exchange an organized market place or facility that brings together buyers, and sellers, and c) executes trades of securities and/or commodities;
- Management a group of executives given the authority by the Board of Directors to d) implement the policies it has laid down in the conduct of the business of the corporation;
- Independent director a person who is independent of management and the controlling e) shareholder, and is free from any business or other relationship which could, or could reasonably be perceived to, materially interfere with his exercise of independent judgment in carrying out his responsibilities as a director;
- f) Executive director - a director who has executive responsibility of day-to-day operations of a part or the whole of the organization;
- Non-executive director a director who has no executive responsibility and does not perform g) any work related to the operations of the corporation;
- h) Conglomerate - a group of corporations that has diversified business activities in varied industries, whereby the operations of such businesses are controlled and managed by a parent corporate entity;

¹ Subject to the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission on the amendments to the Corporation's By-Laws for the implementation of the provisions of the Corporation's Revised Manual on Corporate Governance.

- i) Non-audit work the other services offered by an external auditor to a corporation that are not directly related and relevant to its statutory audit functions, such as, accounting, payroll, bookkeeping, reconciliation, computer project management, data processing, or information technology outsourcing services, internal audit, and other services that may compromise the independence and objectivity of an external auditor;
- j) Internal control a process designed and effected by the Board of Directors, Senior Management, and all levels of personnel to provide reasonable assurance on the achievement of objectives, through efficient and effective operations, reliable, complete and timely financial and management information, and compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and the organization's policies and procedures;
- k) Internal control system the framework under which internal controls are developed and implemented (alone or in concert with other policies or procedures) to manage and control a particular risk or business activity, or combination of risks or business activities, to which the corporation is exposed;
- Internal audit an independent and objective assurance activity designed to add value to and improve the corporation's operations, and help it accomplish its objectives by providing a systematic and disciplined approach in the evaluation and improvement of the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance processes;
- m) Internal audit department a department or unit of the corporation and its consultants, if any, that provide independent and objective assurance services in order to add value to and improve the corporation's operations;
- n) Internal auditor the highest position in the corporation responsible for internal audit activities. If internal audit activities are performed by outside service providers, he is the person responsible for overseeing the service contract, the overall quality of these activities, and follow-up of engagement results.
- o) Enterprise Risk Management a process, effected by an entity's Board of Directors, management and other personnel, applied in strategy setting and across the enterprise that is designed to identify potential events that may affect the entity, manage risks to be within its risk appetite, and provide reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of entity objectives.
- p) Related Party shall cover the company's subsidiaries, as well as affiliates and any party (including their subsidiaries, affiliates and special purpose entities), that the company exerts direct or indirect control over or that exerts direct or indirect control over the company; the company's directors; officers; shareholders and related interests (DOSRI), and their close family members, as well as corresponding persons in affiliated companies. This shall also include such other person or juridical entity whose interest may pose a potential conflict with the interest of the company.
- q) Related Party Transactions a transfer of resources, services or obligations between a reporting entity and a related party, regardless of whether a price is charged. It should be interpreted broadly to include not only transactions that are entered into with related parties, but also outstanding transactions that are entered into with an unrelated party that subsequently becomes a related party.
- r) Stakeholders any individual, organization or society at large who can either affect and/or be affected by the company's strategies, policies, business decisions and operations, in general. This includes, among others, customers, creditors, employees, suppliers, investors, as well as the government and community in which it operates.

Article 3: RULES OF INTERPRETATION

- A) All references to the masculine gender in the salient provisions of this Manual shall likewise cover the feminine gender.
- B) All doubts or questions that may arise in the interpretation or application of this Manual shall be resolved in favor of promoting transparency, accountability and fairness to the stockholders and investors of the corporation.

Article 4: THE BOARD'S GOVERNANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

A) Establishing a Competent Board

The Board of Directors (the "Board") is primarily responsible for the governance of the corporation. Corollary to setting the policies for the accomplishment of the corporate objectives, it shall provide an independent check on Management. It is the Board of Directors' responsibility to foster the long-term success of the corporation, and to sustain its competitiveness and profitability in a manner consistent with its corporate objectives and the long-term best interests of its shareholders and other stakeholders.

B) Composition of the Board

The Board shall be composed of nine (9) directors who shall be elected at the Annual Stockholders' Meeting to hold office until the next annual meeting and until their respective successors have been elected and qualified. The Board should be composed of directors with a collective working knowledge, experience or expertise that is relevant to the company's industry/sector. The Board should always ensure that it has an appropriate mix of competence and expertise and that its members remain qualified for their positions individually and collectively, to enable it to fulfill its roles and responsibilities and respond to the needs of the organization based on the evolving business environment and strategic direction.

The corporation shall have at least three (3) independent directors or such number of independent directors that constitutes at least one-third (1/3) of the members of the Board, whichever is higher.

The membership of the Board may be a combination of executive and nonexecutive directors (which include independent directors) in order that no director or small group of directors can dominate the decision-making process.

The Board should be composed of a majority of non-executive directors who should possess such qualifications and stature that would enable them to effectively participate in the deliberations of the Board, and help secure objective, independent judgment on corporate affairs and to substantiate proper checks and balances.

C) Training

The Company shall adopt a policy on the training of directors, including an orientation program for first-time directors and relevant annual continuing training for all directors.

The orientation program for first-time directors shall be for at least eight hours, while the annual continuing training be for at least four hours.

The orientation program covers SEC-mandated topics on corporate governance and an introduction to the Company's business. Articles of Incorporation, and Code of Conduct.

The annual continuing training program involves courses on corporate governance matters relevant to the company, including audit, internal controls, risk management, sustainability and strategy.

D) Board Diversity

The Board shall have a policy on board diversity, which is a move to avoid groupthink and ensure that optimal decision-making is achieved. A board diversity policy to be set by the Board shall not limited to gender diversity. It also includes diversity in age, ethnicity, culture, skills, competence and knowledge.

E) Multiple Board Seats

The Board may consider the adoption of guidelines on the number of directorships that its members can hold in stock and non-stock corporations. The optimum number should take into consideration the capacity of a director to diligently and efficiently perform his duties and responsibilities.

The Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") and other executive directors may be covered by a lower indicative limit for membership in other boards. A similar limit may apply to independent directors who, at the same time, serve as full-time executives in other corporations. In any case, the capacity of the directors to diligently and efficiently perform their duties and responsibilities to the boards they serve should not be compromised.

The non-executive directors of the Board should concurrently serve as directors to a maximum of five publicly listed companies to ensure that they have sufficient time to fully prepare for meetings, challenge Management's proposals/views, and oversee the long-term strategy of the company.

A director should notify the Board where he/she is an incumbent director before accepting a directorship in another company.

The Corporate Governance Committee shall consider the following guidelines in the determination of the number of directorships for the Board:

- (i) The nature of the business of the corporation which he is a director;
- (ii) Age of the director;
- (iii) Number of directorships/active memberships and officerships in other corporations or organizations; and
- (iv) Possible conflict of interest.

F) The Chair and Chief Executive Officer

The positions of Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer should be held by separate individuals and each should have clearly defined responsibilities. To avoid conflict or a split board and to foster an appropriate balance of power, increased accountability and better capacity for independent decision-making, the positions of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) be held by different individuals. This type of organizational structure facilitates effective decision making and good governance.

The duties and responsibilities of the Chair in relation to the Board may include, among others, the following:

(i) Ensure that the meetings of the Board are held in accordance with the by-laws or as the Chair may deem necessary;

- (ii) Supervise the preparation of the agenda of the meeting in coordination with the Corporate Secretary, taking into consideration the suggestions of the CEO, Management and the directors;
- (iii) Maintain qualitative and timely lines of communication and information between the Board and Management;
- (iv) Makes certain that the meeting agenda focuses on strategic matters, including the overall risk appetite of the corporation, considering the developments in the business and regulatory environments, key governance concerns, and contentious issues that will significantly affect operations;
- (v) Guarantee that the Board receives accurate, timely, relevant, insightful, concise, and clear information to enable it to make sound decisions;
- (vi) Facilitate discussions on key issues by fostering an environment conducive for constructive debate and leveraging on the skills and expertise of individual directors;
- (vii) Ensure that the Board sufficiently challenges and inquires on reports submitted and representations made by Management;
- (viii) Assure the availability of proper orientation for first-time directors and continuing training opportunities for all directors; and
- (ix) Make sure that performance of the Board is evaluated at least once a year and discussed/followed up on.

The CEO has the following roles and responsibilities, among others:

- (i) Determines the corporation's strategic direction and formulates and implements its strategic plan on the direction of the business;
- (ii) Communicates and implements the corporation's vision, mission, values and overall strategy and promotes any organization or stakeholder change in relation to the same;
- (iii) Oversees the operations of the corporation and manages human and financial resources in accordance with the strategic plan;
- (iv) Has a good working knowledge of the corporation's industry and market and keeps up-to-date with its core business purpose;
- (v) Directs, evaluates and guides the work of the key officers of the corporation;
- (vi) Manages the corporation's resources prudently and ensures a proper balance of the same;
- (vii) Provides the Board with timely information and interfaces between the Board and the employees;
- (viii) Builds the corporate culture and motivates the employees of the corporation; and
- (ix) Serves as the link between internal operations and external stakeholders.

G) Nomination and Election of Directors

In the nomination and election of directors, the following rules shall apply:

- a) The Corporate Governance Committee shall have at least three (3) members, one of whom is an independent director. It shall promulgate the guidelines or criteria to govern the conduct of the nomination. The same shall be properly disclosed in the company's information or proxy statement or such other reports required to be submitted to the Commission.
- b) The nomination of director/s shall be conducted by the Committee prior to the stockholders' meeting. All recommendations shall be signed by the nominating stockholders together with the acceptance conformity by the would be nominees.
- c) The Committee shall pre-screen the qualifications and prepare a final list of all candidates and put in place screening policies and parameters to enable it to effectively review the qualification of the nominees for director/s.
- d) After the nomination, the Committee shall prepare a Final List of Candidates which shall contain all the information about all the nominees for directors, which list, shall be properly disclosed in the company's information statement or in such other reports the company is required to submit to the Commission. The name of the person or group of persons who recommended the nomination of the director shall be identified in such report including any relationship with the nominee.
- e) Only nominees whose names appear on the Final List of Candidates shall be eligible for election as director/s. No other nominations shall be entertained after the Final List of Candidates shall have been prepared. No further nomination shall be entertained or allowed on; the floor during the actual annual stockholders' meeting.
- f) Subject to pertinent existing laws, rules and regulations of the Commission, the conduct of the election of regular director/s shall be made in accordance with the standard election procedures of the Company or this By-Laws.
- g) In the nomination and election of independent directors, the foregoing rules shall similarly apply and the conduct of nomination and election of independent directors shall be made in accordance with all other provisions of SRC Rule 38 entitled "Requirements on Nomination and Election of Independent Directors."

H) Qualifications of Directors

In addition to the qualifications for membership in the Board provided for in the Corporation Code, Securities Regulation Code and other relevant laws, the Board may provide for additional qualifications which include, among others, the following:

- (i) Holder of at least one (1) share of stock of the Corporation;
- (ii) College education or equivalent academic degree;
- (iii) At least twenty one (21) years old;
- (iv) Practical understanding of the business of the Corporation;
- (v) Membership in good standing in relevant industry, business or professional organizations;
- (vi) Previous business experience;
- (vii) Proven to possess integrity and probity; and
- (viii) Assiduous.

I) Disqualification of Directors

1. Permanent Disqualification

The following shall be grounds for the permanent disqualification of a director:

- (i) Any person convicted by final judgment or order by a competent judicial or administrative body of any crime that (a) involves the purchase or sale of securities, as defined in the Securities Regulation Code; (b) arises out of the person's conduct as an underwriter, broker, dealer, investment adviser, principal, distributor, mutual fund dealer, futures commission merchant, commodity trading advisor, or floor broker; or (c) arises out of his fiduciary relationship with a bank, quasi-bank, trust company, investment house or as an affiliated person of any of them.
- (ii) Any person who, by reason of misconduct, after hearing, is permanently enjoined by a final judgment or order of the Commission or any court or administrative body of competent jurisdiction from: (a) acting as underwriter, broker, dealer, investment adviser, principal distributor, mutual fund dealer, futures commission merchant, commodity trading advisor, or floor broker; (b) acting as director or officer of a bank, quasibank, trust company, investment house, or investment company; (c) engaging in or continuing any conduct or practice in any of the capacities mentioned in subparagraphs (a) and (b) above, or willfully violating the laws that govern securities and banking activities.

The disqualification shall also apply if such person is currently the subject of an order of the Commission or any court or administrative body denying, revoking or suspending any registration, license or permit issued to him under the Corporation Code, Securities Regulation Code or any other law administered by the Commission or Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), or under any rule or regulation issued by the Commission or BSP, or has otherwise been restrained to engage in any activity involving securities and banking; or such person is currently the subject of an effective order of a self-regulatory organization suspending or expelling him from membership, participation or association with a member or participant of the organization.

- (iii) Any person convicted by final judgment or order by a court or competent administrative body of an offense involving moral turpitude, fraud, embezzlement, theft, estafa, counterfeiting, misappropriation, forgery, bribery, false affirmation, perjury or other fraudulent acts.
- (iv) Any person who has been adjudged by final judgment or order of the Commission, BSP, court, or competent administrative body to have willfully violated, or willfully aided, abetted, counseled, induced or procured the violation of any provision of the Corporation Code, Securities Regulation Code or any other law administered by the Commission or BSP, or any of its rule, regulation or order.
- (v) Any person earlier elected as independent director who becomes an officer, employee or consultant of the same corporation.
- (vi) Any person judicially declared as insolvent.
- (vii) Any person found guilty by final judgment or order of a foreign court or equivalent financial regulatory authority of acts, violations or misconduct similar to any of the acts, violations or misconduct enumerated in subparagraphs (i) to (v) above.
- (viii) Conviction by final judgment of an offense punishable by imprisonment for more than six (6) years, or a violation of the Corporation Code committed within five (5) years prior to the date of his election or appointment.
- (ix) Any person engaged in any line of business which is in direct competition, or is representative of interests that are directly antagonistic to the line of business or the interests of the corporation. Said engagement includes, but is not limited to, the following acts:
 - a) If the person is an employee, officer, manager or controlling person or the owner (either of record or beneficially) of ten percent (10%) or more of any outstanding class of

shares of any corporation (other than one in which the corporation owns at least thirty percent (30%) of the capital stock) or entity engaged in a business that the Board, by at least a majority vote, determines to be competitive or antagonistic to that of the company or of its subsidiaries; and

- b) If the Board, in its exercise of sound judgment, determines by at least a majority vote that said person is the nominee of any person set forth in the preceding clause.
- (x) Other grounds as the SEC may provide.

2. <u>Temporary Disqualification</u>

The Board may provide for the temporary disqualification of a director for any of the following reasons:

- (i) Refusal to comply with the disclosure requirements of the Securities Regulation Code and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. The disqualification shall be in effect as long as the refusal persists.
- (ii) Absence in more than fifty (50) percent of all regular and special meetings of the Board during his incumbency, or any twelve (12) month period during the said incumbency, unless the absence is due to illness, death in the immediate family or serious accident. The disqualification shall apply for purposes of the succeeding election.
- (iii) Dismissal or termination for cause as director of any corporation covered by this Manual. The disqualification shall be in effect until he has cleared himself from any involvement in the cause that gave rise to his dismissal or termination.
- (iv) If the beneficial equity ownership of an independent director in the corporation or its subsidiaries and affiliates exceeds two percent (2%) of its subscribed capital stock. The disqualification shall be lifted if the limit is later complied with.
- (v) If any of the judgments or orders cited in the grounds for permanent disqualification has not yet become final.
- (vi) Any conflict of interest that may potentially arise as a result of a person sitting in the Board of the corporation.
- (vii) Having maintained an interest adverse to that of the corporation including the filing of complaint or case against the corporation before any court, tribunal, quasi-judicial agency or any administrative agency or instrumentality of the government where such complaint or case has been eventually dismissed. The temporary disqualification herein shall cover a period of two (2) years from such dismissal.

A temporarily disqualified director shall within sixty (60) business days from such disqualification take the appropriate action to remedy or correct the disqualification. If he fails or refuses to do so for unjustified reasons, the disqualification shall become permanent.

- 3. "Cooling-Off Period" (SEC Memorandum Circular No. 9, Series of 2009)
- (i) A regular director who resigns or whose term ends on the day of the election shall only qualify for nomination and election as an Independent Director after a two (2) year "cooling-off period";
- (ii) Persons appointed as Chairman "Emeritus", "Ex-Officio" Directors/Officers or Members of any Executive Advisory Board, or otherwise appointed in a capacity to assist the Board in the

performance of its duties and responsibilities shall be subject to a one (1) year "cooling-off period" prior to his qualification as an Independent Director.

J) Reinforcing Board Independence

i. Independent Director

The board should endeavor to exercise an objective and independent judgment on all corporate affairs. The Board should have at least three independent directors, or such number as to constitute at least one-third of the members of the Board, whichever is higher. The Board should ensure that its independent directors possess the necessary qualifications and none of the disqualifications for an independent director to hold the position.

ii. Qualifications of an Independent Director

An Independent Director refers to a person who, ideally:

- a. Is not, or has not been a senior officer or employee of the covered company unless there has been a change in the controlling ownership of the company;
- b. Is not, and has not been in the three years immediately preceding the election, a director of the covered company; a director, officer, employee of the covered company's subsidiaries, associates, affiliates or related companies; or a director, officer, employee of the covered company's substantial shareholders and its related companies;
- c. Has not been appointed in the covered company, its subsidiaries, associates, affiliates or related companies as Chairman "Emeritus," "Ex-Officio" Directors/Officers or Members of any Advisory Board, or otherwise appointed in a capacity to assist the Board in the performance of its duties and responsibilities within three years immediately preceding his election;
- d. Is not an owner of more than two percent (2%) of the outstanding shares of the covered company, its subsidiaries, associates, affiliates or related companies;
- e. Is not a relative of a director, officer, or substantial shareholder of the covered company or any of its related companies or of any of its substantial shareholders. For this purpose, relatives include spouse, parent, child, brother, sister and the spouse of such child, brother or sister;
- f. Is not acting as a nominee or representative of any director of the covered company or any of its related companies;
- g. Is not a securities broker-dealer of listed companies and registered issuers of securities. "Securities broker-dealer" refers to any person holding any office of trust and responsibility in a broker-dealer firm, which includes, among others, a director, officer, principal stockholder, nominee of the firm to the Exchange, an associated person or salesman, and an authorized clerk of the broker or dealer;
- h. Is not retained, either in his personal capacity or through a firm, as a professional adviser, auditor, consultant, agent or counsel of the covered company, any of its related companies or substantial shareholder, or is otherwise independent of Management and free from any business or other relationship within the three years immediately preceding the date of his election;
- i. Does not engage or has not engaged, whether by himself or with other persons or through a firm of which he is a partner, director or substantial shareholder, in any transaction with the covered company or any of its related companies or substantial shareholders, other than such

transactions that are conducted at arm's length and could not materially interfere with or influence the exercise of his independent judgment;

- j. Is not affiliated with any non-profit organization that receives significant funding from the covered company or any of its related companies or substantial shareholders; and
- k. Is not employed as an executive officer of another company where any of the covered company's executives serve as directors.

Related companies, as used in this section, refer to (a) the covered entity's holding/parent company; (b) its subsidiaries; and (c) subsidiaries of its holding/parent company.

iii. Term

The Board's independent directors should serve for a maximum cumulative term of nine years. After which, the independent director should be perpetually barred from re-election as such in the same company, but may continue to qualify for nomination and election as a non-independent director. In the instance that a company wants to retain an independent director who has served for nine years, the Board should provide meritorious justification/s and seek shareholders' approval during the annual shareholders' meeting.

The Reckoning of the cumulative nine-year term is from 2012, in connection with SEC Memorandum Circular No. 9, Series of 2011.

iv. Lead Director

The Board should designate a lead director among the independent directors if the Chairman of the Board is not independent, including if the positions of the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer are held by one person.

In cases where the Chairman is not independent and where the roles of Chair and CEO are combined, putting in place proper mechanisms ensures independent views and perspectives. More importantly, it avoids the abuse of power and authority, and potential conflict of interest. A suggested mechanism is the appointment of a strong "lead director" among the independent directors. This lead director has sufficient authority to lead the Board in cases where management has clear conflicts of interest.

The functions of the lead director include, among others, the following:

- a. Serves as an intermediary between the Chairman and the other directors when necessary;
- b. Convenes and chairs meetings of the non-executive directors; and
- c. Contributes to the performance evaluation of the Chairman, as required.

v. Abstention in case of material interest in a transaction

A director with a material interest in any transaction affecting the corporation should abstain from taking part in the deliberations for the same.

The abstention of a director from participating in a meeting when related party transactions, self-dealings or any transactions or matters on which he/she has a material interest are taken up ensures that he has no influence over the outcome of the deliberations. The fundamental principle to be observed is that a director does not use his position to profit or gain some benefit or advantage for his himself and/or his/her related interests.

vi. NEDs meetings with external auditor

The non-executive directors (NEDs) should have separate periodic meetings with the external auditor and heads of the internal audit, compliance and risk functions, without any executive directors present to ensure that proper checks and balances are in place within the corporation. The meetings should be chaired by the lead independent director.

K) Responsibilities, Duties and Functions of the Board

1. General Responsibility

It is the Board's responsibility to foster the long-term success of the corporation, and to sustain its competitiveness and profitability in a manner consistent with its corporate objectives and the best interests of its stockholders and other stakeholders.

The Board should formulate the corporation's vision, mission, strategic objectives, policies and procedures that shall guide its activities, including the means to effectively monitor Management's performance.

The Board members should act on a fully informed basis, in good faith, with due diligence and care, and in the best interest of the company and all shareholders.

The Board should oversee the development of and approve the company's business objectives and strategy, and monitor their implementation, in order to sustain the company's long-term viability and strength

2. <u>Duties and Functions</u>

To ensure a high standard of best practice for the corporation, its stockholders and other stakeholders, the Board should conduct itself with honesty and integrity in the performance of, among others, the following duties and functions:

- a. Implement a process for the selection of directors who can add value and contribute independent judgment to the formulation of sound corporate strategies and policies. Appoint competent, professional, honest and highly motivated management officers. Adopt an effective succession planning program for Management.
- b. Provide sound strategic policies and guidelines to the corporation on major capital expenditures. Establish programs that can sustain its long-term viability and strength. Periodically evaluate and monitor the implementation of such policies and strategies, including the business plans, operating budgets and Management's overall performance.
- c. Ensure the corporation's faithful compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and best business practices.
- d. Establish and maintain an investor relations program that will keep the stockholders informed of important developments in the corporation. If feasible, the corporation's CEO or chief financial officer shall exercise oversight responsibility over this program.
- e. Identify the corporation's stakeholders in the community in which it operates or are directly affected by its operations, and formulate a clear policy of accurate, timely and effective communication with them.
- f. Adopt a system of check and balance within the Board. A regular review of the effectiveness of such system should be conducted to ensure the integrity of the decision-making and reporting processes at all times. There should be a continuing review of the corporation's internal control system in order to maintain its adequacy and effectiveness.

- g. Identify key risk areas and performance indicators and monitor these factors with due diligence to enable the corporation to anticipate and prepare for possible threats to its operational and financial viability.
- h. Formulate and implement policies and procedures that would ensure the integrity and transparency of related party transactions between and among the corporation and its parent company, joint ventures, subsidiaries, associates, affiliates, major stockholders, officers and directors, including their spouses, children and dependent siblings and parents, and of interlocking director relationships by members of the Board.
- i. Constitute an Audit Committee and such other committees it deems necessary to assist the Board in the performance of its duties and responsibilities.
- j. Establish and maintain an alternative dispute resolution system in the corporation that can amicably settle conflicts or differences between the corporation and its stockholders, and the corporation and third parties, including the regulatory authorities.
- k. Meet at such times or frequency as may be needed. The minutes of such meetings should be duly recorded. Independent views during Board meetings should be encouraged and given due consideration.
- 1. Keep the activities and decisions of the Board within its authority under the articles of incorporation and by-laws, and in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations.
- m. Appoint a Compliance Officer who shall have the rank of at least vice president. In the absence of such appointment, the Corporate Secretary, preferably a lawyer shall act as Compliance Officer.
- n. Be responsible for ensuring and adopting an effective succession planning program for directors, key officers and management to ensure growth and a continued increase in the shareholders' value. This should include adopting a policy on the retirement age for directors and key officers as part of management succession and to promote dynamism in the corporation.
- o. Align the remuneration of key officers and board members with the long-term interests of the company. In doing so, it should formulate and adopt a policy specifying the relationship between remuneration and performance. Further, no director should participate in discussions or deliberations involving his own remuneration.
- p. Have overall responsibility in ensuring that there is a group-wide policy and system governing related party transactions (RPTs) and other unusual or infrequently occurring transactions, particularly those which pass certain thresholds of materiality. The policy should include the appropriate review and approval of material or significant RPTs, which guarantee fairness and transparency of the transactions. The policy should encompass all entities within the group, taking into account their size, structure, risk profile and complexity of operations
- q. Be primarily responsible for approving the selection and assessing the performance of the Management led by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and control functions led by their respective heads (Chief Risk Officer, Chief Compliance Officer, and Chief Audit Executive).

- r. Establish an effective performance management framework that will ensure that the Management, including the Chief Executive Officer, and personnel's performance is at par with the standards set by the Board and Senior Management.
- s. Oversee that an appropriate internal control system is in place, including setting up a mechanism for monitoring and managing potential conflicts of interest of Management, board members, and shareholders. The Board should also approve the Internal Audit Charter.
- t. Oversee that a sound enterprise risk management (ERM) framework is in place to effectively identify, monitor, assess and manage key business risks. The risk management framework should guide the Board in identifying units/business lines and enterprise-level risk exposures, as well as the effectiveness of risk management strategies.
- u. Have a Board Charter that formalizes and clearly states its roles, responsibilities and accountabilities in carrying out its fiduciary duties. The Board Charter should serve as a guide to the directors in the performance of their functions and should be publicly available and posted on the company's website.

L) Specific Duties and Responsibilities of a Director

A director's office is one of trust and confidence. A director should act in the best interest of the corporation in a manner characterized by transparency, accountability and fairness. He should also exercise leadership, prudence and integrity in directing the corporation towards sustained progress.

A director should observe the following norms of conduct:

(i) Conduct fair business transactions with the corporation, and ensure that his personal interest does not conflict with the interests of the corporation.

The basic principle to be observed is that a director should not use his position to profit or gain some benefit or advantage for himself and/or his related interests. He should avoid situations that may compromise his impartiality. If an actual or potential conflict of interest may arise on the part of a director, he should fully and immediately disclose it and should not participate in the decision-making process. A director who has a continuing material conflict of interest should seriously consider resigning from his position.

A conflict of interest shall be considered material if the director's personal or business interest is antagonistic to that of the corporation, or stands to acquire or gain financial advantage at the expense of the corporation.

(ii) Devote the time and attention necessary to properly and effectively perform his duties and responsibilities.

A director should devote sufficient time to familiarize himself with the corporation's business. He should be constantly aware of and knowledgeable with the corporation's operations to enable him to meaningfully contribute to the Board's work. He should attend and actively participate in Board and committee meetings, review meeting materials and, if called for, ask questions or seek explanation.

(iii) Act judiciously.

Before deciding on any matter brought before the Board, a director should carefully evaluate the issues and, if necessary, make inquiries and request clarification.

(iv) Exercise independent judgment.

A director should view each problem or situation objectively. If a disagreement with other directors arises, he should carefully evaluate and explain his position. He should not be afraid to take an unpopular position. Corollarily, he should support plans and ideas that he thinks are beneficial to the corporation.

(v) Have a working knowledge of the statutory and regulatory requirements that affect the corporation, including its articles of incorporation and bylaws, the rules and regulations of the Commission and, where applicable, the requirements of relevant regulatory agencies.

A director should also keep abreast with industry developments and business trends in order to promote the corporation's competitiveness.

(vi) Observe confidentiality.

A director should keep secure and confidential all non-public information he may acquire or learn by reason of his position as director. He should not reveal confidential information to unauthorized persons without the authority of the Board.

M) Internal Control Responsibilities of the Board

The control environment of the corporation consists of (a) the Board which ensures that the corporation is properly and effectively managed and supervised; (b) a Management that actively manages and operates the corporation in a sound and prudent manner; (c) the organizational and procedural controls supported by effective management information and risk management reporting systems; and (d) an independent audit mechanism to monitor the adequacy and effectiveness of the corporation's governance, operations, and information systems, including the reliability and integrity of financial and operational information, the effectiveness and efficiency of operations, the safeguarding of assets, and compliance with laws, rules, regulations and contracts.

- (i) The minimum internal control mechanisms for the performance of the Board's oversight responsibility may include:
 - a) Definition of the duties and responsibilities of the CEO who is ultimately accountable for the corporation's organizational and operational controls;
 - b) Selection of the person who possesses the ability, integrity and expertise essential for the position of CEO;
 - c) Evaluation of proposed senior management appointments;
 - d) Selection and appointment of qualified and competent management officers; and
 - e) Review of the corporation's human resource policies, conflict of interest situations, compensation program for employees, and management succession plan.
- (ii) The scope and particulars of the systems of effective organizational and operational controls may differ among corporations depending on, among others, the following factors: nature and complexity of the business and the business culture; volume, size and complexity of transactions; degree of risks involved; degree of centralization and delegation of authority; extent and effectiveness of information technology; and extent of regulatory compliance.

(iii) A corporation may establish an internal audit system that can reasonably assure the Board, Management and stockholders that the key organizational and operational controls are faithfully complied with. The Board may appoint an Internal Auditor to perform the audit function, and may require him to report to a level in the organization that allows the internal audit activity to fulfill its mandate. The Internal Auditor shall be guided by the International Standards on Professional Practice of Internal Auditing.

N) Board Meetings and Quorum Requirement

To show full commitment to the company, the directors should devote the time and attention necessary to properly and effectively perform their duties and responsibilities, including sufficient time to be familiar with the corporation's business. The directors should attend and actively participate in all meetings of the Board, Committees, and Shareholders in person or through tele-/videoconferencing conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Commission, except when justifiable causes, such as, illness, death in the immediate family and serious accidents, prevent them from doing so. In Board and Committee meetings, the director should review meeting materials and if called for, ask the necessary questions or seek clarifications and explanations. Independent directors should always attend Board meetings. Unless otherwise provided in the by-laws, their absence shall not affect the quorum requirement. However, the Board may, to promote transparency, require the presence of at least one independent director in all its meetings. To monitor the directors' compliance with the attendance requirements, the corporation shall submit to the Commission, on or before January 30 of the following year, a sworn certification about the directors' record of attendance in Board meetings. The certification may be submitted through SEC Form 17-C or in a separate filing.

The absence of a director in more than fifty percent (50%) of all regular and special meetings of the Board during his/her incumbency is a ground for disqualification in the succeeding election, unless the absence is due to illness, death in the immediate family, serious accident or other unforeseen or fortuitous events.

O) Remuneration of Directors and Officers

The levels of remuneration of the corporation should be sufficient to be able to attract and retain the services of qualified and competent directors and officers. A portion of the remuneration of executive directors may be structured or be based on corporate and individual performance.

Corporations may establish formal and transparent procedures for the development of a policy on executive remuneration or determination of remuneration levels for individual directors and officers depending on the particular needs of the corporation. The Board should align the remuneration of key officers and board members with the long-term interests of the company. In doing so, it should formulate and adopt a policy specifying the relationship between remuneration and performance. Further, no director should participate in discussions or deliberations involving his own remuneration.

Key considerations in determining proper compensation include the following: (1) the level of remuneration is commensurate to the responsibilities of the role; (2) no director should participate in deciding on his remuneration; and (3) remuneration pay-out schedules should be sensitive to risk outcomes over a multi-year horizon.

For employees in control functions (e.g., risk, compliance and internal audit), their remuneration is determined independent of any business line being overseen, and performance measures are based principally on the achievement of their objectives so as not to compromise their independence.

The corporation's annual reports and information and proxy statements shall include a clear, concise and understandable disclosure of all fixed and variable compensation that may be paid, directly or indirectly, to its directors and officers during the preceding fiscal year, including termination and remuneration provisions.

To protect the funds of a corporation, the Commission may, in exceptional cases, e.g., when a corporation is under receivership or rehabilitation, regulate the payment of the compensation, allowances, fees and fringe benefits to its directors and officers.

P) Board Committees

The Board shall constitute the proper committees to assist it in good corporate governance. The Board should establish board committees that focus on specific board functions to aid in the optimal performance of its roles and responsibilities. Board committees such as the Audit Committee, Corporate Governance Committee, Board Risk Oversight Committee and Related Party Transaction Committee are necessary to support the Board in the effective performance of its functions.

All established committees should be required to have Committee Charters stating in plain terms their respective purposes, memberships, structures, operations, reporting processes, resources and other relevant information. The Charters should provide the standards for evaluating the performance of the Committees. It should also be fully disclosed on the company's website.

(i) Audit Committee

The Board should establish an Audit Committee to enhance its oversight capability over the company's financial reporting. Internal control system, internal and external audit processes, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. The Audit Committee shall consist of at least three (3) appropriately qualified non-executive directors, the majority of whom, including the Chairman, should be independent. All of the members of the committee must have accounting, audit and finance backgrounds. Each member shall have adequate understanding at least or competence at most of the corporation's financial management systems. The chair of the Audit Committee should not be the chairman of the Board or of any other committees and should be an independent director. The committee shall have the following functions:

- a) Recommend the approval the Internal Audit Charter (IA Charter), which formally defines the role of Internal Audit and the audit plan as well as oversees the implementation of the IA Charter.
- b) Through the Internal Audit (IA) Department, monitor and evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of the corporation's internal control system, integrity of financial reporting, and security of physical and information assets. Well-designed internal control procedures and processes that will provide a system of checks and balances should be in place in order to (a) safeguard the company's resources and ensure their effective utilization, (b) prevent occurrence of fraud and other irregularities, (c) protect the accuracy and reliability of the company's financial data, and (d) ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- c) Oversee the Internal Audit Department, and recommend the appointment and/or grounds for approval of an internal audit head or Chief Audit Executive (CAE). The Audit Committee should also approve the terms and conditions for outsourcing internal audit services;
- d) Establish and identify the reporting line of the Internal Auditor to enable him to properly fulfill his duties and responsibilities. For this purpose, he should directly report to the Audit Committee;
- e) Review and monitor Management's responsiveness to the Internal Auditor's findings and recommendations;

- f) Prior to the commencement of the audit, discuss with the External Auditor the nature, scope and expenses of the audit, and ensures the proper coordination if more than one audit firm is involved in the activity to secure proper coverage and minimize duplication of efforts;
- g) Evaluate and determine the non-audit work, if any, of the External Auditor, and periodically review the non-audit fees paid to the External Auditor in relation to the total fees paid to him and to the corporation's overall consultancy expenses. The committee should disallow any non-audit work that will conflict with his duties as an External Auditor or may pose a threat to his independence. The non-audit work, if allowed, should be disclosed in the corporation's Annual Report and Annual Corporate Governance Report;
- h) Review and approve the Interim and Annual Financial Statements before their submission to the Board with particular focus on the following matters:
 - Any change/s in accounting policies and practices
 - · Areas where a significant amount of judgment has been exercised
 - Significant adjustments resulting from the audit
 - Going concern assumptions
 - Compliance with accounting standards
 - Compliance with tax, legal and regulatory requirements
- i) Review the disposition of the recommendations in the External Auditor's management letter;
- j) Perform oversight functions over the corporation's Internal and External Auditors. It ensures the independence of Internal and External Auditors, and that both auditors are given unrestricted access to all records, properties and personnel to enable them to perform their respective audit functions;
- k) Coordinate, monitor and facilitate compliance with laws, rules and regulations;
- Recommend to the Board the appointment, reappointment, removal and fees of the External Auditor, duly accredited by the Commission, who undertakes an independent audit of the corporation, and provides an objective assurance on the manner by which the financial statements should be prepared and presented to the stockholders; and
- m) Meet with the Board at least every quarter without the presence of the CEO or other management team members, and periodically meet with the head of the internal audit.

(ii) Corporate Governance Committee

The Board shall establish a Corporate Governance Committee that should be tasked to assist the Board in the performance of its corporate governance responsibilities. It shall be composed of at least three (3) members, all of whom should be independent directors, including the Chairman.

The Corporate Governance Committee (CG Committee) is tasked with ensuring compliance with and proper observance of corporate governance principles and practices. It has the following duties and functions, among others:

a. Oversees the implementation of the corporate governance framework and periodically review the said framework to ensure that it remains appropriate in light of material changes to the corporation's size, complexity and business strategy, as well as its business and regulatory environments;

- b. Oversees the periodic performance evaluation of the Board and its committees as well as executive management, and conducts an annual self-evaluation of its performance;
- c. Ensures that the results of the Board evaluation are shared, discussed, and that concrete action plans are developed and implemented to address the identified areas for improvement;
- d. Recommends continuing education/training programs for directors, assignment of tasks/projects to board committees, succession plan for the board members and senior officers, and remuneration packages for corporate and individual performance;
- e. Adopts corporate governance policies and ensures that these are reviewed and updated regularly, and consistently implemented in form and substance;
- f. Proposes and plans relevant trainings for the members of the Board;
- g. Determines the nomination and election process for the company's directors and has the special duty of defining the general profile of board members that the company may need and ensuring appropriate knowledge, competencies and expertise that complement the existing skills of the Board; and
- h. Establishes a formal and transparent procedure to develop a policy for determining the remuneration of directors and officers that is consistent with the corporation's culture and strategy as well as the business environment in which it operates;
- Review and evaluate the qualifications of all persons nominated to the Board and other appointments that require Board approval in accordance with the qualifications and disqualifications provided under this Manual, the Corporation Code, Securities Regulation Code and other relevant laws;
- j. Assess the effectiveness of the Board's processes and procedures in the election or replacement of directors;
- k. In consultation with the executive or management committee/s, redefine the role, duties and responsibilities of the CEO by integrating the dynamic requirements of the business as a going concern and future expansionary prospects within the realm of good corporate governance at all times;
- Establish a formal and transparent procedure for developing a policy on remuneration of directors and officers to ensure that their compensation is consistent with the corporation's culture, strategy and the business environment in which it operates;
- m. Designate amount of remuneration, which shall be in a sufficient level to attract and retain directors and officers who are needed to run the company successfully;
- Establish a formal and transparent procedure for developing a policy on executive remuneration and for fixing the remuneration packages of individual directors, if any, and officers;
- o. Develop a form on Full Business Interest Disclosure as part of the pre-employment requirements for all incoming officers, which among others compel all officers to declare under the penalty of perjury all their existing business interests or shareholdings that may directly or indirectly conflict in their performance of duties once hired;
- p. Disallow any director to decide his or her own remuneration;

- q. Provide in the Corporation's annual reports, information and proxy statements a clear, concise and understandable disclosure of compensation of its executive officers for the previous fiscal year and the ensuing year;
- r. Review (if any) of the existing Human Resources Development or Personnel Handbook, to strengthen provisions on conflict of interest, salaries and benefits policies, promotion and career advancement directives and compliance of personnel concerned with all statutory requirements that must be periodically met in their respective posts; and
- s. Or in the absence of such Personnel Handbook, cause the development of such, covering the same parameters of governance stated above.

(iii) Board Risk Oversight Committee

Subject to a corporation's size, risk profile and complexity of operations, the Board should establish a separate Board Risk Oversight Committee (BROC) that should be responsible for the oversight of a company's Enterprise Risk Management system to ensure its functionality and effectiveness. The BROC should be composed of at least three (3) members, the majority of whom should be independent directors, including the Chairman. The Chairman should not be the Chairman of the Board or of any other committee. At least one member of the committee must have relevant thorough knowledge and experience on risk and risk management.

The BROC has the following duties and responsibilities, among others:

- a. Develops a formal enterprise risk management plan which contains the following elements: (a) common language or register of risks, (b) well-defined risk management goals, objectives and oversight, (c) uniform processes of assessing risks and developing strategies to manage prioritized risks, (d) designing and implementing risk management strategies, and (e) continuing assessments to improve risk strategies, processes and measures:
- b. Oversees the implementation of the enterprise risk management plan through a Management Risk Oversight Committee. The BROC conducts regular discussions on the company's prioritized and residual risk exposures based on regular risk management reports and assesses how the concerned units or offices are addressing and managing these risks;
- c. Evaluates the risk management plan to ensure its continued relevance, comprehensiveness and effectiveness. The BROC revisits defined risk management strategies, looks for emerging or changing material exposures, and stays abreast of significant developments that seriously impact the likelihood of harm or loss;
- d. Advises the Board on its risk appetite levels and risk tolerance limits;
- e. Reviews at least annually the company's risk appetite levels and risk tolerance limits based on changes and developments in the business, the regulatory framework, the external economic and business environment, and when major events occur that are considered to have major impacts on the company;
- f. Assesses the probability of each identified risk becoming a reality and estimates its possible significant financial impact and likelihood of occurrence. Priority areas of concern are those risks that are the most likely to occur and to impact the performance and stability of the corporation and its stakeholders;

- g. Provides oversight over Management's activities in managing credit, market, liquidity, operational, legal and other risk exposures of the corporation. This function includes regularly receiving information on risk exposures and risk management activities from Management; and
- h. Reports to the Board on a regular basis, or as deemed necessary, the company's material risk exposures, the actions taken to reduce the risks, and recommends further action or plans, as necessary.

(iv) Related Party Transaction Committee

Subject to a corporation's size, risk profile and complexity of operations, the Board shall establish a Related Party Transaction (RPT) Committee, which should be tasked with reviewing all material related party transactions of the company and should be composed of at least three non-executive directors, two of whom should be independent, including the Chairman.

The following are the functions of the RPT Committee, among others:

- a. Evaluates on an ongoing basis existing relations between and among businesses and counterparties to ensure that all related parties are continuously identified, RPTs are monitored, and subsequent changes in relationships with counterparties (from non-related to related and vice versa) are captured. Related parties, RPTs and changes in relationships should be reflected in the relevant reports to the Board and regulators/supervisors;
- b. Evaluates all material RPTs to ensure that these are not undertaken on more favorable economic term (e.g., price, commissions, interest rates, fees, tenor, collateral requirement) to such related parties than similar transactions with non-related parties under of the company are misappropriated or misapplied, and to determine any potential reputational risk issues that may arise as a result of or in connection with the transactions. In evaluating RPTs, the Committee takes into account, among others, the following:
 - 1. The related party's relationship to the company and interest in the transaction;
 - 2. The material facts of the proposed RPT, including the proposed aggregate value of such transaction;
 - 3. The benefits to the corporation of the proposed RPT;
 - 4. The availability of other sources of comparable products or services; and
 - 5. An assessment of whether the proposed RPT is on terms and conditions that are comparable to the terms generally available to an unrelated party under similar circumstances. The company should have an effective price discovery system in place and exercise due diligence in determining a fair price for RPTs.
- c. Ensures that appropriate disclosure is made, and/or information is provided to regulating and supervising authorities relating to the company's RPT exposures, and policies on conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest. The disclosure should include information on the approach to managing material conflicts of interest that are inconsistent with such policies, and conflicts that could arise as a result of the company's affiliation or transactions with other related parties;
- d. Reports to the Board of Directors on a regular basis, the status and aggregate exposures to each related party, as well as the total amount of exposures to all related parties;
- e. Ensures that transactions with related parties, including write-off of exposures are subject to a periodic independent review or audit process; and

f. Oversees the implementation of the system for identifying, monitoring, measuring, controlling, and reporting RPTs, including a periodic review of RPT policies and procedures.

Q) The Corporate Secretary

The Corporate Secretary, who should be a Filipino citizen and a resident of the Philippines, is an officer of the corporation. The Corporate Secretary, who should be a separate individual from the Compliance Officer, should not be a member of the Board of Directors, and should annually attend a training on corporate governance. He should -

- a. Assists the Board and the board committees in the conduct of their meetings, including preparing an annual schedule of Board and committee meetings and the annual board calendar and assisting the chairs of the Board and its committees to set agendas for those meetings;
- b. Safe keeps and preserves the integrity of the minutes of the meetings of the Board and its committees, as well as other official records of the corporation;
- c. Keeps abreast on relevant laws, regulations, all governance issuances, relevant industry developments and operations of the corporation, and advises the Board and the Chairman on all relevant issues as they arise;
- d. Works fairly and objectively with the Board, Management and stockholders and contributes to the flow of information between the Board and management, the Board and its committees, and the Board and its stakeholders, including shareholders;
- e. Advises on the establishment of board committees and their terms of reference;
- f. Informs members of the Board, in accordance with the by-laws, of the agenda of their meetings at least five working days in advance, and ensures that the members have before them accurate information that will enable them to arrive at intelligent decisions on matters that require their approval;
- g. Attends all Board meetings, except when justifiable causes, such as illness, death in the immediate family and serious accidents, prevent him/her from doing so;
- h. Performs required administrative functions;
- i. Oversees the drafting of the by-laws and ensures that they conform with regulatory requirements; and
- j. Performs such other duties and responsibilities as may be provided by the SEC.

R) The Compliance Officer

The Board shall appoint a Compliance Officer who shall report directly to the Chair of the Board. The Compliance Officer shall have a rank of Senior Vice President or an equivalent position with adequate stature and authority in the corporation. The Compliance Officer should not be a member of the Board of Directors and should annually attend a training on corporate governance. He shall perform the following duties:

a. Ensures proper onboarding of new directors (i.e., orientation on the company's business, charter, articles of incorporation and by-laws, among others);

- b. Monitors, reviews, evaluates and ensures the compliance by the corporation, its officers and directors with the relevant laws, this Code, rules and regulations and all governance issuances of regulatory agencies;
- c. Reports the matter to the Board if violations are found and recommends the imposition of appropriate disciplinary action;
- d. Ensures the integrity and accuracy of all documentary submissions to regulators;
- e. Appears before the SEC when summoned in relation to compliance with this Code;
- f. Collaborates with other departments to properly address compliance issues, which may be subject to investigation;
- g. Identifies possible areas of compliance issues and works towards the resolution of the same;
- h. Ensures the attendance of board members and key officers to relevant trainings; and
- i. Performs such other duties and responsibilities as may be provided by the SEC.

The appointment of the Compliance Officer shall be immediately disclosed to the Commission on SEC Form 17-C. All correspondence relative to his functions as such shall be addressed to the said Officer.

Article 5: ADEQUATE AND TIMELY INFORMATION

To enable the members of the Board to properly fulfill their duties and responsibilities, Management should provide them with complete, adequate and timely information about the matters to be taken in their meetings.

Reliance on information volunteered by Management would not be sufficient in all circumstances and further inquiries may have to be made by a member of the Board to enable him to properly perform his duties and responsibilities. Hence, the members should be given independent access to Management and the Corporate Secretary.

The information may include the background or explanation on matters brought before the Board, disclosures, budgets, forecasts and internal financial documents.

The members, either individually or as a Board, and in furtherance of their duties and responsibilities, should have access to independent professional advice at the corporation's expense.

Article 6: ASSESSING BOARD PERFORMANCE

The Board shall conduct an annual self-assessment of its performance, including the performance of the Chairman, individual members and committees. Every three years, the assessment should be supported by an external facilitator.

The Board shall have in place a system that provides, at the minimum, criteria and process to determine the performance of the Board, the individual directors, committees and such system should allow for a feedback mechanism from the shareholders. In establishing the criteria, attention is given to the values, principles and skills required for the company. The Corporate Governance Committee shall oversee the evaluation process.

Article 7: STRENGTHENING BOARD ETHICS

Members of the Board are duty-bound to apply high ethical standards, taking into account the interests of all stakeholders.

The Board shall adopt a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, which shall provide standards for professional and ethical behavior, as well as articulate acceptable and unacceptable conduct and practices in internal and external dealings. The Code shall be properly disseminated to the Board, Senior Management and employees. It shall also be disclosed and made available to the public through the company website.

The Board shall ensure the proper and efficient implementation and monitoring of compliance with the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and internal policies. The Board has the primary duty to make sure that the internal controls are in place to ensure the company's compliance with the Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and its internal policies and procedures. Hence, it needs to ensure the implementation of said internal controls to support, promote and guarantee compliance. This includes efficient communication channels, which aid and encourage employees, customers, suppliers and creditors to raise concerns on potential unethical/unlawful behavior without fear of retribution. The Company's ethics policy can be made effective and inculcated in the Company culture through a communication and awareness campaign, continuous training to reinforce the code, strict monitoring and implementation and setting in place proper avenues where issues may be raised and addressed without fear of retribution.

Article 8: STRENGTHENING THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE AND IMPROVING AUDIT QUALITY

The company shall establish standards for the appropriate selection of an external auditor, and exercise effective oversight of the same to strengthen the external auditor's independence and enhance audit quality.

A) External Auditor

The Audit Committee shall have a robust process for approving and recommending the appointment, reappointment, removal, and fees of the external auditor. The appointment, reappointment, removal, and fees of the external auditor should be recommended by the Audit Committee, approved by the Board and ratified by the shareholders. For removal of the external auditor, the reasons for removal or change should be disclosed to the regulators and the public through the company website and required disclosures.

The Audit Committee Charter shall include the Audit Committee's responsibility on assessing the integrity and independence of external auditors and exercising effective oversight to review and monitor the external auditor's independence and objectivity and the effectiveness of the audit process, taking into consideration relevant Philippine professional and regulatory requirements. The Charter shall also contain the Audit Committee's responsibility on reviewing and monitoring the external auditor's suitability and effectiveness on an annual basis.

The Company shall disclose the nature of non-audit services performed by its external auditor in the Annual Report to deal with the potential conflict of interest. The Audit Committee should be alert for any potential conflict of interest situations, given the guidelines or policies on non-audit services, which could be viewed as impairing the external auditor's objectivity.

Article 9: INCREASING FOCUS ON NON-FINANCIAL AND SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

The Company shall ensure that the material and reportable non-financial and sustainability issues are disclosed.

The Board shall have a clear and focused policy on the disclosure of non-financial information, with emphasis on the management of economic, environmental, social and governance (EESG) issues of its business, which underpin sustainability. The Company shall adopt a globally recognized standard/framework in reporting sustainability and non-financial issues.

Article 10: PROMOTING A COMPREHENSIVE AND COST-EFFICIENT ACCESS TO RELEVANT INFORMATION

The Company shall maintain a comprehensive and cost-efficient communication channel for disseminating relevant information. This channel is crucial for informed decision-making by investors, stakeholders and other interested users. The Company shall include media and analysts' briefings as channels of communication to ensure the timely and accurate dissemination of public, material and relevant information to its shareholders and other investors.

Article 11: STRENGTHENING THE INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM AND ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

To ensure the integrity, transparency and proper governance in the conduct of its affairs, the Company shall have a strong and effective internal control system and enterprise risk management framework.

The Company shall have an adequate and effective internal control system and an enterprise risk management framework in the conduct of its business, taking into account its size, risk profile and complexity of operations.

i. Independent internal audit function

The Company shall have in place an independent internal audit function that provides an independent and objective assurance, and consulting services designed to add value and improve the Company's operations. The following are the functions of the internal audit, among others:

- a. Provides an independent risk-based assurance service to the Board, Audit Committee and Management, focusing on reviewing the effectiveness of the governance and control processes in (1) promoting the right values and ethics, (2) ensuring effective performance management and accounting in the organization, (3) communicating risk and control information, and (4) coordinating the activities and information among the Board, external and internal auditors, and Management;
- b. Performs regular and special audit as contained in the annual audit plan and/or based on the company's risk assessment;
- c. Performs consulting and advisory services related to governance and control as appropriate for the organization;
- d. Performs compliance audit of relevant laws, rules and regulations, contractual obligations and other commitments, which could have a significant impact on the organization;
- e. Reviews, audits and assesses the efficiency and effectiveness of the internal control system of all areas of the Company;
- f. Evaluates operations or programs to ascertain whether results are consistent with established objectives and goals, and whether the operations or programs are being carried out as planned;
- g. Evaluates specific operations at the request of the Board or Management, as appropriate; and

h. Monitors and evaluates governance processes.

A company's internal audit activity may be a fully resourced activity housed within the organization or may be outsourced to qualified independent third party service providers.

ii. Chief Audit Executive

Subject to a Company's size, risk profile and complexity of operations, it should have a qualified Chief Audit Executive (CAE) appointed by the Board. The CAE shall oversee and be responsible for the internal audit activity of the organization, including that portion that is outsourced to a third party service provider. In case of a fully outsourced internal audit activity, a qualified independent executive or senior management personnel shall be assigned the responsibility for managing the fully outsourced internal audit activity.

The CAE, in order to achieve the necessary independence to fulfill his/her responsibilities, directly reports functionally to the Audit Committee and administratively to the CEO. The following are the responsibilities of the CAE, among others:

- a. Periodically reviews the internal audit charter and presents it to senior management and the Board Audit Committee for approval;
- b. Establishes a risk-based internal audit plan, including policies and procedures, to determine the priorities of the internal audit activity, consistent with the organization's goals;
- c. Communicates the internal audit activity's plans, resource requirements and impact of resource limitations, as well as significant interim changes, to senior management and the Audit Committee for review and approval;
- d. Spearheads the performance of the internal audit activity to ensure it adds value to the organization;
- e. Reports periodically to the Audit Committee on the internal audit activity's performance relative to its plan; and
- f. Presents findings and recommendations to the Audit Committee and gives advice to senior management and the Board on how to improve internal processes.

iii. Risk Management Function

The Company shall have a separate risk management function to identify, assess and monitor key risk exposures. The risk management function involves the following activities, among others:

- a. Defining a risk management strategy;
- b. Identifying and analyzing key risks exposure relating to economic, environmental, social and governance (EESG) factors and the achievement of the organization's strategic objectives;
- c. Evaluating and categorizing each identified risk using the company's predefined risk categories and parameters;
- d. Establishing a risk register with clearly defined, prioritized and residual risks;
- e. Developing a risk mitigation plan for the most important risks to the company, as defined by the risk management strategy;

- f. Communicating and reporting significant risk exposures including business risks (i.e., strategic, compliance, operational, financial and reputational risks), control issues and risk mitigation plan to the Board Risk Oversight Committee; and
- g. Monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the organization's risk management processes.

iv. Chief Risk Officer

In managing the company's Risk Management System, the Company shall have a Chief Risk Officer (CRO), who is the ultimate champion of Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) and has adequate authority, stature, resources and support to fulfill his/her responsibilities, subject to a company's size, risk profile and complexity of operations. The CRO has the following functions, among others:

- a. Supervises the entire ERM process and spearheads the development, implementation, maintenance and continuous improvement of ERM processes and documentation;
- b. Communicates the top risks and the status of implementation of risk management strategies and action plans to the Board Risk Oversight Committee;
- c. Collaborates with the CEO in updating and making recommendations to the Board Risk Oversight Committee;
- d. Suggests ERM policies and related guidance, as may be needed; and
- e. Provides insights on the following:
 - Risk management processes are performing as intended;
 - Risk measures reported are continuously reviewed by risk owners for effectiveness; and
 - Established risk policies and procedures are being complied with.

There should be clear communication between the Board Risk Oversight Committee and the CRO.

Article 12: STOCKHOLDERS' RIGHTS AND PROTECTION OF MINORITY STOCKHOLDERS' INTERESTS

The company should treat all shareholders fairly and equitably, and also recognize, protect and facilitate the exercise of their rights.

- A) It is the responsibility of the Board to adopt a policy informing the shareholders of all their rights. Shareholders are encouraged to exercise their rights by providing clear-cut processes and procedures for them to follow. The Board shall respect the rights of the stockholders as provided for in the Corporation Code, namely:
 - (i) Right to vote on all matters that require their consent or approval
 - a) Shareholders shall have the right to elect, remove and replace directors and vote on certain corporate acts in accordance with the Corporation Code.
 - b) Cumulative voting shall be used in the election of directors.
 - c) A director shall not be removed without cause if it will deny minority shareholders representation in the Board.
 - (ii) Pre-emptive right to all stock issuances of the corporation

All stockholders shall have pre-emptive rights, unless the same is denied in the articles of incorporation or an amendment thereto. They shall have the right to subscribe to the capital stock of the Corporation.

The Articles of Incorporation shall lay down the specific rights and powers of shareholders with respect to the particular shares they hold, all of which shall be protected by law so long as they shall not be in conflict with the Corporation Code.

(iii) Right to inspect corporate books and records

All shareholders shall be allowed to inspect corporate books and records including minutes of Board meetings and stock registries in accordance with the Corporation Code and shall be furnished with annual reports, including financial statements, without cost or restrictions.

(iv) Right to information

- a) The Shareholders shall be provided, upon request, with periodic reports which disclose personal and professional information about the directors and officers and certain other matters such as their holdings of the company's shares, dealings with the company, relationships among directors and key officers, and the aggregate compensation of directors and officers.
- b) The minority shareholders shall be granted the right to propose the holding of a meeting, and the right to propose items in the agenda of the meeting, provided the items are for legitimate business purposes.
- c) The minority shareholders shall have access to any and all information relating to matters for which the management is accountable for and to those relating to matters for which the management shall include such information and, if not included, then the minority shareholders shall be allowed to propose to include such matters in the agenda of stockholders' meeting, being within the definition of "legitimate purposes".

(v) Right to dividends

The company shall be compelled to declare dividends when its retained earnings shall be in excess of 100% of its paid-in capital stock, except: a) when justified by definite corporate expansion projects or programs approved by the Board or b) when the corporation is prohibited under any loan agreement with any financial institution or creditor, whether local or foreign, from declaring dividends without its consent, and such consent has not been secured; or c) when it can be clearly shown that such retention is necessary under special circumstances obtaining in the Corporation, such as when there is a need for special reserve for probable contingencies.

(vi) Appraisal right

The shareholders' shall have appraisal right or the right to dissent and demand payment of the fair value of their shares in the manner provided for under Section 82 of the Corporation Code of the Philippines, under any of the following circumstances:

a) In case any amendment to the articles of incorporation has the effect of changing or restricting the rights of any stockholders or class of shares, or of authorizing

preferences in any respect superior to those of outstanding shares of any class, or of extending or shortening the term of corporate existence;

- b) In case of sale, lease, exchange, transfer, mortgage, pledge or other disposition of all or substantially all of the corporate property and assets as provided in the Corporation Code; and
- c) In case of merger or consolidation.

It shall be the duty of the directors to promote shareholder rights, remove impediments to the exercise of shareholders' rights and allow possibilities to seek redress for violation of their rights. They shall encourage the exercise of shareholders' voting rights and the solution of collective action problems through appropriate mechanisms. They shall be instrumental in removing excessive costs and other administrative or practical impediments to shareholders participating in meetings and/or voting in person. The directors shall pave the way for the electronic filing and distribution of shareholder information necessary to make informed decisions subject to legal constraints.

B) The Board should be transparent and fair in the conduct of the annual and special stockholders' meetings of the corporation. The stockholders should be encouraged to personally attend such meetings. If they cannot attend, they should be apprised ahead of time of their right to appoint a proxy. Subject to the requirements of the by-laws, the exercise of that right shall not be unduly restricted and any doubt about the validity of a proxy should be resolved in the stockholder's favor.

It is the duty of the Board to promote the rights of the stockholders, remove impediments to the exercise of those rights and provide an adequate avenue for them to seek timely redress for breach of their rights. The Board should make available, at the option of a shareholder, an alternative dispute mechanism to resolve intra-corporate disputes in an amicable and effective manner.

The Board should take the appropriate steps to remove excessive or unnecessary costs and other administrative impediments to the stockholder's meaningful participation in meetings, whether in person or by proxy. Accurate and timely information should be made available to the stockholders to enable them to make a sound judgment on all matters brought to their attention for consideration or approval. The Board should encourage active shareholder participation by sending the Notice of Annual and Special Shareholders' Meeting with sufficient and relevant information at least 28 days before the meeting.

Although all stockholders should be treated equally or without discrimination, the Board should give minority stockholders the right to propose the holding of meetings and the items for discussion in the agenda that relate directly to the business of the corporation.

The Board should encourage active shareholder participation by making the result of the votes taken during the most recent Annual or Special Shareholders' Meeting publicly available the next working day. In addition, the Minutes of the Annual and Special Shareholders' Meeting should be available on the company website within five business days from the end of the meeting.

The Board should establish an Investor Relations Office (IRO) to ensure constant engagement with its shareholders. The IRO should be present at every shareholders' meeting. The IRO has a designated investor relations officer, email address and telephone number. Further, creating an Investor Relations Program ensures that all information regarding the activities of the company are properly and timely communicated to shareholders.

Article 13: RESPECTING RIGHTS OF STAKEHOLDERS AND EFFECTIVE REDRESS FOR VIOLATION OF STAKEHOLDER'S RIGHTS

The rights of stakeholders established by law, by contractual relations and through voluntary commitments must be respected. Where stakeholders' rights and/or interests are at stake, stakeholders should have the opportunity to obtain prompt effective redress for the violation of their rights.

The Board shall identify the company's various stakeholders and promote cooperation between them and the company in creating wealth, growth and sustainability.

The Board shall establish clear policies and programs to provide a mechanism on the fair treatment and protection of stakeholders.

The Board shall adopt a transparent framework and process that allow stakeholders to communicate with the company and to obtain redress for the violation of their rights. This can be done through stakeholder engagement touchpoints in the Company, such as the Investor Relations Office, Office of the Corporate Secretary, Customer Relations Office, and Corporate Communications Group.

Article 14: ENCOURAGING EMPLOYEES' PARTICIPATION

A mechanism for employee participation should be developed to create a symbiotic environment, realize the company's goals and participate in its corporate governance processes.

The Board shall establish policies, programs and procedures that encourage employees to actively participate in the realization of the company's goals and in its governance. These policies and programs, among, may include the following: health, safety and welfare; (2) training and development; and (3) reward/compensation for employees.

The Board shall set the tone and make a stand against corrupt practices by adopting an anti-corruption policy and program in its Code of Conduct. Further, the Board shall disseminate the policy and program to employees across the organization through trainings to embed them in the Company's culture.

The Board shall establish a suitable framework for whistleblowing that allows employees to freely communicate their concerns about illegal or unethical practices, without fear of retaliation and to have direct access to an independent member of the Board or a unit created to handle whistleblowing concerns. The Board shall be conscientious in establishing the framework, as well as in supervising and ensuring its enforcement.

Article 15: DISCLOSURE AND TRANSPARENCY

A) Enhancing Company Disclosure Policies and Procedures

The Company shall establish corporate disclosure policies and procedures that are practical and in accordance with best practices and regulatory expectations.

The Board shall establish corporate disclosure policies and procedures to ensure a comprehensive, accurate, reliable and timely report to shareholders and other stakeholders that gives a fair and complete picture of a company's financial condition, results and business operations.

The Company shall have a policy requiring all directors and officers to disclose/report to the Company any dealings in the company's shares within three business days.

The Board shall fully disclose all relevant and material information on individual board members and key executives to evaluate their experience and qualifications, and assess any potential conflicts of interest that might affect their judgment.

The Company shall provide a clear disclosure of its policies and procedure for setting Board and executive remuneration, as well as the level and mix of the same in the Annual Corporate Governance Report. Also, the Company shall disclose the remuneration on an individual basis, including termination and retirement provisions.

The Company shall disclose its policies governing Related Party Transactions (RPTs) and other unusual or infrequently occurring transactions in their Manual on Corporate Governance. The material or significant RPTs reviewed and approved during the year should be disclosed in its Annual Corporate Governance Report.

The Company shall make a full, fair, accurate and timely disclosure to the public of every material fact or event that occurs, particularly on the acquisition or disposal of significant assets, which could adversely affect the viability or the interest of its shareholders and other stakeholders. Moreover, the Board of the offeree Company shall appoint an independent party to evaluate the fairness of the transaction price on the acquisition or disposal of assets.

The Company's corporate governance policies, programs and procedures shall be submitted to the regulators and posted on the Company's website.

Article 16: COMMITMENT TO GOOD CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The corporation shall establish and implement its corporate governance rules in accordance with SEC Revised Code of Corporate Governance and shall be embodied in a manual that can be used as reference by the members of the Board and Management.

A) Communication Process

This manual shall be available for inspection by any stockholder of the Corporation at reasonable hours on business days.

All directors, executives, division and department heads are tasked to ensure the thorough dissemination of this Manual to all employees and related third parties, and to likewise enjoin compliance in the process.

An adequate number of printed copies of this Manual must be reproduced under the supervision of HRD, with a minimum of at least one (1) hard copy of the Manual per department.

B) Training Process

If necessary, funds shall be allocated by the CFO or its equivalent officer for the purpose of conducting an orientation program or workshop to operationalize this Manual.

A director shall, before assuming as such, be required to attend a seminar on corporate governance which shall be conducted by a duly recognized private or government institute.

Article 17: REGULAR REVIEW OF THE CODE AND THE SCORECARD

A) Annual Scorecard

To monitor compliance with the Revised Code of Corporate Governance, the Commission may require the corporation to accomplish annually a scorecard on the scope, nature and extent of the actions it has taken to meet the objectives of this Manual.

B) Monitoring and Assessment

Each Committee shall report regularly to the Board of Directors.

The Compliance Officer shall 'establish an evaluation system to determine and measure compliance with this Manual. Any violation thereof shall subject the responsible officer or employee to the penalty provided under Article 12 of this Manual.

The establishment of such evaluation system, including the features thereof, shall be disclosed in the company's annual report (SEC Form 17-A) or in such form of report that is applicable to the Corporation. The adoption of such performance evaluation system must be covered by a Board approval.

This Manual shall be subject to yearly review unless the same frequency is amended by the Board.

All business processes and practices being performed within any department or business unit of the corporation that are not consistent with' any portion of this manual shall be revoked unless upgraded to the compliant extent.

Article 18: ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Company shall be socially responsible in all its dealings with the communities where it operates. It shall ensure that its interactions serve its environment and stakeholders in a positive and progressive manner that is fully supportive of its comprehensive and balanced development.

The Company shall recognize and place an importance on the interdependence between business and society, and promote a mutually beneficial relationship that allows the company to grow its business, while contributing to the advancement of the society where it operates.

Article 19: ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

To strictly observe and implement the provisions of this Manual, the following penalties shall be imposed, after notice and hearing, on the company's directors, officers, staff, subsidiaries and affiliates and their respective directors, officers and staff in case of violation of any of the provision of this Manual:

- A) In case of first violation, the subject person shall be reprimanded.
- B) Suspension from office shall be imposed in case of second violation. The duration of the suspension shall depend on the gravity of the violation.
- C) For third violation, the maximum penalty of removal from office shall be imposed.

The commission of a third violation of this manual by any member of the board of the corporation or its subsidiaries and affiliates shall be a sufficient cause for removal from directorship.

The Compliance Officer shall be responsible for determining violation/s through notice and hearing and shall recommend to the Chairman of the Board the imposable penalty for such violation, for further review and approval of the Board.

SIGNED:

MIGUEL ANGEL A. CAMAHORT Chairman of the Board

MAHLEENE G. GO
Compliance Officer

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

- I, MAHLEENE G. GO, Filipino, of legal age, with business address at the Penthouse, Liberty Center, 104 H.V. Dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City, being duly sworn in accordance with law. hereby certify that:
- I am the duly appointed and incumbent Assistant Corporate Secretary of LBC EXPRESS HOLDINGS, INC. (the "Corporation"), a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, with office address at the LBC Hangar, General Aviation Centre, Domestic Airport Road, Pasay City, Metro Manila.
- At the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Corporation held on 26 May 2017 at which meeting a quorum was present and acting throughout, the following resolutions were approved and adopted:
 - "WHEREAS, the management of the Corporation presented to the Board of Directors changes to the Corporation's Revised Manual on Corporate Governance to comply with the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") Memorandum Circular No. 19, Series of 2016;
 - "WHEREAS, the Board of Directors decided to approve the changes proposed by management to the Corporation's Revised Manual on Corporate Governance. The effectivity of the said changes to the Corporation's Revised Manual on Corporate Governance is subject to securing the approval by the SEC of the amendments to the Corporation's By-Laws to implement the provisions of the Corporation's Revised Manual on Corporate Governance;
 - "NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises, the Board of Directors of the Corporation hereby approves the following resolutions:
 - "RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors hereby approves the Corporation's Revised Manual on Corporate Governance attached as Annex "A" hereof, the effectivity of which shall be subject to the approval by the SEC of the amendments to the Corporation's By-Laws to implement the provisions of the Corporation's Revised Manual on Corporate Governance;
 - "RESOLVED, FURTHER, that the Corporation be hereby authorized and empowered to file the Corporation's Revised Manual on Corporate Governance with the SEC and the Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc. ("PSE");
 - "RESOLVED, FINALLY, that the Chairman of the Corporation, MIGUEL ANGEL A. CAMAHORT, and the Compliance Officer of the Corporation, MAHLEENE G. GO be, as both of them are hereby, authorized and empowered to sign jointly the Corporation's Revised Manual on Corporate Governance pursuant to SEC Memorandum Circular No. 8, Series of 2017, pursuant, and to file and submit the same to the SEC and the PSE."
 - 3. The foregoing is in accordance with the records of the Corporation presently in my custody.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 26th day of May 2017 in Makati City, Metro Manila.

Assistant Corporate Secretary

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 26th day of May 2017 in Makati City, Metro Manila, affiant exhibiting to me her Passport with Passport No. EC1941000 issued in DFA NCR East on 20 August 2014.

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Series of 2017

RHEENA LYN L. CRUZ Appointment No. M-245 Notary Public for Makati City Until December 31, 2018 Penthouse, Liberty Center 104 H.V. Dela Costa Street, Makati City

Roll No. 65773

PTR No. 5913965/ Makati City/ 01-04-2017 IBP No. 1055793/ Calmana/ 01-04-2017