



CENTRAL BANK
of BELIZE

Guidance Notice to Banks

Suspension of Dividend Payments

This Guidance Notice supersedes the Guidance Notice to Banks on the Suspension of Dividend Payments, issued by the Central Bank of Belize (Central Bank) on 19 April 2021.

The Central Bank continues to closely monitor the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the financial system, to ensure that capital and liquidity levels are not compromised and to protect the availability of foreign currency. Towards this end, banks are hereby advised that the temporary suspension placed on the declaration and payment of cash dividends, repatriation of profits, and share buy-backs is being extended until 30 April 2022.

During this period, banks will continue to require the Central Bank's prior notice before extending loans and advances to related parties and affiliates. Banks are again encouraged to review their management fee payment arrangements to mitigate their effects on profitability and equity levels. During this period, each bank is to retain all profits realized, in order to provide adequate capital buffers to withstand deterioration in its financial position as a consequence of the pandemic crisis and other events.

Your usual cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

18 February 2022