NOTICE

WAIVER OF PENALTIES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2016 TO JANUARY 31, 2018 FOR THE LATE FILING OF ANNUAL RETURNS

Section 15A of the Companies Act, Cap.308 requires all companies except external companies to file with the Registrar an annual return in the manner and form prescribed by January 31 in every year.

Section 343 (1) requires all external companies to send to the Registrar an annual return in the prescribed form not later than April 1, in each year after the date of registration.

In each case, any company that is in default in complying with these requirements is liable to a penalty of \$10.00 payable to the Registrar for every day during which the default continues.

The Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs has granted approval for a waiver of penalties imposed under Section 15A (2) of the Act in respect of all companies/entities on the domestic register and Section 343 (2A) in respect of external companies with effect from the late filing of annual returns with effect from February 19, 2018. This waiver is subject to the following conditions:

- (a) a company that has benefitted from the waiver during the period shall not be eligible for consideration again;
- (b) the outstanding annual returns should be filed with the Registrar of Companies no later than April 30, 2018 failing which, the penalties waived shall become payable forthwith to the Registrar of Companies;
- (c) after April 30, 2018 there shall be <u>strict adherence</u> to the enforcement of the penalty by the Registrar of Companies on all entities and companies that fail to complete these filings.

In the circumstances, please be guided as follows:

 All annual returns filed between 19th February, 2018 and April 30, 2018 will not attract late penalties for the period January 1, 2016 to January 31, 2018.

- 2. The late penalty of \$10.00 per day is payable for the period February 1, 2018 until the date of filing of the annual returns.
- 3. The Registrar of Companies has no authority to grant any refunds.
- Any request for refunds must be made to the Minister of Finance under the Duties, Taxes and Other Payments (Exemption) Act, Cap.67B.

Dated this 20th day of February, 2018.

Heather A. Clarke

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Registrar of Companies
Corporate Affairs and Intellectual Property Office

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