

OUR DIVIDEND POLICY

Dividends to be paid in cash are subject to the approval by a majority of the Board of Directors. Dividends to be paid in the form of stocks require the approval of a majority of the Board and the approval of shareholders representing no less than two-thirds of our outstanding capital stock.

Consistent with SEC rules, cash dividends declared by the Bank must have a record date of not less than 10 but not more than 30 business days from the date the cash dividends are declared / approved by the Board. With respect to stock dividends, the record date should not be less than 10 but not more than 30 business days from the date of the stockholders' approval; provided, however, that the set record date should not be less than 10 business days after the PSE has received the notice of declaration of stock dividend. BSP regulations have since allowed banks to fix the record date and payment date on the date of dividend declaration, and pay such dividends without prior BSP approval, with the exception of banks with major supervisory concerns. In the event that a stock dividend is declared in connection with an increase in authorized capital stock, the corresponding record date is to be fixed by the SEC.

Unless approved by a majority vote of the Board at a different rate depending on our earnings/results of operations, cash flow, financial condition and other factors or otherwise restricted/prohibited from declaring/paying dividends, the Bank regularly declares out of its unrestricted retained earnings and pays cash dividends at a payout ratio of PhP3.00 per share per annum or PhP0.75 per share per quarter, provided that these comply with the regulatory requirements of the SEC and the BSP. Circumstances which could restrict the payment of cash dividends include, but are not limited to, when the Bank undertakes major projects and developments requiring substantial cash expenditures or when it is restricted from paying cash dividends by its loan covenants. Provided likewise that the Bank is not restricted/prohibited from declaring/paying dividends and that all such regulatory requirements are complied with, the Bank may also declare out of its unrestricted retained earnings and pay out special cash dividends (on top of its regular quarterly cash dividends) at such rate as may also be approved via majority vote of the Board of Directors.