Circular - 01/17

Ref: 37/06/001/0001/016

January 17, 2017

To: Chief Executive Officers of All Licensed Banks and Licensed Finance Companies

Dear Sir/Madam,

Onsite Examinations in terms of Risk-Based Approach - Examination Plan 2017

The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) will conduct onsite examinations of licensed banks and licensed finance companies under risk-based approach commencing from January 2017, in terms of the Financial Institutions (Customer Due Diligence) Rules, No.1 of 2016 and Financial Transactions Reporting Act, No. 6 of 2006 (FTRA). Examiners, during the period of examinations, will focus on the availability of proper systems and controls to identify and mitigate the risk of money laundering and terrorist financing. The following steps will be adopted with regard to said examinations.

a) The Director FIU will inform the Chief Executive Officer of the relevant financial institution in writing about the commencement of examination, in terms of Section 15(1)(e) read with Section 18 of the FTRA.
b) Examiners will visit the head office/selected branches of the financial institution to conduct the onsite examination.
c) An exit meeting with the key management personnel will be held to inform about the findings.
d) If necessary, the FIU will convene a meeting with the board of directors of the financial institution to discuss the key findings and propose an action plan to rectify deficiencies.
e) The financial institution is informed to table the findings of the examination at the earliest board meeting possible and submit a board approved time bound action plan to rectify the weaknesses of systems and controls as highlighted by the FIU within 15 days after the said board meeting.
f) In the event of failure to comply with, the financial institution shall be liable to be dealt with in accordance with the Section 19 of the FTRA.

Your cooperation in this regard is highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Director
Financial Intelligence Unit

c.c. Compliance Officers of All Licensed Banks and Licensed Finance Companies