



**DEMERARA  
BANK  
LIMITED**

*"Come grow with us"*



THE  
**DIGITAL  
FRONTIER**  
Redefining Banking

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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# NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Twenty Ninth Annual General Meeting of Demerara Bank Limited will be held on Wednesday, December 20th, 2023, at 16:30 hours at the Head Office and Corporate Banking Branch, Lot 214 Camp Street, North Cummingsburg, Georgetown where the following business will be transacted:

1. To receive and to consider the Report of the Directors and the Audited Accounts for the year ended September 30th, 2023.
2. To approve the declaration of a dividend.
3. To elect Directors in place of those retiring by rotation.
4. To fix the remuneration of the Directors.
5. To appoint Auditors and authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.
6. To transact any other business of an Annual General Meeting.

## BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Chandra Gajraj (Mrs.)  
Corporate Secretary

## REGISTERED OFFICE

214 Camp Street, North Cummingsburg,  
Georgetown, Guyana  
October 26th, 2023

## PLEASE NOTE

- Only Shareholders or their duly appointed proxies may attend.
- Please bring this notice to gain entry to the Meeting.
- Any member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of him/her.
- A proxy need not be a member of the Bank. The Form of Proxy must be deposited at the Registered Office of the Bank not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the meeting.
- A proxy form is attached for use.
- Any Corporation which is a shareholder of the Bank may, by resolution of its Directors or other governing body, authorise such person as it thinks fit to act as its representative at the Meeting.
- Gifts will be distributed only to shareholders present at the meeting and not any time and place thereafter.

# INCORPORATION

Demerara Bank Limited was incorporated on January 20, 1992 as a private limited liability company under the provisions of the Companies Act, Chapter 89:01 and was licensed to carry on the business of banking on October 31, 1994. The Bank obtained its Certificate of Continuance on April 2, 1997 in accordance with the Companies Act, 1991. The Bank offers a complete range of banking and financial services and operates under the provisions of the Financial Institutions Act, 1995.



## OUR LOGO

The elements of the Demerara Bank Limited logo design are drawn from the very source of the inspiration that created such an enterprise.

The relentless force of the mighty Demerara River, which gives the Bank its name, is depicted in the six golden streams that flow from a stylish spring in an upward motion.

The six streams, or six people, symbolise the diverse races and cultures that move together towards a common Guyanese destiny.

The colours gold and green have been chosen for their affinity to the Guyanese landscape and the riches of the abundant natural resources for which the country is famous. The Demerara Bank Limited stands proud and secure, reflecting its commitment to Guyana and confidence in the future.



## MISSION

To excel in providing innovative and superior banking services through well-trained, dedicated and courteous staff in the interest of our customers and shareholders and to fulfill our social responsibilities to society through meaningful involvement in community development.

## CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 1 To help build a stronger, healthier, more diverse business sector through prudent investment, attractive deposit plans and innovative lending policies.
- 2 To provide the financial support that will demonstrate the Bank's commitment to business development and to a better Guyana.
- 3 To provide a diversified range of quality financial services through its worldwide network of major Correspondent Banks.
- 4 To provide employees with excellent opportunities for personal growth and development.
- 5 To provide investors with an attractive rate of return on their investment.
- 6 To be a responsible corporate citizen.





# CORPORATE INFORMATION

## Registered Office

214 Camp Street, North Cummingsburg, Georgetown, Guyana

Tel: +592-226-0601/ 05/ 29/ 32 Fax: +592-225-0619

Email: [banking@demerarabank.com](mailto:banking@demerarabank.com)

Website: [www.demerarabank.com](http://www.demerarabank.com)

## Directors

1. Mr. Komal Samaroo (Chairman)
2. Mr. Pravinchandra Dave (Chief Executive Officer)
3. Mrs. Chandra Gajraj
4. Mr. Hemraj Kisson
5. Mr. Harryram Parmesar
6. Mr. Garfield Wiltshire
7. Mr. Beasraj Singh Roy
8. Mrs. Zorina Gafoor
9. Mr. Rajendra Rampersaud
10. Ms. Ede Tyrell

## Corporate Secretary

Mrs. Chandra Gajraj

## Auditors

Nizam Ali & Company Chartered Accountants  
215 'C' Camp Street,  
North Cummingsburg,  
Georgetown, Guyana

## Registrar and Transfer Office

Trust Company (Guyana) Limited  
Lot 11 Lamaha Street, Queenstown,  
Georgetown, Guyana

## Attorneys-at-Law


1. Cameron & Shepherd  
Attorneys-at-Law  
Lot 2 Avenue of the Republic,  
Georgetown, Guyana
2. Mr. Edward Luckhoo  
Attorney-at-Law  
Luckhoo & Luckhoo  
Lot 1 Croal Street,  
Georgetown, Guyana
3. Mr. Nirvan Singh  
Attorney-at-Law  
(Ramgopal Building)  
Lot 156 Charlotte Street,  
Lacytown, Georgetown, Guyana






# PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT 2023

**8**



**BRANCHES**

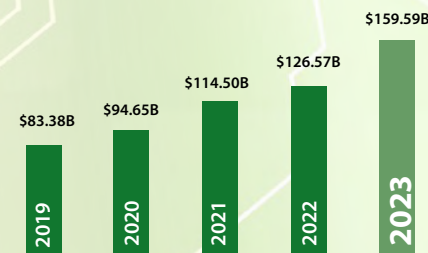
**332**



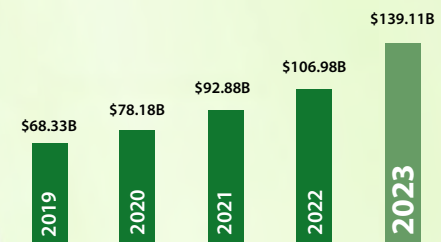
**EMPLOYEES**



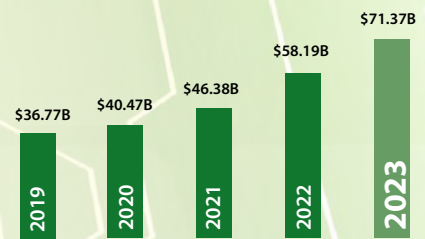
## ASSETS



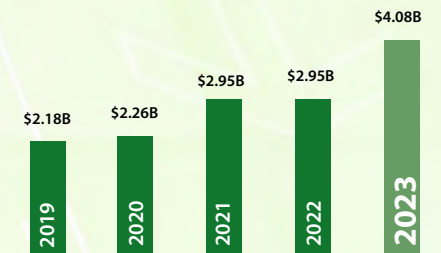
## DEPOSITS



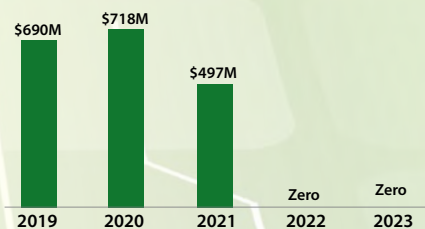
## ADVANCES



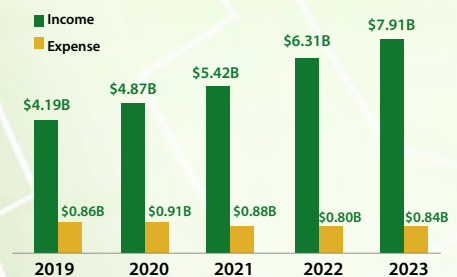
## PROFITS AFTER TAX



## NET NON-PERFORMING LOANS



## INTEREST INCOME & EXPENSE





## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Expressed in thousands of Guyana Dollars (\$'000)

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
<b>INCOME STATEMENT</b>					
Interest Income	7,906,881	6,305,020	5,419,471	4,870,418	4,193,964
Interest Expense	(835,182)	(799,908)	(876,816)	(907,998)	(856,453)
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>7,071,699</b>	<b>5,505,112</b>	<b>4,542,655</b>	<b>3,962,420</b>	<b>3,337,511</b>
Net Credit Impairment	(825,000)	362,254	65,000	(25,000)	299,292
Other Income	1,649,165	758,896	2,007,914	1,037,472	1,124,346
Non-Interest Expense	(1,951,150)	(1,741,750)	(1,717,515)	(1,466,673)	(1,349,111)
<b>Income Before Taxation</b>	<b>5,944,714</b>	<b>4,884,512</b>	<b>4,898,054</b>	<b>3,508,219</b>	<b>3,412,038</b>
Taxation	(1,869,338)	(1,930,152)	(1,943,948)	(1,245,051)	(1,234,697)
<b>Profit After Taxation</b>	<b>4,075,376</b>	<b>2,954,360</b>	<b>2,954,106</b>	<b>2,263,168</b>	<b>2,177,341</b>
<b>FINANCIAL POSITION</b>					
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>159,589,451</b>	<b>126,569,842</b>	<b>114,504,683</b>	<b>94,653,869</b>	<b>83,383,462</b>
Investment Securities	53,521,488	39,966,150	33,628,192	33,012,614	25,062,363
Loans & Advances	71,374,718	58,192,909	46,383,479	40,468,447	36,765,509
Cash & Equivalents	28,999,044	22,968,414	31,704,307	18,186,610	11,547,913
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>139,806,433</b>	<b>109,829,937</b>	<b>96,297,722</b>	<b>79,203,549</b>	<b>69,323,017</b>
Deposits	139,110,699	106,984,399	92,875,562	78,178,294	68,326,399
<b>Total Equity &amp; Reserves</b>	<b>19,783,018</b>	<b>16,739,905</b>	<b>18,206,961</b>	<b>15,450,320</b>	<b>14,060,445</b>
Retained Earnings	22,367,775	19,214,899	17,118,611	14,884,996	13,206,445
<b>KEY RATIOS</b>					
Earnings per share	\$9.06	\$6.57	\$6.56	\$5.03	\$4.84
Dividends paid	\$2.25	\$2.00	\$1.65	\$1.30	\$1.35
Closing Share Price	\$365	\$398	\$199	\$91	\$68
Price Earning Ratio	40.42	60.62	30.31	18.09	14.05
Return on Average Assets	2.83%	2.45%	2.82%	2.54%	2.82%
Return on Equity (Tier-1)	17.47%	14.69%	16.39%	14.34%	15.43%
Gross NPA to Total Advances	0.00%	0.00%	2.24%	3.39%	3.66%
Loans to Deposits Ratio	51.30%	54.4%	49.9%	51.7%	53.8%
Asset Growth (YoY)	26%	11%	21%	14%	18%
Deposit Growth (YoY)	30%	15%	19%	14%	17%



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**MR. KOMAL SAMAROO**  
CHAIRMAN

**Mr. Komal Samaroo**, a distinguished Chartered Accountant whose career spans over forty years, is a valuable asset to our organization. As Chairman of our board and several others, he exemplifies exceptional leadership and governance. His accolades, including the *Golden Arrow of Achievement (A.A)* in 1993 and *Cacique's Crown of Honor (C.C.H)* in 2018 from the Government of Guyana, highlight his remarkable contributions to business development and exemplary service.



**MR. PRAVINCHANDRA DAVE**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Mr. Pravinchandra Dave** has over three decades of professional banking experience in an executive capacity. Equipped with a vast spectrum of knowledge of banking operations, he spearheaded the Bank into a leading financial institution in Guyana and has been instrumental for the rapid growth and expansion of the Bank. Mr. Dave is the recipient of the *Golden Arrow of Achievement (A.A.)* that was conferred in 2018.



**MRS. CHANDRA GAJRAJ**  
DIRECTOR

**Mrs. Chandra Gajraj** is a long-serving Director and current Company Secretary of Demerara Bank Limited. She has over fifty years of experience as a financial professional and currently serves as the Managing Director of Trust Company (Guyana) Limited and Chairman of the Guyana Integrity Commission.



**MR. HEMRAJ KISSOON**  
DIRECTOR

**Mr. Hemraj Kisson** has been a Director of Demerara Bank Limited since its inception. He is a reputable businessman with over sixty years of extensive exposure and expertise in administration and management, and is currently the Managing Director of Modern Industries Limited. Mr. Kisson was conferred with the *Golden Arrow of Achievement (A.A.)* in 2017.



**MR. GARFIELD WILTSHIRE**  
DIRECTOR

**Mr. Garfield Wiltshire** is a Chartered Accountant by profession and also the holder of a Master's Degree in Sports Organizational Management. He is currently the Accountant of Bounty Farm Ltd., J.P. Santos & Co. Ltd. and JPS Trading Inc., and a Non-Executive Director of Caribbean Containers Inc. He is also a former squash champion and the recipient of a national award, the *Golden Arrow of Achievement* (A.A.) that was conferred in 2019.



**MR. HARRYRAM PARMESAR**  
DIRECTOR

**Mr. Harryram Parmesar** is a Senior Managing Partner at the firm, Parmesar & Associates, and has been actively involved in the development of accounting in the Caribbean. He is a fellow of the ACCA and member of the ICAG and ICAC, with over thirty-five years of invaluable experience in Assurance & Business Advisory Services, Taxation, Accounting and Corporate Secretarial Services. Besides serving as a Director at Demerara Bank Limited, Mr. Parmesar also serves in Executive and Non-Executive capacities at numerous other organisations.



**MR. BEASRAJ SINGH ROY**  
DIRECTOR

**Mr. B. S. Roy**, an Attorney-at-Law, was called to the Bar in 1979. He remained at the practicing Bar for over 12 years and later served in the Judiciary for about 25 years in various capacities including Head of the Commercial Division of The High Court of Justice. He has since retired as an Appellate Judge. In recognition of his long and dedicated service to the judiciary of Guyana, Mr. Roy was conferred the *Cacique's Crown of Honor* (C.C.H) in 2016.



**MRS. ZORINA GAFOOR**  
DIRECTOR

**Mrs. Zorina Gafoor** brings a plethora of experience to the table, having earned a Bachelor of Science (BSc.) in Architecture, a Master of Business Administration (MBA), and qualifications in Project Management. She has over 25 years of experience in the design and construction management of residential, institutional, and infrastructure projects.



**MR. RAJENDRA RAMPERSAUD**  
DIRECTOR

**Mr. Rajendra Rampersaud** holds two prestigious Master's Degrees, one in Monetary Economics and Finance from the University of Glasgow, UK, and another in Economics and Planning from Moscow. He has made significant contributions to international financial institutions, including the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). With over two decades of central banking experience, he served as Director at the Bank of Guyana until 2018.



**MS. EDE TYRELL**  
DIRECTOR

**Ms. Ede Tyrell** is a highly accomplished Senior Lecturer in Microbiology and Parasitology at the University of Guyana's School of Allied Health within the College of Medical Sciences. She has a Master of Science (MSc.), a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Science), a Bachelor of Science (BSc.) in Medical Microbiology, and a Diploma in Medical Technology. Over the course of her career, she has continuously proved her intellectual prowess and skill in a variety of fields.



# REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

The Directors have pleasure in submitting this Report and Audited Financial Statements for the year ended September 30, 2023.

## PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES:

The Bank provides a comprehensive range of banking services through our Head Office & Corporate Banking Branch at 214 Camp Street, North Cummingsburg, Georgetown, our Main Branch at 230 Camp & South Streets, Lacytown, Georgetown and Branches in Rose Hall & Corriverton (Berbice), Henrietta (Essequibo), Diamond (East Bank Demerara), Le Ressenouvenir and Mahaica (East Coast Demerara).

## FINANCIAL RESULTS: (In Thousands of Guyana Dollars)

The results for the year ended September 30, 2023 are as follows:

	2023	2022
<b>Profit Before Tax</b>	<b>5,944,714</b>	<b>4,884,512</b>
<b>Taxation</b>	<b>(1,869,338)</b>	<b>(1,930,152)</b>
<b>Profit After Tax</b>	<b>4,075,376</b>	<b>2,954,360</b>
<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>		
<b>Dividends Paid</b>	<b>922,500</b>	<b>900,000</b>
<b>Retained Earning</b>	<b>3,152,876</b>	<b>2,054,360</b>

## DIVIDEND:

An interim dividend of \$0.45 per share was paid during the year and a final dividend of \$1.80 for the year ended September 30, 2023 is recommended. If the recommended final dividend is approved at the Annual General Meeting, this will result in total dividend of \$2.25 per share paid for 2023.

## RESERVES AND RETAINED EARNINGS:

The Bank has reached its statutory reserve limit and no further provision is required. The balance of \$3,152,876 is placed in Retained Earnings which now stands at \$22,367,775. The proposed dividend of \$810M will be paid out of Retained Earnings.

## DIRECTORS:

**Mr. Komal Samaroo - Chairman**

**Mr. Garfield Wiltshire**

**Mr. Pravinchandra Dave - CEO**

**Mr. Beasraj Singh Roy**

**Mrs. Chandra Gajraj - Corporate Secretary**

**Mr. Rajendra Rampersaud**

**Mr. Hemraj Kisson**

**Mrs. Zorina Gafoor**

**Mr. Harryram Parmesar**

**Ms. Ede Tyrell**

In accordance with Article 97 of the Bank's Articles of Association, the Directors retiring for the time being are Mr. Pravinchandra Dave, Mr. Hemraj Kissoon, Mr. Garfield Wiltshire, Mr. Rajendra Rampersaud, Ms. Ede Tyrell and Mrs. Zorina Gafoor, and being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

### AUDITORS:

The Auditors, Nizam Ali & Company, being eligible, offers themselves for re-appointment.

### DIRECTORS' EMOLUMENTS:

Mr. Komal Samaroo	\$2,800,000	Mr. Garfield Wiltshire	\$1,500,000
Mrs. Chandra Gajraj	\$1,500,000	Mr. Beasraj Singh Roy	\$1,500,000
Mr. Pravinchandra Dave	\$1,500,000	Mr. Rajendra Rampersaud	\$1,125,000
Mr. Hemraj Kissoon	\$1,500,000	Mrs. Zorina Gafoor	\$1,125,000
Mr. Harryram Parmesar	\$1,500,000	Ms. Ede Tyrell	\$1,125,000

### DIRECTORS' INTERESTS:

	Beneficial Interest	Associate's Interest
Mr. Komal Samaroo (Chairman)	Nil	22,410,000
Mr. Pravinchandra Dave (CEO/Director)	400,000	Nil
Mrs. Chandra Gajraj (Corporate Secretary/Director)	1,000,000	Nil
Mr. Hemraj Kissoon	Nil	Nil
Mr. Harryram Parmesar	361,346	Nil
Mr. Garfield Wiltshire	125,000	3,000
Mr. Beasraj Singh Roy	Nil	Nil
Mr. Rajendra Rampersaud	Nil	Nil
Mrs. Zorina Gafoor	Nil	Nil
Ms. Ede Tyrell	700,000	700,000

### SERVICE CONTRACTS:

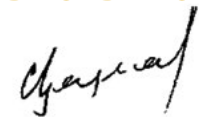
There are no service contracts between the Bank and any of its Directors.

### SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDING:

Trust Company (Guyana) Limited                      85,698,415 -19.04%

The Bank is a reporting issuer under the Securities Industry Act. We recognize the importance of transparency and disclosure of material information in our operations and are in compliance with all pertinent regulations including the provision of information on Related Party transactions, Loans and Advances and remuneration paid to key employees of the Bank.

### BY ORDER OF THE BOARD



**CHANDRA GAJRAJ (Mrs.)**  
**CORPORATE SECRETARY**

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

**Komal Samaroo**



## Dear Valued Shareholders,

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of Demerara Bank Ltd. for the year ended September 30, 2023. It was an outstanding year for the bank, with very strong double-digit percentage growth in its profitability. The results for the year reflect the diligent efforts of the staff at all levels combined with leadership that has a strong growth-oriented strategic focus.



### Economic Overview

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Globally, the economic recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine has been slow and varied in different regions of the world. This situation, when combined with geopolitical tension, extreme weather and tightening monetary policy to control inflation, result in global economic activities still below pre-pandemic levels. The global growth forecast for 2023 is expected to be 3.0 percent and 2.9 percent in 2024, reflecting a decline from the 3.5 percent achieved in 2022 and well below the historical average of 3.8 percent.

The slowdown is more pronounced in advanced economies than in emerging market and developing ones. Within advanced economies, while the US is showing stronger growth the Euro area is showing weaker than expected performance. In contrast, many emerging markets and developing economies are proving quite resilient with the notable exception of China, due to challenges like its real estate crisis and weakening confidence.

In the case of Guyana, the economy has experienced remarkable growth in recent years, driven by a booming oil sector. In 2022, Guyana achieved real GDP growth rate of 62.3 percent, the highest in the world. This exceptional growth is expected to continue in 2023, with a projected real GDP growth rate of 38 percent, primarily attributed to the expansion of oil production and robust growth in the non-oil sectors, supported by substantial public investments in infrastructure and human capital. The country's outlook for medium-term growth remains positive, with continued rapid expansion in oil production and a projected 5.5 percent real non-oil GDP growth rate. However, this economic prosperity is not without its risks, including potential inflationary pressures and challenges related to climate change and commodity price volatility.



### Subsidiary - DB (St. Lucia) Inc.

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The Board of Directors approved the establishment of a subsidiary in St. Lucia as part of the bank's broader expansion plans. This coincides with the bank's strategic plan which includes the expansion of our services and diversification of our business.





## Performance of the Group

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The group achieved a Profit Before Taxation of \$5.945 billion compared to \$4.885 billion, an increase of \$1.060 billion or 21.7% over the previous year.

After-Tax Profit increased from \$2.954 billion to \$4.075 billion, an increase of 37.9% over the previous year.

Earnings per share in the year was \$9.06 increasing from \$6.57 in the previous year.

Loans & Advances moved from \$58.2 billion to \$71.4 billion, an increase of 22.7 percent over the corresponding period.

Total Deposits of the bank increased from \$107.0 billion to \$139.1 billion, an increase of 30 percent over the previous period.

Investments of the group amounted to \$53.5 billion as at the end of September, 2023.

An interim dividend of G\$0.45 per share was paid to shareholders during 2023. The Board is recommending a final dividend for the year of G\$1.80 per share. The payment of the final dividend will be subject to the approval of the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting. The total dividend for the year will be \$2.25 per share.

The management and staff of the bank have once again excelled in their management of the credit portfolio over the year. Not only did they aggressively expand and diversify the portfolio, but their effective monitoring and management have improved the quality of these assets to the point where the bank can proudly report zero non-performing loans at the end of the year. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the team's dedication and diligence. Just

a year ago, the bank was already unique for having no non-performing loans in the financial sector, and this achievement has continued into September, 2023 despite a 22.7 percent growth in the loan portfolio.



## Core Business Strategies

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In pursuit of sustainable growth and success, the bank has formulated several core business strategies. Our primary focus is on customer-centricity, intending to provide tailored financial solutions that meet the unique needs of our customers. This involves enhancing the overall customer experience through seamless digital banking services and fostering long-lasting relationships. Risk management remains at the forefront, with a commitment to maintaining a robust risk assessment and mitigation framework. This ensures the bank's financial stability and resilience in the face of market fluctuations and uncertainties. The bank also seeks to embrace technological advancements, invest in cutting-edge digital infrastructure, and foster a culture of innovation to remain competitive in the evolving financial landscape.

Over the last few years, we have embraced responsible and sustainable banking practices, aligning our operations with environmental, social, and governance principles. This includes promoting sustainable lending and investment practices, reducing our carbon footprint, and contributing to social and community well-being. By adhering to these core business strategies, the bank aims to ensure long-term profitability, risk mitigation, and a positive impact on society and the environment. Against this backdrop, we now have outfitted 5 of our branches with solar systems which contribute to a green economy. To further support this drive, the bank offers concessional financing to individuals and companies that are interested in reducing their carbon footprint.



## Information Technology

---

In an era of rapid technological advancement, we recognize that IT plays a pivotal role in shaping our bank's future and its ability to meet evolving customer needs. Over the past year, we have continued our commitment to strengthen and modernize our IT infrastructure. We have made substantial investments in a Customer Relationship Management platform, that will improve the efficiency, security, and reliability of our services. This will reduce downtime and allow for faster transaction processing, ensuring a seamless banking experience for our valued customers. Customers will experience these benefits in the new calendar year.

Additionally, we have embraced digital transformation, making our banking services more accessible and convenient. Our user-friendly online platforms have gained popularity amongst customers, offering services ranging from account management to fund transfers.

We remain dedicated to remaining at the forefront of technological advancements, persistently enhancing our digital offerings by harnessing new and emerging technologies. This approach enables us to improve our products and service delivery, ensuring that we effectively cater to the evolving requirements of our customers and stakeholders.



## Expanding Access to Credit

---

The deployment of funds plays a crucial role in shaping the bank's loan portfolio and reflects our commitment to various industries. During the last year, the bank's loan portfolio exhibited a well-diversified approach to sectoral deployment, where funds were deployed

to real estate/housing (24 percent), agriculture (20 percent), telecommunications (11 percent), and commercial/trading/distribution (11 percent). These allocations reflect support for key sectors in economic development. Additionally, the bank extended credit to construction and engineering (8 percent) oil & gas (7 percent), services (5 percent), households (4 percent), and mining & quarrying (2 percent), allowing for investment in infrastructure, energy, services, personal finance, and resource extraction. This diversified approach aligns with our risk management and supports multiple industries, contributing to broader economic growth.

The diversification in the bank's loan portfolio owes a significant portion of its success to our branches spread across the different regions. Over the past year, each branch played a crucial role in identifying and catering to the specific credit needs of their local communities. Our branch managers and their staff are acquainted with the unique economic dynamics, industries, and opportunities in their respective areas, and as such can make informed decisions about extending credit to businesses and individuals. This localized knowledge allows them to identify emerging sectors, foster relationships with potential clients, and adapt lending strategies accordingly. Our outskirt branches have contributed approximately \$14.4 billion to the overall loan portfolio with a specific focus in the agricultural and housing sectors.



## Future Plans

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As we continue to navigate the ever-changing business landscape, it is crucial that we chart a clear and strategic path forward. Our commitment to growth, innovation, and sustainability remains firm, and we have outlined our future initiatives with a focus on value creation, customer satisfaction, and responsible corporate citizenship.



***To better serve our valued customers, we will continue to invest in customer-centric solutions and services. This includes enhancing our customer support, personalizing products, and improving the overall customer experience through data-driven insights and feedback.***



Our primary goal is to pursue strategic growth opportunities that will strengthen our market presence. This includes identifying new markets and niches where our products and services can thrive. At the same time, we have recognized the need to embrace innovation and will invest in research and development to stay at the forefront of technological advancements to improve our operational efficiency, and create cutting-edge products and services that meet the evolving needs of our customers.

Our commitment to sustainability extends to our environmental, social, and governance practices. We will further reduce our carbon footprint by continuing to outfit our existing as well as new locations with solar system, enhancing our diversity and inclusion initiatives, and ensuring that our governance remains transparent and accountable.

To better serve our valued customers, we will continue to invest in customer-centric solutions and services. This includes enhancing our customer support, personalizing products, and improving the overall customer experience through data-driven insights and feedback.

Our employees are our most valuable assets and we will provide ongoing training and development programs to nurture talent and enhance performance within our organization. Additionally, we will prioritize their well-being and create a positive work environment that supports and values the integration of employees' work and family lives as well as foster a culture of collaboration, innovation and equality.

In line with our commitment to expand our physical presence, our 9th branch, strategically positioned in Leonora, West Coast Demerara will be opened to the public before the end of this calendar year. Against the backdrop of relocating our Le Ressouvenir branch to a more convenient and spacious location in Beterverwagting, East Coast Demerara, construction will start in the new year 2024.

Our bank remains dedicated to achieving excellence in every aspect of our operations. Our future plans reflect our ambition, adaptability, and our commitment to delivering long-term value. As we move forward, we will continue to innovate, invest, and embrace change with enthusiasm. We are confident that by working together, we will achieve our objectives and create a brighter future for our company and all those we serve.



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## Management and Staff

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Our team is undeniably our most valuable resource and continues to be the foundation of our operations. The collective endeavors of our employees have been instrumental in the bank's achievements. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to express our deep appreciation for the unwavering commitment, dedication, and professionalism displayed by our staff and management in fulfilling their roles and upholding the exceptional service provided to our customers.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to fortify our connection with our employees and enhance their capabilities. Our dedication to their health, well-being, and growth persists through ongoing training initiatives and the creation of opportunities for both personal and professional development.



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## Board of Directors

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I would like to extend my deep appreciation to our highly resourceful and experienced Board of Directors who has provided invaluable guidance and unwavering support in steering the bank's course. Their ability to identify business opportunities, areas of growth, and foster connections with other business organizations has enabled the bank to maintain an efficient and swift decision-making process. The Directors have been instrumental in contributing actively during our monthly board meetings, and I am grateful for their trust and guidance. I eagerly anticipate continuing our collaboration in the years ahead.

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## Acknowledgement

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On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude to all our shareholders, customers, employees, and other stakeholders for their profound support throughout the year. We eagerly anticipate your continued cooperation in the future. As we celebrate the festive season together as one Guyana, I take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to you and your families.



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

**Pravinchandra Dave**

## Dear Valued Shareholders,

The bank recorded another exceptional year of performance for the financial year ended September 30, 2023. Our continuous outstanding performance lies in our financial discipline, strategies for investment and continuous development in our human resources. Moreover, the confidence and expectations of our shareholders and customers have undoubtedly influenced our growth and passion for improvement to become a digital frontier bank.



### Global Outlooks

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The global economy has shown remarkable resilience in the face of significant challenges, including the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and a cost-of-living crisis. Despite disruptions in energy and food markets due to the war and unprecedented tightening of global monetary conditions to combat high inflation, the global economy has continued to grow, albeit at a slower pace. A full recovery to pre-pandemic levels seems increasingly difficult, especially for emerging markets and developing economies as a result of geopolitical tension.

The recent resolution of the US debt ceiling standoff as well as strong action by authorities to contain turbulence in US and Swiss banking arena has reduced the immediate risks of financial sector turmoil. On the other hand, the escalating conflict between Israel and Palestine has the potential to further destabilize the global economy, potentially leading to a recession if this conflict further increase oil prices and if additional nations become involved. According to the IMF World Economic Outlook for October, 2023, global growth is projected to slow from 3.5 percent in 2022 to 3.0 percent in 2023

and 2.9 percent in 2024. Advanced economies are expected to slow from 2.6 percent in 2022 to 1.5 percent in 2023 and 1.4 percent in 2024 amid stronger-than-expected US momentum but weaker-than-expected growth in the Euro area. Emerging market and developing economies are projected to have a modest decline in growth from 4.1 percent in 2022 to 4.0 percent in both 2023 and 2024, reflecting the property sector crisis in China. Growth in India is projected remain strong at 6.3 percent in both 2023 and 2024, reflecting stronger-than-expected consumption during April-June, 2023. In emerging and developing economies, Europe's growth is projected to rise to 2.4 percent. Global inflation is forecast to decline steadily from 8.7 percent in 2022 to 6.9 percent in 2023 and 5.8 percent in 2024, due to tighter monetary policy aided by lower international commodity prices. Core inflation is generally projected to decline more gradually, and inflation is not expected to return to target until 2025 in most cases.

Geopolitical and climate-related shocks could exacerbate inflation through spikes in food and energy prices. Simultaneously, a significant concern is the high risk of debt distress in many low-income developing countries, driven by rising debt-service costs. The need for careful and coordinated policy response, with central banks aiming to restore price stability and fiscal policymakers focusing on rebuilding budgetary flexibility, targeted measures, and structural reforms to encourage economic growth is a must. Further, the importance of multilateral cooperation in addressing both debt resolution and climate change is seen as vital for maintaining financial stability and facilitating the green transition, which includes ensuring the steady cross-border flows of essential minerals.



## Caribbean Economy

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According to the World Bank LAC report for October, 2023, the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) regions continue to competently manage challenges of weak global demand, higher debt, uncertainty surrounding the war in Ukraine, and the ongoing although diminishing inflationary pressures affecting many regions of the world. Overall, well-grounded macro policy responses have led to an increased resilience to shocks, sounder financial sectors, and relative calmness in global markets. Employment has largely recovered, and poverty and inequality are moving toward pre-2019 levels. As a result, forecasts for the region for 2023 estimates that the regional Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will grow by 2.0 percent in 2023, slightly above the previously projected 1.4 percent, but still below that of all other regions in the world. Growth rates of 2.3 percent and 2.6 percent are expected for 2024 and 2025, respectively. Within the region, latest estimates reveal that tourism dependent Caribbean countries are expected to record lower growth, slowing from 7.2 percent in 2022 to 3.2 percent in 2023. For the commodity exporting Caribbean, growth of 18.7 percent is expected for 2023, down from 25.5 percent one year ago. Growth within this sub-region continues to be driven by Guyana's robust economic expansion.

According to the Bank of Guyana Half Year Report 2023, the strength of the post-pandemic recoveries has varied across the region. The global rebound of commodity prices from the pandemic lows, further boosted by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, has generally supported the recovery of commodity exporters, while constraining those that depend on commodity imports (tourism-dependent Caribbean economies). The upward trend of commodity prices seems to be reversing as the global financial conditions tighten.

As such, recent estimates indicate a deflation rate of 0.3 percent in Guyana. Contrary, inflation is recorded at 5.7 percent in Trinidad and Tobago, 6.2 percent in Jamaica and 54.2 percent in Suriname, all lower than previous forecasts.



## Guyana's Economy

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The Guyanese economy continues to grow very rapidly, supported by the government's modernization plans, including the unparalleled oil sector expansion. In 2022, Guyana achieved an exceptional real GDP growth rate of 62.3 percent, surpassing all other nations. This positive economic momentum is expected to persist in 2023 according to the IMF, with an anticipated real GDP growth of 38 percent. This growth is attributed to the expansion of oil production, including the commencement of operations at a third oil field. Additionally, a rapid public investment program concentrating on enhancing transportation, housing, flood management infrastructure, and human capital development is boosting the non-oil sector. The services and supplies sectors are experiencing growth as a result of spillover effects from the oil and construction industries. Agriculture, mining, and quarrying are also performing well.

According to the Bank of Guyana Half Year Report 2023, the real non-oil GDP recorded a strong growth rate of 12.3 percent while the real oil GDP grew by 59.5 percent during the first half of 2023. Notably, CPI inflation, which stood at 7.2 percent at the end of 2022, in line with other regional countries, decreased to 1.2 percent on a year-on-year basis by July, 2023, primarily due to reductions in transportation and communication prices. The external current account transitioned into a substantial surplus in 2022, reaching 23.8 percent of GDP, and another considerable surplus is expected in 2023.

Furthermore, the banking sector is characterized by strong capitalization and liquidity; suggesting a stable and thriving economic environment in Guyana.

In the first half of 2023, the economy of the Guyana experienced robust growth across various sectors, driven by favorable weather conditions and increased production. The agriculture sector increased by 7.6 percent, as all major sectors experienced growth when compared to 2022. The livestock and fishing subsectors also showed growth, with substantial increases in poultry, beef, and shrimp production. In the mining and quarrying sector<sup>3</sup>, the oil and gas subsector saw remarkable expansion, thanks to increased crude oil production. The manufacturing sector recorded strong growth, particularly in the production of sugar, rice, and various other products. The services sector expanded, with significant growth in administrative and support services and wholesale and retail trade. Additionally, the construction sector continued to thrive due to increased public and private sectors activities.

On the balance of payments front, Guyana saw a deficit of US\$196.4 million, with a smaller surplus on the current account, mainly driven by merchandise trade balance, and significant increases in export earnings from crude oil. However, the growth in import payments, especially for capital goods and fuel, contributed to this deficit. The monetary sector observed an expansion in the money supply and credit growth, indicating increased borrowing by both private and public sectors. Inflation showed signs of slowing with a 12-month inflation rate of 1.9 percent in June, 2023, primarily attributed to lower food and energy prices. The end-of-year inflation forecast for 2023 remains at 3.8 percent with proactive government measures in place to address potential price increases. Looking back, the rise in inflation of 7.2 percent from December, 2021 to December, 2022 was notably high.

Overall, Guyana's economy is exhibiting positive growth trends with a focus on diverse sectors and measures to manage inflation and support economic stability.



## Banking Scenario

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Residents' deposits with the commercial banks comprising of the private and public sectors as well as the non-bank financial institutions, showed an increase of 18.7 percent to G\$756.2 billion for the period ended September, 2023. Of this increase, individual customers deposits increased by 15.6 percent from \$307.2 billion to \$355.0 billion, which accounts for 63.8 percent of the total private sector deposits.

The total liquid assets of commercial banks increased by 23.7 percent for the period ended September, 2023 whilst excess reserve increased by 53.2 percent to \$47.4 billion, reflecting an excess liquidity in the system. Interest rates remained relatively stable over the period while the Ninety-one (91) days domestic Treasury Bill yield was 1.54 percent and both the 182-days & 364-days domestic Treasury Bill yield was 0.99 percent.



## Subsidiary - DB (St. Lucia) Inc.

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At the approval of the Board of Directors to expand our geographical presence, our subsidiary in St. Lucia became operational during the last financial year. This strategic move aligns with the bank's vision to enhance shareholders value and to broaden our business model. This provides a prime prospect to take advantage of the emerging opportunities in the Caribbean.



## Performance of the Group

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In the world of banking, achieving the extraordinary requires bold aspirations. Just a year ago, we were the only bank that did not have any Non-Performing Loans which was unheard of in the financial sector.



For September, 2023, we have successfully maintained a spotless record with zero Non-Performing Loans yet again while our loan portfolio expanded by 23 percent over the year. This exceptional accomplishment is a direct result of the diligent and prudent management exhibited by our dedicated staff, under the wise guidance of our esteemed Board of Directors.

We have embarked on a transformative journey that was characterized by audacious goals and steadfast determination. Our vision to grow our revenue was not without its challenges, but it underscored our commitment to our customers, shareholders, and the communities we serve. We set the bar high and persevered relentlessly.

- The Net Profit of the bank increased significantly by 37.9 percent to \$4.075 billion in comparison to \$2.954 billion in 2022.
- Total Deposits increased from \$107.0 billion to \$139.1 billion; increasing by 30 percent over the previous year.
- Total Advances of the bank increased from \$58.2 billion to \$71.4 billion in 2023; showing a rise of 22.7 percent over the corresponding 2022 period.
- Investments of the group as at September 30, 2023 was \$53.5 billion.
- Zero non-performing loans as the end of the reporting period.
- Earnings per Share increased from \$6.57 per share to \$9.06 per share as at September 30, 2023 indicating an increase of 37.9 percent.
- Return on Average Assets as at September 30, 2023 was 2.85 percent which is far higher than the industry average.
- Shareholders' Funds have gone up from \$16.7 billion to \$19.8 billion; showing a rise of 18.2 percent from the previous year.
- Return on Shareholders' Funds has been substantial over the year and recorded a return of 20.6 percent for the year ended September 30, 2023.
- The Book Value of the shares has gone up from \$37.20 per share in 2022 to \$43.96 per share in 2023; showing a rise of 18.2 percent over the previous year.



## Income and Expenses

The bank was able to achieve Profit Before Taxation of \$5.945 billion, an increase of 21.7 percent over the previous year and an After-Tax Profit of \$4.075 billion, an increase of 37.9 percent for the period ended September 30, 2023. These outstanding results were primarily attributed to a focused approach to improve our income mix.

Interest Income increased by 25.4 percent or \$7.907 billion of which income from loans and advances increased by 20.4 percent whilst income from investment grew by 36.2 percent. Interest Expenses increased by \$35 million or 4.4 percent while Non-Interest Expenses have moved from \$1.741 billion to \$1.951 billion; showing a rise of 12.0 percent over the previous year.

Despite inflationary challenges in the broader economic landscape, the bank has demonstrated its ability to effectively manage expenses. The main contributor to Non-Interest Expenses was mainly an increase in staff costs since we consider our staff as our most valued asset. Notably, the bank focuses on maintaining a strong cost/income ratio through innovative cost-saving strategies and remains committed to financial prudence.



## Deposit Mobilization

Total Deposits have increased to \$139.1 billion during the year reflecting a growth of 30 percent. The increase in Total Deposits by the bank was attributable to the growth in Demand Deposits that increased by 97 percent and Saving Deposits that increased from \$57.3 billion to \$79.4 billion or 39 percent. Good marketing efforts by all our branches have contributed significantly to the excellent growth in deposits of the bank. The bank will continue to provide superior banking services as it seeks to expand its network of branches countrywide.

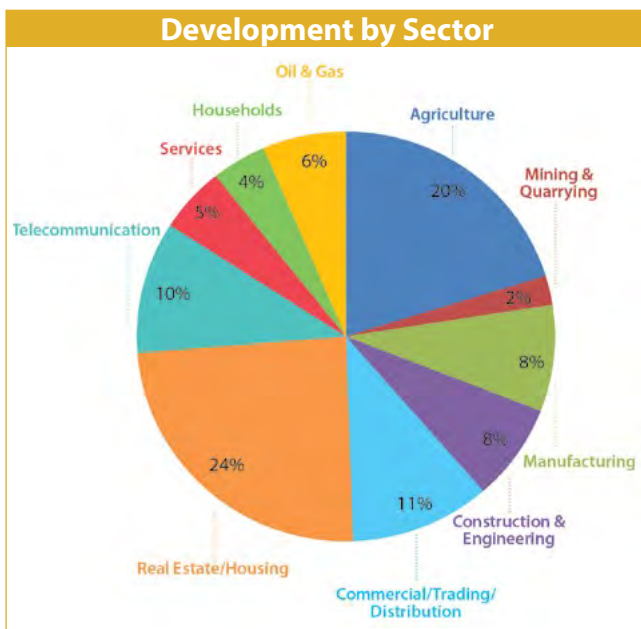


## Loans and Advances

Net Loans and Advances during the year increased from \$58.2 billion to \$71.4 billion, showing a rise of 22.7 percent over the previous year. This was as a result of an increase in lending to the services, housing and other commercial sectors, including the oil & gas and consumer sectors. The bank was able to prudently market its advances to both the productive and housing sectors of the economy. Banking Sector Loans and Advances to the Private Sector for the period ended September, 2023, recorded an increase of 14.8 percent when compared with September, 2022.

The bank's strategic approach has been marked by an aggressive effort to diversify its credit portfolio, ensuring accessibility to credit across all economic sectors. Moreover, during the last fiscal year, the bank introduced new lending products tailored to the specific needs of the forestry and poultry sectors, reinforcing its commitment to supporting a wide range of industries. It must be noted that the bank's contribution to housing, agriculture and telecommunication sectors is significant.

We have a diversified portfolio which is evident from the following chart:



## Non-Performing Advances and Loan Provisions

As of September, 2023, much like in the previous year, our loan portfolio remains free of non-performing advances. We are steadfast in our commitment to diligent portfolio management and will further refine our screening processes to sustain the integrity of our asset quality. It is paramount to recognize that one of the most pivotal factors for any bank's well-being is the quality of its assets. This quality not only facilitates the ongoing expansion of our loan portfolio but also fosters robust growth in our business.



## Investments

The Investments of the bank as at September 30, 2023 was \$53.5 billion. Despite the challenging global market landscape, the bank's investment portfolio managed to secure a return on par with expected benchmarks for the year. This achievement can be attributed to our robust investment processes and timely decision-making. In the U.S., persistent inflation has not gone unnoticed by the Federal Open Market Committee, leading to an aggressive rate adjustment pace. The FED, in its September, 2023 meeting, kept its rate between 5.25-5.5 percent and foresees a potential climb to 5.5-5.75 percent by the end of the year. Their comments remain cautious but hawkish, with an unwavering commitment to achieving the 2 percent inflation target. We are optimistic that as these inflationary pressures will ease and as the rate adjustments conclude, our portfolio stands to benefit significantly. Despite the short-term volatility these scenarios brought, our long term investment strategy has positioned us against any reactionary moves, safeguarding our shareholders' interests.



## Capital Adequacy and Risk Management

The bank has consistently maintained a robust Capital Adequacy Ratio, significantly surpassing the prudential benchmark of 8.0 percent as set by the Central Bank. In 2023, the bank's Tier I Capital Adequacy Ratio stood at 17.32 percent. Effective implementation of the Basel II / III Framework, which incorporates and quantifies market and operational risks in the computation of this ratio, aligns the bank with international standards and practices.

The overarching responsibility for the bank's risk management function lies with the Board and Management. The Board of Directors has taken proactive measures by establishing various sub-committees, each dedicated to the meticulous review and evaluation of different risk aspects that may affect the bank. Furthermore, the bank continuously updates its Risk Management Policy and reinforces its internal control functions to ensure a resilient risk management framework. This includes vigilant monitoring of Liquidity risks, Interest Rate risks, and Default risks. Additionally, the bank remains committed to identifying and addressing risks in areas such as Advances, Investments, Foreign Exchange, and Operations. This proactive approach ensures that any potential risks are promptly recognized and mitigated, safeguarding the bank's stability and prosperity.



## Regulatory Compliance

The bank remains committed to combating money laundering, terrorist and proliferation financing and continues to demonstrate a culture of compliance as it adheres to the laws, regulations and guidelines implemented by the Government and other regulatory bodies.

During the year, several amendments were made to the AMLCFT legislation as Guyana follows the global trend of increased regulatory change and the widening of compliance risk areas. These amendments aim to strengthen the existing legislation in preparation for the 4th round mutual evaluation of Guyana by the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF). The report on the findings of the mutual evaluation, which is currently ongoing is expected to be presented at the CFATF Plenary mid 2024.

The Demerara Bank Limited places great emphasis on integrity and good governance and is dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of AMLCFT compliance.



## Upholding Values and Social Work

Our decisions are guided by principles deeply rooted in equity and inclusivity, reflecting our unwavering commitment to delivering the highest level of service to all. This year, our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives were carefully crafted to focus on key areas such as education, health, and social development. We are proud to share some of our notable initiatives from the past year:



- Donation to the Saraswati Vidya Niketan School to support its development & expansion.
- Part sponsorship of the Dharmic Naujawaan's Back to School Drive.
- Continued support to the Prabhu Sharan Orphanage as part of the First Lady's 'Adopt an Orphanage' Initiative.
- Supporting the families of Mas. Munesh Narayan and Miss Neia Baird who were in great need of medical assistance abroad.
- Provision of low cost loans to vendors affected by the Parika Market Fire.

In addition to these initiatives, Demerara Bank Limited in collaboration with the Government of Guyana, introduced a visionary initiative - a \$900 million Forestry Revolving Fund that opened new doors for small and medium-scale logging operations to thrive responsibly and sustainably, contributing to the preservation of our natural resources.



### Future Plans

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Our strategic plan for the upcoming year involves an ambitious expansion of our branch network across the country. Construction is already underway at our Leonora branch, and we are optimistic about welcoming West Coast Demerara clients in 2023. Additionally, we are making significant improvements by relocating our Le Ressenouir branch to a larger and more accommodating space, aligning with the growing demands of our esteemed customers.

We are excited to share that our advanced Corporate Internet Banking Platform is fully operational, and we are diligently testing and fine-tuning our Retail Ebanking Platform, which will be available to the public in the coming year. This platform will integrate cutting-edge technology, with a primary focus on delivering comfort, convenience, and enhanced security for our valued customers.

Furthermore, our bank is set to unveil a range of new interfaces, including mobile banking and user-friendly portals for streamlined account and loan applications, all designed to provide unmatched comfort and convenience to our clients.

In an effort to stand out from the competition, our bank is actively in the process of establishing a partnership with a remittance service provider. This collaboration will enable seamless fund transfers

to and from international destinations through our Payment Network, all at highly competitive rates. Ultimately, this integration will allow for direct crediting to customers' accounts and easy access to these funds within our extensive payment network, ensuring unparalleled comfort and convenience for our clientele.

### Acknowledgement

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We want to express our deep gratitude to our valued customers, whose unwavering support has been instrumental in our journey. Their loyalty and trust in the Demerara Bank team have been a constant source of inspiration to us, and for this, we extend our heartfelt thanks.

Our Board of Directors has been the bedrock of our ongoing success and accomplishments. Their active involvement in our monthly board meetings and their invaluable guidance throughout the year have played a pivotal role. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to each and every member of our esteemed Board.

In the competitive and rapidly evolving landscape of the banking industry, our bank's success hinges on having a highly committed, dedicated, motivated, and skilled workforce. We are fortunate to be blessed with a talented and dedicated pool of human resources, and I extend my profound gratitude to all staff members across all levels.

I also want to offer my sincere thanks to our Chairman, Mr. Komal Samaroo, for his unwavering confidence and support throughout this year.

As we come together to celebrate this festive season as one Guyana, I take this opportunity to extend my warmest wishes to you and your family for a joyful and prosperous holiday season.



## MANAGEMENT TEAM



**Mr. Dowlat Parbhu**  
General Manager



**Ms. Pravini Ramotar**  
Chief Manager  
Human Resources & Administration



**Mr. David Ramdeholl**  
Chief Manager  
Credit



**Mrs. Amrita Henriques**  
Senior Manager  
Branch Coordination, Research & Development



**Mr. Jerrett Morgan**  
Senior Manager  
VISA Operations



**Mr. Yugisther Mohabir**  
Senior Manager  
Information Technology & MIS

# MANAGEMENT TEAM



**Ms. Nekeisha Persaud**  
Legal Officer



**Mr. Imran Badruddin**  
Manager  
Investment & Business Development



**Ms. Christina Correia**  
Manager  
Marketing, Public Relations & New Products



**Ms. Deborah Shim-Foo**  
Manager  
Credit



**Ms. Kenesha Collins**  
Manager  
Corporate Banking & Operations



**Mr. Ramnarine Autar**  
Manager  
Investment



**Mrs. La Donna Delon**  
Chief Internal Auditor (ag.)



**Ms. Neishelle McKenzie**  
Management

# MANAGEMENT TEAM



**Ms. Omattie Misir**  
Branch Manager (ag.)  
Main Branch



**Mr. Mohanram Dolai**  
Chief Security Officer



**Mr. Lakeram Bhagwandeem**  
Credit Management



**Ms. Vicario Rogers**  
MIS Department



**Mr. Nevindra Deonarine**  
MIS Department



**Ms. Monica Serrao**  
VISA Operations



**Ms. Sunita Persaud**  
Internal Audit Department



**Mr. Deyon D'Oliveira**  
Corporate Banking

# MANAGEMENT TEAM



**Ms. Bebe Asha Gaffar**  
Officer-in-Charge  
Corporate Banking



**Ms. Anna Abraham**  
Branch Manager  
Corriverton



**Ms. Farahnaz Hosain**  
Branch Manager  
Essequibo



**Ms. Nanda Persaud**  
Branch Manager (ag.)  
Le Ressouvenir



**Mr. Poorendra Jaigobin**  
Branch Manager (ag.)  
Rose Hall



**Mrs. Natalie Singh**  
Branch Manager (ag.)  
Diamond



**Mr. Porean Rameshwar**  
Branch Manager (ag.)  
Mahaica



**Mrs. Patrina Sahib-Roshan**  
Foreign Trade





*"Come grow with us"*

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT





**Nizam Ali & Company**  
**Chartered Accountants**

215 'C' Camp Street  
North Cummingsburg  
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Guyana

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**Tel/Fax: (592) 225-7085**  
**Email: [admin@nizamali.net](mailto:admin@nizamali.net)**

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

To the Shareholders of Demerara Bank Limited

### **Report on the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Demerara Bank Limited, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at September 30, 2023, the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements, present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Group as at September 30, 2023, its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

#### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Guyana, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Key Audit Matters**

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements for the financial year ended September 30, 2023. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

## Key Audit Matters, continued

Key Audit Matters	How our audit addresses the key audit matter
<p><b>Investments</b></p> <p>The Group invests a significant portion of its funds in financial instruments that are classified at fair value through other comprehensive income and fair value through profit or loss. These instruments comprise equity shares and fixed income securities and are valued based on quoted prices in active markets. As at the year end, there is significant measurement uncertainty involved in these valuations.</p>	<p>In auditing these financial instruments, we reviewed and verified the processes and key controls applied in the valuation of these investments. Additionally, we performed independent price verification of all investments from recognised active financial markets and considered whether disclosures are in compliance with the requirements of relevant International Financial Reporting Standards.</p>
<p><b>Impairment of property, plant and equipment</b></p> <p>Significant judgment is exercised in determining the useful life of items of property, plant and equipment. In this regard, based on management's evaluation and assessment, appropriate depreciation rates are allocated to property, plant and equipment. Property, plant and equipment is tested for impairment whenever there is objective evidence that the carrying amount of the asset may exceed its recoverable amount.</p>	<p>In addressing judgment in determining the useful life of property, plant and equipment, procedures included reviewing the Group's policy for property, plant and equipment, ensuring that depreciation rates used are consistent with these policies and appropriate rates are applied to respective categories of property, plant and equipment. Further, we assessed the impairment review carried out by management, by comparing the carrying value of these assets against their estimated remaining useful life.</p>
<p><b>Credit impairment losses</b></p> <p>IFRS 9 requires the Group to recognise expected credit losses (ECL) on financial assets. The determination of ECL is highly subjective and requires management to make significant judgment and assumptions. The most significant judgments and assumptions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assumptions used in the expected credit loss model to assess the credit risk related to the exposure and the expected future cash flows of the customer.</li><li>• Timely identification of exposures with significant increase in credit risk and credit impaired exposures.</li><li>• Valuation of collateral and assumptions of future cash flows on assessed credit-impaired exposures.</li></ul>	<p>Our procedures in this area included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assessing the trends in the local credit environment, considering their likely impact on the Group's exposures and using this information to focus our testing on the key risk areas.</li><li>• Assessing and testing the design and operating effectiveness of the controls over the Group's loan impairment provision.</li><li>• Testing key controls over assumptions used in the expected credit loss models to assess the credit risk related to the exposure and the expected future cash flows of the customer.</li></ul>

## Key Audit Matters, continued

Key Audit Matters	How our audit addresses the key audit matter
<p><b><i>Credit impairment losses, continued</i></b></p> <p>The Group is also required to compute loan provision in accordance with the Bank of Guyana Supervision Guideline number 5. There is the risk of inappropriate classification of loans and advances in accordance with the Supervision Guideline number 5 that results in inaccurate loan impairment computations.</p> <p>Where the required provision under IFRS 9 differs from the provision under the Supervision Guideline number 5, at minimum the Group recognises the impairment required under the provisions of IFRS 9. However, when the application of Supervision Guideline number 5 gives rise to a more prudent provision, then the impairment computed using Supervision Guideline number 5 is recognised.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assessing and substantively validating the impairment models by re-performing calculations and agreeing sample of data inputs to source documentation. We also assessed whether the data used in the models is complete and accurate through testing a sample of relevant data fields and their aggregate amounts against data in the source system.</li><li>• Obtaining and substantively testing evidence to support the assumptions used in the expected credit loss models applied in stage allocation, assumptions applied to derive lifetime possibility of default and methods applied to derive loss given default.</li><li>• Verifying that all loans and advances are secured, active and are monitored in accordance with the Supervision Guideline numbers 5 and 13 and evaluating management's compliance with these guidelines. We also verified whether these loans and advances were classified based on the criteria outlined in these guidelines.</li><li>• Assessing whether the disclosures in the financial statements appropriately reflect the Group's exposure to credit risk.</li></ul>

### Going Concern

The Group's financial statements have been prepared using the going concern basis of accounting. The use of this basis of accounting is appropriate unless management either intends to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. As part of our audit of the financial statements, we have concluded that management's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the Group's financial statements is appropriate. Management has not identified a material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, and accordingly none is disclosed in the financial statements. Based on our audit of the financial statements, we also have not identified such a material uncertainty. However, neither management nor the auditor can guarantee the Group's ability to continue as a going concern.

### Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises all the information included in the Group's 2023 annual report but does not include the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance or conclusion

thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information; we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRSs, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Group's financial reporting process.

### **Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they can reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than from one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence

obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the Group to express an opinion on the financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the Group's audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

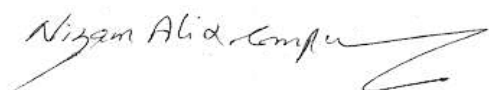
We are also required to provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditors' report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

### **Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

The financial statements comply with the requirements of the Financial Institutions Act 1995, the Companies Act 1991 and the Securities Industry Act 1998.

The engagement partner responsible for the audit resulting in this independent auditors' report is Mr. Dave Singh, FCCA.



Chartered Accountants  
Georgetown, Guyana


October 26, 2023

**DEMERARA BANK LIMITED****Consolidated Statement of Financial Position****As at September 30, 2023****With comparative figures for September 30, 2022****(Expressed in Guyana Dollars)**

	Notes	COMPANY		GROUP
		2023	2022	2023
		<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash		1,044,628	990,507	1,044,628
Due from banks		2,551,831	4,559,761	5,692,176
Deposit with Central Bank other than statutory deposit		5,568,542	4,589,493	5,568,542
Statutory deposit with Central Bank	7	16,693,698	12,828,653	16,693,698
Investment securities	8	28,011,065	39,966,150	53,521,488
Investment in subsidiary	9	2,156,500	-	-
Loans and advances	10	71,374,718	58,192,909	71,374,718
Property, plant and equipment	12	3,558,974	2,624,544	3,558,974
Taxation recoverable		245,778	6,087	245,778
Deferred tax	22	1,785,187	2,747,311	1,785,187
Due from related party	26	27,413,585	12,930	-
Other	13	104,262	51,497	104,262
		<u>160,508,768</u>	<u>126,569,842</u>	<u>159,589,451</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>				
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Deposits	11	139,110,699	106,984,399	139,110,699
Taxation payable		-	724,927	-
Other liabilities	14	694,734	2,120,611	695,734
		<u>139,805,433</u>	<u>109,829,937</u>	<u>139,806,433</u>
<b>SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>				
Share capital	15	450,000	450,000	450,000
Statutory reserve	16 (i)	450,000	450,000	450,000
Investment revaluation reserve	16 (ii)	(2,552,317)	(3,374,994)	(3,484,757)
Other reserve	16 (iii)	-	-	-
Retained earnings		22,355,652	19,214,899	22,367,775
		<u>20,703,335</u>	<u>16,739,905</u>	<u>19,783,018</u>
		<u>160,508,768</u>	<u>126,569,842</u>	<u>159,589,451</u>

The financial statements have been approved by the Board of Directors on October 26, 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

  
**Mr. P.S. Dave**  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 Director

  
**Mr. Harryram Parmesar**  
 Chairman - Audit Committee

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

**DEMERARA BANK LIMITED****Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income****For the year ended September 30, 2023****With comparative figures for September 30, 2022**

(Expressed in Guyana Dollars)

	Notes	COMPANY		GROUP
		2023	2022	2023
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Interest income</b>				
Loans and advances		5,172,756	4,297,041	5,172,756
Investments	17	1,621,882	2,007,979	2,734,125
		<u>6,794,638</u>	<u>6,305,020</u>	<u>7,906,881</u>
<b>Interest expense</b>				
Savings deposits		395,133	333,595	395,133
Term deposits		340,861	406,694	340,861
Others		99,188	59,619	99,188
		<u>835,182</u>	<u>799,908</u>	<u>835,182</u>
<b>Net interest income</b>		5,959,456	5,505,112	7,071,699
Net credit impairment		<u>(825,000)</u>	<u>362,254</u>	<u>(825,000)</u>
Income net of credit impairment		5,134,456	5,867,366	6,246,699
Other income	23	<u>2,746,550</u>	<u>758,896</u>	<u>1,649,165</u>
<b>Net interest and other income</b>		<u>7,881,006</u>	<u>6,626,262</u>	<u>7,895,864</u>
<b>Non-interest expenses</b>	19	<u>1,948,415</u>	<u>1,741,750</u>	<u>1,951,150</u>
Income before taxation		5,932,591	4,884,512	5,944,714
Taxation	21	1,869,338	1,930,152	1,869,338
<b>Net income for the year</b>	18	<u>4,063,253</u>	<u>2,954,360</u>	<u>4,075,376</u>
<b>Earnings per share in dollars</b>	24	<u>9.03</u>	<u>6.57</u>	<u>9.06</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.



**DEMERARA BANK LIMITED****Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income****For the year ended September 30, 2023****With comparative figures for September 30, 2022**

(Expressed in Guyana Dollars)

	COMPANY		GROUP
	2023	2022	2023
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
Net income for the year	4,063,253	2,954,360	4,075,376
<b>Other Comprehensive Income</b>			
<i>Items that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss</i>			
Net loss on investments in debt instruments measured at FVOCI	(4,524)	(5,834,944)	(936,964)
Net gain (loss) on investments in debt instruments measured at FVOCI reclassified to profit or loss on disposal	1,375,652	(34,082)	1,375,652
Tax on components of other comprehensive income	(548,451)	2,347,610	(548,451)
Total other comprehensive income (loss) for the year	822,677	(3,521,416)	(109,763)
Total comprehensive income (loss) for the year	<u>4,885,930</u>	<u>(567,056)</u>	<u>3,965,613</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

**DEMERARA BANK LIMITED**

**Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity**  
**For the year ended September 30, 2023**  
**With comparative figures for September 30, 2022**  
(Expressed in Guyana Dollars)

	<b>COMPANY</b>					
	<b>Share capital</b>	<b>Retained earnings</b>	<b>Statutory reserve</b>	<b>Investment revaluation reserve</b>	<b>Other reserve</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Balance at October 1, 2021</b>	450,000	17,118,611	450,000	146,422	41,928	18,206,961
Profit for the year September 30, 2022	-	2,954,360	-	-	-	2,954,360
Dividend (note 25)	-	(900,000)	-	-	-	(900,000)
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	(3,521,416)	-	(3,521,416)
Transfer	-	41,928	-	-	(41,928)	-
<b>Balance at September 30, 2022</b>	450,000	19,214,899	450,000	(3,374,994)	-	16,739,905
Profit for the year September 30, 2023	-	4,063,253	-	-	-	4,063,253
Dividend (note 25)	-	(922,500)	-	-	-	(922,500)
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	822,677	-	822,677
Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance at September 30, 2023</b>	450,000	22,355,652	450,000	(2,552,317)	-	20,703,335

	<b>GROUP</b>					
	<b>Share capital</b>	<b>Retained earnings</b>	<b>Statutory reserve</b>	<b>Investment revaluation reserve</b>	<b>Other reserve</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Balance at September 30, 2022</b>	450,000	19,214,899	450,000	(3,374,994)	-	16,739,905
Profit for the year September 30, 2023	-	4,075,376	-	-	-	4,075,376
Dividend (note 25)	-	(922,500)	-	-	-	(922,500)
Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	(109,763)	-	(109,763)
Transfer	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance at September 30, 2023</b>	450,000	22,367,775	450,000	(3,484,757)	-	19,783,018

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

**DEMERARA BANK LIMITED****Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows****For the year ended September 30, 2023****With comparative figures for September 30, 2022**

(Expressed in Guyana Dollars)

	COMPANY		GROUP
	2023	2022	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net income before taxation	5,932,591	4,884,512	5,944,688
Interest income	(6,794,638)	(6,305,020)	(7,906,880)
Interest expense	835,182	799,908	835,182
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation	153,746	152,754	153,746
Loss on disposal of plant and equipment	249	6,851	249
Interest received	7,010,239	6,112,708	7,722,565
Interest paid	(841,398)	(859,211)	(841,398)
Change in statutory deposit with Central Bank	(3,865,046)	(3,348,462)	(3,865,046)
Change in due from related party	(27,400,655)	-	-
Change in other assets	(52,764)	13,000	(39,833)
Change in deposits	32,132,516	14,168,139	32,132,515
Change in other liabilities	(1,425,877)	(253,284)	(1,424,852)
Taxes paid	(2,420,281)	(2,583,806)	(2,420,281)
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>3,263,864</b>	<b>12,788,089</b>	<b>30,290,655</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Change in investments	10,910,261	(12,045,436)	(12,976,185)
Change in loans and advances	(13,137,960)	(11,778,665)	(13,137,960)
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(1,088,425)	(149,043)	(1,088,425)
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment	-	700	-
Net cash used in investing activities	(3,316,124)	(23,972,444)	(27,202,570)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
<b>Dividends</b>	<b>(922,500)</b>	<b>(900,000)</b>	<b>(922,500)</b>
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(922,500)</b>	<b>(900,000)</b>	<b>(922,500)</b>
<b>Net movement in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(974,760)</b>	<b>(12,084,355)</b>	<b>2,165,585</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year</b>	<b>10,139,761</b>	<b>22,224,116</b>	<b>10,139,761</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, end of year</b>	<b>9,165,001</b>	<b>10,139,761</b>	<b>12,305,346</b>
Cash and cash equivalent comprises of the following statement of financial position items:			
Cash	1,044,628	990,507	1,044,628
Deposit with Central Bank other than statutory deposit	5,568,542	4,589,493	5,568,542
Due from banks	2,551,831	4,559,761	5,692,176
	<b>9,165,001</b>	<b>10,139,761</b>	<b>12,305,346</b>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

## 1. Incorporation and business activities

Demerara Bank Limited was incorporated on January 20, 1992 as a private limited liability company under the provisions of the Companies Act, Chapter 89:01 and was licensed to carry on the business of Banking on October 31, 1994. The Bank obtained Certificate of Continuance on April 2, 1997 in accordance with the Companies Act 1991.

The Bank offers a complete range of banking and financial services and operates under the provisions of the Financial Institutions Act (Act 1 of 1995).

The Bank was registered as a reporting issuer under the Securities Industries Act 1998 on September 2, 2003.

On September 2, 2003 the Bank was designated an approved mortgage finance company by the Minister of Finance in accordance with section 15 of the Income Tax Act. The income earned from mortgages granted by an approved mortgage finance company is exempt from the payment of corporation taxes, provided that these mortgages comply with the stipulated regulations.

## 2. Changes in accounting policies and disclosures

### 2.1 New standards, amendments and interpretations adopted

The following new and amended pronouncements which became effective on January 1, 2022 was adopted by the Group. The adoption of these pronouncements did not have any impact on the financial statements.

	<b>Effective date</b>
<p><b><i>Reference to the Conceptual Framework (Amendments to IFRS 3)</i></b>  The amendments update an outdated reference to the Conceptual Framework in IFRS 3 without significantly changing the requirements in the standard.</p>	1-Jan-22
<p><b><i>Property, Plant and Equipment — Proceeds before Intended Use (Amendments to IAS 16)</i></b>  The amendments prohibit deducting from the cost of an item of property, plant and equipment any proceeds from selling items produced while bringing that asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management. Instead, an entity recognises the proceeds from selling such items, and the cost of producing those items, in profit or loss.</p>	1-Jan-22
<p><b><i>Onerous Contracts — Cost of Fulfilling a Contract (Amendments to IAS 37)</i></b>  The amendments specify that the ‘cost of fulfilling’ a contract comprises the ‘costs that relate directly to the contract’. Costs that relate directly to a contract can either be incremental costs of fulfilling that contract (examples would be direct labour, materials) or an allocation of other costs that relate directly to fulfilling contracts (an example would be the allocation of the depreciation charge for an item of property, plant and equipment used in fulfilling the contract).</p>	1-Jan-22
<p><b><i>Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2018 – 2020</i></b>  Makes amendments to the following standards:</p>	1-Jan-22

#### **IFRS 1**

The amendment permits a subsidiary that applies paragraph D16(a) of IFRS 1 to measure cumulative translation differences using the amounts reported by its parent, based on the parent’s date of transition to IFRSs.

#### **IFRS 9**

The amendment clarifies which fees an entity includes when it applies the ‘10 per cent’ test in paragraph B3.3.6 of IFRS 9 in assessing whether to derecognise a financial liability. An entity includes only fees paid or received between the entity (the borrower) and the lender, including fees paid or received by either the entity or the lender on the other’s behalf.

**2. Changes in accounting policies and disclosures, continued**

**2.1 New standards, amendments and interpretations adopted, continued**

**Effective date**

**Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2018 – 2020, continued**

**IFRS 16**

The amendment to Illustrative Example 13 accompanying IFRS 16 removes from the example the illustration of the reimbursement of lease-hold improvements by the lessor in order to resolve any potential confusion regarding the treatment of lease incentives that might arise because of how lease incentives are illustrated in that example.

**IAS 41**

The amendment removes the requirement in paragraph 22 of IAS 41 for entities to exclude taxation cash flows when measuring the fair value of a biological asset using a present value technique.

The adoption of these amendments did not result in any changes to the financial statements.

**2.2 New standards, amendments and interpretations not yet adopted**

The following new and amended pronouncements which are not yet effective have not been early adopted by the Group. The Group is assessing the impact, if any, these pronouncements will have on future reporting.

**IFRS 17 - Insurance Contracts**

1-Jan-23

IFRS 17 requires insurance liabilities to be measured at a current fulfillment value and provides a more uniform measurement and presentation approach for all insurance contracts. These requirements are designed to achieve the goal of a consistent, principle-based accounting for insurance contracts. IFRS 17 supersedes IFRS 4.

**Amendments**

**Applying IFRS 9 'Financial Instruments' with IFRS 4 'Insurance Contracts' (Amendments to IFRS 4)**

1-Jan-23

Insurance Contracts provide two options for entities that issue insurance contracts within the scope of IFRS 4: an option that permits entities to reclassify, from profit or loss to other comprehensive income, some of the income or expenses arising from designated financial assets; this is the so-called overlay approach an optional temporary exemption from applying IFRS 9 for entities whose predominant activity is issuing contracts within the scope of IFRS 4; this is the so-called deferral approach.

The application of both approaches is optional and an entity is permitted to stop applying them before the new insurance contracts standard is applied.

**Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-Current (Amendments to IAS 1)**

1-Jan-24

The amendments aim to promote consistency in applying the requirements by helping companies determine whether, in the statement of financial position, debt and other liabilities with an uncertain settlement date should be classified as current (due or potentially due to be settled within one year) or non-current.

**Extension of the Temporary Exemption from Applying IFRS 9 (Amendments to IFRS 4)**

1-Jan-23

The amendment changes the fixed expiry date for the temporary exemption in IFRS 4 Insurance Contracts from applying IFRS 9 Financial Instruments, so that entities would be required to apply IFRS 9 for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023.

**Disclosure of Accounting Policies (Amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2)**

1-Jan-23

The amendments require that an entity discloses its material accounting policies, instead of its significant accounting policies. Further, amendments explain how an entity can identify a material accounting policy. Examples of when an accounting policy is likely to be material are added. To support the amendment, the Board has also developed guidance and examples to explain and demonstrate the application of the 'four-step materiality process' described in IFRS Practice Statement 2.

**2. Changes in accounting policies and disclosures, continued**

**2.2 New standards, amendments and interpretations not yet adopted, continued**

***Definition of Accounting Estimates (Amendments to IAS 8)***

**Effective date**

1-Jan-23

The amendments replace the definition of a change in accounting estimates with a definition of accounting estimates. Under the new definition, accounting estimates are “monetary amounts in financial statements that are subject to measurement uncertainty”. Entities develop accounting estimates if accounting policies require items in financial statements to be measured in a way that involves measurement uncertainty. The amendments clarify that a change in accounting estimate that results from new information or new developments is not the correction of an error.

***Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction (Amendments to IAS 12)***

1-Jan-23

The amendments clarify that the initial recognition exemption does not apply to transactions in which equal amounts of deductible and taxable temporary differences arise on initial recognition.

***Initial Application of IFRS 17 and IFRS 9 — Comparative Information (Amendments to IFRS 17)***

1-Jan-23

The amendment permits entities that first apply IFRS 17 and IFRS 9 at the same time to present comparative information about a financial asset as if the classification and measurement requirements of IFRS 9 had been applied to that financial asset before.

***Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback (Amendments to IFRS 16)***

1-Jan-24

The amendment clarifies how a seller-lessee subsequently measures sale and leaseback transactions that satisfy the requirements in IFRS 15 to be accounted for as a sale.

***Non-current Liabilities with Covenants (Amendments to IAS 1)***

1-Jan-24

The amendment clarifies how a seller-lessee subsequently measures sale and leaseback transactions that satisfy the requirements in IFRS 15 to be accounted for as a sale.

***International Tax Reform — Pillar Two Model Rules (Amendments to IAS 12)***

1-Jan-23

The amendments provide a temporary exception to the requirements regarding deferred tax assets and liabilities related to pillar two income taxes.

***Supplier Finance Arrangements (Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7)***

1-Jan-24

The amendments add disclosure requirements, and ‘signposts’ within existing disclosure requirements, that ask entities to provide qualitative and quantitative information about supplier finance arrangements.

The Group is assessing the impact that these amendments will have on its financial statements.

### 3. Summary of significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to the previous year.

#### 3.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) issued by the International Accounting Standards Board and are presented in Guyana dollars, which is the functional currency, rounded to the nearest thousand. The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis, modified for the measurement at fair value, of investment securities classified as fair value through profit or loss (FVPL) and fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI).

The preparation of these financial statements in conformity with IFRSs requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets, liabilities, contingent assets and contingent liabilities at the date of the financial statements and income and expenses during the period. Actual results could differ from these estimates. The areas involving a higher degree of judgment or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are disclosed in note 6.

#### 3.2 Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial information includes the accounts of Demerara Bank Limited and its 100% owned subsidiary, DB (St. Lucia) Inc.

Subsidiaries are entities over which the Group has control. The Group controls an entity when it is exposed to, or has rights to, variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the entity. All inter-company transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions with subsidiaries are eliminated for consolidation purposes.

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on October 26, 2023.

#### 3.3 Foreign currency translation

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the transaction date. Foreign currency monetary assets and liabilities are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the statement of financial position date, except as otherwise stated. Foreign exchange positions are valued daily at prevailing rates. Resulting translation differences and profits and losses from trading activities are included in the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

#### 3.4 Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated generally at historical cost, except for those measured at fair value, when they are tested for impairment. Historical cost includes expenditure directly attributable to the acquisition of the items.

Property, plant and equipment is tested for impairment whenever there is objective evidence that the carrying amount of the asset may exceed its recoverable amount. Any resulting impairment loss is recognised immediately in the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying value or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Group and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. The carrying amounts of replaced parts are derecognised. All repairs and maintenance are charged to the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Depreciation of property, plant and equipment excluding land, is provided for, over the estimated useful lives of the respective assets using the straight-line method.

The following annual depreciation rates are applicable for the respective asset categories:

Freehold building	2%
Furniture and equipment	10% - 20%
Motor vehicles	20%

### 3. Summary of significant accounting policies, continued

#### 3.4 Property, plant and equipment, continued

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of the useful life of the asset and the lease term. Land and construction work in progress are not depreciated.

The gain or loss arising on disposal or retirement of an item of property, plant and equipment is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and is recognised in the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

#### 3.5 Financial assets

##### 3.5.1 Classification and subsequent measurement

The Group classifies its financial assets in the following measurement categories:

- Fair value through profit or loss (FVPL)
- Fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) or
- Amortised cost

*The classification requirement for debt and equity instruments are described below.*

##### Debt Instruments

Debt instruments are those instruments that meet the definition of a financial liability from the issuer's perspective, such as loans, government and corporate bonds.

Classification and subsequent measurement of debt instruments depend on:

- (i) the Group's business model for managing the asset and
- (ii) the cash flow characteristics of the asset.

*Business model:* the business model reflects how the Group manages the assets in order to generate cash flows, that is, whether the Group's objective is solely to collect the contractual cash flow from the assets, that is to collect both the contractual cash flow and cash flow arising from the sale of assets.

Factors considered by the Group in determining the business model for a group of assets include past experience on how the cash flow for these assets are collected, how the asset performance is calculated and reported to key management and how risks are assessed and managed.

*Cash flow characteristics:* where the business model is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flow or to collect contractual cash flow and sell, the Group assesses whether the financial instruments' cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest (the SSPI test). In making this assessment, the Group considers whether the contractual cash flow are consistent with a basic lending arrangement, that is interest includes only consideration for the time value of money, credit risk, other basic lending arrangement risk and a profit margin consistent with a basic lending.

Based on these factors, the Group classifies its debt instruments into one of the following three measurement categories:

- *Amortised Cost:* Assets that are held for collection of contractual cash flows where those cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest (SPPI) and that are not designated at FVPL, are measured at amortised cost. The carrying amount of these assets is adjusted by any expected credit loss allowance. Interest income from these financial assets is included in interest income using the effective interest rate method.
- *Fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI):* Financial assets that are held for collection of contractual cash flows and for selling the assets, where the assets cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest, and that are not designated at FVPL, are measured at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI). Movement in the carrying amount are taken through OCI, except for the recognition of impairment gains or losses, interest revenue and foreign exchange gains and losses on the instruments amortised cost, which are recognised in the profit or loss. When the financial asset is derecognised, the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in OCI is reclassified from equity to profit or loss and recognised in other income. Interest income from these financial assets is included in 'Interest Income' using the effective interest rate method.



### 3. Summary of significant accounting policies, continued

#### 3.5 Financial assets, continued

##### 3.5.1 Classification and subsequent measurement, continued

###### *Debt Instruments, continued*

Fair value through profit or loss (FVPL): Assets that do not meet the criteria for amortised cost or FVOCI are measured at fair value through profit or loss. A gain or loss on a debt instrument that is subsequently measured at fair value through profit or loss is recognised in profit or loss and presented in the profit or loss statement in the period in which it arises, unless it arises from debt instruments that were designated at fair value or which are not held for trading in which case they are presented separately in investment income. Interest income from these financial assets is included in 'Interest income' using the effective interest rate method.

###### *Equity instruments*

Equity instruments are instruments that meet the definition of equity from the inner perspective; that is, instruments that do not contain a contractual obligation to pay and that evidence a residual interest in the inner net assets. The Group subsequently measures all equity investments at fair value through profit or loss, except when management has elected, at initial recognition, to irrevocably designate an equity investment at fair value through other comprehensive income. The Group's policy is to designate equity investment at fair value through other comprehensive income when these investments are held for the purpose other than to generate investment returns. When this election is used, fair value gains and losses, are recognised in OCI and are not subsequently reclassified through profit or loss, including on disposal. Impairment (and reversal of impairment loss) are not reported separately from other changes in fair value. Dividend, when representing a return on such investments, continue to be recognised in profit or loss as other income when the Group's right to receive payments is established. Gains and loss on equity investments at FVPL are included in net income in the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

##### 3.5.2 Impairment

###### *Expected credit loss (ECL)*

IFRS 9 outlines a three stage model for impairment based on changes in credit quality since initial recognition as summarised below:

- A financial instrument that is not credit impaired on initial recognition is classified in 'stage 1' and has its credit risk continuously monitored by the Group.
- If a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition is identified, the financial instrument is moved to 'stage 2' but is not yet to be credit impaired.
- If the financial instrument is credit impaired, the financial instrument moves to 'stage 3'.

Financial instruments in 'stage 1' have their ECL measured at an amount equal to the portion of lifetime expected credit losses that result from default events possible within the next 12 months. Instruments in stages 2 or 3 have their ECL measured based on expected credit losses on a lifetime basis.

A pervasive concept in measuring ECL in accordance with IFRS 9 is that it should consider forward looking information.

The Group assesses, on a forward looking basis, the ECL associated with its debt instruments assets at amortised cost and FVOCI and with the exposure arising from loan commitments and financial guarantee contracts. The Group recognises a loss allowance for such loss at each reporting date. The measurement of ECL reflects:

- An unbiased and probability weighted amount that is determined by evaluating a range of possible outcomes.
- The time value of money, and
- Reasonable and supportable information that is available without undue cost or effort at the reporting date about past events, current conditions and forecast of future economic conditions.

Purchased or originated credit impaired financial assets are those financial assets that are credit impaired on initial recognition. Their ECL is always measured on a lifetime basis (stage 3).

### 3. Summary of significant accounting policies, continued

#### 3.5 Financial assets, continued

##### 3.5.2 Impairment, continued

###### *Expected credit loss (ECL), continued*

The following table summarises the impairment requirements under IFRS 9 (other than purchased or originated credit-impaired financial assets):

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Initial recognition	Significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition	Credit Impaired assets
12-Month Expected Credit Loss.	Lifetime Expected Credit Loss.	Lifetime Expected Credit Loss.

###### *Loan portfolio review in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Institutions Act*

The Group also carries out a detailed review of its loan portfolio twice yearly in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Institutions Act (FIA) 1995.

Specific provisions are established as a result of these detailed reviews of individual loans and advances and reflect an amount which in management's judgment, provides adequately for estimated losses. Factors considered in such analyses include:

- (i) The customer's ability to generate sufficient cash flow to service debt obligations
- (ii) Breach of loan covenants or conditions
- (iii) Initiation of bankruptcy proceedings
- (iv) The realisable value of security (or other credit mitigants) and likelihood of successful repossession.

#### 3.6 Financial liabilities

In both the current and prior periods, financial liabilities are classified and subsequently measured at amortised cost except for financial guarantee contracts and loan commitments.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when they are extinguished (i.e. when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expired).

#### 3.7 Loans and advances

Loans and advances to customers comprise of loans and advances originated by the Group and are classified as financial assets at amortised cost net of allowances to reflect the estimated recoverable amount.

All loans and advances are recognised when cash is advanced to borrowers and are derecognised when borrowers repay their obligation or when the loan is written off. Loans are written off after all necessary legal procedures have been completed and the amount of the loss is finally determined.

A loan is classified as non-accrual when the borrower is in default and has not made scheduled payments of principal or interest for ninety days or more. For overdrafts, ninety days or more has elapsed since the overdraft limit has been exceeded or the overdraft has expired, or when, for loans and overdrafts, in the opinion of management, there is reasonable doubt as to the ultimate collectability of principal or interest.

Upon classification of a loan to non-accrual status, interest ceases to accrue and all previously accrued and unpaid interest is reversed in the current period. Interest is only recognised in subsequent periods, to the extent that payments of such interest are received.

### 3. Summary of significant accounting policies, continued

#### 3.7 Loans and advances, continued

Loans and advances are generally returned to accrual status when the timely collection of both principal and interest is reasonably assured and all delinquent principal and interest payments are brought current.

The Group may renegotiate or otherwise modify the contractual cash flows of loans to customers. When this happens, the Group assesses whether or not the new terms are substantially different to the original terms. The Group does this by considering, among others, the following factors:

- If the borrower is in financial difficulty, whether the modification merely reduces the contractual cash flows to amounts the borrower is expected to be able to pay.
- Significant extension of the loan term when the borrower is not in financial difficulty.
- Insertion of collateral, other security or credit enhancements that significantly affects the credit risk associated with the loan.

If the terms are substantially different, the Group derecognises the original financial asset and recognises a 'new' asset at fair value and recalculates a new effective interest rate for the asset. The date of renegotiation is consequently considered to be the date of initial recognition for impairment calculation purposes, including for the purpose of determining whether a significant increase in credit risk has occurred. However, the Group also assesses whether the new financial assets recognised is deemed to be credit-impaired at initial recognition, especially in the circumstances where the renegotiation was driven by the borrower being unable to make the originally agreed payments.

If the terms are not substantially different, the renegotiation or modification does not result in derecognition, and the Group recalculates the gross carrying amount based on the revised cash flows of the financial asset and recognises a modification gain or loss in profit or loss.

#### 3.8 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Group has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is probable that an outflow embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate of the amount of the obligation can be made.

#### 3.9 Dividend on ordinary shares

Dividends that are proposed and declared during the period are accounted for as an appropriation of retained earnings in the statement of changes in equity.

Dividends that are proposed and declared after the statement of financial position date are not shown as a liability on the statement of financial position but are disclosed in note 25 to the financial statements.

#### 3.10 Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefit will flow to the Group and the revenue can be reliably measured, regardless of when the payment is being made. Revenue is measured as the fair value of consideration received or receivable, taking into account contractually defined terms of payment and excluding taxes or duties. The Group has concluded that it is the principal in all of its revenue arrangements since it is the primary obligor in all the revenue arrangements, has pricing latitude and is also exposed to credit risk.

The specific recognition criteria described below must also be met before revenue is recognised.

##### *Interest income*

Interest income is accounted for on the accrual basis for financial assets measured at amortised cost calculated on an effective interest basis, other than non-accrual loans. The 'effective interest rate' is the rate that exactly discounts the estimated future cash payments and receipts through the expected life of the financial assets (or, where appropriate, a shorter period) to the carrying amount of the financial asset and is not revised subsequently. When calculating the effective interest rate, the Group estimates the future cash flows considering all contractual terms of the financial instrument, but not the future credit losses.

When a loan is classified as non-accrual, accrued but uncollected interest is reversed against income of the current period. Thereafter, interest income is recognised only after the loan reverts to performing status.

The Group's calculation of the effective interest rate includes all material fees received, transaction costs, discounts or premiums that are an integral part of the effective interest rate. Transaction costs include incremental costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition, issue or disposal of a financial asset.

### 3. Summary of significant accounting policies, continued

#### 3.10 Revenue recognition, continued

##### *Other income*

Other income comprises various fees and commissions, trading income and premium income. Fees and commissions that are material to the effective interest rate on a financial asset is included in the measurement of the effective interest rate.

##### *Deposit and payment services*

The Group provides deposit and payment services to retail and commercial customers. Revenue from account servicing fees is recognised over time as the services are provided. Transaction based fees are charged to the customer's account and recognised when the transaction takes place.

##### *Card revenues*

The Group offers credit cards facility for retail and commercial customers for their cash management and financing needs. Revenues include cardholder fees, interchange fees and merchant fees. Revenues are mainly transaction based and recognised when the card transaction takes place.

##### *Credit fees*

The Group provides working capital financing and trade services including bankers' acceptances and letters of credit. Transaction based fees are recognised when the transaction takes place. Loan origination fees are recognised over the term of the loan unless immaterial.

##### *Other fees and commission*

Other fees and commissions are recognised in income as the related services are performed.

#### 3.11 Pension

The Group participates in a multi-employer plan with certain other companies, the assets of which are held in trustee-administered funds which are separate from the Group's finances. The plan is generally funded by payments from participating companies taking account of recommendations of independent qualified actuaries.

#### 3.12 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise of cash on hand and short term highly liquid investments that are both readily convertible into known amounts of cash and so near to maturity that they present insignificant risk of changes in value due to changing interest rates.

#### 3.13 Acceptances, guarantees and letters of credit

The Group's commitments under acceptances, guarantees and letters of credit have been excluded from these financial statements because they do not meet the criteria for recognition. These commitments as at September 30, 2023 amounted to \$2,480,593,000 (2022 - \$4,334,878,000) see note 27 (iii). In the event of a call on these commitments, the Group has equal and offsetting claims against its customers.

Financial guarantees are contracts that require the Group to make specified payments to reimburse the holder for a loss that occurs because a specified debtor fails to make payment when it is due in accordance with the terms of a debt instrument.

'Loan commitments' are firm commitments to provide credit under pre-specified terms and conditions.

#### 3.14 Taxation

Tax expense for the period comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised directly in equity. In this case the tax is also recognised in equity.

##### *Current tax*

The current income tax is calculated on the basis of the tax laws enacted at the statement of financial position date. Management periodically evaluates positions taken in tax returns with respect to situations in which applicable tax regulation is subject to interpretation.

### 3. Summary of significant accounting policies, continued

#### 3.14 Taxation, continued

##### *Deferred tax*

Deferred tax is provided using the balance sheet method on all temporary differences between the carrying amounts for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for taxation purposes, except differences relating to the initial recognition of assets or liabilities which affect neither accounting nor taxable income (loss). Net deferred tax assets are reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that the related tax benefit will be realised.

Deferred tax is calculated on the basis of the tax rate that is expected to apply to the period when the asset is realised or the liability is settled. The effect on deferred tax of any changes in the tax rate is charged to the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, except to the extent that it relates to items previously charged or credited directly to equity.

#### 3.15 Leases

The Group assesses whether a contract is or contains a lease, at inception of a contract. The Group recognises a right-of-use asset and a corresponding lease liability with respect to all lease agreements in which it is the lessee except for short-term leases with a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low value assets. For these leases, the Group recognises the lease payments as an expense on a straight line basis in the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income over the term of the lease.

For all other leases, at lease commencement date, the Group recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability on the consolidated statement of financial position. The right-of-use asset is measured at cost, which is made up of the initial measurement of the lease liability, any initial direct costs incurred by the Group, and any lease payments made in advance of the lease commencement date. The Group measures the lease liability at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at that date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease if that rate is readily available or average lending rate. Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability are made up of fixed payments and payments arising from options reasonably certain to be exercised

The Group depreciates right-of-use assets on a straight-line basis from the lease commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. The Group also assesses the right-of-use asset for impairment when such indicators exist.

#### 3.16 Segment reporting

A business segment is a component of an entity that is engaged in providing products or services that are subject to risks and returns that are different from those of other business segments. A geographical segment is a component engaged in providing products or services within a particular economic environment that are subject to risks and returns that are different from those of segments operating in other economic environments.

#### 3.17 Comparatives

Certain 2022 figures have been reclassified to conform with the financial statements presentation adopted in 2023.

#### **4. Financial risk management**

The Group's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks: market risk (including price risk, interest rate risk and currency risk), liquidity risk and credit risk. The Group's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the Group's performance.

The Board of Directors is responsible for the overall risk management approach and for approving the risk strategies and principles.

The Group's management monitors and manages the financial risks relating to the operations of the Group through internal risk reports which analyse exposures by degree and magnitude of risks.

The Group's risks are measured using methods which reflect the expected loss likely to arise in normal circumstances.

Monitoring and controlling risks is primarily performed based on limits established by the Group. These limits reflect the business strategy and market environment of the Group as well as the level of risk that the Group is willing to accept.

The Group actively uses collateral to rescue its credit risks.

(a) *Market risk*

The Group's activities expose it to financial risks of changes in foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates. The Group uses gap analysis, interest rate sensitivity and exposure limits to financial instruments to manage its exposure to interest rate and foreign currency risks.

(i) *Price risk*

Price risk is the risk that the value of financial instruments will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices, whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual security of its issuer or factors affecting all securities traded in the market. Management continually identifies the risk and diversifies the portfolio to minimise the risk.

(ii) *Interest rate risk*

The Group is exposed to interest rate risk but the Group's sensitivity to interest rate fluctuation is immaterial as its financial instruments are substantially at fixed rates. The Group's interest bearing financial assets and financial liabilities are disclosed on page 54.

**4. Financial risk management, continued**

**(a) (ii) Interest rate risk, continued**

	Average Interest rate	COMPANY				Total
		Maturing 2023				
		Within 1 year	1-5 years	Over 5 years	Non-interest bearing	
%	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
<b>Assets</b>						
Cash resources	2.40	4,183,308	-	-	21,675,392	25,858,700
Net loans to customers	9.44	29,703,027	9,350,307	32,279,373	42,011	71,374,718
Investments	4.98	1,450,476	5,778,896	20,593,891	187,802	28,011,065
Others		-	-	-	35,264,285	35,264,285
		<u>35,336,811</u>	<u>15,129,203</u>	<u>52,873,264</u>	<u>57,169,490</u>	<u>160,508,768</u>
<b>Liabilities and shareholders' equity</b>						
Customers' deposits	0.70	123,958,610	15,152,089	-	-	139,110,699
Other liabilities		-	-	-	694,734	694,734
Shareholders' equity		-	-	-	20,703,335	20,703,335
		<u>123,958,610</u>	<u>15,152,089</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,398,069</u>	<u>160,508,768</u>
<b>Interest sensitivity gap</b>		<u>(88,621,799)</u>	<u>(22,886)</u>	<u>52,873,264</u>	<u>35,771,421</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>2022</b>						
	Average Interest rate	Within 1 year	1-5 years	Over 5 years	Non- interest bearing	Total
	%	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Assets</b>						
Cash resources	0.76	1,273,820	-	-	21,694,594	22,968,414
Net loans to customers	8.06	23,454,975	3,517,423	30,895,828	324,683	58,192,909
Investments	5.42	1,364,170	1,301,063	37,300,917	-	39,966,150
Others		-	-	-	5,442,369	5,442,369
		<u>26,092,965</u>	<u>4,818,486</u>	<u>68,196,745</u>	<u>27,461,646</u>	<u>126,569,842</u>
<b>Liabilities and shareholders' equity</b>						
Customers' deposits	0.70	89,195,510	25,000	-	17,763,889	106,984,399
Other liabilities		-	-	-	2,845,538	2,845,538
Shareholders' equity		-	-	-	16,739,905	16,739,905
		<u>89,195,510</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,349,332</u>	<u>126,569,842</u>
<b>Interest sensitivity gap</b>		<u>(63,102,545)</u>	<u>4,793,486</u>	<u>68,196,745</u>	<u>(9,887,686)</u>	<u>-</u>

**4. Financial risk management, continued**

**(a) (ii) Interest rate risk, continued**

	Average Interest rate  %	GROUP Maturing 2023				Total  \$'000
		Within 1 year  \$'000	1-5 years  \$'000	Over 5 years  \$'000	Non-interest bearing  \$'000	
<b>Assets</b>						
Cash resources	2.40	5,118,582	-	-	23,880,463	28,999,045
Net loans to customers	9.44	29,703,027	9,350,307	32,279,373	42,011	71,374,718
Investments	4.98	1,958,870	15,253,694	34,095,091	2,213,833	53,521,488
Others		-	-	-	5,694,200	5,694,200
		<u>36,780,479</u>	<u>24,604,001</u>	<u>66,374,464</u>	<u>31,830,507</u>	<u>159,589,451</u>
<b>Liabilities and shareholders' equity</b>						
Customers' deposits	0.70	123,958,610	15,152,089	-	-	139,110,699
Other liabilities		-	-	-	695,734	695,734
Shareholders' equity		-	-	-	19,783,018	19,783,018
		<u>123,958,610</u>	<u>15,152,089</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,478,752</u>	<u>159,589,451</u>
<b>Interest sensitivity gap</b>		<u>(87,178,131)</u>	<u>9,451,912</u>	<u>66,374,464</u>	<u>11,351,755</u>	<u>-</u>



#### 4. Financial risk management, continued

##### (a) (iii) Currency risk

The Group has assets and liabilities that are denominated in various currencies other than the reporting currency. Management does not believe that the net exposure to foreign currency risk can result in material loss to the Group.

The aggregate Guyana dollars equivalent amount of assets and liabilities denominated in currencies other than the reporting currency are as follows:

	<b>GROUP</b>					
	<b>2023</b>					
	US Dollar	Pound Sterling	Euro	CDN Dollar	Others	Total
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Assets</b>						
Cash resources	5,073,441	197,564	27,788	2,597	10,887	5,312,278
Investments	26,767,476	-	227,735	-	-	26,995,211
Investment in subsidiary	2,156,500	-	-	-	-	2,156,500
Loans and advances	-	-	-	21,540	-	21,540
Due from related party	27,413,585	-	-	-	-	27,413,585
	<u>61,411,001</u>	<u>197,564</u>	<u>255,523</u>	<u>24,138</u>	<u>10,887</u>	<u>61,899,114</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Deposits	17,223,912	1,133	8,692	2,161	-	17,235,898
	<u>17,223,912</u>	<u>1,133</u>	<u>8,692</u>	<u>2,161</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>17,235,898</u>
<b>Net</b>	<u>44,187,089</u>	<u>(196,431)</u>	<u>246,831</u>	<u>21,977</u>	<u>10,887</u>	<u>44,663,216</u>
	<b>COMPANY</b>					
	<b>2022</b>					
	US Dollar	Pound Sterling	Euro	CDN Dollar	Others	Total
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Assets</b>						
Cash resources	4,718,580	36,624	321,709	41,310	(36,080)	5,082,143
Investments	39,224,456	6,659	352,484	188,449	52,585	39,824,633
Loans and advances	1,508,500	-	-	27,656	-	1,536,156
	<u>45,451,536</u>	<u>43,283</u>	<u>674,193</u>	<u>257,415</u>	<u>16,505</u>	<u>46,442,932</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Deposits	13,445,835	25,876	33,970	2,395	-	13,508,076
Other liabilities	1,508,500	-	-	-	-	1,508,500
	<u>14,954,335</u>	<u>25,876</u>	<u>33,970</u>	<u>2,395</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,016,576</u>
<b>Net</b>	<u>30,497,201</u>	<u>17,407</u>	<u>640,223</u>	<u>255,020</u>	<u>16,505</u>	<u>31,426,356</u>

**4. Financial risk management, continued**

**(a) (iii) Currency risk, continued**

The following table demonstrates the sensitivity movements of selected currencies against the Guyana Dollar to which the Group has significant exposure in respect of its financial assets and liabilities holding all other variable constant:

	<b>GROUP</b>		
	<b>Change in exchange rates</b>	<b>Effect on profit before tax</b>	<b>Effect on other components of equity</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Year ended September 30, 2023</b>			
<u>Revaluation in exchange rates</u>			
USD	2%	883,742	51,046
GBP	2%	3,929	-
EURO	2%	4,937	-
CAD	2%	440	-
		<u>893,046</u>	<u>51,046</u>
<u>Devaluation in exchange rates</u>			
USD	2%	(883,742)	(51,046)
GBP	2%	(3,929)	-
EURO	2%	(4,937)	-
CAD	2%	(440)	-
		<u>(893,046)</u>	<u>(51,046)</u>
	<b>Change in exchange rates</b>	<b>Effect on profit before tax</b>	<b>Effect on other components of equity</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Year ended September 30, 2022</b>			
<u>Revaluation in exchange rates</u>			
USD	2%	609,944	67,500
GBP	2%	348	-
EURO	2%	12,804	-
CAD	2%	5,100	-
OTHERS	2%	330	-
		<u>628,526</u>	<u>67,500</u>
<u>Devaluation in exchange rates</u>			
USD	2%	(609,944)	67,500
GBP	2%	(348)	-
EURO	2%	(12,804)	-
CAD	2%	(5,100)	-
OTHERS	2%	(330)	-
		<u>(628,526)</u>	<u>(67,500)</u>

#### 4. Financial risk management, continued

##### (b) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises from fluctuations in cash flows. The liquidity risk management process ensures the Group is able to honour all of its financial commitments as they fall due. The Group's liquidity strategy includes measuring and forecasting cash commitments, building a large and stable base of core deposits for retail and commercial customers, ensuring sufficient cash and marketable instruments such as treasury bills and government securities are available to meet short-term requirements, diversifying funding sources and maintaining the ability to securitise Group assets. Fallback techniques include access to local interbank and institutional markets and stand-by lines of credit with external parties.

The table below shows the maturities of financial instruments:

	<b>COMPANY</b>					
	<b>Maturing 2023</b>					
	<b>Within 1 year</b>					
	<b>On Demand \$'000</b>	<b>Due in 3 mths \$'000</b>	<b>Due 3-12 mths \$'000</b>	<b>1 to 5 years \$'000</b>	<b>Over 5 years \$'000</b>	<b>Total \$'000</b>
<b>Assets</b>						
Cash resources	25,858,700	-	-	-	-	25,858,700
Loans to customers	22,968,493	2,467,846	4,266,688	9,392,318	32,279,373	71,374,718
Investments	1,106,900	-	432,316	5,778,896	20,692,953	28,011,065
Others	5,694,200	-	-	-	29,570,085	35,264,285
	<u>55,628,293</u>	<u>2,467,846</u>	<u>4,699,004</u>	<u>15,171,214</u>	<u>82,542,411</u>	<u>160,508,768</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Customers' deposits	114,547,801	5,116,486	4,294,324	15,152,088	-	139,110,699
Other liabilities	694,734	-	-	-	-	694,734
	<u>115,242,535</u>	<u>5,116,486</u>	<u>4,294,324</u>	<u>15,152,088</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>139,805,433</u>
<b>Net gap</b>	<u>(59,614,242)</u>	<u>(2,648,640)</u>	<u>404,680</u>	<u>19,126</u>	<u>82,542,411</u>	<u>20,703,335</u>

**4. Financial risk management, continued**

**(b) Liquidity risk, continued**

	<b>2022</b>					<b>Total</b>
	<b>On</b>	<b>Within 1 year</b>		<b>1 to 5</b>	<b>Over</b>	
		<b>Demand</b>	<b>Due in</b>			
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>3 mths</b>	<b>3-12 mths</b>	<b>years</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Assets</b>						
Cash resources	22,968,414	-	-	-	-	22,968,414
Loans to customers	19,534,724	110,006	3,810,940	3,517,423	31,219,816	58,192,909
Investments	1,364,170	-	-	1,301,063	37,300,917	39,966,150
Others	5,442,369	-	-	-	-	5,442,369
	<u>49,309,677</u>	<u>110,006</u>	<u>3,810,940</u>	<u>4,818,486</u>	<u>68,520,733</u>	<u>126,569,842</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Customers' deposits	75,199,964	8,607,838	23,151,597	25,000	-	106,984,399
Other liabilities	2,845,538	-	-	-	-	2,845,538
	<u>78,045,502</u>	<u>8,607,838</u>	<u>23,151,597</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>109,829,937</u>
<b>Net gap</b>	<u>(28,735,825)</u>	<u>(8,497,832)</u>	<u>(19,340,657)</u>	<u>4,793,486</u>	<u>68,520,733</u>	<u>16,739,905</u>

**GROUP**

**Maturing 2023**

	<b>Within 1 year</b>					<b>Total</b>
	<b>On</b>	<b>Due in</b>	<b>Due</b>	<b>1 to 5</b>	<b>Over</b>	
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Assets</b>						
Cash resources	28,999,045	-	-	-	-	28,999,045
Loans to customers	22,968,493	2,467,846	4,266,688	9,392,318	32,279,373	71,374,718
Investments	3,133,038	465,804	474,184	15,254,310	34,194,152	53,521,488
Others	5,694,200	-	-	-	-	5,694,200
	<u>60,794,776</u>	<u>2,933,650</u>	<u>4,740,872</u>	<u>24,646,628</u>	<u>66,473,525</u>	<u>159,589,451</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>						
Customers' deposits	114,547,801	5,116,486	4,294,324	15,152,088	-	139,110,699
Other liabilities	695,734	-	-	-	-	695,734
	<u>115,243,535</u>	<u>5,116,486</u>	<u>4,294,324</u>	<u>15,152,088</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>139,806,433</u>
<b>Net gap</b>	<u>(54,448,759)</u>	<u>(2,182,836)</u>	<u>446,548</u>	<u>9,494,540</u>	<u>66,473,525</u>	<u>19,783,018</u>

#### 4. Financial risk management, continued

##### (c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that the Group will incur a loss because its customers, clients or counterparties failed to discharge their contractual obligations. The Group manages and controls credit risk by setting limits on the amounts or risk it is willing to accept for individual counterparties and for geographical and industry concentrations and by monitoring exposures in relation to such limits.

The Group structures the level of credit risk it undertakes by placing limits on the amount of risk accepted in relation to one borrower, or group of borrowers, and to geographical and industry segments. Such risks are monitored on a revolving basis and subject to an annual or more frequent review, when considered necessary. Limits on level of credit risk by product is approved by the Board of Directors.

##### *Collateral*

The Group employs a range of policies and practices to mitigate credit risks. The most traditional of these is the taking of security for funds advanced. The Group implements guidelines on the acceptability of specific class of collateral or credit risk mitigation. The principal collateral types for loans and advances to customers are:

- Mortgages over residential properties;
- Charges over business assets such as premises, inventory and accounts receivable;
- Charges over financial instruments such as debt securities and equities.

Debt and equity securities and treasury bills are generally unsecured.

Management monitors the market value of collateral and requests additional collateral in accordance with the underlying agreement.

The Group's policies regarding obtaining collateral have not changed during the reporting period and there has been no significant change in the overall quality of collateral held by the Group since the prior period.

The Group closely monitors collateral held for financial assets considered to be credit impaired, as it becomes more likely that the Group will take possession of collateral to mitigate potential credit losses.

##### *Impairment and provisioning*

Expected Credit Loss (ECL) is measured in either 12-month or lifetime basis depending on whether a significant increase in credit risk has occurred since initial recognition or whether an asset is considered to be credit impaired.

The estimation of credit exposure for risk management purposes is complex and requires the use of models, as the exposures varies with changes in market conditions, expected cash flows and the passage of time. The assessment of credit risk of a portfolio of assets entails further estimation as to the likelihood of defaults occurring, of the associated loss ratios and of default correlations between counterparties. The Group measures credit risk using probability of default (PD), exposure at default (EAD) and loss given default (LGD).

- The PD represents the likelihood of borrower's defaulting on their financial obligations, either over the next 12 months (12M PD) or over the remaining lifetime of the obligation.
- EAD is based on the amounts the Group expects to be owed at the time of default, over the next 12 months or over the lifetime.
- LGD represents the Group's expectation of the extent of loss on a defaulted exposure. LGD varies by type of counterparty and availability of collateral or other credit support.

For additional information on impairment refer to note 3.5.2.

#### 4. Financial risk management, continued

##### (C) Credit risk, continued

The Group defines a financial instrument as in default, which is fully aligned with the definition of credit impaired, when it meets one or more of the following criteria:

##### *Quantitative criteria*

The borrower is more than 90 days past its contractual payments.

##### *Qualitative criteria*

There are indications that the borrower is in significant financial difficulty. The following are considered indications:

- The borrower is deceased
- The borrower is insolvent
- The borrower is in breach of financial covenant
- An active market for the financial asset has disappeared because of the financial difficulties
- Concessions have been made by the lender relating to the borrower's financial difficulties
- It is becoming probable that the borrower will enter bankruptcy
- Financial assets are purchased or originated at a deep discount that reflects the incurred credit losses

The following table breaks down the Group's main credit exposure of their carrying amounts, as categorised by industry sectors:

	<b>COMPANY &amp; GROUP</b>	
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Loans and advances</b>		
Agriculture and fisheries	14,400,403	9,422,000
Housing	17,456,437	12,325,663
Services	20,936,039	19,139,137
Others	18,345,038	17,127,799
	<u>71,137,917</u>	<u>58,014,669</u>

##### *Credit quality of financial assets*

The Group's maximum exposure to credit risk, before collateral held or credit enhancement, is detailed below:

	<b>COMPANY</b>		<b>GROUP</b>
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<u>Credit risk recognised on the statement of financial position</u>			
Deposit with Central Bank	22,262,240	17,418,145	22,262,240
Due from banks	2,551,831	4,559,761	5,692,176
Investment securities	28,011,065	39,966,150	53,521,488
Loans and advances	71,374,718	58,192,909	71,374,718
<u>Credit risk not recognised on the statement of financial position</u>			
Acceptances, guarantees and letters of credit	<u>2,480,593</u>	<u>4,334,878</u>	<u>2,480,593</u>
Total credit risk exposure	<u>126,680,447</u>	<u>124,471,843</u>	<u>155,331,215</u>

**4. Financial risk management, continued**

**(c) Credit risk, continued**

*Credit quality of financial assets, continued*

*The credit quality of financial assets that are neither past due nor impaired can be assessed by reference to external credit ratings (if available) or to historical information about counterparty default rates:*

	COMPANY		GROUP	
	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000	2023 \$'000	
<b>Investment securities</b>				
<b>Counterparts with credit ratings</b>				
<i>Credit rating</i>	<i>Rating agency</i>			
A-	Standard & Poor's	425,995	1,464,107	425,995
BBB	Standard & Poor's	576,702	712,497	576,702
BBB-	Standard & Poor's	2,917,876	2,730,520	2,917,876
BB+	Standard & Poor's	5,249,734	5,022,175	5,249,734
BB	Standard & Poor's	-	3,683,208	-
BB-	Standard & Poor's	4,705,377	6,129,066	4,705,377
B+	Standard & Poor's	286,492	4,627,056	286,492
B	Standard & Poor's	-	-	21,323
B-	Standard & Poor's	1,411,241	1,403,224	1,411,241
Aaa	Moody's	3,716,612	-	11,976,772
A1	Moody's	651,048	1,090,333	2,227,985
A2	Moody's	-	272,852	113,493
A3	Moody's	-	53,939	254,624
Aa2	Moody's	-	315,038	309,746
Aa3	Moody's	-	252,513	199,117
B1	Moody's	-	-	141,488
B2	Moody's	-	1,120,299	3,325,017
Ba1	Moody's	1,369,166	1,330,898	3,340,652
Ba2	Moody's	-	2,030,541	2,155,689
Ba3	Moody's	375,145	1,285,389	375,145
Baa1	Moody's	-	36,412	28,456
Baa2	Moody's	2,077,582	40,225	2,183,804
Baa3	Moody's	2,574,285	5,571,101	8,869,865
<b>Counterparts without credit ratings</b>				
Group 2		1,236,813	98,309	1,587,983
		27,574,068	39,269,702	52,684,576
<b>Loans and advances</b>				
<u>2023</u>		<b>COMPANY &amp; GROUP</b>		
	<b>Group 1</b>	<b>Group 2</b>	<b>Group 3</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Commercial	13,170,287	22,066,713	41,288	35,278,288
Mortgages	1,814,281	15,633,719	1,232	17,449,232
Others	967,481	17,279,826	20	18,247,328
	15,952,049	54,980,258	42,540	70,974,848
<u>2022</u>				
	<b>Group 1</b>	<b>Group 2</b>	<b>Group 3</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Commercial	8,893,852	31,180,330	43,370	40,117,552
Mortgages	588,594	11,675,040	2,979	12,266,613
Others	727,362	4,579,531	-	5,306,893
	10,209,808	47,434,901	46,349	57,691,058
		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	
		<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	
<b>Due from banks and short term deposits</b>	<b>Group 2</b>	2,551,831	4,559,760,877	
<b>Deposit with Central Bank</b>	<b>Group 2</b>	22,262,240	17,418,145,467	

Group 1 - New customers/bankers - less than six months.

Group 2 - Existing customers/bankers more than six months with no defaults in the past.

Group 3 - Existing customers/bankers with some defaults in the past. All defaults were fully recovered.

**4. Financial risk management, continued**

**(c) Credit risk, continued**

*Credit quality of financial assets, continued*

**Credit quality by class of financial assets**

As at September 30, 2023	COMPANY			
	Neither past due nor impaired \$'000	Past due but not impaired \$'000	Impaired \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Due from banks and short term investments</b>	2,551,831	-	-	2,551,831
<b>Deposit with Central Bank other than statutory deposit</b>	5,568,542	-	-	5,568,542
<b>Deposit with Central Bank</b>	16,693,698	-	-	16,693,698
<b>Investment securities</b>				
<i>Available for sale:</i>				
Government	15,816,160	-	-	15,816,160
Corporate	11,128,213	-	-	11,128,213
Others	1,066,691	-	-	1,066,691
	<u>52,825,136</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,825,136</u>
<b>Loans to customers</b>				
Commercial	35,293,641	42,801	-	35,336,442
Mortgages	17,373,134	83,303	-	17,456,437
Others	18,578,561	3,278	-	18,581,839
	<u>71,245,336</u>	<u>129,382</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>71,374,718</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>124,070,472</u>	<u>129,382</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>124,199,854</u>
As at September 30, 2022				
	Neither past due nor impaired \$'000	Past due but not impaired \$'000	Impaired \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Due from banks and short term investments</b>	4,559,761	-	-	4,559,761
<b>Deposit with Central Bank other than statutory deposit</b>	4,589,493	-	-	4,589,493
<b>Deposit with Central Bank</b>	12,828,653	-	-	12,828,653
<b>Investment securities</b>				
<i>Available for sale:</i>				
Government	9,942,211	-	-	9,942,211
Corporate	29,843,359	-	-	29,843,359
Others	180,579	-	-	180,579
	<u>61,944,056</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>61,944,056</u>
<b>Loans to customers</b>				
Commercial	34,070,766	306,330	307,877	34,684,973
Mortgages	12,325,663	-	-	12,325,663
Others	11,164,640	1,900	15,733	11,182,273
	<u>57,561,069</u>	<u>308,230</u>	<u>323,610</u>	<u>58,192,909</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>119,505,125</u>	<u>308,230</u>	<u>323,610</u>	<u>120,136,965</u>



**4. Financial risk management, continued**

**(c) Credit risk, continued**

*Credit quality of financial assets, continued*

**Credit quality by class of financial assets**

As at September 30, 2023	GROUP			
	Neither past due nor impaired \$'000	Past due but not impaired \$'000	Impaired \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Due from banks and short term investments</b>	5,692,176	-	-	5,692,176
<b>Deposit with Central Bank other than statutory deposit</b>	5,568,542	-	-	5,568,542
<b>Deposit with Central Bank</b>	16,693,698	-	-	16,693,698
<b>Investment securities</b>				
<i>Available for sale:</i>				
Government	15,816,160	-	-	15,816,160
Corporate	36,638,637	-	-	36,638,637
Others	1,066,691	-	-	1,066,691
	81,475,905	-	-	81,475,905
<b>Loans to customers</b>				
Commercial	35,293,641	42,801	-	35,336,442
Mortgages	17,373,134	83,303	-	17,456,437
Others	18,578,561	3,278	-	18,581,839
	71,245,336	129,382	-	71,374,718
<b>Total</b>	152,721,241	129,382	-	152,850,623

#### 4. Financial risk management, continued

##### (d) Capital management

The Group's objectives when managing capital, which is a broader concept than the 'equity' on the face of the statement of financial position are:

- To comply with the capital requirement set by the regulators.
- To safeguard the Group's ability to continue as a going concern so that it can continue to provide returns for shareholders and other benefits for stakeholders; and
- To maintain a strong capital base to support the development of its business.

Capital adequacy and the use of regulatory capital are monitored daily by the Group's management, employing techniques based on the guidelines developed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision as implemented by the Bank of Guyana. The required information is filed with the authorities on a monthly basis.

The Table below summarises the composition of regulatory capital and the ratios of the Group for the years ended September 30, 2023 and 2022. During those two years the Group complied with the externally imposed capital requirements to which they are subject.

	COMPANY		GROUP
	2023	2022	2023
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
<b>Tier I Capital</b>			
Share capital	450,000	450,000	450,000
Statutory reserve	450,000	450,000	450,000
Retained earnings	22,355,652	19,214,899	22,367,775
	<hr/> 23,255,652	<hr/> 20,114,899	<hr/> 23,267,775
<b>Tier II Capital</b>			
Securities revaluation reserves	(2,522,317)	(3,374,994)	(3,484,757)
	<hr/> 20,703,334	<hr/> 16,739,906	<hr/> 19,783,018
Risk weighted assets:			
On-balance sheet	92,963,715	67,913,667	121,614,483
Off-balance sheet	1,561,385	2,517,868	1,561,385
	<hr/> 94,525,100	<hr/> 70,431,535	<hr/> 123,175,868
Total risk weighted assets	<hr/> 94,525,100	<hr/> 70,431,535	<hr/> 123,175,868
Total regulatory capital to risk weighted assets %	<hr/> 21.90	<hr/> 23.77	<hr/> 16.06

## 5. Fair value of financial assets and liabilities

The fair value of financial instruments that are recognised on the statement of financial position and the fair value of financial instruments that are not recognised on the statement of financial position are based on the valuation method and assumptions set out in the significant accounting policies note 3.5.

Fair value represents the amount at which a financial instrument could be exchanged in an arm's length transaction between willing parties under no compulsion to act and is best evidenced by a quoted market price. If no quoted market prices are available, the fair values are estimated using present value or other valuation techniques and may not be indicative of net realisable value.

The Group measures fair value using the following fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of the inputs used in making the measurements:

- Level 1 - Quoted market price (adjusted) in an active market for an identical instrument.
- Level 2 - Valuation techniques based on observable inputs, either directly (i.e. as prices) or indirectly (i.e. derived from prices). This category includes instruments valued using: quoted market prices in active markets for similar instruments; quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are considered less active; or other valuation techniques where all significant inputs are directly or indirectly observable from market data.
- Level 3 - Valuation techniques that include inputs for financial assets and liabilities that are not based on observable market data. This category includes financial instruments held at cost, being the fair value of the consideration paid for the acquisition of the investment, and are regularly assessed for impairment.

Due to judgment used in applying a wide range of acceptable valuation techniques and estimations in the calculation of fair value amounts, fair values are not necessarily comparable among financial institutions. The calculation of estimated fair values is based upon market conditions at a specific point in time and may not be reflective of future fair values.

The following table summarises the carrying amount and fair values of the Group's financial assets and liabilities:

	COMPANY		2023 GROUP		Fair Value Measurement Hierarchy
	Carrying Value \$'000	Fair Value \$'000	Carrying Value \$'000	Fair Value \$'000	
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash on hand	1,044,628	1,044,628	4,184,973	4,184,973	Level 1
Due from banks	2,551,831	2,551,831	2,551,831	2,551,831	Level 1
Deposit with Central Bank other than statutory deposit	5,568,542	5,568,542	5,568,542	5,568,542	Level 1
Statutory deposit with Central Bank	16,693,698	16,693,698	16,693,698	16,693,698	Level 1
Net loans to customers	71,374,718	71,374,718	71,374,718	71,374,718	Level 3
Other financial asset	29,674,347	29,674,347	29,674,347	29,674,347	Level 3
<i>Investment securities</i>					
Fair value through other comprehensive income (Quoted)	31,108,872	26,855,017	55,525,790	50,339,496	Level 1
Fair value through profit and loss (Quoted)	138,185	88,741	2,393,693	2,114,685	Level 1
Amortised cost (Unquoted)	1,067,307	1,067,307	1,067,307	1,067,307	Level 3
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>159,222,128</b>	<b>154,918,829</b>	<b>189,034,899</b>	<b>183,569,597</b>	
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Deposits	139,110,699	139,110,699	139,110,699	139,110,699	Level 3
Other financial liabilities	694,734	694,734	28,109,344	28,109,344	Level 3
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>	<b>139,805,433</b>	<b>139,805,433</b>	<b>167,220,043</b>	<b>167,220,043</b>	

**5. Fair value of financial assets and liabilities, continued**

	<u>2022</u>		Fair Value Measurement Hierarchy
	Carrying Value \$'000	Fair Value \$'000	
<b>COMPANY</b>			
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Cash on hand	990,507	990,507	Level 1
Due from banks	4,559,761	4,559,761	Level 1
Deposit with Central Bank other than statutory deposit	4,589,493	4,589,493	Level 1
Statutory deposit with Central Bank	12,828,653	12,828,653	Level 1
Net loans to customers	58,192,909	58,192,909	Level 3
Other financial asset	64,427	64,427	Level 3
<i>Investment securities</i>			
Fair value through other comprehensive income (Quoted)	44,093,810	38,468,828	Level 1
Fair value through profit and loss (Quoted)	2,472,693	1,316,742	Level 1
Amortised cost (Unquoted)	180,579	180,579	Level 3
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<u>127,972,832</u>	<u>121,191,899</u>	
<b>Financial liabilities</b>			
Deposits	106,984,399	106,984,399	Level 3
Other financial liabilities	2,845,538	2,845,538	Level 3
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>	<u>109,829,937</u>	<u>109,829,937</u>	

**Transfers between Level 1 and 2**

For the year ended September 30, 2023, no asset was transferred between Level 1 and Level 2.

**Reconciliation of movements in Level 3 financial instruments measured at fair value**

For the year ended September 30, 2023, there were no Level 3 financial instruments measured at fair value.

## 6. Critical accounting estimates and judgments in applying accounting policies

The Group makes estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year. Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

### (a) *Measurement of expected credit loss allowance*

The measurement of expected credit loss allowance for financial assets measured at amortised cost and FVOCI is an area that requires the use of complex models and significant assumptions about future economic conditions and credit behaviour (eg. likelihood of customers defaulting and the resulting losses). Explanations of the inputs, assumptions and estimation techniques used in measuring ECL is further detailed in note 3.5.2.

A number of significant judgments are also required in applying the accounting requirements for measuring ECL such as:

- (i) Determining criteria for significant increase in credit risk;
- (ii) Choosing appropriate models and assumptions for the measurement of ECL;
- (iii) Establishing the number and relative weighting of forward-looking scenarios for each type of product/market and the associated ECL; and
- (iv) Establishing groups of similar financial assets for the purpose of measuring ECL.

### (b) *Determining fair values*

The determination of fair value for financial assets and liabilities for which there is no observable market price requires the use of valuation techniques as described in note 5. For financial instruments that trade infrequently and have little price transparency, fair value is less objective and requires varying degrees of judgment depending on liquidity, concentration, uncertainty of market factors, pricing assumptions and other risks affecting the specific instrument.

### (c) *Financial asset and liability classification*

The Group's accounting policies provide scope for assets and liabilities to be designated on inception into different accounting categories in certain circumstances.

In classifying financial assets or liabilities as "fair value through profit or loss", the Group has determined that it meets the description of trading assets and liabilities set out in accounting policy 3.5.1.

### (d) *Useful life of property, plant and equipment*

Property, plant and equipment is amortised over the estimated useful life of the assets. Changes in the estimated useful lives could significantly increase or decrease the amount of depreciation recorded during the year and the carrying value of property, plant and equipment.

## 7. Statutory deposits with the Central Bank

In accordance with the Financial Institutions Act, 1995 the Group is required to hold and maintain, as a non-interest bearing deposit with Central Bank of Guyana, a cash reserve balance equivalent to 12% (2022 - 12%) of total prescribed liabilities.

	<b>COMPANY &amp; GROUP</b>	
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Primary	16,693,698	12,828,653
Total	<u>16,693,698</u>	<u>12,828,653</u>

**8. Investments**

<u>2023</u>	COMPANY			<b>Total</b>
	<b>Stage 1</b>	<b>Stage 2</b>	<b>Stage 3</b>	
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
<b>Gross</b>				
Shares	1,117,982	-	-	1,117,982
Corporate bonds	26,316,804	38,066	926,216	27,281,086
Accrued interest	447,481	-	-	447,481
	<b>27,882,267</b>	<b>38,066</b>	<b>926,216</b>	<b>28,846,549</b>
ECL	(4,363)	(6,121)	(825,000)	(835,484)
<b>Net</b>	<b>27,877,904</b>	<b>31,945</b>	<b>101,216</b>	<b>28,011,065</b>
<u>2022</u>	<b>Stage 1</b>	<b>Stage 2</b>	<b>Stage 3</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
<b>Gross</b>				
Shares	1,374,647	-	-	1,374,647
Corporate bonds	37,288,472	606,583	-	37,895,055
Accrued interest	689,478	17,454	-	706,932
	<b>39,352,598</b>	<b>624,037</b>	-	<b>39,976,635</b>
ECL	(4,363)	(6,121)	-	(10,484)
<b>Net</b>	<b>39,348,235</b>	<b>617,916</b>	-	<b>39,966,151</b>

**8. Investments, continued**

<u>2023</u>	GROUP			<u>Total</u>
	<u>Stage 1</u>	<u>Stage 2</u>	<u>Stage 3</u>	
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
<b>Gross</b>				
Shares	3,143,927	-	-	3,143,927
Corporate bonds	48,576,367	38,066	926,216	49,540,649
Accrued interest	847,396	-	-	847,396
	<u>52,567,690</u>	<u>38,066</u>	<u>926,216</u>	<u>53,531,972</u>
<b>ECL</b>	<u>(4,363)</u>	<u>(6,121)</u>	<u>(825,000)</u>	<u>(10,484)</u>
<b>Net</b>	<u><u>52,563,327</u></u>	<u><u>31,945</u></u>	<u><u>101,216</u></u>	<u><u>53,521,488</u></u>

**9. Investment in subsidiary**

	<u>Principal activity</u>	<u>Place of business</u>	<u>Interest held in ordinary shares</u>
DB (St. Lucia) Inc.	Investments	St. Lucia	100%
Cost of investment in subsidiary			
		<b>COMPANY</b>	
		<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
		<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
<b>Cost of ordinary shares acquired in subsidiary</b>		<u>2,156,500</u>	<u>-</u>

**10. Loans and advances**

<b>2023</b>	<b>COMPANY &amp; GROUP</b>			
	<b>Stage 1</b>	<b>Stage 2</b>	<b>Stage 3</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b><u>\$'000</u></b>	<b><u>\$'000</u></b>	<b><u>\$'000</u></b>	<b><u>\$'000</u></b>
<b>Gross loans</b>				
Agriculture and Fisheries	16,183,474	27	42,801	16,226,302
Housing	17,288,787	50,323	117,327	17,456,437
Services	20,944,050	16,748	-	20,960,798
Others	16,477,807	13,631	2,942	16,494,380
	<u>70,894,118</u>	<u>80,729</u>	<u>163,070</u>	<u>71,137,917</u>
<b>ECLs</b>				
Agriculture and fisheries	29,720	1	-	29,721
Housing	18,051	-	-	18,051
Services	1,903	-	-	1,903
Others	8,673	-	-	8,673
	<u>58,347</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,348</u>
Accrued interest	<u>271,612</u>	<u>436</u>	<u>23,101</u>	<u>295,149</u>
<b>Net loans</b>	<u>71,107,383</u>	<u>81,164</u>	<u>186,171</u>	<u>71,374,718</u>
<b>2022</b>				
	<b><u>\$'000</u></b>	<b><u>\$'000</u></b>	<b><u>\$'000</u></b>	<b><u>\$'000</u></b>
<b>Gross loans</b>				
Agriculture and fisheries	11,335,538	-	247,882	11,583,420
Housing	10,882,230	86,894	-	10,969,124
Services	18,670,191	225,818	59,995	18,956,004
Others	16,466,484	23,903	15,733	16,506,120
	<u>57,354,443</u>	<u>336,615</u>	<u>323,610</u>	<u>58,014,668</u>
<b>ECLs</b>				
Agriculture and fisheries	42,824	-	-	42,824
Housing	11,477	-	-	11,477
Services	2,142	-	-	2,142
Others	16,295	23	298	16,616
	<u>72,738</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>298</u>	<u>73,059</u>
Accrued interest	<u>249,881</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>1,371</u>	<u>251,300</u>
<b>Net loans</b>	<u>57,531,587</u>	<u>336,641</u>	<u>324,683</u>	<u>58,192,909</u>



**11. Deposits**

	<b>COMPANY &amp; GROUP</b>	
	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b><u>\$'000</u></b>	<b><u>\$'000</u></b>
<i>Demand</i>	<u>35,057,033</u>	<u>17,763,889</u>
<i>Savings</i>		
Principal	79,297,802	57,237,892
Accrued interest	<u>94,522</u>	<u>78,769</u>
	<u>79,392,324</u>	<u>57,316,661</u>
<i>Term</i>		
Principal	24,562,898	31,783,436
Accrued interest	<u>98,444</u>	<u>120,413</u>
	<u>24,661,342</u>	<u>31,903,849</u>
	<u><u>139,110,699</u></u>	<u><u>106,984,399</u></u>

## 12. Property, plant and equipment

<u>2023</u>	COMPANY & GROUP					
	Freehold land and building <u>\$'000</u>	Leasehold <sup>1</sup> premises <u>\$'000</u>	Construction work in progress <u>\$'000</u>	Furniture and equipment <u>\$'000</u>	Motor vehicles <u>\$'000</u>	Total <u>\$'000</u>
<b>Cost</b>						
At October 1, 2022	2,228,084	83,444	131,396	1,223,560	59,528	3,726,012
Additions	-	5,004	1,083,421	-	-	1,088,425
Transfers	148	-	(39,272)	38,875	-	(249)
At September 30, 2023	2,228,232	88,448	1,175,545	1,262,435	59,528	4,814,188
<b>Accumulated depreciation</b>						
At October 1, 2022	300,971	43,009	-	727,835	29,653	1,101,468
Charge for the year	34,832	8,957	-	99,528	10,429	153,746
At September 30, 2023	335,803	51,966	-	827,363	40,082	1,255,214
<b>Net Book Values</b>						
At September 30, 2023	1,892,429	36,482	1,175,545	435,072	19,446	3,558,974

<sup>1</sup> Cost at the end of the year includes the cost of right of use assets of \$82,032,093. Accumulated depreciation as at the end of the year includes amortisation on right of use asset of \$47,696,569.

<u>2022</u>	COMPANY & GROUP					
	Freehold land and building <u>\$'000</u>	Leasehold <sup>1</sup> premises <u>\$'000</u>	Construction work in progress <u>\$'000</u>	Furniture and equipment <u>\$'000</u>	Motor vehicles <u>\$'000</u>	Total <u>\$'000</u>
<b>Cost</b>						
At October 1, 2021	2,228,084	86,021	16,506	1,231,922	56,828	3,619,361
Additions	-	-	121,733	22,210	5,100	149,043
Disposals	-	(2,577)	-	(36,928)	(2,400)	(41,905)
Transfers	-	-	(6,843)	6,356	-	(487)
At September 30, 2022	2,228,084	83,444	131,396	1,223,560	59,528	3,726,012
<b>Accumulated depreciation</b>						
At October 1, 2021	266,139	34,129	-	661,629	21,656	983,553
Charge for the year	34,832	9,447	-	98,078	10,397	152,754
Write back on disposal	-	(567)	-	(31,872)	(2,400)	(34,839)
At September 30, 2022	300,971	43,009	-	727,835	29,653	1,101,468
<b>Net Book Values</b>						
At September 30, 2022	1,927,113	40,435	131,396	495,725	29,875	2,624,544

<sup>1</sup> Cost at the end of the year includes the cost of right of use assets of \$77,028,576. Accumulated depreciation as at the end of the year includes amortisation on right of use asset of \$38,826,247.

### 13. Other assets

	COMPANY		GROUP
	2023	2022	2023
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
Prepaid expenses	21,570	43,668	21,570
Others	82,692	7,829	82,692
	<u>104,262</u>	<u>51,497</u>	<u>104,262</u>

### 14. Other liabilities

	COMPANY		GROUP
	2023	2022	2023
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
Cash margin on credit, guarantees & indemnities	270,691	213,095	270,691
Property tax	141,837	111,719	141,837
Non-compliant customers accounts	159,260	166,109	159,260
Lease obligation	37,846	40,729	37,846
Inter-American Development Bank (note i)	-	1,508,500	-
Others	85,100	80,460	86,102
	<u>694,734</u>	<u>2,120,611</u>	<u>695,736</u>

*Note i*

This amount represented a loan for seven million United States Dollars (USD7M). Interest was charged on the outstanding amount at the rate of 4.7807%. This loan was fully repaid on July 11, 2023.

### 15. Share Capital

	COMPANY		GROUP
	2023	2022	2023
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
Authorised			
450,000,000 ordinary shares of no par value			
Issued and fully paid			
450,000,000 ordinary shares stated value	<u>450,000</u>	<u>450,000</u>	<u>450,000</u>

### 16. (i) Statutory reserve

This fund is maintained in accordance with the provisions of Section 20 (1) of the Financial Institutions Act 1995, which requires that a minimum of 15% of net profit as defined by the Act, be transferred to the Reserve Fund until the amount of the Fund is equal to the paid up capital of the Group.

### (ii) Investment revaluation reserve

This amount represents the net movement between the fair value and the carrying amount of financial assets classified as fair value through other comprehensive income at September 30.

### (iii) Other reserve

The Group carries out a detailed review of its loan portfolio twice yearly in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Institutions Act (FIA) 1995. Other reserve is created as an appropriation of retained earnings for the difference between the specific provision as required by Supervision Guideline # 5 and the accounting provision in line with IFRS requirements.

### 17. Interest income - Investments

	COMPANY		GROUP
	2023	2022	2023
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
Interest income from quoted investments	1,617,097	1,999,372	2,729,340
Interest income from unquoted investments	4,785	8,607	4,785
	<u>1,621,882</u>	<u>2,007,979</u>	<u>2,734,125</u>

## 18. Net income

	COMPANY		GROUP
	2023	2022	2023
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
Net income after taxation:	<u>4,063,253</u>	<u>2,954,360</u>	<u>4,075,376</u>
After charging			
· Auditors' fees and expenses	10,486	9,325	11,486
· Directors' remuneration (note i)	15,400	15,400	15,400
· Depreciation	<u>144,876</u>	<u>152,754</u>	<u>144,876</u>

(i) Directors annual emoluments are as follows: each director is entitled to a fee of \$1,500,000, and the chairman a fee of \$2,800,000. Additionally, the corporate secretary receives an annual remuneration of \$2,400,000.

## 19. Non- interest expenses

	COMPANY		GROUP
	2023	2022	2023
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
Staff costs <sup>1</sup>	1,132,103	978,852	1,133,838
Directors' remuneration	15,400	15,400	15,400
Subscription and donations	37,879	44,249	37,879
Property and equipment expenses	44,336	41,782	44,336
Amortisation of right of use asset	8,870	9,322	8,870
Rentals	8,182	7,871	8,182
Depreciation	144,876	143,432	144,876
Stationery	14,315	11,726	14,315
Electricity	24,797	25,119	24,797
Property tax	141,492	111,374	141,492
Licence	7,489	7,543	7,489
Advertising	15,903	14,021	15,903
Computer expense	56,794	41,065	56,794
Visa International expenses	98,556	70,256	98,556
Visa credit card expenses	26,748	23,263	26,748
Visa debit card expenses	66,931	37,716	66,931
Foreign bank charges	13,259	32,464	13,259
Deposit insurance contribution	126,367	117,006	126,367
Others <sup>2</sup>	<u>(35,882)</u>	<u>9,289</u>	<u>(34,882)</u>
	<u>1,948,415</u>	<u>1,741,750</u>	<u>1,951,150</u>

<sup>1</sup> The average number of employees during 2023 was 332 (2022 - 292).

<sup>2</sup> Includes interest on right of use asset of \$4,322,347 (2022 - \$4,806,462) for the year.

## 20. Pension plan

The pension plan which the Group participates in is a multi employee contributory plan and is a final salary defined benefit plan.

The plan is valued by independent actuaries every three years using the projected unit credit method. The last actuarial valuation which was done as at December 31, 2020 revealed a past service surplus of \$3,089,000,000. The next actuarial valuation is statutorily due on December 31, 2023.

The last actuarial valuation did not present sufficient information relating to each participating company in the plan to enable a determination of the portion of the Group's share of the surplus, defined benefit obligation, plan assets and cost associated with the plan.

The Group's total contribution to the pension scheme for the year amounted to \$52,827,256 (2022 - \$46,812,645). This amount was recognised in the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

## 21. Taxation

	COMPANY & GROUP	
	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Corporation tax - Current	1,455,663	2,260,470
- Deferred	413,675	(330,318)
	<u>1,869,338</u>	<u>1,930,152</u>

### Reconciliation of effective tax rate

For the years ended September 30, 2023 and 2022, the effective taxation rates were as follows:

	COMPANY & GROUP	
	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Profit	5,932,591	4,884,512
Taxation	1,455,663	2,260,470
Effective Taxation rate <sup>1</sup>	<u>24.5</u>	<u>46.3</u>

<sup>1</sup>The average effective tax rate equals the net amount of taxation expense divided by income before taxation, as these line items are reported in the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

	COMPANY & GROUP			
	2023		2022	
	%	\$'000	%	\$'000
Statutory tax rate	40.0	2,373,036	40.0	1,953,805
Income exempted from tax	(10.0)	(593,646)	(1.9)	(91,702)
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	(5.7)	(335,750)	8.1	395,378
Accounting depreciation	1.0	61,498	1.2	57,373
Tax depreciation	(0.8)	(49,475)	(1.1)	(54,384)
Effective tax rate	<u>24.5</u>	<u>1,455,663</u>	<u>46.3</u>	<u>2,260,470</u>

## 22. Deferred taxation

	COMPANY & GROUP	
	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at beginning of year	2,747,311	69,383
Movement in the year	(962,124)	2,677,928
Balance at the end of the year	<u>1,785,187</u>	<u>2,747,311</u>

### Components of deferred tax

Accelerated depreciation	68,827	60,351
Fair value adjustment	1,716,360	2,686,960
	<u>1,785,187</u>	<u>2,747,311</u>

	COMPANY		GROUP
	2023	2022	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Exchange gain	903,875	585,084	891,664
Commissions received	450,052	375,371	450,052
Visa income	60,280	50,707	60,280
Dividend income (quoted)	12,564	47,163	12,564
Dividend income (unquoted)	5,827	5,037	5,827
Gain (loss) on disposal of quoted investments (debt instruments)	31,666	(60,454)	(2,610)
Gain on disposal of quoted investments (equity instruments)	80,488	512,837	383,492
Unrealised loss on equity instruments	(37,044)	(822,209)	(266,607)
Dividend received from DB St. Lucia	1,164,510	-	-
Income from treasury bills	616	-	616
Others	73,716	65,360	113,863
	<u>2,746,550</u>	<u>758,896</u>	<u>1,649,141</u>

#### 24. Earnings per share

	COMPANY		GROUP
	2023	2022	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Calculated as follows:			
Net income after tax \$'000	4,063,253	2,954,360	4,075,376
Number of shares '000 (see note 15)	450,000	450,000	450,000
Earnings per share in dollars	<u>9.03</u>	<u>6.57</u>	<u>9.06</u>

#### 25. Dividends per share

Dividends accounted for as an appropriation of retained earnings:

	COMPANY		GROUP
	2023	2022	2023
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Final dividend for 2022 \$1.60 per share (2021 - \$1.60)	720,000	720,000	720,000
Interim dividend for 2023 \$0.45 per share (2022 - \$0.40)	202,500	180,000	202,500
	<u>922,500</u>	<u>900,000</u>	<u>922,500</u>

The financial statements do not reflect a final dividend of \$1.80 per share proposed by the Directors. This amount will be accounted for as an appropriation of retained earnings in the subsequent year.

#### 26. Related parties

##### (a) *Identity of related parties*

A party is related to the Group if:

- (i) Directly or indirectly the party
  - controls, is controlled or is under common control of the Group;
  - has an interest in the Group that gives it significant influence over the Group; or
  - has joint control over the Group.
- (ii) The party is a member of the key management personnel of the Group.
- (iii) The party is a close member of the family of any individual referred to in (i) or (ii) above.
- (iv) The party is a post-employment benefit plan for the benefits of employees of the Group or any company that is a related party of the Group.

## 26. Related parties, continued

A number of banking transactions have been entered into with related parties in the normal course of business. These transactions were conducted at market rates, on commercial terms and conditions, except for certain loans made available to directors and key management personnel and advances to DB (St. Lucia) Inc.

	COMPANY		GROUP
	2023	2022	2023
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
<b><u>Balances</u></b>			
<b><i>Held by enterprises with which directors are affiliated</i></b>			
Loans, investments and other assets	3,626,595	3,662,178	3,626,595
Deposits and other liabilities	7,996,827	6,576,450	7,996,827
<b><i>Directors and key management personnel</i></b>			
Loans, investments and other assets	439,010	295,294	439,010
Deposits and other liabilities	187,453	242,006	187,453
<b><i>DB (St. Lucia) Inc.</i></b>			
Advances <sup>1</sup>	27,413,585	-	-
<b><u>Transactions</u></b>			
<b><i>Held by enterprises with which directors are affiliated</i></b>			
Interest income	233,660	101,257	233,660
Interest expense	53,480	33,570	53,480
<b><i>Directors and key management personnel</i></b>			
Interest income	14,829	12,018	14,829
Interest expense	4,283	5,328	4,283
<b><i>DB (St. Lucia) Inc.</i></b>			
Sale of investment securities <sup>2</sup>	28,517,517	-	-

<sup>1</sup> The balance with DB (St. Lucia) Inc. is interest free and there is no fixed terms of repayment.

<sup>2</sup> During the year the company sold certain equity investments to its 100% owned subsidiary, DB (St. Lucia) Inc., at the prevailing market price at the date of sale. This resulted in a loss on disposal of \$1,019,711,367.

The company also sold certain debt instruments to its subsidiary at its principal value of \$26,808,184,150. This resulted in the recognition of a gain of \$1,212,940,457.

### ***Key management personnel***

Key management comprises individuals responsible for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Group.

Thirty one (2022 - twenty eight) individuals are considered as key management personnel. The remuneration paid to key management personnel for the year was as follows:

	COMPANY & GROUP	
	2023	2022
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
Short-term employee benefits	293,097	405,920

**27. Commitments and contingent liability**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
	<u>\$'000</u>	<u>\$'000</u>
(i) <i>Operating lease commitments</i>		
Due within one year	8,984	8,036
Due within two to five years	25,352	30,166
(ii) <i>Capital commitments</i>		
As at September 30, 2023, the Group has capital commitments for ongoing projects amounting to \$299,192,065 (2022 - \$44,643,094).		
(iii) <i>Customers liabilities under Acceptances, Guarantees and Letters of Credit</i>		

	<u>2023</u>				<u>2022</u>			
	Under	3 to 12	Over	Total	Under	3 to 12	Over	Total
	3 mths	months	12 months	\$'000	3 mths	months	12 months	\$'000
Commercial sector	1,244,947	271,008	962,928	2,478,883	654,242	2,792,414	887,092	4,333,748
Personal sector	500	500	710	1,710	-	500	630	1,130

- (iv) As at September 30, 2023, loans and advances totalling \$8,970,334,760 were approved but not disbursed.
- (v) *Litigation*  
In the ordinary course of business the Group has brought legal proceedings against defaulting customers. The Group is also defendant in certain litigation. Management does not believe that the outcome of these proceedings will have material adverse effect on the Group's result of operations and accordingly no provision for contingencies is necessary.

**28. Segment information**

The operations of the Group are concentrated within Guyana and St. Lucia. The Group's operations are managed by strategic business units which offer different financial products and services to various market segments. The management function of the various business units review internal reports at least monthly.

***Business segments***

The following summary describes the operations of each of the Group's reportable segments:

- Corporate and commercial - Includes the provision of loans and other financial services to business and individuals.
- Investment - Local and foreign investment
- Deposit business - Demand, savings and time deposits
- Other - Foreign trade and other non-core business.

***Geographical segments***

In presenting information on the basis of geographical segments, net assets and net revenues are based on the geographical location of the company and its subsidiary.



**28. Segment information, continued**

The results of the various operating segments are set out below. Performance is measured based on segment profits before tax as included in the internal management reports reviewed by senior management. Segment profitability is used by management to assess product, pricing, productivity and hence, the allocation of resources to the various operating segments.

*Business segments*

	COMPANY						Total
	2023						
	Corporate & Commercial Banking	Investment		Deposit	Other	Unallocated	
		Local	Foreign				
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Interest income	5,172,757	6,861	1,615,020	-	-	-	6,794,638
Interest expense	-	-	-	(835,182)	-	-	(835,182)
Other income	-	6,443	1,252,185	-	-	1,487,922	2,746,550
Credit impairment losses	-	-	(825,000)	-	-	-	(825,000)
Operating expense	-	-	-	-	-	(1,948,415)	(1,948,415)
Profit before tax	5,172,757	13,304	2,042,205	(835,182)	-	(460,493)	5,932,591
Segment assets	71,374,718	1,067,307	26,943,758	-	-	61,122,985	160,508,768
Segment liabilities	-	-	-	139,110,699	-	694,734	139,805,433
	2022						
	Corporate & Commercial Banking	Investment		Deposit	Other	Unallocated	Total
	\$'000	Local	Foreign	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Interest income	4,297,041	8,427	1,999,552	-	-	-	6,305,020
Interest expense	-	-	-	(799,908)	-	-	(799,908)
Other income	-	5,037	(322,664)	-	-	1,076,523	758,896
Credit impairment losses	362,254	-	-	-	-	-	362,254
Operating expense	-	-	-	-	-	(1,741,750)	(1,741,750)
Profit before tax	4,659,295	13,464	1,676,888	(799,908)	-	(665,227)	4,884,513
Segment assets	46,383,479	233,357	33,394,835	-	-	34,493,012	114,504,683
Segment liabilities	-	-	-	92,875,562	-	3,422,160	96,297,722

**28. Segment information, continued**

	<b>GROUP</b>						<b>Total</b>
	<b>2023</b>						
	<b>Corporate &amp; Commercial Banking</b>	<b>Investment</b>		<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Unallocated</b>	
	<b>Local</b>	<b>Foreign</b>					
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Interest income	5,172,756	6,861	2,727,264	-	-	-	7,906,881
Interest expense	-	-	-	(835,182)	-	-	(835,182)
Other income	-	6,443	87,675	-	-	1,555,046	1,649,165
Credit impairment losses	-	-	(825,000)	-	-	-	(825,000)
Operating expense	-	-	-	-	-	(1,951,150)	(1,951,150)
Profit before tax	5,172,756	13,305	1,989,939	(835,182)	-	(396,104)	5,944,713
Segment assets	71,374,718	1,067,307	52,454,181	-	-	34,693,245	159,589,451
Segment liabilities	-	-	-	139,110,699	-	695,734	139,806,433

**Geographical segments**

	<b>2023</b>		
	<b>\$'000</b>		
	<b>Guyana</b>	<b>St. Lucia</b>	<b>Total</b>
Assets	160,508,768	28,650,768	189,159,536
Liabilities	139,805,433	27,414,610	167,220,043
Net income	2,898,768	1,176,608	4,075,376

**29. Subsequent events**

There are no events occurring after the statement of financial position date and before the date of approval of these statements by the Board of Directors that require adjustment to or disclosure in these financial statements.

# CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

In this section of our annual report, we proudly showcase our commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and communities. At the heart of our Corporate Social Responsibility lies our dedication to education, providing essential support to those in need, and strengthening the fabric of our community. Join us on this journey as we reflect on the impact of our contributions which have left an enduring mark on the lives of individuals and families within our community.



**Nurturing Tomorrow's Innovators:** Empowering Student Groups of Sarswati Vidya Niketan School Who Participated at the 2023 National Science Fair



**Fostering Bright Futures:** Extending Support to Dharmic Naujawaan for their 2023 Back to School Drive, Empowering Education and Opportunities



**Celebrating Excellence:** Honouring and Supporting the Most Improved Students at the Mon Repos Primary School



**Joining Hearts of Hope:** Contributing to the SHEA Charitable Organization to Support Master Munesh Narayan, a Brave Pediatric Cancer Patient, in His Battle Against the Odds



**Extending a Helping Hand:** Providing Support to Miss Neia Baird's Family, A Brave Six-Year-Old Facing the Possibility of Crohn's Disease, Enabling Her Journey to Evaluation and Treatment in India



**Making Every Day a Little Easier:** A Year's Supply of Diapers Donated to Master Jonathan Singh, An Eleven-Year-Old Braveheart Navigating High-Level Autism



**Supporting Dreams, Shaping Futures:** Honoured to Contribute to the Prabhusharan Orphanage as Part of the First Lady's 'Adopt an Orphanage' Initiative. Our Donation Fosters a Safe, Nurturing Environment for Children, Enabling Their Journey Towards a Bright and Joyful Childhood



**Empowering Recovery:** Extending Concessional Loans to Resilient Vendors Rebuilding After the Devastating Parika Market Fire



**Empowering the Future:** Donation to the Saraswati Vidya Niketan (SVN) School to support its development & expansion, ensuring quality education for all

## Our Continued Commitment to the Housing Sector

The housing sector serves as a fundamental pillar in our national economy, and Demerara Bank Ltd. takes great pride in its pivotal role in fortifying and advancing this crucial domain. With a resolute commitment to fostering housing opportunities, we've strategically designed a comprehensive suite of accessible and affordable low-cost Home Loans, tailored to cater to a diverse spectrum of income brackets. Our goal is to empower individuals and families across the economic spectrum with the means to achieve their homeownership aspirations, ultimately contributing to the sustainable growth and stability of our nation's housing landscape.



## Our Continued Commitment to the Agriculture Sector

The past year witnessed a momentous milestone where Demerara Bank Limited (DBL) in collaboration with the Government of Guyana unveiled a visionary initiative—a \$900 million revolving fund that ushers in a new era for small and medium-scale logging operations, allowing them to thrive responsibly and sustainably. This initiative not only exemplifies our dedication to responsible growth but also signifies a pivotal moment in the trajectory of small and medium-scale logging operations.



## Cultural and Other Activities

At the core of our organizational ethos lies a culture deeply rooted in integrity, credibility, and unwavering ethical standards. This culture forms the bedrock of our relationships with our employees, customers, and the broader community. Our tireless commitment is to cultivate an environment where every member of our team is not only respected but also valued, ensuring equal and abundant opportunities for their professional growth and development.



### Emancipation

## Cultural and Other Activities



Phagwah



Mother's Day



International Women's Day



Continuous Training & Development



2023 Internship Programme



## Staff and Family Fun Day



# STAFF ACHIEVEMENT



Maria Hanoman  
Qualification: ACCA Affiliate

## YEARS OF SERVICE

<b>Gordon Adamson</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Bebe Asha Gaffar</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Amrita Henriques</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Clarrence Cummings</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Monica Serrao</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Waziefa Intiaz</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Balkaran Deokaran</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Ramnarine Autar</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Poorendra Jaigobin</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Dhanna Osman</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Deyon D'Oliveira</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Bhagmattie Naipaul</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Indranie Persaud</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Yvonne Hoppie</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Amelia Sookdeo</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>David Ramdeholl</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Dowlat Parbhu</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Leanna Thomas</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Bradford Bacchus</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Angelika Umapersaud</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Rickurt Williams</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Ingrid Lashley</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Dhrupatty Dass</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Jemima Bankay</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Gina Gopaul-Hoosein</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>La Donna Delon</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Lakeram Bhagwandeem</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Deborah Shim-Foo</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Hubert Durant</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Simone Blackman</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Hazel Jules</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Jai Singh</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Rajkumarie Harrinarine</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Richard Chung</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Phillip Adams</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Anjanie Jaigobind</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Morris Hercules</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>David Fortune</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Tiffini Lall</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Pravinchandra Dave</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Marylin Giddings</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Omattie Misr</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Melica Badal</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Rafeek Ishmael</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Onassa Sargeant</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Hazrat Z. Khan</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Jerrett Morgan</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Natalia Thomas</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Anna Abraham</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Sunita Perasud</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Nanda Persaud</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Mark Balram</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Geewan Ramdeo</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Porean Rameshwar</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Shondelle Stewart</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Vicario Cristal Rogers</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Leonard Ramoutar</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Earlene Sukhdeo</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Natalie Singh</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Shirley Seokumar</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Pravini Ramotar</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Vimla Singh</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Towan Smartt</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Imran Badruddin</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Clive Benjamin</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Devica Uditram</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Kenesha Collins</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Kerri Clarke</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Amrita Wailoo</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Sarojanie Gobin</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Nevindra Deonarine</b>	<b>12</b>		

# BRANCH INFORMATION



## HEAD OFFICE & CORPORATE BANKING BRANCH

Lot 214 Camp Street, North Cummingsburg,  
Georgetown  
Tel: +592-226-0601/5/9/29/32  
Fax: +592-225-0619  
Email: [banking@demerarabank.com](mailto:banking@demerarabank.com)  
Foreign Exchange: [forex@demerarabank.com](mailto:forex@demerarabank.com)  
Loans: [credit@demerarabank.com](mailto:credit@demerarabank.com)  
Website: [www.demerarabank.com](http://www.demerarabank.com)

## BRANCH NETWORK

### MAIN BRANCH

230 Camp Street & South Road,  
Lacytown, Georgetown  
Tel: +592-225-0610-8  
Fax: +592-225-0601  
Email: [banking@demerarabank.com](mailto:banking@demerarabank.com)  
Foreign Exchange: [forex@demerarabank.com](mailto:forex@demerarabank.com)  
Loans: [credit@demerarabank.com](mailto:credit@demerarabank.com)

### CORRIVERTON BRANCH

K & L #78 Springlands,  
Corriverton,  
Berbice  
Tel: +592-335-3551/3589  
Fax: +592-335-3406  
Email: [corriverton@demerarabank.com](mailto:corriverton@demerarabank.com)

### DIAMOND BRANCH

Plantation Great Diamond,  
East Bank Demerara  
Tel: +592-265-5706-8  
Fax: +592-265-5709  
Email: [diamond@demerarabank.com](mailto:diamond@demerarabank.com)

### ESSEQUIBO BRANCH

West ½ Lot 7 Public Road,  
Henrietta, Essequibo Coast  
Tel: +592-771-5402-3  
Fax: +592-771-5404  
Email: [annareginaoperations@demerarabank.com](mailto:annareginaoperations@demerarabank.com)

### LE RESSOUVENIR BRANCH

E ½ Lot 3 Public Road,  
Le Ressouvenir,  
East Coast Demerara  
Tel: +592-220-6460/6483  
Fax: +592-220-6498  
Email: [leressouvenir@demerarabank.com](mailto:leressouvenir@demerarabank.com)

### MAHAICA BRANCH

Sublot Lettered 'A' Helena No. 1 Mahaica,  
East Coast Demerara  
Tel: +592 228-5663/5674/5665  
E-mail: [mahaicaoperations@demerarabank.com](mailto:mahaicaoperations@demerarabank.com)

### ROSE HALL BRANCH

71 Public Road, Rose Hall,  
Corentyne, Berbice  
Tel: +592-337-4441/4452  
Fax: +592-337-4439  
Email: [rosehall@demerarabank.com](mailto:rosehall@demerarabank.com)



# OUR SERVICES

## AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE

- 24-hour banking
- Withdrawals
- Convenience at its best
- Deposits
- Balance enquiries

## VISA DEBIT CARD

- Accepted globally, wherever the VISA logo is displayed
- Convenience and security
- Immediate, direct access to the total balance on your account

## PAYMENT OF UTILITY BILLS

- GTT/GPL bills accepted
- Customers' convenience

## E-BANKING

- View balances
- View activity up to the last 512 days
- Pay GTT, Digicel, GPL and other merchants
- Request bank drafts
- Inter-Account transfers
- Request certified statements
- Order cheque leaves
- Make Stop Payment requests

## SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES

- Available in four sizes, dual key locking mechanism located in high-security vault

## NIGHT DEPOSITS

- Tamper-proof bags for deposits
- Secure deposit chute
- Highly secured & conveniently located

## MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT

- Competitive rates
- Interest paid monthly
- Minimum balance G\$1,000,000.00

## PREMIUM MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT

- Competitive rates
- Interest accrued monthly and paid quarterly
- Minimum balance G\$1,000,000.00

## STATEMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT

- Statements available periodically or on request
- Minimum balance G\$2,000.00
- ATM ready
- Cash on demand

## FOREIGN TRADE

- Foreign currency transactions and accounts
- Telex transfers
- Bills for collection
- Letters of credit
- Negotiation drafts
- Trade financing
- Competitive Cambio

## DEPOSITS ACCOUNTS/TERM DEPOSITS

- Available for 3, 6 and 12 months
- Renewed automatically or funds disposed at your request
- Highly competitive interest rates
- Minimum balance G\$100,000.00

## PERSONAL CHEQUING ACCOUNT

- Personalised cheque books
- Statements available periodically or on request
- Easy access to funds with your VISA Debit Card



### **CORPORATE CHEQUING**

- Overdraft facility
- Night deposit facility
- Statements available periodically or on request
- First Facts

### **LOANS AND ADVANCES**

- Housing Loans
- Vehicle Loans
- Small & Medium Sized Enterprise Loans
- Consumer Loans
- Working Capital requirements

### **DEMERARA BANK VISA CREDIT CARDS**

- Visa Signature
- Visa Gold
- Visa Classic

### **ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (EFT) SERVICES**

- Faster processing
- Cost effective
- Highly secured transmission channels
- Reduced organisational cost/simplified bookkeeping

### **IDEAL FOREX**

- Quick and efficient transfer of funds in 134 currencies
- Exchange loss avoided
- Competitive exchange rates
- Highly secured remittance channel Ideal Fore

### **CORPORATE EBANKING PLATFORM FEATURES**

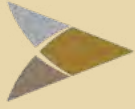
- View transaction history on your accounts
- View and print statements on all your DBL accounts
- Transfer funds between your accounts
- Transfer funds to third party accounts
- Transfer funds to other local banks
- Initiate international wire transfers
- Schedule payments and transfers
- Make credit card payments (including third party credit cards)
- Place stop payment on cheques
- Pay bills
- Upload documents
- Create Corporate group, add accounts & access permissions and set account limits

### **REAL TIME GROSS SETTLEMENT (RTGS)**

- Large value payments settled in real-time
- Reduces cash handling costs
- Highly secured transmission channels

# CORRESPONDENT BANK

Bank of New York Mellon, New York



BNY MELLON



*"Come grow with us"*

# PROXY FORM



Demerara Bank Limited  
Lot 214 Camp Street North Cummingsburg,  
Georgetown  
Guyana

I/We \_\_\_\_\_

of \_\_\_\_\_

being a member/members of DEMERARA BANK LIMITED,

hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_

of \_\_\_\_\_

or failing him/her \_\_\_\_\_

of \_\_\_\_\_

as my/our Proxy to vote in my/our name(s) and on my/our behalf upon any matter at the Twenty-Ninth Annual General Meeting of the Bank to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 or any adjournment thereof in such a manner as such Proxy may think proper.

As witness my hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2023

Signed by the said \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of Member/s) \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of Member/s) \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE** To be valid, this form must be completed and deposited with the Secretary at least 48 hours before the time appointed for the meeting or adjourned meeting.





**DEMERARA  
BANK**  
**LIMITED**

*"Come grow with us"*

Demerara Bank Limited

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Georgetown, Guyana

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Email: [banking@demerarabank.com](mailto:banking@demerarabank.com)

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