Our Ref: BSD/ACB/25A

October 15, 2026

TO: ALL COMMERCIAL BANKS

Dear Managing Directors,

ISSUANCE OF THE LOAN AND COLLATERAL EXPOSURE DATA REPORTING DIRECTIVE, 2026 AND ACCOMPANYING REPORTING TEMPLATE

We write to inform commercial banks that the Board of Directors of the Bank of Sierra Leone has approved the issuance of the **Loan and Collateral Exposure Data Reporting Directive, 2026 ("the Directive")**, a copy of which is attached to this circular. The accompanying quarterly Loan Reporting Return template **("the Reporting Template")**, being in electronic **(Excel)** format, will be forwarded separately by email.

Purpose, Scope and Compliance Expectations

The Directive establishes a proportionate reporting framework for climate-sensitive loan and collateral exposures. It requires commercial banks to identify, monitor and report exposures that may be affected by climate-related physical or transition risks.

- **Reporting dimensions:** Exposures should be reported by economic sector, geographic location and collateral type.
- **Regulatory treatment:** Classification of an exposure as climate-sensitive does not, by itself, impose any lending restriction, additional risk weight, provisioning requirement or capital charge.
- **Prudential requirements:** Existing prudential rules will continue to determine loan classification, provisioning, capital treatment and supervisory action.
- **Compliance expectations:** Banks are encouraged to establish the systems and processes necessary to ensure full and timely compliance with the Directive.
- **Supervisory action:** Continued non-compliance may attract supervisory action under applicable law, including sections 53 and 54 of the Banking Act, 2019.

Submission Requirements and Implementation Timeline

Commercial banks are required to complete and submit the quarterly Loan Reporting Return in the format prescribed in the Reporting Template and in line with the phased implementation timeline set out in the Directive.

- **Regular reporting cycle:** Banks must submit the completed Loan Reporting Return no later than fifteen (15) business days after each quarter-end.
- **Pilot reporting period:** The pilot phase will cover data for Quarter 3 2026.
- **Initial pilot submission:** Banks should begin pilot data-sharing activities immediately upon receipt of this circular and submit the required data to the Bank of Sierra Leone no later than 30 November 2026.
- **Subsequent submission:** Thereafter, banks shall submit the Loan Reporting Return in line with the regular quarterly reporting cycle set out above, beginning with the quarter ending 31 December 2026, in accordance with the phased implementation timeline in the Directive.

Banks requiring clarification or guidance on completing the Reporting Template should contact the Banking Supervision Department.

We count on your usual support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully,

Mahawa Korjie (Mrs.)
Deputy Director, Banking Supervision Department

Addresses To:
Managing Director, Rokel Commercial Bank Limited
Managing Director, Sierra Leone Commercial Bank Limited
Managing Director, Guaranty Trust Bank (SL) Limited
Managing Director, Vista Bank (SL) Limited
Managing Director, FBN Bank (SL) Limited
Managing Director, Ecobank (SL) Limited
Managing Director, Access Bank (SL) Limited
Managing Director, United Bank for Africa (SL) Limited
Managing Director, Zenith Bank (SL) Limited
Managing Director, Sky Bank (SL) Limited
Managing Director, Bloom Bank (SL) Limited
Managing Director, Commerce & Mortgage Bank Plc