ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Celebrating 40 YEARS

FIDELITY

40th

ANNIVERSARY

Contents

Financial Highlights

For the years ended 31 December	2017	2016	% Change	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Interest Income	61,287	59,384	3.20%	51,866	45,604	39,541	33,205	27,866
Interest Expense	(14,831)	(14,640)	1.30%	(13,158)	(13,995)	(13,709)	(12,953)	(12,360)
Net Interest Income	46,456	44,744	3.83%	38,708	31,609	25,832	20,252	15,506
Provision for Loan Losses	(8,961)	(7,987)	12.19%	(5,954)	(6,860)	(6,148)	(3,954)	(1,994)
Net Interest Income after Provision for Loan Losses	37,495	36,757	2.01%	32,754	24,749	19,684	16,298	13,512
Non-Interest Income	3,215	3,099	3.74%	3,469	4,270	3,833	3,742	3,619
Non-Interest Expenses	(22,005)	(20,272)	8.55%	(18,671)	(16,535)	(14,658)	(13,702)	(13,362)
Share of Profits of Joint Ventures	2,348	2,105	11.54%	3,148	1,642	875	76	75
Net Income	21,054	21,688	-2.92%	20,700	14,126	9,735	6,414	3,844
Total Comprehensive Income	21,054	21,231	-0.83%	20,700	14,126	8,678	6,414	3,844
Net Income Attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	20,078	20,635	-2.70%	19,737	13,321	8,929	5,604	3,652
PER SHARE DATA:								
Book Value per Ordinary Share	$2.58	$2.38	8.35%	$2.08	$1.67	$1.45	$1.31	$1.25
Dividends per Ordinary Share	$0.50	$0.40	25.00%	$0.28	$0.25	$0.14	$0.14	$0.07
Year End Share Price	$10.45	$9.30	12.37%	$6.60	$4.75	$3.01	$2.10	$1.77
Weighted Average Ordinary Shares	28,795,142	28,776,198	0.07%	28,746,474	28,707,545	28,685,045	28,666,670	28,666,670
BALANCE SHEET DATA (B$000):								
Investment Securities	88,497	77,129	14.74%	62,042	55,608	47,901	38,232	27,987
Loans and Advances to Customers	408,644	386,804	5.65%	360,514	332,370	313,762	278,420	243,921
Total Assets	627,770	564,209	11.27%	521,688	472,794	444,188	386,854	349,910
Net Write-offs	9,048	8,369	8.11%	7,400	3,874	3,442	2,353	1,683
Deposits from Customers	493,517	430,883	14.54%	397,113	376,650	354,454	307,934	272,888
Total Equity	89,317	83,562	6.89%	74,763	59,366	53,160	49,262	47,172
Total Equity - Ordinary Shareholders	74,317	68,562	8.39%	59,763	47,855	41,649	37,751	36,161
Asset Growth	11.27%	8.15%		10.34%	6.44%	14.82%	10.56%	23.99%
Loan Growth	5.65%	7.29%		8.47%	5.93%	12.69%	14.14%	14.70%
PERFORMANCE RATIOS:								
Earnings Per Share	$0.70	$0.72	-2.76%	$0.69	$0.46	$0.31	$0.20	$0.13
Price/Earnings	14.99 x	12.97 x	15.56%	9.61 x	10.24 x	9.67 x	10.74 x	13.89 x
Price/Book Value	4.05 x	3.90 x	3.70%	3.18 x	2.85 x	2.07 x	1.61 x	1.41 x
Dividend Yield	4.78%	4.30%	11.24%	4.17%	5.26%	4.65%	6.67%	3.95%
Return on Average Assets (ROAA)	3.53%	3.91%	-9.66%	4.16%	3.08%	2.09%	1.74%	1.22%
Return on Average Ordinary Shareholders' Equity (ROAE)	28.11%	31.45%	-10.63%	36.68%	29.77%	19.83%	15.16%	10.30%
Ordinary Dividend Payout Ratio	71.89%	57.22%	25.62%	40.22%	54.18%	51.34%	71.62%	54.95%
Efficiency Ratio	44.30%	42.37%	4.55%	44.27%	46.08%	49.41%	57.11%	69.87%
Net Interest Margin	5.34%	5.69%	-6.26%	5.39%	4.79%	4.25%	3.77%	3.33%
ASSET QUALITY RATIOS:								
Non-Performing Loans to Total Loans	6.25%	6.30%	-0.77%	7.28%	8.41%	8.30%	7.83%	7.51%
Non-Performing Loans to Total Assets	4.26%	4.52%	-5.87%	5.28%	6.23%	6.10%	5.83%	5.40%
Net Write-offs to Average Loans	1.44%	1.41%	1.98%	1.34%	0.75%	0.73%	0.57%	0.47%
Provision for Loan Losses to Total Loans, Including Accrued Interest	2.42%	2.58%	-6.05%	2.86%	3.50%	2.84%	2.29%	1.98%
Provision for Loan Losses to Non-Performing Loans	38.76%	40.94%	-5.32%	39.31%	41.66%	34.28%	29.21%	26.39%

Board of Directors

1. D. Anthony Jones
   Chairman
2. Thomas F. Hackett
   Chief Executive Officer
3. Jennifer P. Dilbert
   Director
4. J. Nicholas Freeland
   Director
5. Scott Elphinstone
   Director
6. Stuart M. Bowe
   Director
7. Frank J. Crothers
   Director
8. Anwer J. Sunderji
   Director

Chairman's Report

D. Anthony Jones,
Chairman

2017 continued the trend experienced in recent years of proving to be a year presenting many challenges for Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) Limited (the Bank), as the Bahamian economy continued to struggle to maintain momentum following the 2017 general election where a new government came to power. On a positive note, the BahaMar development finally opened, bringing with it the hopes of many for an improved employment picture. In spite of the challenges, the Bank was able to produce results that approximated the record results achieved in 2016. Whilst average assets increased, Return on Average Assets and Return on Average Ordinary Shareholders' Equity both showed results modestly reduced from the prior year, primarily as a result of increased operating expenses. Management and staff are to be commended for their dedication and hard work that has produced these results. As always, the uncertainties and other events that impact the Bank's results - including the mandatory adoption of new accounting policies in 2018 – justify some caution for the future.

A major challenge facing the Bahamian banking system during 2017 continues to be the relationships with correspondent banks, particularly in the United States of America, which have been reducing their provision of services to foreign banks, including those in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas (The Bahamas). As far as the Bank is concerned, replacement facilities have been arranged, and it is not anticipated that there will be any disruption to the ongoing availability of these services. However, since this is a matter that continues to evolve, it will remain under close scrutiny, to ensure that our customers will not be inconvenienced by any withdrawal or limitations of these facilities.

Royal Fidelity Merchant Bank & Trust Limited – our 50%-owned joint venture with Royal Bank of Canada – has again made a substantial contribution to the Bank's earnings during 2017, and continues to play a prominent role in the financial services sector in The Bahamas.

During October 2017, the Bank's long-time Chief Executive Officer, Anwer Sunderji, stepped down from that role, but continues as a member of the Board of Directors. The Board recognises the very substantial contributions that Mr. Sunderji has made to the development of the Bank during his tenure, and is grateful that his expertise, counsel and dedication will continue to be available as the future unfolds.

The Board appointed Thomas Hackett, a former Chief Financial Officer of the Bank, to fill the Chief Executive Officer position, and is confident that the future of the Bank, led by Mr. Hackett and his management team, is well suited to address the issues that will move the Bank forward.

This is my final report as Chairman of Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) Limited. Having reached the mandatory retirement age for directors, I will not be standing for re-election to the Board of Directors at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 26 July 2018. I have been very grateful for the support from my fellow Board members, management and staff since I joined the Board, and am confident that the future of the Bank remains in good hands.

I wish to place on record the Board's appreciation of the contributions of all staff and management to the success of the Bank, and thank shareholders for their continued confidence and support.

D. Anthony Jones
Chairman

Executive Officers

1. Crestwell Gardiner,
   Vice President, Lending

2. Thomas Hackett,
   Chief Executive Officer

3. Gregory H. Bethel,
   President, Retail Banking

4. Tangela Albury,
   Chief Compliance & Internal Auditor

5. Heatherdawn Blake-Brown,
   Director, Cards Services

6. Michael A. Anderson,
   President, Royal Fidelity Merchant Bank & Trust

7. Andrew Pike
   Chief Information Officer

8. Malvern Bain,
   Vice President, Asset Recovery

9. Gowon N. G. Bowe,
   Chief Financial Officer

10. Judy A. Higgs,
    Vice President & Corporate Secretary

Message From The President

Gregory H. Bethel,
President

Our 'Guiding Principle' defines quality service as establishing a relationship with our clients that is so profound that it cannot be experienced elsewhere. It begins with the first contact and is continued in the follow up process and each 'post conversion' experience. Our 'Paradigm' is that our PEOPLE, our PRODUCTS and our PERFORMANCE are BETTER… all the time.

To our colleagues, we offer a sincere and deeply appreciative THANK YOU for another good and satisfying year in 2017!

Our 40th Anniversary Celebrations and Reflection

Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) Limited, formerly British American Bank (1993) Limited and The First Home Banking Centre, (Fidelity or the Bank) was incorporated in The Commonwealth of The Bahamas on 26 May 1978. The Bank is celebrating its 40th anniversary throughout the year with various events, sponsorships and initiatives.

At its opening, the Bank was led by Alfred Stewart. Under his stewardship, the Fidelity pioneered innovative products and services aimed at financing home ownership and built a foundation that continues to serve it well. Alfred Stewart retired at the end of 2012. He continues as a principal shareholder and advisor. We thank him for his service throughout our history.

A Special Tribute

Anwer Sunderji has retired as the Bank's Chief Executive Officer. He assumed the mantle of leadership from Alfred Stewart and continued the innovation of products and services. He was instrumental in the development of the local capital market and was a champion of financial literacy in The Bahamas. We wish him well as he faces new challenges and another season of life.

Long Serving Employees

Special tribute must be made to our outstanding colleagues - our employees with tweinty (20) years or more of service:

Leslie Fox	Manager, LAU	Katherine Lockhart	Manager, Central Services
Malvern Bain	VP, Asset Recovery	Philippa Peterson	Central Services Representative
Trudy Sands	Supervisor, Loan Administration	Rhonda Saunders	Loan Administrator
Crestwell Gardiner	VP, Lending	Theresa Antonio	Supervisor, Central Services
Rosella Johnson	Collateral Administrator	Michael Ford	Maintenance Custodian
Ernest Haven	Messenger	Eunice Johnson	Fraud & Risk Manager
Andrew Knowles	Sr. Collections Representative		

Charity of the Quarter

The 'Charity of the Quarter' initiative is led by Ms. Tangela Albury and our Donations Committee. Each quarter, Fidelity invites the community to donate to a local charity, which we then match $1 for $1. Persons can donate at any of our branches in New Providence, Grand Bahama and Abaco. We thank our colleagues, customers and the committee for their contributions.

Apprenticeship Programme

In keeping with our guiding principles, and in support of our continued growth, we have launched our three (3) year Apprenticeship Programme. We will help participants to develop an in-depth knowledge of our products, services and processes. The enhancement of their communication, leadership and people skills is also a goal of the programme.

Our Apprenticeship Programme is comprised as follows:

- One (1) year in Deposit Administration, Business Development, and Customer Service
- One (1) year in Loan Administration and Lending
- One (1) year in Operations, Compliance, and Special Projects

This new programme is a companion to our one (1) year Apprenticeship Programme for persons engaged in entry level positions. We thank our senior manager, managers and supervisors for their contributions in shaping and influencing the lives of our young people – The Millennials of Fidelity.

Branch Renovation and Expansion

Due to our growth, several branches have been expanded and renovated. Our new branch at Independence Business Park (East St. South at the Independence Roundabout) is now open! There will be further renovations at our Wulff Road and Marsh Harbour branches this year. We welcome our customers to enjoy a visit to any branch.

Digital Banking

We have successfully launched our Mobile Banking App for smart phones and tablets. This new initiative, along with our Online (Internet) Banking and Automated Teller Machines (ATMs), allows customers to conduct banking transactions anytime and anywhere.

Why Fidelity

There is a public perception that some banks charge high fees, offer loans at high interest rates, pay low interest rates for deposits, have excessive Know Your Customer (KYC) document requirements and provide poor service. At Fidelity, we seek to be different! We want to offer lower interest rates and fees for eligible borrowers. We seek to offer a quick turnaround and no runaround! We reward habitual savers with higher interest rates. We have fifteen (15) MINIMUM SERVICE STANDARDS and streamlined KYC account opening requirements. Our managers, supervisors and the Office of The President quickly act on customer complaints when we do not get it right or meet the expectations of our customers.

With the outstanding efforts of our colleagues, Fidelity's success is a reflection of the growth in our customer base. Due to the confidence of our customers, their on-going support and their belief in our promise that 'We Are Good for You', we have enjoyed another highly successful year in business development.

Gregory H. Bethel
President

Our Community

Fidelity donated $20,000 to the Ranfurly Homes for Children to assist in the institution's operational expenses.

Fidelity provides a state of the art library and resource room for students at Naomi Blatch Preschool.

Fidelity Donates To The Ranfurly Home

Fidelity donated $20,000 to The Ranfurly Homes for Children (Ranfurly) to assist in the institution's operational expenses.

Ranfurly has served thousands of orphaned, abused, neglected and abandoned children since it opened in 1956. Presently housing twenty-eight (28) residents between the ages of 11 to 18, Ranfurly relies heavily on public donations, both financial and volunteering, and other private and government subsidies to meet its budgetary obligations. Providing these services to disenfranchised children in the community is no small feat, as the costs to manage the home are great. "The annual operating costs is nearly half a million dollars," according to L. Alexander Roberts, Ranfurly's caretaker.

Presently Ranfurly is equipped with three (3) dormitories, a study room, living room, a computer/library center and a kitchen and dining facility. Apart from providing housing, the home provides a structured, secure and stable environment for children to grow up in. As such, Ranfurly continues to evolve to ensure that no child is left behind. One of its projects is a transitional home for its wards once they enter into adulthood. This transitional home is proposed to resemble an apartment complex with each unit complete with a stove, refrigerator and bathroom and kitchen fixtures, offering independent housing to the young men and women transitioning out of Ranfurly.

"Fidelity is doing its part to provide an environment where these vulnerable children can grow, thrive and develop to their full potential," said Tangela N. Albury, Chief of Compliance and Donations Committee Chair. "We are very pleased to have made this donation."

Fidelity Sponsors Library And Resource Room

Students at Naomi Blatch Preschool (the School) can now take advantage of a fully equipped reading and resource room, courtesy of Fidelity, which recently transformed the School's preschool library.

Dubbed the Fidelity Kids Corner, the room is outfitted with computers, listening centers, new shelving and furniture. The Brighter Bahamas Foundation partnered with Fidelity to provide books appropriate for preschoolers, with a donation of 300 books to the reading and resource room.

Bain and Grants Town Member of Parliament Travis Robinson praised Fidelity for its work in creating a safe, 21st century learning space for children. "I commend the leadership of Fidelity for giving back to the community and its continued sponsorship of Naomi Blatch Preschool, particularly by creating a place where these students can develop their literacy skills." he said.

Giving

Fidelity donates a brand new generator to the Grand Bahama Children's home.

In addition to donating the Fidelity Kids Corner, Fidelity also hosted a back-to-school fun day, where the students enjoyed free face painting, a bouncing castle, food and drinks, in addition to free haircuts for boys. Each student was also provided with one (1) uniform set and one (1) physical education kit. As a co-sponsor for the event, Nassau Paper Company (NAPCO) donated school supplies, including notebooks, coloring books and construction paper to the students.

"We are very pleased to donate a brand new learning center to Naomi Blatch," said Tangela N. Albury, Donations Committee Chair and Chief of Compliance. "Having adopted Naomi Blatch last year, Fidelity has been committed to ensuring that the students who attend the school are fully prepared to learn. It is particularly important to us to provide this kind of support for students who are at that critical age where the foundation of education is laid."

Children's Home Gets Brand New Generator

The prayers of the Grand Bahama Children's Home (the GBCH) were answered when a local financial institution donated a much-needed power generator valued at more than $30,000 to the facility on Thursday. The home, which was in dire need of a generator following Hurricane Matthew, was presented with a 240kw Caterpillar generator capable of generating power to its entire facility on Jobson Avenue where the facility cares for some twenty seven (27) children.

Fidelity's President, Gregory Bethel, was in Freeport for the presentation and said that another corporate citizen, Mechanical and Engineering (M&E), has agreed to maintain the generator at no cost to the home. Sheila Smith Johnson, executive director of the GBCH, was overjoyed when she learned that Fidelity was donating a generator, which she had just prayed for a week earlier. The GBCH, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, depends on donations from the community and corporate citizens to keep the home running. The facility has cared for some 4,000 children since its founding. Board member Leslie Baptista thanked the group of volunteers who throughout the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew lent them generators and supplied gas. "To not have power and have up to thrity (30) children running around scared, hungry and tired - it was a tremendous village effort. And this day is a wonderful day," she said.

Willie Moss, the co-chair of the 40th Anniversary Celebrations Committee, said GBCH had been a "haven" for some 4,000 children over the past four (4) decades. "It's been a place of safety, not just during the time of hurricanes, but for those who are neglected, abused, or find themselves on hard times," Ms Moss said. "It's been a place of care, not just a roof over the heads of the children who come here, but a place for them to receive the kind of care, attention, and love that they perhaps could not get where they were, and so they were brought here. It's been a shelter in the time of the storms which wreaked havoc in the lives of those who are most vulnerable in our society and who through no fault of their own find themselves in dire need."

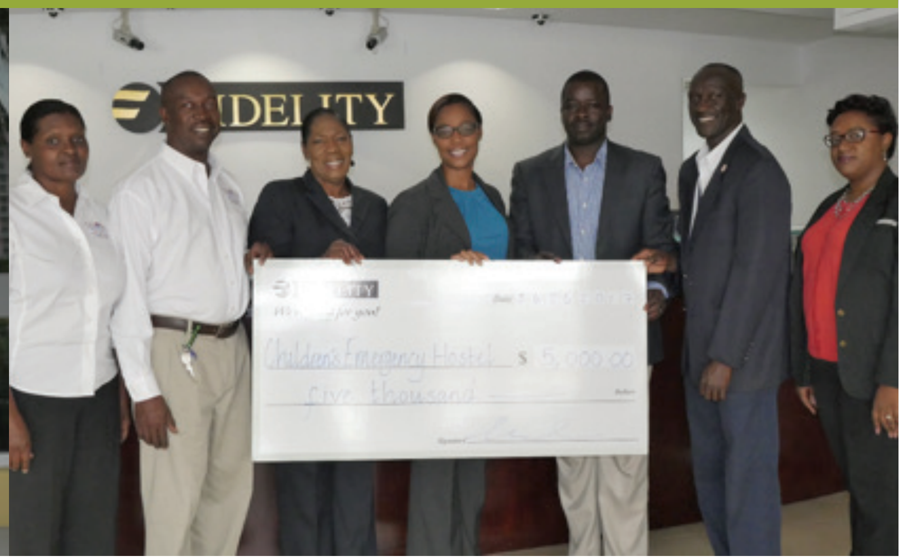
The GBCH, Ms Moss said, is still operating today because of donations received from Fidelity and countless others who have over the years made charity the focus of their lives. "So the GBCH is here today because of love, and love of countless persons who found it in their hearts to give to those in need. And it will only continue through the generosity of those who are continuing to support the work that is done here," she said. "The home needs assistance and the support of every person in this community to carry on the work that it is doing. No amount is too small; we need hundreds of thousands one dollar bills to make the home work," she said.

Fidelity donates $10,000 to The Bahamas National Feeding Network (BNFN)

Fidelity's Charity of the Quarter initiative helped to raise $5,000 for R.E.A.C.H. in recognition of Autism Awareness Month.

Over 500 persons were fed with a donation of grocery items compliments of Fidelity. Staff volunteered at Trinity Methodist Church's Soup Kitchen to disttribute the bags.

Fidelity donates to the Bahamas Softball Federation



Fidelity helps the Children's Emergency Hostel go solar!

Fidelity Donates $10,000 To Feeding The Hungry

Fidelity made a donation of The Bahamas National Feeding Network (BNFN), a non-profit organisations that acts as a central hub for the collection and distribution of resources to charities throughout New Providence and the Family Islands.

Established in 2013, BNFN acts as the central hub for feeding centres in The Bahamas. The organisation collects and disburses food and non-food supplies, volunteers and other resources and distributed to over seventy (70) feeding centres/programmes. This, according to BNFN, is to minimise duplication of services, improve communications and collaborations and to provide a common platform for standards among these groups. Since its launch BNFN estimates feeding upwards of 1,000 persons a day through its distribution channels. In its first year of existence, the organisations donated $70,000 in food coupons to over forty (40) feeding groups and churches.

Ms. Tangela N. Albury, Chief of Compliance and Donations Committee Chair says Fidelity is committed to helping the less fortunate in the community it serves. "It is estimated that one (1) out of every eight (8) persons in The Bahamas lives on or under $11.64 a day" she says. "Considering that some persons would spend that amount or more on only one meal, it is difficult to imagine having to feed oneself for an entire day with that little - notwithstanding other basic needs that need to be funded."

Mr. Philip Smith, Executive Director received the donation and expressed sincere thanks to Fidelity for its generosity. "We are able to do what we do because of the kindness of corporate citizens like those at Fidelity," he said.

To donate to The Bahamas National Feeding Network, visit www.bahamasfeedingnetwork.org

University of the Bahamas Business student, Samuel L. Evans Jr. receives the Fidelity Award for academic excellence.

Moore's Island School, Marsh Harbour, Abaco receives a donation as part of Fidelity's Charity of the Quarter.

Fidelity sponsors Christmas Party and gifts for the Grand Bahama Down Syndrome Society.

Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre receives a new garden courtesy of Fidelity.

Fidelity partners with the Bahamas Red Cross to provide emergency suppy kits in preparation for Hurricane Irma.

Fidelity staff volunteer at Bahamas National Feeding Network's Sunday Feeding programme.

Thanks to You!

In honor of Sir Durward Knowles' 100th Birthday, Fidelity sponsored twenty-five (25) students to attend the Bahamas Sailing Club's summer programme.

Fidelity Supports Autism Awareness Month

Fidelity, along with the community, donated to R.E.A.C.H. in recognition of Autism Awareness Month. R.E.A.C.H. (Resources and Education for Autism and Related Challenges) was founded in 1998 as a voluntary support and advocacy group for persons and their families who are challenged by autism or related disorders. The lifelong, complex, neurobiological disorder is characterised by varying degrees of communication, socialisation and behaviour impairments. While the statistics for The Bahamas is unknown, Autism is considered the fastest growing developmental disability in the country.

Autism Awareness Month occurs every April worldwide. During that time, R.E.A.C.H. hosts a number of fundraising events to assist in its annual efforts. To assist in this fundraising exercise, Fidelity Bank made R.E.A.C.H. its Charity of the Quarter for the months January – March 2017, where the community was encouraged to donate to the organisations at any of its branches in New providence. Fidelity then matched the donations dollar for dollar. Marcia Newball, R.E.A.C.H.'s Executive Director, says its main objective is to "provide parents with comprehensive knowledge and tools in all areas of this neurobiological disorder".

Among the challenges faced by the organisations is the lack of services afforded to persons with autism, including early diagnosis, speech and occupational therapy, finding appropriate education, vocational training, job opportunities, respite care, and sheltered living facilities.

"Parents of Autistic children are often wandering in the dark, uncertain of what they need to do to ensure the best scenario for their children. Sadly, there are not enough public services for children with Autism and other related disabilities. R.E.A.C.H. has worked very hard over the years to fill that gap" said Mrs. Newball.

Ms. Tangela N. Albury, Chief of Compliance and Donations Committee Chair lauded R.E.A.C.H. for its role in the education of parents, teachers and other stakeholders as well as in the formation of public policy. "The way persons with disabilities are treated is changing, due largely to the efforts of organisations like R.E.A.C.H. We've seen persons with Autism now able to contribute positively to their communities and even the workplace. The community needs organisations like R.E.A.C.H. to act as advocates for persons who may be otherwise disadvantaged. Fidelity is very pleased to partner with the community to assist in this regard."

Management Discussion & Analysis

Gowon N. G. Bowe
Chief Financial Officer

Financial Position And Performance

For the year ended 31 December 2017, Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) Limited (the Bank) experienced growth in total assets of $63,561,193 (2016: $42,998,186), representing 11.27% (2016: 8.15%), to $627,770,143 (2016: $564,208,950), principally comprising growth in: cash on hand and at banks of $28,639,062, representing 38.07% (2016: 5.66%), to $103,858,986 (2016: $75,219,924); and loans and advances to customers of $22,040,675, representing 5.70% (2016: 7.29%), to $408,644,237 (2016: $386,803,562).

Return on average assets for the year ended 31 December 2017 was 3.53% (2016: 3.91%).

Further, the Bank recognised net income of $21,053,528 (2016: $21,687,965), representing a decrease of 2.93% (2016: increase of 4.77%) over the corresponding period. This represented earnings per share of $0.70 (2016: $0.72). The slight decline in net income was driven by: an increase in overall expenses, excluding provision for loan losses, of $1,733,002 (2016: $1,601,016), principally due to increases in general and administrative expenses, which included an increase in bank and business licence fees of $564,729 (2016: $176,479); and an increase in provision for loan losses of $973,462 (2016: $2,033,337). The increase in overall expenses was offset by an increase in net interest income of $1,712,789 (2016: $6,035,694), which was the result of continued growth of consumer loans, which yield higher interest margins, albeit less than the corresponding period and that was further dampened by the increase in cash on hand and at banks which are primarily non-interesting bearing. Salaries and employee benefits increased by $372,926 (2016: $902,474) to service the continued growth of consumer loans, while the Bank benefitted from an increase in share of profits of joint ventures of $242,716 (2016: decrease of $1,043,184).

The Bank recognised total comprehensive income of $21,053,528 (2016: $21,231,320), representing a decrease of 0.84% (2016: increase of 2.57%) over the corresponding period, which reported a loss from revaluation of property, plant and equipment contributing to the difference in net income and total comprehensive during that year.

During the year, dividends of $14,433,335 (2016: $11,546,669) were paid on ordinary shares, representing $0.50 (2016: $0.40) per share and a dividend payout ratio of 71.89% (2016: 57.22%).

Capital Adequacy

As of 31 December 2017, the Bank had total equity of $89,316,603 (2016: $83,562,420), representing an increase of 6.89% (2016: 11.77%) over the corresponding period. The Central Bank of The Bahamas requires that the Bank maintains a ratio of total regulatory capital to risk–weighted assets at or above a minimum of 14.00%, and as of 31 December 2017, the Bank's total regulatory capital to risk-weighted asset stood at 22.51% (2016: 22.26%).

Return on average ordinary shareholders' equity for the year ended 31 December 2017 was 28.11% (2016: 31.45%).

Loans And Advances To Customers

For the year ended 31 December 2017, existing mortgage loans in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas (The Bahamas) continued to perform poorly with very limited potential borrowers qualifying for new mortgage loans, which was no different for the Bank that reported a decrease in mortgage loans of $7,277,363 (2016: $9,871,091), representing 9.34% (2016: 11.24%), as repayments and realisation of properties pledged as collateral were the only significant activities in the mortgage portfolio. The Bank has enhanced its efforts for the realisation of collateral on non-performing mortgage loans, which has started to bear fruit towards the end of 2017 and is expected to continue in 2018 and beyond.

Consumer and other loans increased by $29,073,624 (2016: $36,342,222), representing 9.01% (2016: 12.70%), which are the results of continued focus by the Bank on growing this loan portfolio while maintaining the principle of quality lending centred on a borrower's ability to pay.

As of 31 December 2017, mortgage loans represented 16.73% (2016: 19.46%) of total loans with consumer and other loans representing 83.27% (2016: 80.54%). The ratio is reflective of the performance of the underlying loan portfolios, as consumer and other loans demonstrate fundamentals that are conducive to growing this portfolio, while the current fundamentals of mortgage loans provide far less incentives to pursue any growth strategy relative to this portfolio. The mix of the loan portfolio is at the forefront of considerations by senior management of the Bank and those charged with governance, who have concluded that the performance and fundamentals of the various types of loans will drive the Bank's growth strategy.

The loan loss experience for consumer and other loans significantly outperforms that for mortgage loans, which manifests in the movement in non-performing loans that while increasing to $26,728,528 (2016: $25,519,127), represent less of the total loans and advances to customers than in the corresponding period at 6.46% (2016: 6.50%). Provision for loan losses represented 2.50% (2016: 2.66%) of total loans and advances to customers, excluding accrued interest.

Deposits From Customers And Debt Securities

For the year ended 31 December 2017, deposits from customers increased by $62,633,477 (2016: $33,769,649), representing 14.54% (2016: 8.50%), principally due to the inflows of new deposits as the Bank reduced interest rates more gradually than its competitors, following overall reductions in market interest rates as the result of significant excess liquidity in the banking system in The Bahamas. The increased deposits from customers provided the necessary funding for the growth in loans and advances to customers, which facilitated the Bank redeeming debt securities of $5,000,000 during the year without replacing such funding with the more costly funding represented by the debt securities; during 2018, further debt securities will be redeemed and not replaced with the issuance of new debt securities. However, the increased deposits from customers outpaced the growth in loans and advances to customers thereby leading to an increase in cash on hand and at banks, which has resulted in a dampening of interest income as deposits with banks are placed principally with the Central Bank of The Bahamas and non-interest bearing. The Bank continues to monitor and manage the matching of financial assets and financial liabilities to maximise net interest income, while ensuring it comfortably meets its liquidity requirements.

The mix of deposit types remained consistent with the corresponding period, however, the Bank's strategy is to encourage greater placements in term deposits that has the benefit of more advantageous interest rates for our customers, more advantageous costs of funding for the Bank as it continues its growth, and greater stability in the movement of funds that will facilitate greater treasury management options for managing excess liquidity.

Operating Revenues

Net Interest Income

For the year ended 31 December 2017, the Bank recognised net interest income of $46,456,445 (2016: $44,743,656), representing an increase of 3.83% (2016: 15.59%) over the corresponding period, with net interest margin on interest bearing financial assets standing at 5.34% (2016: 5.69%). The net interest margin remains respectable but reflects the dampening effect of the significant resources deployed in cash on hand and at banks.

Non-Interest Income

The principal sources of income other than interest are fees and commissions and share of profits of joint ventures. For the year ended 31 December 2017, fees and commissions recognised totalled $2,821,528 (2016: $2,676,115). Further, share of profits of joint ventures recognised totalled $2,347,665 (2016: $2,104,949), representing an increase of 11.53% (2016: decrease of 33.14%) over the corresponding period. The increase during the year was driven by increased net income and total comprehensive income of the principal joint venture, Royal Fidelity Merchant Bank & Trust Limited, due in the main to increased fees and commissions from successful capital raising activities during the current year.

For the year ended 31 December 2017, income other than interest represented 10.69% (2016: 10.42%) of total income.

Operating Expenses

For the year ended 31 December 2017, expenses, excluding provision for loan losses, totalled $22,005,371 (2016: $20,272,369), representing an increase of 8.55% (2016: 8.57%) over the corresponding period. The increase is principally due to increases in certain general and administrative expenses, including an increase in bank and business licence fees of $564,729 (2016: $176,479), representing an increase of 24.50% (2016: 8.29%). Further, salaries and employee benefits increased by $372,926 (2016: $902,474), representing an increase of 10.38% (2016: 10.05%), which is considered funds well spent to service the continued growth of consumer loans.

Provision For Loan Losses

As of 31 December 2017, non-performing loans and advances to customers represented 6.46% (2016: 6.50%) of total loans and advances to customers, due to a reduction in mortgage loans, which have the higher non-performing ratio. Non-performing mortgage loans totalled $19,525,422 (2016: $20,271,757), representing 73.05% (2016: 79.44%) of total non-performing loans and advances to customers. Provision for losses represented 38.76% (2016: 40.94%) of total non-performing loans and advances to customers.

The growth in total loans and advances to customers, in particular consumer and other loans, is naturally contributing to the increase in provision for loan losses recognised in the statement of comprehensive income annually, however, the provision for losses as of 31 December 2017 demonstrates the quality of the loan portfolio through the reduced size of non-performing loans and advances to customers relative to total loans and advances to customers and overall stable level of provision for loan losses despite an increase in total loans and advances to customers.

The Bank recognises that significant effort is required in rehabilitating non-performing loans and advances and accordingly, its principal focus is on quality underwriting and monitoring early signs of delinquency. However, the Bank deployed new strategies surrounding collections and rehabilitation of non-performing loans and advances to customers during 2017, the benefits of which are expected to be recognised in further improvement to already industry-leading loss ratios.

Adoption Of Ifrs 9

Subsequent to 31 December 2017, the Bank will be entering the era of International Financial Reporting Standard 9 *Financial Instruments* (IFRS 9). IFRS 9, effective 1 January 2018, requires a change in the Bank's accounting policies relative to its financial assets, principally its loans and advances to customers. The new accounting policies calculate provisions for loan losses based on an expected loss model, as opposed to an incurred loss model. In simple terms, the Bank is required to make provisions for all loans and advances to customers based on the expectation of the portion of loans and advances that will experience challenges in collection. Financial institutions apply interest rates on loans and advances based on the determined risk of challenges with collection (that is, the higher the risk, the higher the interest rate and vice versa), and IFRS 9 now requires financial institutions to reduce the value of loans and advances by the expected loss experience, regardless of whether loans and advances are being serviced according to the terms of the loans and advances or not. Prior to 1 January 2018, provisions for loan losses were only recognised when loans and advances stopped performing according to the relevant terms. This change in accounting policy will result in the Bank increasing its provision for loan losses on its loans and advances portfolio; while expenses related to provision for loan losses can increase as well, the adjustment due to the change in accounting policies represents a one (1) time adjustment. The consistency in the lending policies of the Bank, and its strong loss experience in comparison to industry and competitor statistics, are expected to result in a moderate impact to the Bank with no overall impact to its capital adequacy ratio, even after normal dividends.

Other impacts of adopting IFRS9 will be disclosed in the audited financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2018, including the change in classification of investment securities and expanded disclosures. No additional quantitative impacts are expected.

Summary

The year ended 31 December 2017 was a successful year for the Bank, with financial metrics moving in a direction to facilitate increased, yet sustainable, financial performance. The overall financial performance was consistent with the corresponding period, in spite of the reduction in the Bahamian dollar Prime rate at the beginning of the year, slow economic recovery in The Bahamas leading to a less than ideal lending environment for the banking industry, and of course, increasing competition for the existing overall stagnant loan portfolio in The Bahamas.

The lending strategies of the Bank continue to put the Bank in good stead, with new strategies being developed and implemented in response to market conditions and portfolio experience. Key to the success of the Bank are its ongoing investments in personnel, training and information technology. The Bank remains focus on effective execution of chosen strategies, with continued successes in 2018 and beyond being the result.

2017 Financial Statements

Independent auditors' report

To the Shareholders of Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) Limited

Report on the audit of the consolidated financial statements

Our opinion

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) Limited (the 'Bank') and its subsidiaries (together the 'Group') as at 31 December 2017, and their consolidated financial performance and their consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

What we have audited

Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) Limited's consolidated financial statements comprise:

- the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2017;
- the consolidated statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended;
- the consolidated statement of changes in equity for the year then ended;
- the consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the notes to the consolidated financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies.

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 consolidated financial statements* section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We are independent of the Group in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code). We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code.

PricewaterhouseCoopers, 2 Bayside Executive Park, West Bay Street & Blake Road, P.O. Box N-3910, Nassau, Bahamas T: + 1 242 302 5300, F: + 1 242 302 5350, www.pwc.com/bs, E-mail: pwcbs@bs.pwc.com

Our audit approach

Overview

Overall group materiality: $1,075,000, which represents approximately 5% of profit from continuing operations.

We planned and scoped our audit for 2017 reflecting the Group structure. As a result we defined Royal Fidelity Merchant Bank and Trust Limited as a significant component, subject to an audit of its complete financial information.

The key audit matter for our audit to which we allocated the greatest amount of our resources and effort was:

- Impairment of loans and advances to customers.

Audit scope

As part of designing our audit, we determined materiality and assessed the risks of material misstatement in the consolidated financial statements. In particular, we considered where management made subjective judgements; for example, in respect of significant accounting estimates that involved making assumptions and considering future events that are inherently uncertain. As in all of our audits, we also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including among other matters consideration of whether there was evidence of bias that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

How we tailored our group audit scope

We tailored the scope of our audit in order to perform sufficient work to enable us to provide an opinion on the consolidated financial statements as a whole, taking into account the structure of the Group, the accounting processes and controls, and the industry in which the Group operates.

We conducted audit work for Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) Limited and one component, Royal Fidelity Merchant Bank and Trust Limited. A full scope audit was performed for the component as it is individually financially significant to the Group. The Group engagement partner was also the engagement partner for the component audit.

Materiality

The scope of our audit was influenced by our application of materiality. An audit is designed to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. Misstatements may arise due to fraud or error. They are considered material if individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the consolidated financial statements.

Based on our professional judgement, we determined certain quantitative thresholds for materiality, including the overall group materiality for the consolidated financial statements as a whole as set out in the table below. These, together with qualitative considerations, helped us to determine the scope of our audit and the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures and to evaluate the effect of misstatements, both individually and in aggregate on the financial statements as a whole.

Overall group materiality	$1,075,000
How we determined it	Approximately 5% of profit from continuing operations
Rationale for the materiality benchmark applied	We chose profit from continuing operations as the benchmark because, in our view, it is the benchmark against which the performance of the Group is most commonly measured by users, and is a generally accepted benchmark. We chose approximately 5% which is within a range of acceptable thresholds.

We agreed with the Audit Committee that we would report to them misstatements identified during our audit above $53,750 as well as misstatements below that amount that, in our view, warranted reporting for qualitative reasons.

Key audit matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Key audit matter	How our audit addressed the Key audit matter
Impairment of loans and advances to customers *See notes 2 (e), 2 (f), 6, 20, 21 and 22 of the consolidated financial statements for disclosures of related accounting policies, judgements and estimates.*	
As at 31 December 2017, loans and advances to customers, net of provision for credit losses, represented $408,644,237 or 65% of total assets of the Group. Impairment provisions on loans and advances to customers totalling $10,361,121 were recognised at the statement of financial position date. We focused on management's impairment assessment on loans and advances to customers because the assumptions used for estimating the amount of the provision for loan	We evaluated the design and tested the operating effectiveness of relevant controls over the identification of loans and advances to customers past due for more than 90 days, or those otherwise deemed to be impaired, and the associated change in status to 'non-performing'. We tested the calculation of the ageing of loans and advances to customers within the credit monitoring system by testing a sample of loans and advances to customers and re-calculating the delinquency days based on the repayment history and testing the report used by

losses, including the amount and timing of future cash flows are complex and involve significant judgement by management, including:

- classification of loans and advances to customers as impaired, specifically the completeness of the population of loans and advances to customers included in the impairment calculation.

Mortgage loans

- valuation of real estate property pledged as collateral for mortgage loans. This is the most significant repayment source for impaired mortgages; the collateral value depends on market trends as well as the circumstances of the specific property and involves judgement and specialised skills. Management engaged a number of independent valuation experts to assist in determining the valuation of real estate property pledged as collateral.
- the estimated costs and time to sell the pledged collateral.
- the recoverable amount of accrued interest on mortgage loans specifically identified as potentially impaired, which is recoverable from collateral held.

Consumer loans

- the level of provision required for consumer loans past due at the statement of financial position date, including consideration of the loss emergence subsequent to the year end.

management to extract the ageing information for financial reporting purposes.

We challenged management's process by examining a sample of loans and advances to customers which had not been identified by management as potentially impaired and formed our own independent conclusion as to whether there were indications of impairment.

Mortgage loans

We assessed the competence and objectivity of the management appointed real estate appraisers, confirming that they are qualified real estate appraisers and that there was no affiliation to the Group. For a sample of valuation reports, we compared the key assumption used by the real estate appraisers of recent sales to comparable actual sales data and recent sales of collateral by the Group.

We tested management's listing of potentially impaired mortgages and related collateral values by comparing the collateral values recorded by management to valuation appraisal reports.

We assessed the reasonableness of the collateral values used by management in their calculation of the provision by analysing the trends in collateral values, comparing, on a sample basis, the results of recent collateral valuations and recent sales of collateral by the Group against the previous collateral valuations obtained by management.

We assessed the reasonableness of management's assumptions used in determining the provisions which included assessing the provisions previously established against amounts collected from collateral sold during the year. Specifically, this entailed consideration of real estate agency fees, legal fees and other costs incurred to sell the pledged collateral as well as the average number of months to sell the property.

We further tested the accuracy, or otherwise, of management's calculation of the specific provisions on mortgages by performing, on a sample basis, an independent re-calculation of such amounts.

We assessed the reasonableness of the amount recorded by management in respect of the recoverable amount of accrued interest on mortgage loans specifically identified as potentially impaired by comparing the amount of such accrued interest against the excess of collateral held over the principal amount of such loans.

Consumer loans

For consumer loans, we compared the results of management's provisioning policy to the provisions indicated as being required by the loss emergence trends during the year, as well as the loss emergence subsequent to the year end.

No material misstatement in the carrying amount of loans and advances to customers recorded in the consolidated Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2017 was identified by our testing.

Other information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information presented in the Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) Limited Annual Report for 2017 (but does not include the consolidated financial statements and our auditors' report thereon), which is expected to be made available to us after the date of this auditors' report.

Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information and we will not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above when it becomes available and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

When we read the Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) Limited Annual Report for 2017, if we conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, we are required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the consolidated financial statements

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

In preparing the consolidated 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 consolidated financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated 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 the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated 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 for 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 consolidated 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 consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated 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 entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We 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 also 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 consolidated 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.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditors' report is Prince A. Rahming.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Chartered Accountants
Nassau, Bahamas

30 April 2018

FIDELITY BANK (BAHAMAS) LIMITED

(Incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas)

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
As of 31 December 2017

(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

	2017 $	2016 $
ASSETS		
Cash on hand and at banks (Note 4)	103,858,986	75,219,924
Investment securities (Note 5)	88,496,767	77,129,401
Loans and advances to customers (Note 6)	408,644,237	386,803,562
Other assets	2,599,954	3,161,364
Investments in joint ventures (Note 7)	13,247,977	10,937,162
Property, plant and equipment (Note 8)	10,922,222	10,957,537
Total assets	**627,770,143**	**564,208,950**
LIABILITIES		
Deposits from customers (Note 9)	493,516,569	430,883,092
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	1,004,008	870,908
Debt securities (Note 10)	43,932,963	48,892,530
Total liabilities	**538,453,540**	**480,646,530**
EQUITY		
Capital – ordinary shares (Note 11)	20,363,328	20,333,243
Capital – preference shares (Note 11)	15,000,000	15,000,000
Revaluation reserve	373,659	392,251
Reserve for credit losses (Note 19)	4,090,372	3,855,116
Retained earnings	49,489,244	43,981,810
Total equity	**89,316,603**	**83,562,420**
Total liabilities and equity	**627,770,143**	**564,208,950**

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SIGNED ON ITS BEHALF BY:

Director

Director

5 April 2018
Date

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

FIDELITY BANK (BAHAMAS) LIMITED

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income
For the Year Ended 31 December 2017
(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

	2017 $	2016 $
INCOME		
Interest income		
Bank deposits, loans and advances	58,057,752	56,237,192
Investment securities	3,229,483	3,147,017
	61,287,235	59,384,209
Interest expense	(14,830,790)	(14,640,553)
Net interest income	**46,456,445**	**44,743,656**
Fees and commissions	2,821,528	2,676,115
Rental income	80,625	80,625
Other income	313,230	342,121
	49,671,828	**47,842,517**
EXPENSES		
General and administrative (Note 13)	10,314,128	8,802,541
Salaries and employee benefits (Note 14)	10,258,702	9,885,776
Provision for loan losses (Note 6)	8,960,594	7,987,132
Depreciation and amortisation (Note 8)	1,432,541	1,584,052
	30,965,965	**28,259,501**
Operating profit	**18,705,863**	**19,583,016**
Share of profits of joint ventures (Note 7)	2,347,665	2,104,949
Net income	**21,053,528**	**21,687,965**
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
Items not reclassified to net income		
Property, plant and equipment revaluation (Note 8)	-	(456,645)
Total comprehensive income	**21,053,528**	**21,231,320**
Attributable to:		
Ordinary shareholders		
Net income	20,078,118	20,635,088
Other comprehensive income	-	(456,645)
	20,078,118	20,178,443
Preference shareholders		
Net income	975,410	1,052,877
Other comprehensive income	-	-
	975,410	1,052,877
	21,053,528	**21,231,320**
Earnings per share (Note 12)	**0.70**	**0.72**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

FIDELITY BANK (BAHAMAS) LIMITED

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity
For the Year Ended 31 December 2017
(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

	Capital – Ordinary Shares $	Capital – Preference Shares $	Revaluation Reserve $	Reserve for Credit Losses $	Retained Earnings $	Total $
As of 1 January 2017	20,333,243	15,000,000	392,251	3,855,116	43,981,810	83,562,420
Comprehensive income						
Net income	-	-	-	-	21,053,528	21,053,528
Other comprehensive income						
Property, plant and equipment revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	21,053,528	21,053,528
Transfers						
Depreciation transfer	-	-	(18,592)	-	18,592	-
Appropriation for credit losses	-	-	-	235,256	(235,256)	-
Total transfers	-	-	(18,592)	235,256	(216,664)	-
Transactions with owners						
Issuance of ordinary shares	30,085	-	-	-	79,315	109,400
Dividends – preference shares	-	-	-	-	(975,410)	(975,410)
Dividends – ordinary shares	-	-	-	-	(14,433,335)	(14,433,335)
Total transactions with owners	30,085	-	-	-	(15,329,430)	(15,299,345)
As of 31 December 2017	**20,363,328**	**15,000,000**	**373,659**	**4,090,372**	**49,489,244**	**89,316,603**
Dividends per share	**0.50**	**0.65**				

	Capital – Ordinary Shares $	Capital – Preference Shares $	Revaluation Reserve $	Reserve for Credit Losses $	Retained Earnings $	Total $
As of 1 January 2016	20,241,119	15,000,000	875,780	3,647,593	34,998,204	74,762,696
Comprehensive income						
Net income	-	-	-	-	21,687,965	21,687,965
Other comprehensive income						
Property, plant and equipment revaluation	-	-	(456,645)	-	-	(456,645)
Total comprehensive income	-	-	(456,645)	-	21,687,965	21,231,320
Transfers						
Depreciation transfer	-	-	(26,884)	-	26,884	-
Appropriation for credit losses	-	-	-	207,523	(207,523)	-
Total transfers	-	-	(26,884)	207,523	(180,639)	-
Transactions with owners						
Issuance of ordinary shares	92,124	-	-	-	75,826	167,950
Dividends – preference shares	-	-	-	-	(1,052,877)	(1,052,877)
Dividends – ordinary shares	-	-	-	-	(11,546,669)	(11,546,669)
Total transactions with owners	92,124	-	-	-	(12,523,720)	(12,431,596)
As of 31 December 2016	**20,333,243**	**15,000,000**	**392,251**	**3,855,116**	**43,981,810**	**83,562,420**
Dividends per share	**0.40**	**0.70**				

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

FIDELITY BANK (BAHAMAS) LIMITED

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 31 December 2017
(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

	2017 $	2016 $
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net income	21,053,528	21,687,965
Adjustments for:		
Interest income	(61,287,235)	(59,384,209)
Interest expense	14,830,790	14,640,553
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	-	(2,250)
Salaries and employee benefits	109,400	167,950
Provision for loan losses	8,960,594	7,987,132
Depreciation and amortisation	1,432,541	1,584,052
Share of profits of joint ventures	(2,347,665)	(2,104,949)
Interest received	55,191,221	53,608,088
Interest paid	(14,199,272)	(14,021,572)
(Increase)/Decrease in operating assets		
Mandatory reserve deposits	(2,355,950)	(3,818,460)
Loans and advances to customers	(24,701,620)	(28,560,087)
Other assets	561,410	(1,572,788)
Increase/(Decrease) in operating liabilities		
Deposits from customers	62,042,392	33,247,054
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	133,100	(145,263)
Net cash from operating activities	**59,423,234**	**23,313,216**
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Dividends received	36,850	5,722,293
Purchases of investment securities	(11,373,301)	(15,602,570)
Proceeds from sales/maturities of investment securities	2,300	574,000
Purchases of property, plant and equipment	(1,397,226)	(1,200,856)
Proceeds from disposals of property, plant and equipment	-	2,250
Net cash used in investing activities	**(12,731,377)**	**(10,504,883)**
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Redemptions of debt securities	(5,000,000)	-
Dividends paid on preference shares	(975,410)	(1,052,877)
Dividends paid on ordinary shares	(14,433,335)	(11,546,669)
Net cash used in financing activities	**(20,408,745)**	**(12,599,546)**
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	**26,283,112**	**208,787**
Cash and cash equivalents as of the beginning of the year	57,168,174	56,959,387
Cash and cash equivalents as of the end of the year (Note 4)	**83,451,286**	**57,168,174**

See Note 11 for significant non-cash transactions.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

1. General Information

Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) Limited (the Bank) is incorporated under the Companies Act, 1992 of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas (The Bahamas) and is licensed under the Banks and Trust Companies Regulation Act, 2000 to carry on banking business in The Bahamas. Further, the Bank's joint venture Royal Fidelity Merchant Bank & Trust Limited (RFMBT), a company incorporated in The Bahamas, is licensed under the Banks and Trust Companies Regulation Act, 2000 to carry on trust and banking business in The Bahamas, and under the Securities Industry Act, 2011 to deal, arrange, manage and advise on securities in The Bahamas. RFMBT has subsidiaries incorporated in Barbados and licensed under the Financial Institutions Act, 1996 to carry on trust, banking and securities business in Barbados.

The Bank, and its subsidiaries and joint ventures (Note 3), collectively referred to as the Group, offer a full range of: retail banking services, including internet and telephone banking, acceptance of deposits, granting of loans, credit card services and the provision of foreign exchange services through each of its four (4) branches in New Providence, its branch in Grand Bahama and its branch in Abaco; and private banking, trustee, investment management, corporate finance, share registrar and transfer agency, pension, administration, brokerage and investment advisory services.

The ordinary shares of the Bank are listed and traded on The Bahamas International Securities Exchange (BISX). Fidelity Bank & Trust International Limited (the Parent), a company incorporated in The Bahamas, owns 74.62% (2016: 74.65%) of the outstanding ordinary shares of the Bank.

The registered office of the Bank is situated at #51 Frederick Street, Nassau, Bahamas.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented, unless otherwise stated.

(a) Basis of preparation

The consolidated financial statements are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), and under the historical cost convention, except as disclosed in the accounting policies below.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgment in the process of applying the Group's accounting policies. 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. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The areas involving a higher degree of judgment or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the consolidated financial statements, are disclosed in Notes 2(d), 2(g), 2(m) and 20.

New standards, amendments and interpretations adopted by the Group

Standards and amendments and interpretations to published standards that became effective for the Group's financial year beginning on 1 January 2017 were either not relevant or not significant to the Group's operations and accordingly did not have a material impact on the Group's accounting policies or consolidated financial statements.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

(a) Basis of preparation (continued)

New standards, amendments and interpretations not yet adopted by the Group

With the exception of IFRS 9 *Financial Instruments* (IFRS 9), IFRS 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (IFRS 15), and IFRS 16 *Leases* (IFRS 16), the application of new standards and amendments and interpretations to existing standards that have been published but are not yet effective are not expected to have a material impact on the Group's accounting policies or consolidated financial statements in the financial period of initial application.

IFRS 9, which is effective for financial reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018, addresses the classification, measurement and recognition of financial assets and financial liabilities, and replaces the guidance in IAS 39 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement* (IAS 39) that relates to the classification and measurement of financial instruments. IFRS 9 retains but simplifies the mixed measurement model and establishes three (3) primary measurement categories for financial assets: amortised cost, fair value through profit or loss and fair value through other comprehensive income. The determination is made at initial recognition, and the basis of classification depends on the Group's business model for managing its financial assets and the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial asset.

Loans and advances, debt securities and other financial assets held to collect solely payments of principal and interest (SPPI) may be classified and measured as amortised cost, with an option to classify such financial assets as fair value through other comprehensive income in cases where such financial assets are also sold with regularity. Financial assets that do not contain cash flows that represent solely payments of principal and interest must be classified as fair value through profit or loss, except that equity securities can irrevocably be designated as fair value through other comprehensive income provided the equity securities are not held for trading.

In addition, IFRS 9 will require the impairment of financial assets to be calculated using an expected credit loss model that replaces the incurred loss impairment model required by IAS 39. At initial recognition of relevant financial assets, a provision for impairment of financial assets is required to be recognised based on expected losses due to credit default events that are possible within one (1) year. Financial assets are categorised into three (3) stages based on credit default factors and experiences, and provisions for impairment are recognised based on total expected losses in the event of a significant increase in credit risk or an actual credit default. The assessment of whether credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition is performed on an ongoing basis by considering the change in the risk of default occurring over the remaining life of the financial instrument, rather than by considering an increase in provision for expected losses. The assessment of credit risk and the estimation of expected losses are required to be unbiased and probability-weighted, and incorporate all available information which is relevant to the assessment including information about past events, current conditions and reasonable and supportable forward looking information specific to the counterparty, as well as forecasts of economic conditions as of the financial reporting date. The estimation of expected losses takes into account the time value of money, which will result in the measurement of impairment being more forward-looking than under IAS 39. Accordingly, it is expected that the allowance for impairment will increase as all financial assets will be assessed for expected losses within at least one (1) year and the population of financial assets to which total expected losses will apply is likely to be larger than the population for which there is objective evidence of impairment in accordance with IAS 39.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

(a) Basis of preparation (continued)

New standards, amendments and interpretations not yet adopted by the Group (continued)

For financial liabilities, there were no changes to classification and measurement, except for the recognition of changes in own credit risk in other comprehensive income for financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss. The Group does not have financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss, and accordingly this change will not impact the measurement of financial liabilities.

IFRS 9 also introduces expanded disclosure requirements and changes in presentation. These are expected to change the nature and extent of disclosures about financial instruments.

The Group is in the process of assessing how its business model will impact the classification and measurement of financial instruments, and has a steering committee overseeing the implementation project. The project involves:

- Key decisions – this comprises identifying key decisions, including deciding on the measurement and classification for all products; determining stage migration of financial assets based on credit default factors and experiences; and assessing other relevant factors impacting measurement.
- Data mining – this comprises assessing availability of data; defining and determining detailed modelling methodology to be employed based on available data, resources and infrastructure; defining and developing methodology to estimate unadjusted expected losses; and defining methodology to incorporate forward looking information.
- Implementation – this comprises finalising forward-looking scenarios and incorporating forward-looking information in estimating expected losses.

Currently, the identification and making of key decisions regarding classification and measurement of financial instruments has been completed and being subjected to validation and challenge, and the process of data mining and developing the model for calculating expected losses is in progress, with data gaps being addressed. The process of implementation has commenced and expected to be completed at the time of financial reporting for regulatory purposes for the first quarter of 2018.

IFRS 15, which is effective for financial reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018, deals with revenue recognition and establishes principles for reporting useful information to users of financial statements about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from an entity's contracts with its customers. Revenue is recognised when a customer obtains control of a good or service and thus has the ability to direct the use and obtain the benefits from the good or service. IFRS 15 replaces IAS 18 *Revenue* and IAS 11 *Construction Contracts* and related interpretations, and establishes a more systematic approach for revenue measurement and recognition through a five (5) step model. The model comprises identifying contracts with customers and performance obligations, contained therein; determining consideration in the contract and appropriate allocation to each identified performance obligation; and recognising revenue as each performance obligation is satisfied.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

(a) Basis of preparation (continued)

New standards, amendments and interpretations not yet adopted by the Group (continued)

The impact of IFRS 15 is being assessed through: the evaluation of the inventory of impacted transactions and current revenue recognition; the determination of whether there are multiple performance obligations; and the determination of period over which performance obligations are performed. The preliminary assessment indicates that the impact of IFRS 15 will not be significant on the consolidated financial statements, other than enhanced disclosures.

IFRS 16 results in lessees accounting for most leases within the scope of the standard in a manner similar to the way in which finance leases are currently accounted for under IAS 17 *Leases* (IAS 17). Lessees will recognise a 'right of use' asset and a corresponding financial liability on the statement of financial position. The asset will be amortised over the length of the lease and the financial liability measured at amortised cost. Lessor accounting remains substantially the same as in IAS 17. The Group has not yet assessed the full impact of adopting IFRS 16, which is effective for financial periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019.

(b) Principles of consolidation

Subsidiaries

Subsidiaries are all entities over which the Group has control. The Group controls an entity when the Group 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. The existence and effect of potential voting rights that are currently exercisable or convertible are considered when assessing whether the Group controls another entity. Subsidiaries are fully consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the Group and are deconsolidated from the date that control ceases.

Inter-company transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between group companies are eliminated. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of impairment of the asset transferred. Accounting policies of subsidiaries are changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the Group.

Joint ventures

Joint ventures are entities over which the Group has joint control, and the operations are generally governed by contractual arrangements. Investments in joint ventures are accounted for using the equity method of accounting and are initially recognised at cost. The Group's share of post-acquisition profits or losses and other comprehensive income or loss is recognised in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income consistent with the recognition by the joint venture, and its share of post-acquisition movements in reserves is recognised directly in reserves, with corresponding adjustments to the carrying amount of the investments in joint ventures. Dividends received from joint ventures are recognised as a reduction in the carrying amount of the investment in joint venture.

When the Group's share of losses in a joint venture equals or exceeds its interest in the joint venture, including other unsecured receivables, the Group does not recognise further losses, unless it has incurred legal or constructive obligations or made payments on behalf of the joint venture.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

(b) Principles of consolidation (continued)

Joint ventures (continued)

Unrealised gains on transactions between the Group and its joint ventures are eliminated to the extent of the Group's interest in the joint ventures. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of impairment of the asset transferred. Accounting policies of joint ventures are changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the Group.

The Group determines at each date of the statement of financial position whether there is any objective evidence that an investment in joint venture is impaired. If this is the case, the Group calculates the amount of the impairment as the difference between the recoverable amount of the joint venture and its carrying value and recognises the amount adjacent to 'share of profits or losses of joint ventures' in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income.

(c) Foreign currency translation

Functional and presentation currency

Items included in the financial statements of each of the Group's entities are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates (the functional currency). The consolidated financial statements are presented in Bahamian dollars (B$), which is the Bank's functional and presentation currency.

Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the date of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income as a part of net income. Translation differences on monetary financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss are included as a part of the fair value gains and losses.

(d) Financial assets

The Group classifies its financial assets into the following categories: financial assets at fair value through profit or loss and loans and receivables. Management determines the classification of its financial assets at initial recognition.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

(d) Financial assets (continued)

i) Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

This category has two (2) sub-categories: financial assets held for trading, and those designated at fair value through profit or loss at inception. A financial asset is classified into the financial assets at fair value through profit or loss category at inception if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term, if it forms part of a portfolio of financial assets in which there is evidence of short-term profit-taking, or if so designated by management. Financial assets designated as at fair value through profit or loss at inception are those that are managed and whose performance is evaluated on a fair value basis, and are intended to be held for an indefinite period of time but may be sold in response to needs for liquidity or changes in interest rates, exchange rates or equity prices. Information about these financial assets is provided internally on a fair value basis to the Group's Executive Committee.

All of the Group's investment securities classified as at fair value through profit or loss have been so designated by management.

ii) Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not traded in an active market. They arise when the Group provides money, goods or services to a debtor with no intention of trading the receivable.

Regular-way purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised on the trade date – the date on which the Group commits to originate, purchase or sell the asset. Financial assets are initially recognised at fair value plus transaction costs, except financial assets carried at fair value through profit or loss where such costs are expensed as incurred. Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or when the Group has transferred substantially all risks and rewards of ownership. If the Group has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership, an assessment is made whether the Group has retained control of the financial assets.

Where the Group has not retained control, financial assets are derecognised and any rights or obligations retained or created as part of the transaction are recognised as separate assets or liabilities. Alternatively, where the Group has retained control, the Group continues to recognise the financial assets to the extent of its continuing involvement in the financial assets.

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are subsequently measured at fair value. The fair value of financial assets traded in active markets (e.g. international securities exchange) is based on quoted prices as of the last business day of the financial reporting period. The fair value of restricted securities and other securities that are not traded in active markets is determined using valuation techniques, including comparable recent arm's length transactions, discounted cash flow analyses and other techniques commonly used by market participants.

Loans and receivables are subsequently carried at amortised cost less provisions for impairment.

Gains or losses arising from sales and changes in fair value of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are recognised in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income as a part of net income in the financial period in which they arise.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

(e) Non-performing financial assets

All loans and advances to customers on which principal or interest payments are overdue in excess of ninety (90) days are classified by management as non-performing, and monitored closely for impairment.

(f) Impairment of financial assets at amortised cost

The Group assesses at each date of the statement of financial position whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired. A financial asset or a group of financial assets is impaired and impairment losses are incurred if, and only if, there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the asset (a loss event) and that loss event (or events) has an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset or group of financial assets that can be reliably estimated.

The Group first assesses whether objective evidence of impairment exists individually for financial assets that are individually significant, and individually or collectively for financial assets that are not individually significant. If the Group determines that no objective evidence of impairment exists for an individually assessed financial asset, whether significant or not, it includes the asset in a group of financial assets with similar credit risk characteristics and collectively assesses them for impairment. Assets that are individually assessed for impairment and for which an impairment loss is or continues to be recognised are not included in a collective assessment of impairment.

The amount of the loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows (excluding future credit losses that have not been incurred) discounted at the financial asset's original effective interest rate. If a financial asset has a variable interest rate, the discount rate for measuring any impairment loss is the current effective interest rate determined under the contract. As a practical expedient, the Group may measure impairment on the basis of an instrument's fair value using an observable market price.

The calculation of the present value of the estimated future cash flows of a collateralised financial asset reflects the cash flows that may result from foreclosures less costs for obtaining and selling the collateral, whether or not foreclosure is probable.

The carrying amount of the asset is reduced through the use of an allowance account and the amount of the loss is recognised in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income as a part of net income. If, in a subsequent period, the amount of the impairment loss decreases and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the previously recognised impairment loss is reversed by adjusting the allowance account. The amount of the reversal is recognised in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income as a part of net income. When a financial asset is uncollectible, it is written off against the related allowance account. Such financial assets are written off after all the necessary procedures have been completed and the amount of the loss has been determined. Recoveries of accounts previously written off are recognised directly in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income as a part of net income.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

(g) Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment, other than land and buildings, are carried at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and amortisation. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of an item. Land and buildings, which comprise branches and offices for the Group's operations, are carried at fair value based upon periodic independent appraisals that are commissioned at intervals generally not exceeding three (3) years, less subsequent depreciation for buildings. Any accumulated depreciation at the date of revaluation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset, and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or are 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. All repairs and maintenance are charged to the consolidated statement of comprehensive income as a part of net income during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of land and buildings are credited to "revaluation reserve" in equity. Decreases that offset previous increases of the same asset are charged against revaluation reserve directly in equity; all other decreases are charged to the consolidated statement of comprehensive income as a part of net income. Each year the difference between depreciation based on the revalued carrying amount of the asset charged to the consolidated statement of comprehensive income and depreciation based on the asset's original cost is transferred from revaluation reserve to retained earnings.

Land is not depreciated. Depreciation and amortisation on other assets are calculated using the straight-line method to allocate costs (net of residual values) over estimated useful lives as follows:

	Estimated Useful Life
Buildings	30 – 50 years
Furniture and fixtures	3 – 10 years
Motor vehicles	3 – 5 years
Computer software and office equipment	3 – 10 years
Leasehold and improvements	Lesser of lease term and 3 – 10 years

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each date of the statement of financial position. Assets that are subject to depreciation and amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and its value in use.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income as a part of net income. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in revaluation reserve are transferred directly to retained earnings.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

(h) Deposits from customers

Deposits from customers are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Deposits from customers are derecognised when the financial liability has been extinguished.

(i) Borrowings

Borrowings, which include debt securities, are recognised initially at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred. Borrowings are subsequently recognised at amortised cost; any difference between the proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the redemption value is recognised as interest expense in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income over the period of the borrowings using the effective interest method.

Preference shares, which are mandatorily redeemable on a specific date, are classified as financial liabilities. The dividends on these preference shares are recognised in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income as interest expense.

(j) Provisions

Provisions for restructuring costs and legal claims are recognised when the Group has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is more likely than not that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount has been reliably estimated.

(k) Share capital

Share issue costs

Incremental costs directly attributable to the issue of new shares or options are shown in equity as a deduction from the proceeds.

Dividends

Dividends on ordinary shares, and preference shares classified as equity, are recognised in equity in the financial period in which they are approved by the Bank's Directors. Dividends declared after the date of the statement of financial position, but before the consolidated financial statements are issued, are dealt with in the subsequent events note.

(l) Offsetting financial instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the consolidated statement of financial position when there is a legally enforceable right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously. The legally enforceable right must not be contingent on future events and must be enforceable in the normal course of business and in the event of default, insolvency or bankruptcy of the Group or the counterparty.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

(m) Income and expense recognition

Interest income and expense are recognised in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income for all financial instruments measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Loan origination fees for loans that are likely to be drawn down are deferred (together with related direct costs) and recognised as an adjustment to the effective interest rate on the loans and advances to customers.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset or a financial liability and of allocating the interest income or interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts through the expected life of the financial instrument or, when appropriate, a shorter period to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability. When calculating the effective interest rate, the Group estimates cash flows considering all contractual terms of the financial instrument (for example, prepayment options) but does not consider future credit losses. The calculation includes all fees and commissions paid or received between parties to the contract that are an integral part of the effective interest rate, transaction costs and all other premiums or discounts.

Fees and commissions are generally recognised on the accrual basis when the service has been provided. Fee and commission income arising from negotiating or participating in the negotiation of a transaction for a third party, are recognised on completion of the underlying transaction, which is generally at the time the customer's account is charged. Portfolio, advisory, asset management and custody service and other similar fees are recognised based on the applicable service contracts, usually rateably over the period in which the service is provided. Performance linked fees are recognised when the performance criteria are fulfilled.

Dividend income is recognised in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income when the Group's right to receive payment has been established, except for dividends received from investments in joint ventures, the accounting policy for which is disclosed in Note 2(b).

Other income and expenses are recognised on the accrual basis.

(n) Leases

The Group is the lessee

The leases entered into by the Group are operating leases. The total payments made under operating leases are charged to the consolidated statement of comprehensive income as a part of net income on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease. When an operating lease is terminated before the lease period has expired, any payment required to be made to the lessor by way of penalty is recognised as an expense in the financial period in which termination takes place.

The Group is the lessor

Leases comprise operating leases. Lease income is recognised over the term of the lease on a straight-line basis.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

(o) Employee benefits

The Group's employees participate in a defined contribution pension plan of a related party, administered by trustees that include key management personnel of the Group.

A defined contribution pension plan is a pension plan under which the Group pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. The Group has no legal or constructive obligations to pay further contributions if the plan does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods. The Group's contributions are recognised as employee benefits expense in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income when they are due. The Group has no further payment obligations once the recognised contributions have been paid.

(p) Taxation

Under the current laws of The Bahamas, the country of domicile of the Bank and its subsidiaries, there are no income, capital gains or other corporate taxes imposed. The Group's operations do not subject it to taxation in any other jurisdiction.

(q) Cash and cash equivalents

For the purposes of the consolidated statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and unrestricted deposits with banks that have original contractual maturities of three (3) months or less.

(r) Segment reporting

Operating segments are reported in a manner consistent with the internal reporting provided to the chief operating decision-maker. The chief operating decision-maker, which is the person or group responsible for allocating resources and assessing performance of the operating segments, has been identified as the Executive Committee of the Group.

Income and expenses directly associated with each segment are included in determining business segment performance. The Group has identified its sole business segment as retail banking.

(s) Fiduciary activities

The Group acts as custodian, trustee and in other fiduciary capacities that result in the holding or placing of assets on behalf of individuals, investment funds and other entities. These assets are excluded from these consolidated financial statements, as they do not belong to the Group.

(t) Corresponding figures

Where necessary, corresponding figures are adjusted to conform with changes in presentation in the current year.

3. Subsidiaries and Joint Ventures

The Group, directly or indirectly, has interest in the following entities:

	Country of Incorporation	**% Holding**
Bahamas Automated Clearing House Limited	Bahamas	14.29%
Freedom Points Limited	Bahamas	100.00%
Pinnacle Cars Limited	Bahamas	100.00%
Royal Fidelity Merchant Bank & Trust Limited	Bahamas	50.00%
Bahamas Central Securities Depository Limited	Bahamas	16.67%
BF Company Limited	Bahamas	50.00%
HNW Company Limited	Bahamas	50.00%
R.F.C. Markets Limited	Bahamas	50.00%
RF Executors Ltd.	Bahamas	50.00%
Royal Fidelity Merchant Bank & Trust Holdings Limited	St. Lucia	50.00%
Royal Fidelity Merchant Bank & Trust (Barbados) Limited	Barbados	50.00%
Royal Fidelity Capital Markets (Barbados) Limited	Barbados	50.00%
Royal Fidelity Pension & Investment Services Limited	Bahamas	50.00%
Royal Fidelity Share Registrars & Transfer Agents	Bahamas	50.00%
Limited TG Company Limited	Bahamas	50.00%
West Bay Development Company Limited	Bahamas	100.00%

Subsidiaries

Freedom Points Limited is a dormant company. The Group's two (2) remaining subsidiaries, Pinnacle Cars Limited and West Bay Development Company Limited, are holding companies for vehicles and land and buildings, respectively, owned by the Group.

Joint ventures

The Group's joint ventures carry out various activities, certain of which are disclosed in Note 1. Pursuant to a joint venture agreement among RFMBT, the Bank and RBC Holdings (Bahamas) Limited (RBC), a company incorporated in The Bahamas and ultimately owned by Royal Bank of Canada, RFMBT operates as a joint venture with rights to conduct the business of merchant banking in The Bahamas and Barbados. BF Company Limited, HNW Company Limited, RF Executors Ltd. and TG Company Limited are nominee companies utilised in the operations of RFMBT.

Bahamas Central Securities Depository Limited (BCSD) is a joint venture among RFMBT, BISX and a registrar and transfer agent incorporated and licensed in The Bahamas, with each holding 33.33% of the outstanding ordinary shares. BCSD provides registrar and transfer agency services to companies with securities listed and traded on BISX.

Bahamas Automated Clearing House Limited (BACH) is a joint venture among the seven (7) members of the Clearing Banks Association (the CBA) of The Bahamas, of which the Bank is a member. BACH operates a secure interbank settlement system linking clearing banks in The Bahamas. Each member of the CBA has an equal holding of the outstanding ordinary shares of BACH and equal control over its financial and operating policies.

4. Cash on Hand and at Banks

	2017 $	2016 $
Cash on hand	2,368,458	2,139,242
Current accounts at banks	81,082,828	55,028,932
Mandatory reserve deposits	20,407,700	18,051,750
Total	**103,858,986**	**75,219,924**

Mandatory reserve deposits are placed with the Central Bank of The Bahamas (the Central Bank) to meet requirements of the Group's licences and are not available for use in the Group's day to day operations. Cash on hand, and mandatory reserve deposits and other deposits with the Central Bank are non-interest bearing. Deposits with other banks earn interest at rates ranging from 0.00% to 1.50% (2016: 0.00% to 0.75%) per annum.

For the purposes of the consolidated statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents comprise:

	2017 $	2016 $
Cash on hand	2,368,458	2,139,242
Current accounts at banks	81,082,828	55,028,932
Total	**83,451,286**	**57,168,174**

5. Investment Securities

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

The Group ranks its investment securities based on the hierarchy of valuation techniques required by IFRS, which is determined based on whether the inputs to those valuation techniques are observable or unobservable. Observable inputs reflect market data obtained from independent sources; unobservable inputs reflect the Group's market assumptions. These two (2) types of inputs lead to the following fair value hierarchy:

Level 1 – Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 – Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (that is, as prices) or indirectly (that is, derived from prices).

Level 3 – Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

This hierarchy requires the use of observable market data when available. The Group considers relevant and observable market prices in its valuations where possible.

5. Investment Securities (Continued)

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (continued)

The level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement is categorised in its entirety is determined on the basis of the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. For this purpose, the significance of an input is assessed against the fair value measurement in its entirety. If a fair value measurement uses observable inputs that require significant adjustment based on unobservable inputs, that measurement is a Level 3 measurement. Assessing the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment, considering factors specific to the asset.

The determination of what constitutes 'observable' requires significant judgment by the Group. The Group considers observable data to be that market data that is readily available, regularly distributed or updated, reliable and verifiable, not proprietary, and provided by independent sources that are actively involved in the relevant market.

The fair value of financial instruments traded in active markets is based on quoted market prices at the date of the statement of financial position. A market is regarded as active if quoted prices are readily and regularly available from the exchange, dealer, broker, industry group, pricing service or regulatory agency, and those prices represent actual and regularly occurring market transactions on an arm's length basis. These instruments are included in Level 1.

Financial instruments that trade in markets that are not considered to be active but are valued based on quoted market prices, dealer quotations or alternative pricing sources supported by observable inputs are classified within Level 2. These include government debt securities and other securities with observable inputs.

Financial instruments classified within Level 3 have significant unobservable inputs, as they trade infrequently. Level 3 instruments include unlisted securities that have significant unobservable components.

	2017	**2016**
	$	**$**
Level 2		
Government debt securities	87,477,171	76,106,170
Accrued interest	1,019,596	1,023,231
Total	**88,496,767**	**77,129,401**

Government securities principally comprise Bahamas Government Registered Stock with maturities ranging from 2018 to 2037 (2016: 2017 to 2037) and with either fixed interest rates ranging from 3.01% to 5.40% (2016: 4.00% to 5.40%) per annum or variable interest rates ranging from 0.01% to 0.63% (2016: 0.18% to 1.25%) above the B$ Prime rate of 4.25% per annum.

As of 31 December 2017, the cost of investment securities totalled $87,477,171 (2016: $76,106,170).

6. Loans and Advances to Customers

	2017 $	2016 $
Mortgages	70,661,192	77,938,555
Consumer and other loans	351,663,334	322,589,710
	422,324,526	400,528,265
Unamortised loan origination fees	(8,559,450)	(7,818,556)
Accrued interest	5,240,282	4,542,363
Provision for loan losses	(10,361,121)	(10,448,510)
Total	**408,644,237**	**386,803,562**

The effective interest rate earned on loans and advances for the year ended 31 December 2017 was 14.28% (2016: 14.80%).

Movements in provision for loan losses are as follows:

	2017			2016		
	Mortgages $	Consumer and Other $	Total $	Mortgages $	Consumer and Other $	Total $
Balance as of the beginning of the year	3,979,581	6,468,929	10,448,510	4,506,440	6,323,449	10,829,889
Provisions	(534,096)	9,494,690	8,960,594	210,903	7,776,229	7,987,132
Write-offs	(121,757)	(8,926,226)	(9,047,983)	(737,762)	(7,630,749)	(8,368,511)
Balance as of the end of the year	**3,323,728**	**7,037,393**	**10,361,121**	**3,979,581**	**6,468,929**	**10,448,510**

Recoveries of amounts previously written off recognised in provision loan losses in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income totalled $642,614 (2016: $362,954).

The provision for loan losses represents 2.50% (2016: 2.66%) of the total loan portfolio, excluding accrued interest, and 38.76% (2016: 40.94%) of total non-performing loans. As of 31 December 2017, principal and interest balances of non-performing loans totalled $26,728,528 (2016: $25,519,127), representing 6.46% (2016: 6.50%) of the total loan portfolio.

7. Investments in Joint Ventures

	2017 $	2016 $
RFMBT	13,041,349	10,734,697
BACH	206,628	202,465
Total	**13,247,977**	**10,937,162**

7. Investments in Joint Ventures (Continued)

RFMBT

As of the date of the transaction of the Bank acquiring 50.00% of the outstanding shares of RFMBT from the Parent, the purchase price was $8,900,000, based on a valuation performed by an independent accounting firm. The fair value of net assets acquired totalled $5,511,500.

A condition of approval of the transaction by the Central Bank, required the Parent to guarantee the Bank against operating losses of RFMBT and any capital contributions necessary for RFMBT to comply with capital adequacy regulations.

Movements in investment in joint venture comprise:

	2017 $	2016 $
Balance as of the beginning of the year	10,734,697	14,343,846
Share of profits of joint venture	2,306,652	2,058,888
Dividends received	-	(5,668,037)
Balance as of the end of the year	**13,041,349**	**10,734,697**

The unaudited consolidated financial information of the joint venture as of 31 December 2017, and for the year then ended, is as follows:

	2017 $	2016 $
ASSETS		
Cash on hand and at banks	81,515,539	64,365,293
Investment securities	19,384,732	24,561,259
Loans and advances to customers	11,218,489	8,527,458
Other assets	3,362,658	1,685,295
Investments in joint ventures	943,310	1,012,018
Intangible asset	260,695	391,043
Property, plant and equipment	300,672	297,380
Total assets	**116,986,095**	**100,839,746**
LIABILITIES		
Deposit from customers	92,765,932	83,849,355
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	4,914,466	2,298,000
Total liabilities	**97,680,398**	**86,147,355**
EQUITY		
Capital	11,000,000	11,000,000
Retained earnings	8,305,697	3,692,391
Total equity	**19,305,697**	**14,692,391**
Total liabilities and equity	**116,986,095**	**100,839,746**

7. Investments in Joint Ventures (Continued)

RFMBT (continued)

	2017 $	2016 $
INCOME		
Interest income	1,847,702	1,777,175
Interest expense	(232,678)	(418,364)
Fees and commissions	9,993,188	8,329,875
Other	57,616	1,006,414
	11,665,828	**10,695,100**
EXPENSES		
Salaries and employee benefits	3,649,297	3,234,095
General and administrative	3,307,209	3,111,265
Depreciation and amortisation	221,723	221,145
Provision for loan losses	57,645	66,144
	7,235,874	**6,632,649**
Operating profit	**4,429,954**	**4,062,451**
Share of profits of joint ventures	209,101	77,881
Net income before tax	**4,639,055**	**4,140,332**
Taxation	(25,749)	(22,557)
Net income and total comprehensive income	**4,613,306**	**4,117,775**

BACH

Movements in investment in joint venture comprise:

	2017 $	2016 $
Balance as of the beginning of the year	202,465	210,660
Share of profits of joint venture	41,013	46,061
Dividends received	(36,850)	(54,256)
Balance as of the end of the year	**206,628**	**202,465**

7. Investments in Joint Ventures (Continued)

BACH (continued)

The unaudited financial information of the joint venture as of 31 December 2017, and for the year then ended, is as follows:

	2017 $	2016 $
ASSETS		
Cash on hand and at banks	1,247,520	1,235,869
Other assets	159,316	131,152
Property, plant and equipment	75,484	93,072
Total assets	**1,482,320**	**1,460,093**
LIABILITIES		
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	35,937	42,834
Total liabilities	**35,937**	**42,834**
EQUITY		
Share capital	70,000	70,000
Retained earnings	1,376,383	1,347,259
Total equity	**1,446,383**	**1,417,259**
Total liabilities and equity	**1,482,320**	**1,460,093**
INCOME		
Fees and commissions	1,041,810	1,042,145
Interest income	12,357	12,767
Other	16,425	25,449
	1,070,592	**1,080,361**
EXPENSES		
Salaries and employee benefits	352,483	314,978
Depreciation and amortisation	39,518	40,532
Other	391,519	402,421
	783,520	**757,931**
Net income and total comprehensive income	**287,072**	**322,430**

8. Property, Plant and Equipment

	Land & Buildings $	Furniture & Fixtures $	Motor Vehicles $	Computer Software & Office Equipment $	Leasehold Improvements $	Total $
Year ended 31 December 2017						
Opening net book value	6,300,000	785,284	44,761	1,910,239	1,917,253	10,957,537
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Additions	446,524	103,606	-	535,931	311,165	1,397,226
Disposals						
Cost	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accumulated depreciation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	(181,281)	(240,892)	(16,511)	(673,002)	(320,855)	(1,432,541)
Closing net book value	**6,565,243**	**647,998**	**28,250**	**1,773,168**	**1,907,563**	**10,922,222**
As of 31 December 2017						
Cost or valuation	6,746,524	5,068,764	121,489	10,922,035	8,107,430	30,966,242
Accumulated depreciation	(181,281)	(4,420,766)	(93,239)	(9,148,867)	(6,199,867)	(20,044,020)
Net book value	**6,565,243**	**647,998**	**28,250**	**1,773,168**	**1,907,563**	**10,922,222**
Year ended 31 December 2016						
Opening net book value	6,567,713	880,358	61,272	2,061,924	2,226,111	11,797,378
Revaluation	(456,645)	-	-	-	-	(456,645)
Additions	403,384	196,375	-	456,239	144,858	1,200,856
Disposals						
Cost	-	-	(14,995)	-	-	(14,995)
Accumulated depreciation	-	-	14,995	-	-	14,995
Depreciation	(214,452)	(291,449)	(16,511)	(607,924)	(453,716)	(1,584,052)
Closing net book value	**6,300,000**	**785,284**	**44,761**	**1,910,239**	**1,917,253**	**10,957,537**
As of 31 December 2016						
Cost or valuation	6,300,000	4,965,158	121,489	10,386,104	7,796,265	29,569,016
Accumulated depreciation	-	(4,179,874)	(76,728)	(8,475,865)	(5,879,012)	(18,611,479)
Net book value	**6,300,000**	**785,284**	**44,761**	**1,910,239**	**1,917,253**	**10,957,537**

The fair value hierarchy for non-financial assets is consistent with the hierarchy for financial assets disclosed in Note 5. Land and buildings are classified as Level 3, as inputs such as comparable sales, rental rates, vacancy rates and market discount rates are not readily and regularly available from market sources.

Fair value is based on valuation methods using discounted cash flow projections, which reflect, among other things, assumptions about rental rates and vacancy rates in light of current market conditions, and market discount rates. The fair value also reflects, on a similar basis, any cash outflows that could be expected in respect of the land and buildings. Land and buildings were revalued by independent appraisers as of 31 December 2016.

8. Property, Plant and Equipment (Continued)

The following table illustrates the impact of changes in estimates and assumptions in determination of fair values of land and buildings.

Estimate/Assumption	Change	Impact on fair value
Rental revenue	+5.00%/-5.00%	$58,000/($573,000)
Vacancy rates	+3.00%/-3.00%	($465,000)/($49,000)
Discount rate	+0.50%/-0.50%	($589,000)/$114,000

If land and buildings were stated on the historical cost basis, the amounts would be as follows:

	2017 $	2016 $
Cost	8,355,222	7,908,698
Accumulated depreciation	(2,163,638)	(2,000,949)
Net book value	**6,191,584**	**5,907,749**

9. Deposits from Customers

	2017 $	2016 $
Term deposits	363,342,122	324,931,205
Savings deposits	68,997,673	63,959,513
Demand deposits	52,797,272	34,553,667
Escrow deposits	3,524,679	3,174,969
	488,661,746	426,619,354
Accrued interest	4,854,823	4,263,738
Total	**493,516,569**	**430,883,092**

Included in deposits from customers are deposits from banks totalling $43,401,744 (2016: $31,805,440). Deposits carry fixed interest rates ranging from 0.00% to 5.75% (2016: 0.00% to 5.50%) per annum, but the fixed interest rates are determined based on market rates and can be adjusted at the respective maturities of the deposits based on changes in market rates. The effective interest rate incurred on deposits from customers for the year ended 31 December 2017 was 2.60% (2016: 2.78%).

10. Debt Securities

	2017 $	2016 $
Series A redeemable fixed rate notes; 7.00%; 2017	-	4,986,864
Series B redeemable variable rate notes; B$ Prime + 1.75%; 2022	9,918,234	9,897,594
Series E redeemable fixed rate notes; 6.00%; 2018	9,977,593	9,934,862
Series F redeemable variable rate notes; B$ Prime + 1.25%; 2022	19,753,541	19,707,528
Series B redeemable preference shares; B$ Prime + 1.00%; 2021	4,000,000	4,000,000
	43,649,368	48,526,848
Accrued interest	283,595	365,682
Total	**43,932,963**	**48,892,530**

As part of a $50,000,000 note programme approved by the Directors, the Bank offered through private placement, unsecured fixed and variable rate notes consisting of Series A – $5,000,000 redeemable 7.00% fixed rate notes due 19 October 2017; Series B – $10,000,000 redeemable variable rate notes (B$ Prime rate plus 1.75%) due 19 October 2022; Series C – $3,000,000 redeemable 7.00% fixed rate notes due 30 May 2013; Series D – $7,000,000 redeemable variable rate notes (B$ Prime rate plus 1.75%) due 30 May 2015; Series E – $10,000,000 redeemable 6.00% fixed rate notes due 30 May 2018; and Series F – $20,000,000 redeemable variable rate note (B $ Prime + 1.25%) due 30 May 2022. Interest is payable semi-annually on 19 April and 19 October each year for Series B; and 30 May and 30 November each year for Series E and F.

On 19 October 2017, the Series A fixed rate notes were redeemed.

Series B variable rate redeemable preference shares mature on 12 December 2021. Dividends are payable on these shares at the rate of B$ Prime rate plus 1.00% per annum, subject to the declaration of the Directors and the prior approval of the Central Bank. Dividends are payable semi-annually on the last business day in June and December each year.

11. Capital

	2017 $	2016 $
Authorised		
35,000,000 ordinary shares of $0.30 each	**10,500,000**	**10,500,000**
10,000,000 preference shares of $1.00 each	**10,000,000**	**10,000,000**

11. Capital (Continued)

	2017 $	2016 $
Issued and Fully Paid		
28,866,670 ordinary shares of $0.30 each	8,660,001	8,660,001
Share premium	11,890,000	11,890,000
	20,550,001	20,550,001
67,881 (2016: 78,821) ordinary shares held in treasury	(186,673)	(216,758)
Total	**20,363,328**	**20,333,243**
1,500,000 preference shares of $1.00 each	1,500,000	1,500,000
Share premium	13,500,000	13,500,000
Total	**15,000,000**	**15,000,000**

Series A variable rate non-cumulative redeemable preference shares are perpetual, but may be redeemed at the option of the Bank with ninety (90) days written notice to the shareholders at any time after the fifth anniversary of the closing date with the prior approval of the Central Bank. As of 31 December 2017, 1,500,000 preference shares are eligible for redemption by the Bank. Preference shareholders rank in priority to ordinary shareholders.

Dividends are payable on these shares at the rate of B$ Prime rate plus 2.25% per annum, subject to the declaration of the Directors and the prior approval of the Central Bank. Dividends are payable semi-annually on the last business day in June and December each year.

The Bank has an employee share ownership trust, which was established through the issuance of 200,000 ordinary shares at $2.75 per share, representing the fair value of ordinary shares based on BISX prices at the date of establishment. For the year ended 31 December 2017, share based compensation to employees resulted in 10,940 (2016: 29,000) ordinary shares being issued by the trust, with the remaining shares treated as treasury shares. The ordinary shares issued to employees were valued at $10.00 (2016: $6.79) per share with an equivalent expense recognised in salaries and employee benefits.

12. Earnings per Share

	2017 $	2016 $
Net income attributable to ordinary shareholders	20,078,118	20,635,088
Weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding	28,795,142	28,776,198
Earnings per share	**0.70**	**0.72**

13. General and Administrative Expenses

	2017 $	2016 $
Office expenses	3,862,295	3,504,592
Bank and business licence fees	2,869,982	2,305,253
Public relations expenses	801,284	970,646
Premises related costs	589,971	601,045
Legal and professional fees	578,394	432,799
Directors' cost	148,183	112,981
Other	1,464,019	875,225
Total	**10,314,128**	**8,802,541**

14. Employee Benefits

The Group participates in a defined contribution pension plan (the Plan), which covers all employees of the Parent's Bahamas based operations. The Plan is administered by Royal Fidelity Pension & Investment Services Limited.

Employees in the Plan contribute a percentage of gross salary, and the Group matches employee contributions. The Group's contributions vest 20% upon completion of four (4) years of employment with incremental vesting following each additional year of employment and fully vest upon completion of ten (10) years of employment. Pension expense for the year ended 31 December 2017 totalled $279,593 (2016: $295,321).

15. Segment Analysis

Operating segments are reported in accordance with the internal reporting provided to the Executive Committee (ExCom), which is responsible for allocating resources to the reportable segments and assessing their performance. The Group's sole business segment is retail banking, which incorporates mortgage and consumer loans; current accounts, savings and term deposits; credit and debit cards; and related services.

The segment operations are all financial with principal revenues derived from interest income and fees and commissions.

The revenues from external parties reported to ExCom are measured in a manner consistent with that presented in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income; there are no material items of income and expense between business segments.

The information provided about segments is based on the internal reports about the segment income, expenses, other comprehensive income, assets and other information, which are regularly reviewed by ExCom. Segment assets and liabilities comprise operating assets and liabilities, representing the consolidated statement of financial position.

The Group's operations, income and assets are all based in The Bahamas.

There were no aggregated transactions with a single external customer that amounted to 10.00% or more of the Group's total income.

16. Related Party Balances and Transactions

Related parties include key management personnel (including Directors); entities that have the ability to control or exercise significant influence over the Group in making financial or operational decisions; and entities that are controlled, jointly controlled or significantly influenced by key management personnel and entities noted earlier.

Related party balances and transactions, not disclosed elsewhere in these consolidated financial statements, are as follows:

	2017 $	2016 $
ASSETS		
Cash at banks		
Other related parties	8,553,960	3,868,510
Loans and advances to customers		
Key management personnel	2,197,110	1,394,201
Other assets		
The Parent	472,634	544,008

Cash at banks earn interest at rates ranging from 0.00% to 1.50% (2016: 0.00% to 1.00%) per annum, and mature within one (1) year.

Loans and advances to customers earn interest at rates ranging from 0.00% to 12.00% (2016: 0.00% to 12.00%) per annum, with maturities up to twenty-four (24) years. There are no provisions for loan losses in respect of these balances.

Amounts included in other assets are unsecured, interest-free and have no set terms of repayment.

	2017 $	2016 $
LIABILITIES		
Deposits from customers		
The Parent	1,267,059	181,574
Key management personnel	2,765,913	530,228
Other related parties	23,060,623	19,665,442
Debt securities		
Key management personnel	35,000	35,000
Other related parties	14,013,700	13,788,200

Deposits from customers carry interest rates ranging from 0.00% to 5.00% (2016: 2.00% to 5.00%) per annum, and mature within one (1) year.

EQUITY

As of 31 December 2017, key management personnel and other related parties hold 1,693,694 (2016: 1,701,134) outstanding ordinary shares and 520,081 (2016: 574,400) outstanding preference shares.

16. Related Party Balances and Transactions (Continued)

	2017 $	2016 $
INCOME		
Interest income		
The Parent	-	762
Key management personnel	55,160	50,932
Other related parties	26,945	23,299
Interest expense		
The Parent	39,338	3,198
Key management personnel	35,906	27,908
Other related parties	30,159	59,003
Fees and commissions		
Other related parties	54,715	52,745
EXPENSES		
Salaries and employee benefits		
Key management personnel (non-executive Directors)	130,138	107,522
Key management personnel (executive Directors and other)	1,285,291	1,099,207
Costs allocated from related parties		
The Parent	700,000	700,000
Costs allocated to related parties		
Other related parties	(2,183,408)	(2,105,551)

The Bank receives certain services from the Parent, with the charges for these services expensed in the relevant expense accounts to which the services relate. The Bank provides certain services to the Parent and other related parties with costs associated with these services being allocated to the respective parties and recorded as deductions in the relevant expense accounts.

17. Commitments

Loan commitments

In the normal course of business, the Group enters into various credit-related arrangements to meet the needs of customers and earn income. These financial instruments are subject to the Group's standard credit policies and procedures. As of 31 December 2017, the Group had outstanding loan commitments amounting to $7,650,961 (2016: $9,033,298).

17. Commitments (Continued)

Lease commitments

The future minimum rental payments required under non-cancellable leases as of 31 December 2017 are as follows:

	2017 $	2016 $
2017	-	593,836
2018	616,975	572,652
2019	580,091	535,600
2020	434,907	389,343
2021	285,294	239,558
2022 and later	51,934	-
Total	**1,969,201**	**2,330,989**

18. Contingent Liabilities

The Group is involved in various legal proceedings covering a range of matters that arise in the ordinary course of business activities. Management is of the view that no significant losses will arise as a result of these proceedings.

19. Reserve for Credit Losses

The reserve for credit losses was created by the Bank through the appropriation of retained earnings in order to meet the requirements of the Central Bank for credit loss provisions. The reserve represents the Bank's provision required by the Central Bank in excess of amounts calculated in accordance with IFRS.

20. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments in Applying Accounting Policies

The Group makes estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities. 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.

Impairment losses on loans and advances to customers

The Group reviews its loan portfolios to assess impairment on a quarterly basis or more frequently when the need arises. In determining whether an impairment loss should be recorded in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, the Group assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired. Objective evidence for an individual financial asset includes: significant financial difficulty of the borrower; a breach of contract, such as delinquency in interest or principal payments; and actual or probable bankruptcy or other financial reorganisation of the borrower. Loans for which no specific impairment has been identified are grouped with similar loans in a portfolio and the Group makes judgments as to whether there is any observable data indicating that there is a measurable decrease in the estimated future cash flows from that portfolio of loans before the decrease can be identified with an individual loan in that portfolio. This evidence may include observable data indicating that there has been an adverse change in the payment status of borrowers in a group or economic conditions that correlate with defaults on financial assets.

20. Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments in Applying Accounting Policies (Continued)

Impairment losses on loans and advances to customers (continued)

For the purposes of a collective evaluation of impairment, financial assets are grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics (e.g. asset type, collateral, past-due status and other relevant factors). Those characteristics are relevant to the estimation of future cash flows for groups of such assets by being indicative of the borrowers' ability to pay all amounts due according to the contractual terms of the assets being evaluated. Further, the fair value of collateral factors into the estimation of future cash flows and therefore an assessment of conditions that could impact the realisable value of collateral is also performed.

Future cash flows in a group of financial assets that are collectively evaluated for impairment are estimated on the basis of the contractual cash flows of the assets in the group, historical loss experience for financial assets with similar credit risk characteristics, collateral held in support of financial assets and objective evidence of impairment similar to those in the portfolio. Estimates of changes in future cash flows for groups of financial assets should reflect and be directionally consistent with changes in related observable data from period to period. The methodology and assumptions used for estimating future cash flows are reviewed regularly to reduce any differences between loss estimates and actual loss experience. Were the loss experience ratios used in the calculation of provision for loan losses to differ by +/-0.50%, the provision for loan losses would be increased/decreased by $2,068,825.

21. Capital Management

The Group's objectives when managing capital, which comprises total equity on the face of the consolidated statement of financial position, are:

- To comply with the capital requirements set by the Central Bank.
- To safeguard the Group's ability to continue as a going concern so that it can continue to provide returns for its shareholders and benefits for other 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 by the Group's management, employing techniques designed to ensure compliance with guidelines established by the Central Bank, including quantitative and qualitative measures. The required information is filed with the Central Bank on a quarterly basis.

The Central Bank, the Group's principal regulator, requires that the Group maintains a ratio of total regulatory capital to risk-weighted assets at or above a minimum of 14.00%. For the years ended 31 December 2017 and 2016, the Group complied with all of the externally imposed capital requirements to which it is subject.

22. Financial Risk Management

Strategy in using financial instruments

By their nature, the Group's activities are principally related to the use of financial instruments. The Group accepts deposits from customers at both fixed and variable rates, and for various periods, and seeks to earn above-average interest margins by investing these funds in higher yielding assets – principally loans and advances to customers. The Group seeks to increase these margins by consolidating short-term funds and lending for longer periods at higher interest rates, while maintaining sufficient liquidity to meet claims that might fall due.

The principal risks which arise from the Group's core activities that must be effectively managed include credit, interest rate, price, liquidity and currency risks. The Group does not use derivative instruments to manage any of these risks.

Concentration of risks

Concentration of risk indicates the relative sensitivity of the Group's performance to developments affecting a particular industry or geographical location, and arises: when a significant proportion of financial instruments or contracts are entered into with the same counterparty; or where a significant proportion of counterparties are engaged in similar business activities, or activities in the same geographical region, or that have similar economic features that would cause their ability to meet contractual obligations to be similarly affected by changes in economic, political or other conditions. Concentration of liquidity risk arises from the repayment terms of financial liabilities, sources of borrowing facilities or reliance on a particular market in which to realise liquid assets. Concentration of currency risk arises when the Group has a significant net open position in a single foreign currency, or aggregate net open positions in several currencies that are historically positively correlated.

To mitigate excessive concentration of risk, the Group's policies and procedures include specific guidelines to maintain appropriate diversification.

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of suffering financial losses should any of the Group's customers or other counterparties fail to fulfil their contractual obligations to the Group. Credit risk arises mainly from loans and advances to customers, including loan commitments arising from such lending activities, and cash at banks and investments in debt securities as part of the Group's treasury management activities. The Group seeks to raise its interest margins by obtaining above-average margins, net of provisions for loan losses, through lending to commercial and retail borrowers with a range of credit standings. Such exposures comprise loans and advances to customers, as well as off-balance sheet exposures including guarantees and other commitments such as letters of credit, and performance and other bonds.

Credit risk is one of the most significant risks facing the Group and management therefore carefully manages its exposure to credit risk. Impairment provisions are provided for losses incurred as of the date of the statement of financial position (Note 6). Significant changes in the economies or sectors that represent a concentration in the Group's portfolio could result in losses that are different from those provided for as of the date of the statement of financial position.

22. Financial Risk Management (Continued)

Credit risk (continued)

The Group's Directors and ExCom are responsible for approving and monitoring the Group's credit exposure, which is done through review and approval of the Group's lending policies, and limits on credit exposure to individual borrowers and sectors. Prior to advancing funds, an assessment is made of the credit quality of each borrower. The Group does not use an automated credit scoring system; exposure to credit risk is managed through regular analyses of the ability of borrowers to meet contractual obligations, performed by branch managers, the central credit underwriting department, ExCom and the Directors. It is the Group's policy to lend responsibly and establish loans that are within a customer's ability to repay rather than relying exclusively on security.

Maximum credit exposure at the year end approximates the carrying value of all financial assets. The classes of financial instruments to which the Group is most exposed to credit risk are loans and advances to customers (Note 6), cash at banks (Note 4) and certain investment securities (Note 5).

The Group places its deposits with banks in good standing with the Central Bank and other regulators in jurisdictions in which deposits are placed. Investment securities with credit risk comprise debt securities issued by the Government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, which currently maintains investment grade credit ratings.

For loans and advances to customers, the Group employs a range of policies and practices to mitigate credit risk. The most traditional is the taking of security for funds advanced, which is common practice. The Group implements guidelines on the acceptability of specific classes of collateral or other credit risk mitigation. The principal collateral or other credit risk mitigation for loans and advances to customers include first mortgages on property, chattel mortgages, restricted deposits from customers and salary deductions from employers. Certain loans and advances to customers, including consumer loans, credit card receivables and overdrafts are unsecured.

The table below analyses the composition of the Group's loan portfolio as of 31 December 2017.

	2017		2016	
	$	**%**	**$**	**%**
Consumer	336,979,950	79.79	308,334,328	76.98
Family residential property	57,342,927	13.58	63,913,499	15.96
Undeveloped land	11,423,704	2.71	12,089,611	3.02
Cash secured	5,964,383	1.41	5,741,051	1.43
Overdrafts	3,719,002	0.88	3,514,331	0.88
Commercial property	1,894,560	0.45	1,935,445	0.48
Other	5,000,000	1.18	5,000,000	1.25
	422,324,526	**100.00**	**400,528,265**	**100.00**

The average mortgage loan balance is $81,000 (2016: $86,000) and the average consumer loan balance is $39,000 (2016: $37,000) with the largest exposure to a single customer totalling approximately $5,000,000 (2016: $5,000,000). Mortgage loans can extend up to twenty-five (25) years, and consumer loans up to ten (10) years.

22. Financial Risk Management (Continued)

Credit risk (continued)

The table below analyses loans and advances to customers by payment status as of 31 December 2017.

	2017		2016	
	$	%	$	%
Not impaired				
– Neither past due nor impaired	388,850,647	92.07	367,452,469	91.74
– Past due but not impaired	18,832,135	4.46	17,956,839	4.48
Impaired				
– Past due up to 3 months	1,316,716	0.31	1,469,981	0.37
– Past due 3 – 6 months	3,394,501	0.80	2,911,509	0.73
– Past due 6 – 12 months	1,994,304	0.48	1,435,223	0.36
– Past due over 12 months	7,936,223	1.88	9,302,244	2.32
	422,324,526	**100.00**	**400,528,265**	**100.00**
Provision for loan losses				
– Individually impaired	8,557,828	82.60	8,382,012	80.22
– Portfolio allowance	1,803,293	17.40	2,066,498	19.78
	10,361,121	**100.00**	**10,448,510**	**100.00**

The table below discloses the loans and advances to customers that are past due but not impaired.

31 December 2017	**Mortgages** $	**Consumer** $	**Other** $	**Total** $
Past due up to 3 months	3,231,496	1,642,149	554,990	5,428,635
Past due 3 – 6 months	778,472	-	191,746	970,218
Past due 6 – 12 months	1,458,680	-	814,342	2,273,022
Past due over 12 months	10,079,324	-	80,936	10,160,260
Total past due but not impaired	**15,547,972**	**1,642,149**	**1,642,014**	**18,832,135**
31 December 2016				
Past due up to 3 months	3,472,585	2,170,217	443,886	6,086,688
Past due 3 – 6 months	992,664	-	119,771	1,112,435
Past due 6 – 12 months	1,542,788	-	19,091	1,561,879
Past due over 12 months	9,195,837	-	-	9,195,837
Total past due but not impaired	**15,203,874**	**2,170,217**	**582,748**	**17,956,839**

The fair value of collateral in the form of property is initially measured consistent with the accounting policy for land and buildings disclosed at Note 2(g), based on valuations performed by independent appraisers who hold recognised and relevant professional qualifications and have recent experience in the category of the properties being valued. Subsequently, the fair value is updated when market conditions indicate a potential decrease in fair value and/or when the customer initially goes into default.

22. Financial Risk Management (Continued)

Credit risk (continued)

As of 31 December 2017, the individually impaired loans can be analysed as follows:

31 December 2017	Mortgages $	Consumer $	Other $	Total $
Carrying amount	7,208,946	6,846,682	586,116	14,641,744
Provision for loan losses	2,845,040	5,529,966	182,822	8,557,828
31 December 2016				
Carrying amount	8,540,467	6,285,496	292,994	15,118,957
Provision for loan losses	3,383,065	4,685,975	312,972	8,382,012

Renegotiated loans and advances to customers

Restructuring activities include extended payment arrangements and modification and deferral of payments. Restructuring policies and practices are determined based on indicators or criteria that indicate that payment will most likely continue, and such policies are under constant review. Renegotiated loans and advances that would otherwise be past due or impaired totalled $14,863,000 (2016: $16,901,000) as of 31 December 2017.

Credit-related commitments

The primary purpose of these instruments is to ensure that funds are available to a customer as required. Guarantees, which represent irrevocable assurances that the Group will make payments in the event that a customer cannot meet its obligations to third parties, carry the same credit risk as loans and advances to customers.

Commitments to extend credit represent unused portions of authorisations to extend credit in the form of loans, guarantees or letters of credit. With respect to credit risk on commitments to extend credit, the Group is potentially exposed to loss in an amount equal to the total unused commitments. However, the likely amount of loss is less than the total unused commitments as most commitments to extend credit are contingent upon customers maintaining specific credit standards. See Note 17 for loan commitments.

The Group monitors the term to maturity of credit commitments because longer term commitments generally have a greater degree of credit risk than shorter term commitments.

Geographical concentrations of financial assets

The Group has a concentration of credit risk in respect of geographical area, as both customers and assets held as collateral are based in The Bahamas.

22. Financial Risk Management (Continued)

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows or the fair values of financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Group takes on exposure to the effects of fluctuations in the prevailing levels of market interest rates on both its fair value and cash flow risks. Interest margins may increase as a result of such changes but may reduce gains or create losses in the event that unexpected movements arise.

The Group does not attempt to hedge specifically against the impact of changes in market interest rates on cash flow and interest margins and relies on the fact that the loan portfolio generally is based on variable interest rates linked to the B$ Prime rate that generally reset within three (3) months of any change in these rates and has financial liabilities that finance these loans but at lower interest rates, which too are based on B$ Prime rate and can be reset following the maturity of any deposits. The Group maintains a general policy of fixing the interest rate spread between interest earned on financial assets and interest incurred on financial liabilities.

As of 31 December 2017, the Group is exposed to fair value interest rate risk on $45,463,170 (2016: $34,185,670) of its investments in Government debt securities, which are at fixed interest rates with maturity dates ranging from 2018 to 2031 (2016: 2018 to 2031). The remainder of debt securities in the Group's investment portfolio are at variable rates linked to the B$ Prime rate.

As of 31 December 2017, the Group is exposed to fair value interest rate risk on debt securities with principal balances totalling $10,000,000 (2016: $15,000,000) of its debt securities which are at fixed interest rates, and does not hedge against this risk. The remaining debt securities are at variable interest rates linked to the B$ Prime rate.

The table below summarises the Group's exposure to interest rate risks, and includes the Group's financial instruments at carrying amounts categorised by the earliest contractual repricing dates.

22. Financial Risk Management (Continued)

Interest rate risk (continued)

31 December 2017	Immediate Repricing $	Up to 3 months $	3 to 12 months $	12 months to 5 years $	More than 5 years $	Non-interest bearing $	Total $
ASSETS							
Cash on hand and at banks	4,808,747	-	-	-	-	99,050,239	103,858,986
Investment securities	42,555,968	10,311,239	500,658	11,473,280	23,655,622	-	88,496,767
Loans and advances to customers	74,459,413	533,262	904,401	43,177,487	288,323,653	1,246,021	408,644,237
Other assets	-	-	-	-	-	2,599,954	2,599,954
Total financial assets	**121,824,128**	**10,844,501**	**1,405,059**	**54,650,767**	**311,979,275**	**102,896,214**	**603,599,944**
LIABILITIES							
Deposits from customers	82,276,951	107,581,799	215,917,452	44,688,610	-	43,051,757	493,516,569
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	1,004,008	1,004,008
Debt securities	29,900,627	-	10,032,336	4,000,000	-	-	43,932,963
Total financial liabilities	**112,177,578**	**107,581,799**	**225,949,788**	**48,688,610**	**-**	**44,055,765**	**538,453,540**
Interest repricing gap	**9,646,550**	**(96,737,298)**	**(224,544,729)**	**5,962,157**	**311,979,275**	**58,840,449**	

31 December 2016	Immediate Repricing $	Up to 3 months $	3 to 12 months $	12 months to 5 years $	More than 5 years $	Non-interest bearing $	Total $
ASSETS							
Cash on hand and at banks	1,818,211	-	-	-	-	73,401,713	75,219,924
Investment securities	42,526,844	10,099,369	-	1,376,465	23,126,723	-	77,129,401
Loans and advances to customers	80,221,485	392,380	1,295,566	43,750,182	259,496,153	1,647,796	386,803,562
Other assets	-	-	-	-	-	3,161,364	3,161,364
Total financial assets	**124,566,540**	**10,491,749**	**1,295,566**	**45,126,647**	**282,622,876**	**78,210,873**	**542,314,251**
LIABILITIES							
Deposits from customers	69,859,175	103,967,024	182,818,868	42,403,538	-	31,834,487	430,883,092
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	870,908	870,908
Debt securities	29,843,715	-	5,059,444	13,989,371	-	-	48,892,530
Total financial liabilities	**99,702,890**	**103,967,024**	**187,878,312**	**56,392,909**	**-**	**32,705,395**	**480,646,530**
Interest repricing gap	**24,863,650**	**(93,475,275)**	**(186,582,746)**	**(11,266,262)**	**282,622,876**	**45,505,478**	

As of 31 December 2017, an increase/decrease in market interest rates by 0.50%, with all other variables remaining constant, would increase/decrease net income by $56,170.

Price risk

Price risk is the risk that the fair values and/or amounts realised on sales of financial instruments may fluctuate significantly as a result of changes in market prices. Price risk arises from the Group's investments in government debt securities. The Group has significant concentration risk because all of its investment securities are issued by the Government of The Bahamas or its related entities. Trading levels in The Bahamas, whether on the Bahamas International Securities Exchange or over-the-counter markets, are generally low and therefore, the ability of the Group to liquidate large positions may be difficult and prices received may be severely impacted. The Central Bank has created a secondary market for certain debt securities issued by the Government of The Bahamas, and prices currently being observed in this market and over-the-counter are the face values of such securities.

22. Financial Risk Management (Continued)

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Group is not able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due or can do so only at an excessive cost. The Group's liquidity policy is to maintain sufficient liquid resources to cover cash flow imbalances and fluctuations in funding, to retain full public confidence in the solvency of the Group and to enable it to meet all financial obligations. This is achieved by maintaining a prudent level of liquid assets through management control of the rate of growth of the business and maintaining high levels of capital.

The table below analyses financial assets and liabilities into relevant maturity groupings based on the remaining period to the contractual maturity dates as of the date of statement of financial position and represent undiscounted cash flows.

31 December 2017	Repayable on demand $	Up to 3 months $	3 to 12 months $	12 months to 5 years $	More than 5 years $	Total $
ASSETS						
Cash on hand and at banks	103,858,986	-	-	-	-	103,858,986
Investment securities	-	11,501,780	3,666,773	35,190,320	72,528,151	122,887,024
Loans and advances to customers	3,719,002	37,877,525	61,448,847	295,586,254	316,230,034	714,861,662
Other assets	-	2,599,954	-	-	-	2,599,954
Total financial assets	**107,577,988**	**51,979,259**	**65,115,620**	**330,776,574**	**388,758,185**	**944,207,626**
LIABILITIES						
Deposits from customers	125,328,706	108,275,421	219,254,386	45,428,361	-	498,286,874
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	-	1,004,008	-	-	-	1,004,008
Debt securities	-	-	12,420,000	41,510,000	-	53,930,000
Total financial liabilities	**125,328,706**	**109,279,429**	**231,674,386**	**86,938,361**	**-**	**553,220,882**
Net liquidity gap	**(17,750,718)**	**(57,300,170)**	**(166,558,766)**	**243,838,213**	**388,758,185**	
Loan commitments	**7,650,961**					

31 December 2016	Repayable on demand $	Up to 3 months $	3 to 12 months $	12 months to 5 years $	More than 5 years $	Total $
ASSETS						
Cash on hand and at banks	75,219,924	-	-	-	-	75,219,924
Investment securities	-	1,171,067	11,929,316	22,410,999	71,615,808	107,127,190
Loans and advances to customers	3,514,331	35,323,656	58,310,215	285,025,234	299,346,731	681,520,167
Other assets	-	3,161,364	-	-	-	3,161,364
Total financial assets	**78,734,255**	**39,656,087**	**70,239,531**	**307,436,233**	**370,962,539**	**867,028,645**
LIABILITIES						
Deposits from customers	101,693,662	103,204,439	188,044,191	43,851,764	-	436,794,056
Accrued expenses and other liabilities	-	870,908	-	-	-	870,908
Debt securities	-	-	8,070,000	43,330,000	10,600,000	62,000,000
Total financial liabilities	**101,693,662**	**104,075,347**	**196,114,191**	**87,181,764**	**10,600,000**	**499,664,964**
Net liquidity gap	**(22,959,407)**	**(64,419,260)**	**(125,874,660)**	**220,254,469**	**360,362,539**	
Loan commitments	**9,033,298**					

The relative distribution of financial instruments based on the maturity ranges in the analysis above is representative of the relative distribution of financial instruments that would result on the basis of discounted cash flows. Regulatory authorities set limits for liquidity balances, and the Group was in compliance with these requirements for the years ended 31 December 2017 and 2016.

As of 31 December 2017, principal and interest balances of the deposits of the ten (10) largest customers totalled $156,663,140 (2016: $126,274,417) representing 31.74% (2016: 29.31%) of total deposits from customers.

22. Financial Risk Management (Continued)

Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that the fair values and/or amounts realised on sales of financial instruments or the settlement of financial liabilities may fluctuate due to change in foreign exchange rates. The Group is not exposed to currency risk, as its financial instruments along with financial activity are predominantly denominated in B$. The remaining financial instruments and financial activity are denominated in the United States dollar, and currency risk is mitigated because the B$:US$ exchange rate is fixed at 1:1.

23. Fiduciary Risk Management

The Group is susceptible to fiduciary risk, which is the risk that the Group may fail in carrying out certain mandates in accordance with the wishes of its customers. To manage exposure, the Group generally takes a conservative approach in its undertakings.

24. Fair Values of Financial Instruments

Financial instruments utilised by the Group comprise the recorded financial assets and liabilities disclosed in the consolidated financial statements. The Group's financial instruments are principally short term in nature, have interest rates that reset to market rates, or are carried at fair value; accordingly, their fair values approximate their carrying values. For long term financial assets and financial liabilities with fixed interest rates, despite a change in market rates since the issuance of the financial liabilities there has been no observable change in fair values; accordingly, the carrying values approximate fair values.

Financial instruments are principally Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value of the financial assets and liabilities disclosed under that category have been determined considering, amongst other factors, discounted cash flows, with the most significant input being the B$ Prime rate as the discount rate. B$ Prime rate was reduced by 0.50% effective January 2017, and prior to this change B$ Prime rate had not experienced any changes since the year ended 30 June 2011.

25. Subsequent Events

Subsequent to year end, the Directors approved a dividend on ordinary shares in the amount of $0.25 per share and on Series A variable rate redeemable preference shares at the rate stated in Note 11. The dividends are subject to approval by the Central Bank.