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On January 8th, 2026, BDL Governor Mr. Karim Souaid held a press conference at BDL Head Quarters. In the press conference, Mr. Souaid revealed his aim to inform the public with complete clarity and transparency all legal and judicial actions that BDL has commenced. These actions will continue and will be taken against any legal or natural person who misused BDL funds or committed fraud in violation of their legal or professional duties. Additionally, these actions will also pursue anyone who violated BDL circulars. On the other hand, BDL want to confirm BDL's right to all the funds that were given to previous governments. The Governor confirmed that these measures aim to recover funds that have been misused and transferred illegally and to secure necessary liquidity to repay depositors.

As such, Central Bank officials took a courageous and unprecedented decision to take legal actions in Lebanon and abroad. In Lebanon, there are several actions that BDL will take.

First, BDL will file a lawsuit against former BDL official, previous banker (and not the bank) and 4 shell companies registered in Cayman Islands in addition to anyone found suspect of committed fraud and misused depositors' money. The mismanagement of BDL funds subject to this complaint resulted in illegal enrichment with full awareness of the suspected parties of the results achieved, being the mistreatment of BDL's funds for their personal interests. Also, BDL raised a lawsuit against

"Fiori" company that is suspect to have received illegal commissions related to transactions with BDL. In addition, it is preparing lawsuits against companies – and not commercial banks – that benefitted from the "Advisory Account" opened at BDL. Furthermore, BDL is currently obtaining information from Lebanese commercial banks related to outward transfers to abroad and cash withdrawals from CEOs, board members, banks executives, politically exposed persons (PEPs) and their families.

Lastly, the Central Bank is also preparing a comprehensive report backed by evidences and documentations revealing all loans, advances, transfers and payments on behalf of previous governments till the end of 2023. As per Mr. Soauid, the amount that was allocated to the previous successive governments are not only the amount acknowledged by the MoF, but it includes and not limited to:

- Amounts disbursed by the BDL to finance government-mandated support programs
- Payments made on behalf of the Ministry of Electricity and Water in addition to Electricité du Liban (EDL)
- All additional amounts paid or advanced by BDL to the State up to the end of 2023

In preliminary estimates, the \$16.5 billion represents less than 33% of the actual value given to previous governments and will not hesitate to fulfill its official duty to assert its rights before the competent administrative and judicial authorities, with the aim of recovering all its dues and ensuring that all recovered funds are allocated exclusively to repaying depositors.

In addition to steps aforementioned, procedures started abroad also. In details, BDL started taking actions by joining the lawsuits raised abroad. One of these lawsuits are ones filed in France, Luxemburg and Liechtenstein related to uncovering a complex network of assets, legal structures, and companies established solely to seize Central Bank funds and illegally transfer them to beneficiaries, including former bank officials, financial advisors, and lawyers.

In conclusion, the procedures started by Mr. Souaid is a great boost for fighting corruptions and setting new standards in ruling the State. We

hope that they are the harbinger for better governance that is essential for recovering Lebanon's economy and financial situation.

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