



CMS/C/011/2020

1st April 2020

Chief Executive Officers/General Managers

All Listed Companies

Manama

Kingdom of Bahrain

Dear Sir/Madam,

Market Fairness and Integrity Amid COVID-19 Developments

Under the current impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) developments on the capital markets, the Central Bank of Bahrain ("CBB") has implemented various relief measures including the exemption from the preparation and publication of the quarterly reviewed financial results for the first quarter of 2020.

In light of the above, the CBB would like to emphasize the importance of listed companies' compliance with the requirements of Corporate Governance and Controls, Disclosure Standards, and the Prohibition of Market Abuse and Manipulation ("MAM") Module of the CBB Rulebook. In this regard, the CBB reinstates the following responsibilities:

- 1) As the capital markets' participants have put in place remote access mechanism in order to ensure continuity of business, listed companies are to be vigilant that all material non-public information is retained confidentially and safeguarded against illegal acts, particularly in relation to insider trading.
- 2) Listed companies are to be mindful of their obligations in relation to immediate disclosure of material information in order to protect investors and avoid withholding material information that would attribute to a misinformed market.

The CBB hereby reaffirms its support to all listed companies with relief measures as necessary to aid them in facing these unprecedented circumstances forced by COVID-19. However, it is worth noting that these relief measures do not exempt listed companies from their ethical responsibility and obligation of compliance with the CBB rules and regulations.

Yours faithfully,

Abeer Al Saad

Director, Capital Markets Supervision Directorate