

A Chronology of Important Policy Announcements

A-1 Banking Policy & Supervision Group

Standardization of Quick Response (QR) Codes for Payments in Pakistan: SBP issued this circular for Standardization of QR Codes for payments in Pakistan whereby all institutions issuing and/ or acquiring QR codes for payments in Pakistan shall adopt EMVCo's EMV QR Code Specifications for Payment Systems (PSD Circular No. 02 dated September 27, 2019).

Framework for Managing Risks of Trade Based Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing: SBP issued a comprehensive "Framework for Managing Risks of Trade Based Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing" with the objective to strengthen trade related AML/CFT regime and restrict possible misuse of banking channels (EPD Circular No. 04 dated October 14, 2019).

Implementation of International Financial Reporting Standard 9 (IFRS 9): SBP advised Banks/ Micro Finance Banks to ensure implementation of IFRS 9 within the prescribed timeline i.e., January 01, 2021 (BPRD Circular No. 04 dated October 23, 2019).

Regulations for Digital On-boarding of Merchants: SBP issued Regulations on Digital On-boarding of Merchants in order to facilitate growth of digital payments in Pakistan (PSD Circular No. 03 dated November 01, 2019).

Rules for Digital On-boarding of Merchants: SBP issued Rules on Digital On-boarding of Merchants to facilitate growth of digital payments (BPRD Circular No. 05 dated November 01, 2019).

Framework for Risk Management in Outsourcing Arrangements by Financial Institutions: SBP issued amendments in Framework for 'Risk Management in Outsourcing Arrangements' with the objective to facilitate FIs for undertaking outsourcing arrangements with third parties including group companies and effectively managing risks arising out of such engagements (BPRD Circular No. 06 dated December 17, 2019).

Branchless Banking Regulations for Financial Institutions: SBP revised the existing Branchless Banking Regulations in order to strengthen controls related to Money Laundering/ Terrorist Financing risks (BPRD Circular No. 10 dated December 30, 2019).

Guidelines on Transfer and Assignment of Non-Performing Assets to Corporate Restructuring Companies: SBP issued guidelines on "Transfer and Assignment of Non-Performing Assets(NPAs) to Corporate Restructuring Companies(CRCs)" in order to regulate transfer and assignment of NPAs from Banks/ DFIs to CRCs (BPRD Circular No. 3 dated May 15, 2020).

A-2 Development Finance Group

Islamic Refinance Scheme for Working Capital Financing of Small Enterprises and Low-End Medium Enterprises: SBP introduced Mudarabah based "Islamic Refinance Scheme for Working Capital Financing of Small Enterprises and Low-End Medium Enterprises" to meet working capital requirements of certain SME sectors (IH&SMEFD Circular No. 11 dated August 06, 2019).

Relaxations to Exporters under Export Finance Scheme (EFS)/Islamic Export Refinance Scheme (IERS) and Long Term Financing Facility (LTFF)/Islamic Long Term Financing Facility (ILTFF): SBP issued the circular to provide relief to customers under EFS/IERS and LTFF/ILTFF in view of COVID – 19 (IH&SMEFD Circular No. 05 dated March 20, 2020).