



RATING RELEASE

December 15, 2025

CariCRIS reaffirms “high creditworthiness” ratings of The Belize Bank Limited

CariBBB- **(Regional Scale Foreign Currency)**
CariBBB- **(Regional Scale Local Currency)**
bzAA+ **(National Scale Local Currency)**

Caribbean Information and Credit Rating Services Limited (CariCRIS) has reaffirmed the Issuer/Corporate Credit Ratings assigned to The Belize Bank Limited (BBL of the Bank) at *CariBBB-* (Foreign and Local Currency) on the regional rating scale and reaffirmed the Belize national scale rating of *bzAA+* (Local Currency). The regional scale ratings indicate that the level of creditworthiness of this obligor, adjudged in relation to other obligors in the Caribbean is **adequate**. The national scale rating indicates that the level of creditworthiness compared to other obligors in Belize is **high**.

CariCRIS has also maintained a **stable** outlook on the ratings. The stable outlook is based on the high likelihood that over the next 12 to 15 months, BBL will remain profitable, albeit at a slightly lower level. Profitability is expected to be driven by continued growth in the loan portfolio and the increased usage of digital channels by BBL’s customers. However, the anticipated rise in total income is expected to be partially offset by higher operating expenses and increased impairment charges. Moreover, the Bank is anticipated to remain well-capitalized, with good asset quality and liquidity.

The ratings reflect BBL’s dominant market presence in the Belizean commercial banking industry, underpinned by a wide distribution network. The ratings are also supported by the Bank’s robust risk management framework, which is further strengthened by ongoing digital initiatives. Furthermore, the Bank’s deposit base continues to underpin its stable funding costs and good liquidity position. Moreover, BBL’s comfortable capitalization, good asset quality and improved earnings continue to support the ratings. These rating strengths are, however, tempered by the Bank’s high exposure to the Belize economy, where all assets and funding are concentrated. Additionally, although the financial system still faces challenges from the earlier loss of

correspondent banking relationships, improved AML/CFT compliance in Belize has supported the restoration and establishment of new relationships.

Rating Sensitivity Factors

Factors that could, individually or collectively, lead to an improvement in the Ratings and/ or Outlook include:

- Improvement in the credit risk profile of the Government of Belize
- Increase in profitability, leading to ROEA and ROE of 5% and 30% or more for 2 financial years
- Improvement in asset quality with a NPL ratio of 3% or lower, sustained for 2 consecutive years

Factors that could, individually or collectively, lead to a lowering of the Ratings and/ or Outlook include:

- A weakening of Government of Belize's credit risk profile
- The occurrence of any factors that may contribute to the deterioration of the CAR below the 9% minimum requirement for the Bank
- Decrease in profitability, leading to ROEA and ROE of 2% and 15% or lower for 2 consecutive years.
- Deterioration in asset quality with a NPL ratio to 5% or above, sustained for 2 financial years
- Cost to Income ratio weakens to 50% and over sustained for 2 financial years.

About the Company:

The Belize Bank Limited (BBL or the Bank) was incorporated in Belize in July 1985 and is registered under the Domestic Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 2012. The Bank commenced operations as Bank of British Honduras in 1903. In 1912, the Bank was purchased by the Royal Bank of Canada and was then sold in 1987 to a group of local investors and subsequently rebranded as 'The Belize Bank Limited'. The ultimate parent company of BBL is Waterloo Investment Holdings Limited¹ (WIHL or the Parent).

¹ WIHL is an investment holding company incorporated in the British Virgin Islands. WIHL owns the British Caribbean Bank Limited, a financial services business in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) and a hotel management division, which owns and operates 5 hospitality properties in TCI and Belize. Through its Investment Division, WIHL owns other substantial investment interests in the Turks and Caicos Islands and Belize, principally through secured loans which include secured loans to the largest port in Belize. The Parent also holds an approximate 25 percent interest in an edible oil processing and distribution operation in



BBL's full-service commercial banking operation provides a range of banking and financial services to business and personal banking customers across Belize. The Bank maintains a wide branch network, that comprises 13 branches across all districts in Belize and a network of 48 automated teller machines (ATMs). In 2022, following the acquisition of the assets and liabilities of Scotiabank (Belize) Limited (SBL), BBL became the largest commercial bank in Belize by industry assets.

For more information on BBL's ratings, please visit www.caricris.com or contact:

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Latin America. WIHL's shares are listed on the Bermuda Stock Exchange and traded on JP Jenkins, the largest European platform exchange.