

BBK Soars Past Pandemic

Profits rise steadily since 2019



Officials posing for a group photo session during annual general meeting yesterday

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Even as talks of a possible merger between National Bank of Bahrain (NBB) and the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK) are progressing, figures released by BBK during its annual general meeting on Wednesday showed the company making a strong comeback since the Covid-19 pandemic, possibly indicating a resurgence of the banking industry in the Kingdom to pre-pandemic levels.

The company said its net profit rose 16% in 2023 from last year and reached BD 74.5 million. In 2019, which was largely not impacted by the pandemic, a net profit of BD75.4 m was re-

ported.

Annual net profits of BBK have been on an upward trend post pandemic, rising from BD52m reported in 2020, to BD53.1m in 2021, to BD 64.4m in 2022, and to BD 74.5m in 2023.

A large percentage of the company's total operating income of BD154m this year came from retail banking, which contributed to 43% or BD 66m. Corporate banking brought in 27% or BD 41m. Investment, treasury, and other activities comprised 18% or BD 28m. International banking contributed 12% of the operating income and was worth BD 19m.

Backed by the steady rise in profit, BBK revealed a diluted earnings per share (EPS) of 33

Bahraini Fils for 2023, up over 16% from 37 Fils in 2022. This takes the diluted EPS of BBK close to the 44 Fils reported in 2019, prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Total assets remained steady over the years though, with BD 3,902m being reported for 2023 and BD 3,754m in 2022, while it was BD 3,865m in 2019.

Loans and advances have been largely steady since 2019, reaching BD 1,588m in 2023, compared to BD 1,614m in 2022 and BD 1,671m in 2019. Customer deposits too have remained steady since 2019, with BD 2,130m being reported in 2023, whereas BD 2,117m was deposited in 2022 and BD 2,170m were the deposits in 2019.

Along with improving its net profit on a yearly basis since the pandemic, the company was also able to significantly reduce the non-performing ratio of its loans. It reached a low of 3% in 2023 from 5.9% in 2019, with 6.3 percent reported in 2020, 5.2% in 2021, and 3.4% in 2022.

Capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of the bank has also been on an upward trend since 2019, reaching 28.1% in 2023 from the 21.7% reported in 2019. Over the years, the CAR went up from 21.7% in 2019 to 21.8% in 2020, to 23.6% in 2021, to 27.3% in 2022, and to 28.1% in 2023. The company had total assets of BD 3,764m and liabilities of BD 3,244m in 2023, figures revealed by the company said.

Beyon AGM approves BD64.7 m cash dividend



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Bahrain Telecommunications Company (Beyon) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the twelve-months ended 31 December 2023 today. The meeting took place at the Beyon campus in Hamala, Bahrain, in the presence of Beyon's Chairman, Board members, executive management and other officials.

During the AGM shareholders approved the recommendation of the Board of Directors for a full year cash dividend of BD64.7M (US\$171.6M), which includes a regular dividend of 32.5 fils per share plus an additional special dividend of 6.5 fils per share. The 2023 interim dividend of 13.5 fils per share was already paid during the third quarter of 2023 with the remaining dividend announced during the meeting to be paid on 22 April 2024.

Beyon also held an EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) during which sharehold-

ers approved changes to the company's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Beyon Chairman Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalifa Al Khalifa said, "The company's strong performance in 2023 ensured excellent dividends for shareholders of 32.5 fils per share plus an additional special dividend of 6.5 fils. This emphasises the priority we place on meeting shareholders' expectations, and we will continuously strive to deliver the best value for our shareholders during 2024."

Beyon CEO, Mikkel Vinter, presented an overview of the 2023 achievements, highlighting the solid performance and numerous operational achievements. "Across our operations we are pleased with the 2023 results for our connectivity and digital businesses, which saw Batelco expand market leadership for mobile and broadband in Bahrain, and strong growth achieved across our international operations."



Takaful International Company announces 7.5% cash dividends



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Takaful International Company held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) yesterday, at 10:30 am at the company's headquarters in Seef Area with a quorum of 91.55%, and in the presence of representatives of the relevant regulatory authorities. The General Assembly approved the company's financial results and approved the distribution of cash dividends of 7.5% an equivalent of BD 673.5K (7.5 fils per share), to the shareholders.

The shareholders also elected ten members for Board Directorship for the upcoming term (2024 - 2027): Ebrahim Mohamed Al Rayes, Abdulrahman Abdulla Mohamed, Khaled Saoud Al Hasan, Dr. Abdulla Saleh Sultan, Ahmed Abdulrahman Bucheeri, Osama Kamel Kishk, Mr. Rashed Ali Abulrahim, Dr. Osama Taqi Al Baharna, Yahya Ebrahim

Nooruddin and Ms. Fatima Taqi Al Saffar.

Ebrahim Al Rayes, Chairman of the Board of Directors, explained that the company proactively adopted the newly introduced Islamic accounting standards issued by the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) for Islamic insurance companies, though these standards will come into effect from 1st January 2025.

For his part, Essam Al-Ansari, Chief Executive Officer, stated that the company made significant progress last year. The company prioritized enhancing customer service through the implementation of new information technology systems, embracing digitalization and artificial intelligence. These initiatives resulted in notable enhancements to the customer experience, streamlined operations, and increased overall efficiency.

Gulf Insurance Group (Gulf) B.S.C. (c)			
Summary Financial Information			
Separate statement of financial position			
	At 31-Dec-23 BD 000s (Audited)	At 31-Dec-22 BD 000s (Restated)	At 1-Jan-22 BD 000s (Restated)
Assets			
Property and equipment	10,046	10,334	10,897
Investment properties	1,952	2,040	2,128
Intangible assets	6,920	2,069	1,024
Right-of-use assets	137	527	769
Investment in subsidiaries	36,457	36,457	36,457
Statutory deposits	10,989	14,863	12,784
Insurance contract assets	4,531	6,034	7,129
Reinsurance contract assets	59,174	45,279	48,887
Investments	180,485	158,743	156,380
Deposits with banks	30,729	29,708	48,035
Other receivables	2,840	2,236	1,967
Cash and cash equivalents	28,768	47,981	42,650
Total Assets	373,028	356,271	369,107
Equity And Liabilities			
Equity			
Share capital	15,000	15,000	15,000
Statutory reserve	7,500	7,500	7,500
Fair value reserve	(3,363)	(4,895)	3,492
Contingency reserve	8,555	7,316	6,118
Capital reserve	9,792	9,792	9,792
General reserve	7,500	7,500	7,500
Proposed dividend	9,425	7,540	5,655
Retained earnings	102,226	96,305	86,599
Insurance / reinsurance finance reserve	403	927	(640)
Total equity	157,038	146,985	141,016
Liabilities			
Employees' end of service benefits	3,253	3,071	2,827
Insurance contract liabilities	186,917	195,142	204,682
Reinsurance contract liabilities	23,270	8,187	17,386
Lease liabilities	106	593	843
Taxation payable	2,444	2,293	2,353
Total liabilities	215,990	209,286	228,091
Total Equity And Liabilities	373,028	356,271	369,107
Separate statement of comprehensive income			
	Year ended 31-Dec-23 BD 000s (Audited)	Year ended 31-Dec-22 BD 000s (Restated)	
Insurance revenue	210,225	206,297	
Insurance service expense	(175,584)	(176,098)	
Insurance service result before reinsurance contracts held	34,641	30,199	
Net expense from reinsurance contracts held	(20,216)	(13,241)	
Insurance service result	14,425	16,958	
Insurance finance expense for insurance contracts issued	(4,023)	(1,368)	
Reinsurance finance income for reinsurance contracts held	1,864	555	
Insurance service result (net of finance (expense)/income)	12,266	16,145	
Interest income	9,989	8,390	
Dividend received from a subsidiary	1,194	2,385	
Other investment income - net	1,372	515	
Net investment income	12,555	11,290	
Other expense	(5,509)	(5,547)	
Profit for the year before taxation	19,312	21,888	
Income tax expense	(1,650)	(1,059)	
Profit for the year	17,662	20,829	
Total other comprehensive income/ (loss) for the year	1,147	(6,820)	
Total comprehensive income for the year	18,809	14,009	
Jamal AlHazeem Chairman		Paul Adamsson Director	
For more information contact: Gulf Insurance Group (Gulf) B.S.C. (c) - Head quarters, Bahrain Bay P.O. Box 11442 Unit 51, Building 298 Road 4609, Block 346, Sea front Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain			
International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 17 Insurance Contracts replaces IFRS 4 Insurance Contracts, for annual periods on or after 1 January 2023. The Company has restated comparative information for 2022 applying the transitional provisions in IFRS 17. The financial information as above has been extracted from the separate financial statements audited by Ernst & Young - Middle East for the year ended 31 December 2023.			