

Kuwait: 22nd of September 2020

Mr. Mohammad Saud Al-Osaimi
Chief Executive Officer - Boursa Kuwait Company
State of Kuwait

Dear Sir,

Subject: Commenting on News

As per Chapter No. 4 of the “Disclosure and Transparency” Module of the Capital Markets Authority’s Executive Bylaws and its Law No.7/2010 and amendments issued on 9/11/2015 regarding dealing with rumors and news. Commenting on what is being circulated on social media regarding “NBK name is mentioned in FinCEN files leaks”.

We would like to advise that the leaked documents are mainly Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) reported by Banks and Financial Institutions operating in USA to Financial Crime Enforcement Network (FinCEN-USA) regarding transactions conducted through USA Banks. Those transactions were suspected to being linked to money laundering or financing of terrorism activities during the period from year 1999 to year 2017 with total value amounting to approximately USD 2 trillion. Those leaked documents included names of many international and domestic Banks, including NBK. The value of transactions related to NBK amounting to approximately USD 1.3 million conducted during the period from year 2011 to year 2014 (equivalent to KWD 400k, representing only 0.00007% of the total value of transactions stated in the aforementioned documents). Noting that, the leaked documents show that USA Banks have carried-on their role by submitting SARs about suspicious transactions to FinCEN, so that FinCEN can carry out its own relevant procedures regarding the investigation of such transactions.

In case FinCEN concludes that transactions reported in SARs are related to money laundering or financing of terrorism activities, it immediately refers to competent judicial authorities in the USA. It is worth mentioning that no correspondences or queries have been received by the Bank from any supervisory or judicial authorities in USA in this regard since year 2014.

We would also like to confirm that National Bank of Kuwait adopts strict policies and procedures in implementing Anti-Money Laundering /Combating Financing of Terrorism rules and regulations, in line with the instructions issued by the local regulatory authorities in this regards.

Sincerely yours,

 On behalf of National Bank of Kuwait (S.A.K.P)



Isam J. Al-Sager

Group Chief Executive Officer

