

TRANSLATION



Republica de Panamá
SUPERINTENDENCIA DE BANCOS

PRESS RELEASE

THE SUPERINTENDENCY OF BANKS

ANNOUNCES:

As of eleven this morning (11:00 a.m.), twelve (12) November 2003 and based on the provisions of Article 115 of Decree Law 9 of 1998, the Superintendency of Banks has ordered the Compulsory Administrative Liquidation of **BANCREDITO (PANAMÁ), S.A.** by S.B. Resolution 161-2003 dated 12 November 2003.

The decision taken by this Office is based on the recommendation of the appointed Receiver. The Final Intervention Report dated 30 October 2003 states the following:

- The Bank does not have the immediate liquidity to face its obligations.
- Due to the nature of the assets, BANCREDITO (PANAMÁ), S.A. is unable to generate additional liquidity from them, nor pay off its liabilities with the value of these assets.
- The shareholders have not indicated any willingness to provide immediate additional funding to strengthen the financial structure of the Bank.

By virtue of Decree Law 9 of 1998, the Liquidator will guide the compulsory liquidation process taking into account the following criteria:

1. The due speed required by the process, in order to liquidate the property of the Bank as soon as possible and to satisfy any obligations there may be.
2. Informality and transparency in the proceedings.
3. The respect for rights and order of payment recognized by Decree Law 9 of 1998.

Panama, 12 November 2003.