

# TRANSLATION

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## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Superintendent of Banks,  
Pursuant to the provisions of Article 21 of Rule 1-2004 dated 29 December 2004,

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. That **HSBC BANK (PANAMÁ), S.A.** and **PRIMER BANCO DEL ISTMO, S.A.** have submitted a request through a Resident Agent for authorization to merge, with **HSBC BANK (PANAMÁ), S.A.** being the surviving company;
2. That **HSBC BANK (PANAMÁ), S.A.** is a corporation established and existing according to the laws of the Republic of Panama, filed in Microjacket 456744, number 633197 of the Microfilm (Mercantile) Section of the Public Registry of Panama and the holder of a General Banking License granted by the Superintendency to engage in the banking business within and from Panama;
3. That **PRIMER BANCO DEL ISTMO, S.A.** is a corporation established and existing according to the laws of the Republic of Panama, filed in Microjacket 124625, roll 12567, image 1 of the Microfilm (Mercantile) Section of the Public Registry of Panama and the holder of a General Banking License granted by the Superintendency to engage in the banking business within and from Panama;
4. That **HSBC BANK (PANAMÁ), S.A.** is the majority shareholder of **PRIMER BANCO DEL ISTMO, S.A.** issued and outstanding shares;
5. That as a result of the requested merger, **HSBC BANK (PANAMÁ), S.A.** will continue being the majority shareholder of **INVERSIONES FINANCIERAS BANCOSAL, S.A.**, holder of the Group's banking operations in El Salvador. At the same time, **HSBC BANK (PANAMÁ), S.A.** will become the controlling entity of several corporations of the economic group that have banking or regulated operations in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Colombia, The Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and Panama. In the case of Panama, this includes **BANISTMO CAPITAL MARKETS GROUP, INC.**, a corporation authorized by the Superintendency to engage in the trust business within and from Panama;
6. Regarding the minority shareholders of **PRIMER BANCO DEL ISTMO, S.A.** they will be indemnified for each one of the common shares they hold, as provided for in the Merger Agreement submitted;

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7. That the Directors, Dignitaries and Senior Staff of **HSBC BANK (PANAMÁ), S.A.** are:

Name	Position
Emilson Alonso	Legal Representative/Chairman
Carlos Ernesto Fernandes	Vice Chairman
Christopher Levy	Treasurer
Alan Grieve	Secretary
Joseph Salteiro	Director
Alastair Bryce	Director
Jaime Alemán	Director
Michael Bettsack	Director
Colin Mark Gunton	Director
Mattew Deakin	Director

8. That the Directors, Dignitaries and Senior Staff of **PRIMER BANCO DEL ISTMO, S.A.** are:

Name	Position
Emilson Alonso	Legal Representative/Chairman
Carlos Ernesto Fernandes	Vice Chairman
Christopher Levy	Treasurer
Alan Grieve	Secretary
Joseph Salteiro	Director
Alastair Bryce	Director
Jaime Alemán	Director
Michael Bettsack	Director
Colin Mark Gunton	Director

Given in the city of Panama on the twenty-first (21<sup>st</sup>) day of July, two thousand eight (2008).

Olegario Barrelier  
Superintendent