

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 24, 2004

FINANCE CORPORATION OF THE BAHAMAS (FINCO)

The Commission met with representatives of FINCO at its offices March 23, 2004 to discuss reports in various news publications regarding certain extraordinary expenses incurred by FINCO in respect of a potential investment. The meeting was held to obtain clarification of the nature of those negotiations and whether any monies had 'changed hands' between the parties to the transaction and thus, whether there had been a failure by FINCO to disclose material information to the Commission and/or the public, as required by Section 64 of The Securities Industry Act, 1999.

As a result of the discussions held yesterday the Commission is satisfied that no material change occurred requiring FINCO to make any disclosure either to the public or to the Commission as monies expended in respect of the negotiations related to normal business expenses, incurred during the preliminary stages of negotiations. The Commission is therefore satisfied that all necessary actions were taken by FINCO and thus there was no breach of Section 64.

END

The Securities Commission of The Bahamas ("the Commission") is a statutory body established in 1995 pursuant to the Securities Board Act, 1995, which was repealed and replaced by the Securities Industry Act, 1999 (the SIA). The Commission is responsible for the administration of the SIA and the Investment Funds Act, 2003 (the IFA), which provides for the supervision and regulation of the activities of the investment funds, securities and capital markets. The Commission, having been appointed Inspector of Financial and Corporate Service Providers effective 1 January 2008, is also responsible for administering the Financial and Corporate Service Providers Act, 2000.

The Commission's mandate is to formulate principles to regulate and govern investment funds, securities and capital markets; maintain surveillance over investment funds, securities and capital markets ensuring orderly, fair and equitable dealings; create and promote conditions to ensure orderly growth and development of capital markets; and to advise the Minister of Finance regarding investment funds, securities and capital markets.

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