



# Republic of Palau

## Financial Institutions Commission

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**November 20, 2019**

### **Joint Press Release**

#### ***Bureau of Revenue & Taxation, Ministry of Finance, Republic of Palau and the Financial Institutions Commission, Republic of Palau***

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The Bureau of Revenue and Taxation and the Financial Institutions Commission's joint public statement: :

The public is advised that recent and ongoing attempts by individuals and/or corporate entities to utilize previously obtained licenses from the Bureau of Revenue and Taxation of the Republic of Palau, including licenses that were subsequently voided and nullified, for the purpose of conducting any and all business activities relating to crypto-assets and crypto-currencies, are invalid and illegal. Any aspect of their promoted operations and/or other purported legitimate financial activities having to deal with banking or any banking institutions have not been licensed or authorized by the Financial Institutions Commission as well.

Such entities are invalid and operating illegally and are acting and/or promoting themselves to be legitimate and conducting promotions of their product offerings and investment products in contravention to the laws of the Republic of Palau and in contravention to a standing FIC Moratorium on the issuance of any licenses to any banking and banking related entity or existing licensed bank conducting or purporting to conduct business activity online and/or activity based out of the Republic of Palau utilizing crypto-assets or crypto-currency.

Both the Financial Institutions Commission and the Bureau of Revenue & Taxation have been notified by international authorities as well as third party potential investors that there are entities whom are purporting to be, and are advertising on the internet, their services and products that are crypto-asset/crypto-currency based. Such promotion of these activities by these entities are falsely and fraudulently stated to be sanctioned by the Republic of Palau by either the Bureau of Revenue & Taxation and/or the Financial Institutions Commission. Such entities that are advertising and promoting themselves on the internet are not permitted nor authorized by any governmental authority in the Republic of Palau.

These are considered to be fraudulent organizations that are attempting to entice and secure funds from investors and potential investors for unauthorized and fraudulent products offered and promoted by said entities.

**The Financial Institutions Commission and the Bureau & Revenue and Taxation of the Republic of Palau urges extreme caution** and urges consumers, investors, and potential investors, to conduct enhanced due diligence on any business or corporate entity purporting to be authorized by any governmental authority in the Republic of Palau, to conduct said internet based crypto-asset and crypto-currency related activities. Again, these activities are not formally sanctioned and such companies are not duly licensed by any government authority in the Republic of Palau.

The Bureau of Revenue & Taxation along with the Financial Institutions Commission encourages the public, investors, and potential investors in the Republic of Palau and in any other jurisdiction, to contact us should you encounter such promotions or web-based investment schemes relating to the activities mentioned herein. You may contact us at the following: [commissioner@ropfic.org](mailto:commissioner@ropfic.org) (for the Commissioner of the Financial Institutions Commission, Mr. Semdiu Decherong) or [roptax@palaugov.org](mailto:roptax@palaugov.org) (to the attention of the Director of the Bureau of Revenue & Taxation, Mr. Rhinehart Silas).