

January 18, 2016 Circular N° SBP-DR-0016-2016

General Manager

Subject: Reminder on the existing legislation on people with disabilities

## Dear General Manager:

We wish to remind you of the provisions of Article 33 of Law 42 dated 27 August 1999 ("Whereby equal opportunities for people with disabilities are established"), which defines the buildings and installations considered of public access and which states:

"Article 33: For the purposes of this Law, the following buildings and facilities will be considered of public access:

- 1. ..
- 2. ..
- 5. Movie theaters, theaters, stadiums, <u>banks</u>, gymnasiums, museums, libraries or any other entertainment, service or cultural facility..." (The emphasis is ours)

In addition, Article 9 of Law 25 dated 10 July 2007, whereby the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and its authorizing Protocol were approved, establishes the Accessibility parameters that must be met, including:

## "Article 9. Accessibility

- 2. The State Parties must also adopt the relevant measures to:
- b) Make sure that private entities providing installations and services open to the public or for public use take into account all aspects for the accessibility of people with disabilities; ..."

The above laws on the rights of people with disabilities aim to promote equal opportunity, accessibility, participation, respect for their personal dignity, among others. Considering the above, we remind you that banks must comply with the above laws.

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We would greatly appreciate your providing your staff with the necessary instructions for compliance with the provisions herein.

Best regards,

Ricardo G. Fernandez D. Superintendent

ARV/vb

