

Announcement of Periodic Review: Moody's Ratings announces completion of a periodic review of ratings of BRB-Banco de Brasilia S.A.

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New York, July 17, 2024 -- Moody's Ratings (Moody's) has completed a periodic review of the ratings of BRB-Banco de Brasilia S.A. and other ratings that are associated with this issuer.

The review was conducted through a rating committee held on 12 July 2024 in which we reassessed the appropriateness of the ratings in the context of the relevant principal methodology(ies), and recent developments.

This publication does not announce a credit rating action and is not an indication of whether or not a credit rating action is likely in the near future. Please see the Issuer page on https://ratings.moodys.com for the most updated credit rating action information and rating history.

Key Rating considerations and rationale are summarized below.

BRB-Banco de Brasilia S.A. (BRB)'s b1 BCA reflects the challenges related to profitability and capitalization as the bank continues to expand beyond its traditional footprint. While we acknowledge these efforts aim to bolster the bank's presence in highly competitive markets, dominated by largest commercial banks, ultimately improving business diversification and strengthening earnings in the medium term, this strategy also exposes the bank to higher credit costs and squeezed margins.

Since 2021, the bank's profitability has declined as a result of increased funding costs, in line with high interest rates and the issuance of costly hybrid instruments to support growth. BRB's strategic focus on expanding its footprint in the mortgage lending segment, which accounted for 26% of total loans in December 2023 – a twofold increase over three years – also pressured margins due to the low-yields on these loans. Provisions for loan losses and operational costs continued to weight on bottom line results. Net income to tangible assets stood below 0.5% between 2022 and 2023, compared to a 1.8% average in 2018-2021 period. Over the next 12 to 18 months,

while there is potential to leverage its expanded customer base to boost product penetration, we expect that BRB's profitability will continue to be strained by high funding costs, intense competition in loan origination across both existing and prospective target markets, and the persistence of credit and operational costs exceeding historical averages.

At the same time, BRB's b1 BCA also considers the bank's low capital position pressured by the acceleration in growth, and the decline in capital replenishment capacity over the past years. Moody's adjusted tangible common equity to risk-weighted assets ratio fell to 3.8% in December 2023, a significant decrease from 9.9% three years earlier. In response, BRB's shareholders announced on 12 July 2024 a capital injection of nearly BRL 300 million to reinforce its 7.9% CET1 ratio as of December 2023. Despite that, we expect the bank's regulatory capital buffers to remain narrow as a result of the bank's decision to maintain an accelerated growth strategy in the next quarters.

BRB's ratio of loans classified in the riskier E-H categories stood at 3.1% of total loans in December 2023, up by 30 basis points from the previous year, and incorporates the strong expansion of the portfolio in 2023. The high participation of low-risk payroll loans and mortgage financing in the bank's loan portfolio, that together accounted for 64% of total loans in 2023, helps to mitigate further deterioration in asset quality.

The stable outlook recognizes BRB's well-established regional franchise with entrenched operations in the Federal District, supported by an ample access to stable deposit base from public sector employees, government-related entities and judicial proceedings. The bank's steadily low reliance on confidence-sensitive funding sources, as illustrated by a market funds to tangible asset ratio below 10% in December 2023, is a credit strength to BRB's financial profile.

This document summarizes our view as of the publication date and will not be updated until the next periodic review announcement, which will incorporate material changes in credit circumstances (if any) during the intervening period.

The principal methodology used for this review was Banks Methodology published in March 2024. Please see the Rating Methodologies page on https://ratings.moodys.com for a copy of this methodology.

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