

BENCHMARK (BAH.AMAS) LTD .  
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2016

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**BENCHMARK (BAHAMAS) LTD.**  
**CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2016**

**CONTENTS**

**PAGE**

<b>1-4</b>	Independent Auditors' Report
<b>5</b>	Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
<b>6</b>	Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income/ (Loss)
<b>7</b>	Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity
<b>8</b>	Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows
<b>9 - 35</b>	Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Shareholders of  
**Benchmark (Bahamas) Ltd.**

### *Opinion*

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of **Benchmark (Bahamas) Ltd.**, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at **December 31, 2016**, and the consolidated statements of comprehensive income/ (loss), changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of **Benchmark (Bahamas) Ltd.** as at **December 31, 2016** and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

### *Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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***Emphasis of Matter***

Without qualifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements which describes the net deficit position of a subsidiary at the end of the year and the guarantee provided by Benchmark (Bahamas) Ltd. to make funds available for the subsidiary to continue operating as a going concern.

***Key Audit Matters***

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

**Revenue Recognition**

The amount of revenue recognized during the year on commissions has significantly increased from prior years as a result of a new revenue stream that a subsidiary has entered into in the most recent years. This new revenue stream involved detailed accounting procedures. Based on our judgment, revenue recognition is significant to our audit as this new revenue stream forms a significant portion of the Company's total revenue.

Our audit procedures to address the risk of material misstatement relating to revenue recognition, which we considered to be a significant risk included:

- Testing of controls, including among others, those over: manual input of individual trading fees and pricing, reconciliation of bank, brokers and client accounts, and conversion of transactions denominated in foreign currencies.
- Substantive testing of transactions, including validation of revenue recognized against related agreements with clients.

*Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

*Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

*Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (Continued)*

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.



**William R. Wallace, Partner**  
**PKF Bahamas**  
**April 25, 2017**  
**Nassau, Bahamas**



**BENCHMARK (BAHAMAS) LTD.**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

**DECEMBER 31, 2016**

**(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)**

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<b>PROPERTY, PLANT &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>	11	<b>209,922</b>	<b>18,865</b>
<b>INVESTMENT PROPERTY</b>	12	<b>4,557,560</b>	<b>4,511,160</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	4,092,992	2,025,736
Due from brokers	6	1,589,743	2,035,750
Customer advances	7	520,398	655,434
Other receivables and prepayments		314,892	270,570
Investments in securities	9	<u>3,345,988</u>	<u>3,035,410</u>
		<b><u>9,864,013</u></b>	<b><u>8,022,900</u></b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Bank overdraft	13	99,270	185,041
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	10	1,024,112	321,024
Due to customers	7	9,033,831	10,236,128
Current portion of bank loan	13		84,703
Loan from Parent Company	13	180,000	180,000
		<b><u>10,337,213</u></b>	<b><u>11,006,896</u></b>
<b>NET CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b><u>(473,200)</u></b>	<b><u>(2,983,996)</u></b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Non-current portion of bank loan	13		348,112
			<b><u>348,112</u></b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b><u>\$ 4,294,282</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,197,917</u></b>
<b>EQUITY (Page 7)</b>		<b><u>\$ 4,294,282</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,197,917</u></b>

The consolidated financial statements were approved and authorized to be issued on April 25, 2017

**by** \_\_\_\_\_ and signed on its behalf by:

/\_\_\_\_\_  
Director 7

£/ /fd4.f .(?)  
Director

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

**BENCHMARK (BAHAMAS) LTD.**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/ (LOSS)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**  
**(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Interest		2,422	49,529
Commission		2,528,851	851,872
Portfolio management and advisory fees		812,968	328,224
Dividends		98,733	89,265
Rental income		<u>369,962</u>	<u>340,189</u>
		<b>3,812,936</b>	<b>1,659,079</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries and benefits		767,026	317,873
Communication, insurance and allowances		28,741	42,308
Investment advisor fee	16	100,000	99,900
Bank charges and interest		68,428	220,888
Rent and occupancy		23,634	79,825
Property management fee		25,000	25,000
Property insurance		24,330	24,189
Professional fees		69,364	108,558
Depreciation	11	21,838	13,355
Directors' and officers' fees		41,998	49,560
Fuel costs		6,963	6,887
Cleaning, repairs and maintenance		68,693	60,324
Utilities		36,187	10,723
Corporate management fees	17	41,409	39,698
Printing and stationery		31,395	17,095
Bad debts provision	8	255,852	47,241
Publicrelations		40,998	23,176
Dividends paid on securities sold short			26,612
Registrar Commission license fees		15,588	16,497
Business licence fees		10,504	11,343
Real property tax		30,721	44,547
Securities Commission licence fees		19,000	19,000
Bahamas International Securities Exchange listing fees		<u>5,375</u>	<u>5,375</u>
		<b>1,733,044</b>	<b>1,309,974</b>
<b>Net income</b>		<b>2,079,892</b>	<b>349,105</b>
<b>Other income/(losses):</b>			
Net realized gain/ (loss) on investments		132,571	(311,128)
Net unrealized gain/ (loss) on investments		872,910	(292,628)
Net realized/unrealized foreign exchnage gain/(loss)		1,430	(41,690)
Other income		<u>9,562</u>	
<b>Net realized and unrealized gain/ (loss) on investments</b>		<b>1,016,473</b>	<b>(645,446)</b>
<b>Net comprehensive income/ (loss)</b>		<b>\$ 3,096,365</b>	<b>\$ (296,341)</b>
<b>Net comprehensive income/ (loss) per share</b>	19	<b>\$ 0.62</b>	<b>\$ (0.06)</b>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

BENCHMARK (BAHAMAS) LTD.  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2016**  
(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)

	<b>(Note 14) Ordinary shares</b>	<b>(Note 14) Preference shares</b>	<b>Contributed surplus</b>	<b>Accumulated deficit</b>	<b>Total</b>
Balance at January 1, 2015	49,591	5,000,000	4,056,273	(7,611,606)	<b>1,494,258</b>
Net comprehensive loss (Page 6)		-		(296,341)	<b>(296,341)</b>
<b>Balance at December 31, 2015</b>	<b>49,591</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>	<b>4,056,273</b>	<b>(7,907,947)</b>	<b>1,197,917</b>
Net comprehensive income (Page 6)	-		-	3,096,365	<b>3,096,365</b>
<b>Balance at December 31, 2016</b>	<b><u>\$ 49,591</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 5,000,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 4,056,273</u></b>	<b><u>\$ (4,811,582)</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 4,294,282</u></b>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

**BENCHMARK (BAHAMAS) LTD.**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**

**(Expressed in Bahamian dollars)**

	Notes	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
<b>Net comprehensive income/ (loss)</b>		<b>3,096,365</b>	<b>(296,341)</b>
Adjustments for:			
Net unrealized (gain)/ loss on investments in securities		(872,910)	292,628
Net realized (gain)/ loss on investments in securities		(132,571)	311,128
Bad debts provision	8	255,852	47,241
Depreciation	11	21,838	13,355
<b>Net Cash Provided by Operations before Changes in Operating Assets and Liabilities</b>		<b>2,368,574</b>	<b>368,011</b>
(Increase)/ decrease in customer advances		(1,359)	197,382
Increase in other receivables and prepayments		(163,779)	(16,870)
Increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses		703,088	33,718
Decrease in due to customers, net		(1,202,297)	(818,748)
<b>Net Cash Provided by/ (Used in) Operating Activities</b>		<b><u>1,704,227</u></b>	<b><u>(236,507)</u></b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Purchase of securities		(224,860)	(2,856,530)
Proceeds from sale of securities		919,763	4,814,824
Purchase of property, plant & equipment	11	(212,895)	(14,824)
Improvements to investment property	12	(46,400)	
<b>Net Cash Provided by Investing Activities</b>		<b>435,608</b>	<b>1,943,470</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Bank loan - repayments	13(b)	432,815	(78,033)
<b>Net Cash Used in Financing Activities</b>		<b><u>(432,815)</u></b>	<b><u>(78,033)</u></b>
<b>NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASHEQUIVALENTS</b>		<b>1,707,020</b>	<b>1,628,930</b>
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year		3,876,445	2,247,515
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, end of year</b>		<b><u>\$ 5,583,465</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 3,876,445</u></b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents are comprised of:</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents		4,092,992	2,025,736
Due from brokers		1,589,743	2,035,750
Bank overdraft		(99,270)	(185,041)
		<b><u>\$ 5,583,465</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 3,876,445</u></b>

**The accompanying notes form an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.**

# BENCHMARK (BAHAMAS) LTD.

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2016

### 1. ORGANIZATION

Benchmark (Bahamas) Ltd. (the Company) was incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas as a limited liability company on December 30, 1997 under the Companies Act 1992. The Company functions as a public investment company and is listed on The Bahamas International Securities Exchange ("BISX"). Its primary objective is to provide a competitive return to shareholders by emphasizing a diversity of domestic instruments for capital preservation, steady income flow and the opportunity for capital appreciation.

The Company is 47.1% owned (2015: 47.1%) by Braun & Cie Ltd., a Bahamian company incorporated primarily to hold its investment in the Company and to provide management and advisory services to the Company. The remainder of the shares are held by members of the public.

These consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries, Benchmark Advisors (Bahamas) Ltd. (Advisors), Alliance Investment Management Ltd. (Alliance) and Benchmark Properties (Bahamas) Ltd. (Properties), collectively "The Group;" which are incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Advisors was incorporated on February 26, 2001 to provide investment advice, strategic management planning and capital market services.

Effective November 30, 2001, the Company acquired the entire net assets of Alliance, a company operating as a securities investment advisor, broker-dealer and consultant for non-resident companies and individuals conducting business within The Bahamas.

The financial statements of Alliance have been prepared on the basis that it will continue as a going concern. The statement of financial position shows net liabilities and deficit as at December 31, 2016, resulting in Alliance not being able to meet its regulatory capital requirements.

The Company has provided a guarantee to Alliance to make sufficient funds available to enable it to meet its present and future obligations for a period including, but not limited to 12 months from the date its financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors.

Properties was incorporated on July 30, 2006 to provide rental of office space. Construction of the first investment property was completed in 2010, and is yielding rental income.

The address of the registered office of the Group is Gresham House, Charlotte Street South, Nassau, Bahamas and its principal place of business is Suite 201, Carmichael Commercial Centre, Carmichael Road, Nassau, Bahamas.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2016

**2. APPLICATION OF NEW AND REVISED INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS (IFRSs)**

The new and revised IFRSs prescribe new accounting recognition, measurement and disclosure requirements applicable to the Company. When applicable, the adoption of the new standards was made in accordance with their transitional provisions; otherwise, the adoption is accounted for as change in accounting policy under IAS 8: "Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors".

**2.1 New and revised IFRSs with no material effect on the financial statements**

The following new and revised standards have been adopted in the current year. The application of these new and revised IFRSs has not had any material impact on the amounts reported for the current and prior years, except when specifically disclosed, but may affect the accounting for future transactions or arrangements.

**1. IAS 1 Disclosure Initiative**

The amendments give clarification in respect of determining what information to disclose in annual financial statements. It clarifies that information should not be obscured by aggregating or by providing immaterial information, materiality considerations apply to all parts of the financial statements, and even when a standard requires a specific disclosure, materiality considerations do apply.

**2. IAS 16 and 38 Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortization**

These clarify the basis for calculation of depreciation and amortization as being the expected pattern of consumption of the future economic benefits of an asset and clarifies that revenue is generally presumed to be an inappropriate basis for measuring consumption of economic benefits in such assets. Currently, the Company uses the straight-line method of depreciation for its property, plant and equipment.

**2.2 New and revised IFRSs in issue but not yet effective**

**1. IFRS 9 *Financial instruments (2014 version)***

A finalized version of IFRS 9 which contains accounting requirements for financial instruments, replacing IAS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement, was issued in July 2014.

The new IFRS requires all financial assets within the scope of IAS 39 to be stated at amortized cost or fair value where the intention is to hold such instruments to collect the contractual cash flows which are repayments of capital and interest. All other investments are stated at fair value at the end of each reporting period. Furthermore, where changes in the fair value of financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss can be attributed to changes in credit risk, those changes are recognized in other comprehensive income/ (loss). The only exception would be when such treatment would give rise to, or enlarge an accounting mismatch in profit and loss.

**2. APPLICATION OF NEW AND REVISED INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS (IFRSs) (Continued)**

**2.2 New and revised IFRSs in issue but not yet effective (Continued)**

**1. IFRS 9 *Financial instruments (2014 version)* (Continued)**

The version issued in July 2014 mainly introduces a new expected loss impairment model requirements for financial assets and limited amendments to the classification and measurement requirements by introducing a 'fair value through other comprehensive income' (FVTOCI) measurement category for certain simple debt instruments. Financial liabilities are classified in a similar manner under IAS 39, however there are differences in the requirements applying to the measurement of an entity's own credit risk. The standard is effective for years commencing on or after 1 January 2018.

**2. IFRS 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers***

IFRS 15 provides a single, principles based five-step model to be applied to all contracts with customers. The five steps *in* the model include (1) identify the contract with the customer; (2) identify the performance obligations in the contract; (3) determine the transaction price; (4) allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations in the contracts; and (5) recognise revenue when (or as) the entity satisfies a performance obligation. New disclosures about revenue are also introduced. The standard is effective for years commencing on or after 1 January 2018.

**3. IFRS 16 *Leases***

IFRS 16 specifies how an entity will recognize, measure, present and disclose leases. The standard provides a single lessee accounting model, requiring lessees to recognise assets and liabilities for all leases unless the lease term is 12 months or less or the underlying asset has a low value. Lessors continue to classify leases as operating or finance, with IFRS 16's approach to lessor accounting substantially unchanged from its predecessor, IAS 17. The standard is effective for years commencing on or after 1 January 2019.

**3. BASIS OF PREPARATION**

**(a) Statement of compliance**

These consolidated financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis and in accordance with applicable International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

**3. BASIS OF PREPARATION (Continued)**

**(b) Basis of preparation**

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost basis except for certain financial instruments that are measured either at fair value or amortized cost, and investment property measured at fair value, as explained in the accounting policies below. Historical cost is generally based on the fair value of consideration given in exchange for assets.

**(c) Functional and presentation currency**

The consolidated financial statements are presented in Bahamian dollars which is the Company's functional currency.

**(d) Use of estimates and judgments**

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements and reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the year. Actual results can differ from those estimates. The areas involving a higher degree of judgment or complexity, or areas where assumptions or estimates are significant to the consolidated financial statements are disclosed in Note 5.

**(e) Principles of consolidation**

Subsidiaries are those enterprises controlled by the Company. Control exists when the Company has the power, directly or indirectly, to govern the financial and operating policies of an enterprise so as to obtain benefits from its activities. The financial statements of subsidiaries are included in the consolidated financial statements from the date that control commences until the date that control ceases.

These consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries.

On consolidation, intragroup balances and intragroup transactions are eliminated in full.

**4. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented.

**(a) Revenue**

Revenue comprises management fees and commissions on services to external clients. Consideration received from clients is only recognized as revenue to the extent that the Company has performed its contractual obligations in respect of that consideration.

Interest is recognised in the period in which interest is earned. The amount of revenue is measured using the effective interest rate method.

Rental income from operating leases is recognized on a straight-line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

**(b) Expense**

Expense encompasses losses as well as those expenses that arise in the course of the ordinary activities of the Company. The Company recognizes expenses in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income/(loss) when a decrease in future economic benefits related to a decrease in an asset or an increase of a liability has arisen that can be measured reliably. Expenses are accounted for on the accrual basis.

**(c) Foreign currency transactions**

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in currencies other than the Bahamian dollar are translated into Bahamian dollars at the rate of exchange in effect at the date of the consolidated statement of financial position. Income and expenses transacted in currencies other than Bahamian dollars are translated into Bahamian dollars at the rates of exchange prevailing at the transaction dates.

Unrealized foreign exchange differences arising on translation of assets and liabilities, and realized foreign exchange differences on income and expenses transacted in foreign currencies are both recognized in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income/(loss).

**BENCHMARK (BAHAMAS) LTD.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2016**

**4. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**(d) Property, plant & equipment**

Property, plant & equipment are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is recognized in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income/ (loss) on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of each part of an item of property, plant & equipment.

The estimated useful lives of the assets are as follows:

Leasehold improvements	5 years
Furniture, fixtures & equipment	3 - 5 years
Vehicles	5 years

**(e) Investment property**

This is comprised of land and buildings held for appreciation or rental. The Company has elected to use the fair value model for subsequent measurement. Appreciation or decrease arising from changes in the fair value of investment property is included in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income/ (loss) for the period in which it arises.

**(f) Impairment of assets**

The carrying amounts of the Company's assets are reviewed at the date of each consolidated statement of financial position to determine if there is any indication of impairment. If such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. An impairment loss is recognized whenever the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognized in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income/ (loss). An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, had no impairment loss been recognized in prior years.

Provision for impairment losses is maintained at a level believed to be adequate by management to absorb potential losses.

**(g) Net comprehensive income/ (loss) per share**

Net comprehensive income/ (loss) per share is calculated by dividing the net comprehensive income/ (loss) by the weighted average number of shares outstanding.

**BENCHMARK (BAHAMAS) LTD.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2016**

**4. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**(h) Financial instruments**

**Classification**

The Company classifies financial instruments, or their component parts, on initial recognition as a financial asset, a financial liability or an equity instrument in accordance with the substance of the contractual arrangement.

**Recognition**

Financial instruments are recognized when the Company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. When initially recognized, all financial assets, are further grouped as investments at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL), available for sale (AFS), held-to-maturity (HTM) and loans and receivables, while financial liabilities are classified as either at FVTPL or other financial liabilities.

Financial assets at FVTPL include investments in securities. Loans and receivables include due from brokers, customer advances and other receivables. Other liabilities include bank overdraft, due to customers, loans, accounts payable and accrued expenses.

**Measurement**

Initial measurement is at fair value (which is usually the cost) plus transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or issue of the financial instrument, except for financial assets at FVTPL, which are initially measured at fair value, excluding transaction costs.

Subsequent to initial recognition, loans and receivables are measured at amortized cost, with assessment for impairment. Investments at FVTPL is measured at fair value. AFS is measured at fair value with changes shown directly in equity. Based on the classification, financial liabilities at FVTPL are measured at fair value and other liabilities at amortized cost. (See Note 24)

For those financial assets carried at fair value, they are ranked into levels 1 to 3, based on the extent to which the fair values are observable ( See Note 24).

**4. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**(h) Financial instruments (Continued)**

**Derecognition**

Financial instruments are derecognized on the trade date when the Company is no longer a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

**Financial assets are:**

**Cash and cash equivalents**

For the purpose of the consolidated statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents include balances which are available for withdrawal on demand.

**Investments**

Investments are stated at fair value, with any gains or losses arising on remeasurement recognized in profit or loss subsequently. Investments in equity securities are valued, for listed securities, at the quoted market prices at the end of each year as provided by the relevant stock exchange.

Short selling is the sale of a security that is not owned by the Company, or that the Company has borrowed. Short selling is motivated by the belief that a security's price will decline, enabling it to be bought back at a lower price to make a profit. Short selling may be prompted by speculation, or by the desire to hedge the downside risk of a long position.

The short sold securities are marked to market at year-end to recognize the fair value of the obligation. The dividend and interest expense related to short securities are charged to profit or loss in the period in which dividends are paid or interest is incurred.

**Due from brokers**

Due from brokers are stated at amortized cost net of allowance for any doubtful accounts. These balances are available for withdrawal on demand.

**Customer advances**

Customer advances are carried at the principal amount less any provision for impairment and doubtful debts. A provision for doubtful debts is made when collection of the full amount is considered no longer probable and the estimated value of the underlying collateral is insufficient to cover advances made to the customer. Amounts deemed to be irrecoverable are written off.

**4. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**(h) Financial instruments (Continued)**

**Financial assets (Continued)**

**Other receivables**

Other receivables are stated at amortized cost net of any allowance for doubtful accounts.

**Financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are any liabilities that are contractual obligations to deliver cash or another financial asset to another entity or to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially unfavorable to the Company; or a contract that will or may be settled in the Company's own equity instrument. Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss or other financial liabilities.

Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are initially recognized and subsequently measured at fair value with any gains or losses recognized in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income/ (loss).

**Financial liabilities are:**

**Bank overdraft**

This is treated and accounted for similar to cash and cash equivalents.

**Accounts payable and accrued expenses**

Accounts payable and accrued expenses are stated at amortized cost. They are recognized on the trade date of the related transactions. It includes administration/management fee income deferred by the Company over the term of services being administered on behalf of its clients.

**Due to customers**

This represents funds received from customers, and are carried at amortized cost.

The Company's subsidiary (Alliance) has a legally enforceable right of off-set pertaining to all balances relating to a single customer.

**Bank loan and loan from Parent Company**

These loans are stated at amortized cost.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2016

**5. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY**

Certain amounts included in or affecting the Company's consolidated financial statements and related disclosures must be estimated, requiring management to make assumptions with respect to values or conditions which cannot be known with certainty at the time the consolidated financial statements are prepared. A "critical accounting estimate" is one which is both important to the portrayal of the Company's consolidated financial position and results, and requires management's most difficult, subjective or complex judgments, often as a result of the need to make estimates about the effect of matters that are inherently uncertain. Judgments are also made in disclosing any contingent assets and liabilities that exist at the date of the consolidated statement of financial position.

The following are the critical judgments and estimates that management has made in the process of applying the entity's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognized in these consolidated financial statements.

- (a) Provision for bad debts (Note 8)
- (b) Impairment of assets
- (c) Fair valuation of investment property (Note 12)
- (d) Contingencies (Note 20)

**6. CASH AT BANK AND DUE FROM BROKERS**

Cash at bank comprise current accounts bearing interest at rates ranging from Nil to 0.5% (2015: Nil to 0.5%) per annum.

A subsidiary of the Company had margin account facilities in the prior year with certain brokers which bore interest at rates ranging from Nil to 7.75% per annum, which were collateralized by securities owned by both a subsidiary and some of its customers. There were no balances in the subsidiary's margin accounts in the current year.

**BENCHMARK (BAHAMAS) LTD.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2016**

**7. CUSTOMER ADVANCES AND DUE TO CUSTOMERS**

At the date of the consolidated statement of financial position, customer advances are shown net of a provision for doubtful debts amounting to \$9,792,146 (2015: \$9,792,146). Advances made to and from customers include amounts due on/ excess funds held relating to cash and margin transactions. Advances to customers based on margins are collateralized using securities owned by customers. Such collateral and securities are not reflected in the consolidated statement of financial position, as explained in Note 15.

Of the total amount due to customers, \$785,180 (2015: \$785,180) relates to funds received on behalf of customers, who are not identified or have not claimed the deposits as at the end of the period.

During 2012, voluntary liquidation proceedings supervised by the court were initiated by a significant client of a subsidiary, which were in progress at year-end. According to management and their legal counsel, there are no contingencies for which the subsidiary is liable. At year-end, customer advances and due to customers have been reported net of the amounts relating to the client under liquidation.

**8. PROVISION FOR DOUBTFUL DEBTS**

The movement in the provision for doubtful debts is as follows:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Balance, January 1	9,952,024	9,904,783
Provision	255,852	47,241
Write-offs	(136,395)	
<b>Balance, December 31</b>	<b><u>\$ 10,071,481</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 9,952,024</u></b>
Representing:		
Provision for customer advances (Note 7)	9,792,146	9,792,146
Provision for other receivables	<u>279,335</u>	<u>159,878</u>
<b>Balance, December 31</b>	<b><u>\$ 10,071,481</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 9,952,024</u></b>

**BENCHMARK (BAHAMAS) LTD.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2016**

**9. INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES**

Investments in securities comprise publicly traded equities and other investments in the following industries.

<b>Industry</b>	<b>2016</b>		<b>2015</b>	
	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Market Value</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Market Value</b>
Biotechnology	1,899	30	94,486	1,361
Financial services	824,057	2,787,040	1,361,047	2,523,670
Utilities	78,606	33,750	78,606	31,050
Industrial	930,157	175,352	837,093	233,770
Entertainment	139,661	17,584	139,661	17,584
Insurance	215,755	2,047	215,755	1,474
Wholesale and retail	78,958	73,778	78,958	47,247
Other	227,794	256,355	487,139	155,042
Technology	11,580	52	42,831	24,212
	<b>\$ 2,508,467</b>	<b>\$ 3,345,988</b>	<b>\$ 3,335,576</b>	<b>\$ 3,035,410</b>

**10. ACCOUNTSPAYABLE AND ACCRUED EXPENSES**

This account is composed of the following:

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Deferred portfolio management and advisory fees	376,318	
Legal expense payable	322,832	
Accounts payable and accruals	324,962	321,024
	<b>\$ 1,024,112</b>	<b>\$ 321,024</b>

**BENCHMARK (BAHAMAS) LTD.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2016**

**11. PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT**

Property, plant & equipment comprise the following:

	<b>Office &amp; Leasehold Improvements</b>	<b>Furniture Fixtures &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>Vehicles</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>COST</b>				
At January 1, 2016	133,656	299,445		<b>433,101</b>
Derecognition	(133,656)			<b>(133,656)</b>
Additions	<u>169,714</u>	<u>29,493</u>	<u>13,688</u>	<u><b>212,895</b></u>
<b>At December 31, 2016</b>	<u><b>169,714</b></u>	<u><b>328,938</b></u>	<u><b>13,688</b></u>	<u><b>512,340</b></u>
<b>ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION</b>				
At January 1, 2016	133,656	280,580		<b>414,236</b>
Derecognition	(133,656)			<b>(133,656)</b>
Charge for the year	<u>5,657</u>	<u>14,660</u>	<u>1,521</u>	<u><b>21,838</b></u>
<b>At December 31, 2016</b>	<u><b>5,657</b></u>	<u><b>295,240</b></u>	<u><b>1,521</b></u>	<u><b>302,418</b></u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>				
At December 31, 2016	<u><b>\$ 164,057</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 33,698</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 12,167</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 209,922</b></u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>				
At December 31, 2015	<u><b>\$</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 18,865</b></u>	<u><b>\$</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 18,865</b></u>

**12. INVESTMENT PROPERTY**

This is comprised of the following:

	<b>Land</b>	<b>Building</b>	<b>Parking</b>	<b>Total</b>
At January 1, 2016	1,065,000	3,323,630	122,530	<b>4,511,160</b>
Additions			<u>46,400</u>	<u><b>46,400</b></u>
<b>At December 31, 2016</b>	<u><b>\$1,065,000</b></u>	<u><b>\$3,323,630</b></u>	<u><b>\$168,930</b></u>	<u><b>\$4,557,560</b></u>

**BENCHMARK (BAHAMAS) LTD.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2016**

**12. INVESTMENT PROPERTY (Continued)**

On December 6, 2012 an independent appraisal of fair value was carried out resulting in an appreciation of \$559,987.

The fair value of investment property is determined by an independent professionally qualified appraiser. In determining the valuation, the appraiser used both the cost and income approaches.

**Fair Value Hierarchy**

The fair valuation of investment property is considered to represent a Level 3 valuation based on significant non-observable inputs being the cost and income potential of similar properties.

There were no transfers between Levels 1, 2 or 3 fair values during the year.

**13. LOANS, OVERDRAFT FACILITY AND DUE TO BROKERS**

**(a) Bank overdraft - Commonwealth Bank**

Effective May 12, 2011, a subsidiary of the Company entered into an overdraft facility agreement with Commonwealth Bank of \$250,000, the utilized portion of which bears interest at the annual rate of 8.25% (2015: 8.25%). At year end, the subsidiary had pledged equity securities with a market value of \$1,000,956 (2015: \$470,563) as collateral.

**(b) Bank loan - Bank of The Bahamas**

During 2009, the Company received a loan in the amount of \$1,700,000 (inclusive of arrangement fees) from Bank of the Bahamas Ltd. to finance the investment property. This loan, which bore interest at the rate of B\$ prime plus 3.5%, was being repaid by monthly installments of \$21,546 (principal and interest). During 2012, the Company made an accelerated principal payment of \$800,000 that changed subsequent monthly installments. As security, the Company's wholly owned subsidiary, Benchmark Properties (Bahamas) Ltd., has provided a guarantee, together with a first demand legal mortgage over its investment property and buildings, which is financed by the same loan. In addition, insurance and rent of the aforementioned buildings have also been assigned to the bank.

During the current year, the Company repaid the entire outstanding principal and interest amount, using the proceeds received from the sale of its investments in securities.

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Balance, January 1	432,815	510,848
Repayments	(432,815)	(78,033)
<b>Balance, December 31</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$ 432,815</b>

**BENCHMARK (BAHAMAS) LTD.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2016**

**13. LOANS, OVERDRAFT FACILITY AND DUE TO BROKERS (Continued)**

**(c) Due to brokers**

A subsidiary had margin account facilities with certain brokers which bore interest at rates ranging from Nil to 7.75% (2015: Nil to 7.75%) per annum, which were collateralized by securities owned by both Alliance and certain customers. The balance in the subsidiary's margin accounts were liquidated in 2015.

**(d) Loan from Parent Company**

During 2013, the Company received a loan in the amount of \$180,000 from its Parent Company (Braun & Cie Ltd.) to repay and terminate the overdraft facility with First Caribbean International Bank. This loan bears interest at the rate of 4% per annum and is repayable on demand. At year-end, the loan remains unpaid and the Company had pledged equity securities with a market value of \$525,000 (2015: \$392,000) as security.

**14. SHARE CAPITAL**

**(a) Ordinary shares**

At December 31, 2016 and 2015, the authorized share capital of the Company was \$100,000 divided into 10,000,000 ordinary shares each with a par value of \$0.01 of which 4,959,111 shares were issued, outstanding and fully paid.

**(b) Preference shares**

At December 31, 2016, there were \$5,000,000 (2015: \$5,000,000) non-voting preference shares issued and outstanding. These shares were issued in two tranches; \$2,000,000 in 2010 and \$3,000,000 in 2011. These shares were issued in lieu of funds due to a customer on whom liquidation proceedings have subsequently commenced. All these shares are redeemable at the discretion of the issuer. Dividend payout on all these shares is also at the discretion of the issuer. Consequently, all these shares are recognized as equity.

**BENCHMARK (BAHAMAS) LTD.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2016**

**15. ASSETS UNDER ADMINISTRATION**

The assets and liabilities of clients under administration in a custodial or nominee capacity are not reflected in these financial statements, except for those assets and liabilities that relate to the brokerage services provided by a subsidiary. At December 31, 2016, assets under administration totalled approximately \$11.02 million (2015: \$12.4 million).

**16. INVESTMENT ADVISOR FEE**

Effective January 1, 2000, Braun & Cie Ltd. was appointed Investment Manager by the Company and is paid a fee of \$100,000 (2015: \$99,900) payable in monthly installments beginning January 1, 2001.

Mr. Julian Renaud Brown, a director, is President and Chairman of the Company and is also President of Braun & Cie Ltd.

**17. CORPORATE MANAGEMENT FEES**

Under an agreement dated January 1, 2001, Mann Judd Corporate Services Ltd., the Corporate Manager of the Company, is paid a fee of \$21,500 (2015: \$21,500) by the Company. In addition, fees of \$1,935 (2015: \$1,823), \$5,972 (2015: \$3,000) and \$12,002 (2015: \$13,375) were paid to Mann Judd Corporate Services Ltd., by Advisors, Alliance & Properties, respectively. A Director of Mann Judd Corporate Services Ltd., is also a Director of the Company and Alliance.

**18. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION**

Key management personnel compensation included in salaries and benefits for the year ended December 31, 2016 amounted to \$591,573 (2015: \$230,322).

**19. NET COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/ (LOSS) PER SHARE**

The calculation of net comprehensive income/ (loss) per share is based on the consolidated net comprehensive income/ (loss) of \$3,096,365 (2015: (\$296,341)) and on the weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the year of 4,959,111 (2015: 4,959,111).

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2016

**20. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND COMMITMENTS**

**(a) The Securities Commission of The Bahamas**

During 2012, concerns over adequacy of a subsidiary's regulatory capital were raised by the regulator, which is still being reviewed (See Note 22). The Directors of such subsidiary have been responsive in providing the requirements communicated by the regulator to adhere to the Securities Industry Regulations, 2012.

In 2012, the regulator has also raised concerns as to the above-mentioned subsidiary's ability to continue operating as a going concern. Following the regulator's request, the Directors of the Company, as parent entity of the subsidiary, have replaced the letter of comfort with a letter of guarantee.

**(b) Liquidation of a significant client**

During 2012, a subsidiary of the Company, as disclosed in Note 7, has a client on whom voluntary liquidation proceedings were initiated. Further, this client also holds \$5,000,000 irredeemable preference shares as disclosed in Note 14 (b).

Although the ultimate outcome of the above mentioned matters cannot be ascertained at this time, it is the opinion of management, after consultation with legal counsel, that the resolution of matters will not have a materially adverse effect on the financial position of the subsidiary.

**(c) The United States Securities and Exchange Commission**

The United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") commenced litigation on or about August 8, 2014. The SEC alleged that a subsidiary of the Group and its President purported to be the "custodian" for assets under the management of Nikolai Battoo ("Battoo"). The SEC indicated that the subsidiary and President misrepresented themselves to investors as Battoo's custodian when, since at least 2009, the Company did not have custody of most of the assets listed on investor account statements. The SEC further alleged that the subsidiary and its President permitted Battoo to misappropriate at least \$45 million of investor funds.

**BENCHMARK (BAHAMAS) LTD.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2016**

**20. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND COMMITMENTS (Continued)**

**(c) The United States Securities and Exchange Commission (Continued)**

The SEC alleges that the subsidiary and its President, violated certain sections of the securities laws and sought injunctive relief including injunctions against future violations of various sections of the federal securities laws and its rules and regulations thereunder including, but not limited to, the anti-fraud sections of the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Adviser's Act.

On March 30, 2015, after the Court denied the defendants' motion to dismiss the Complaint on jurisdictional grounds and for failure to state a cause of action, the defendants, filed an Answer with Affirmative Defenses denying the allegations in the Complaint and seeking dismissal of the lawsuit.

This matter was settled on October 7, 2016, where defendants consented to the entry of a Final Judgment, without admitting or denying the substantive allegations of the complaint. A total sum of \$337,832 was payable by the subsidiary, of which, \$15,000 had been paid at year-end and further \$85,000 paid on the date that these financial statements were approved by the Directors, which was in accordance with the payment schedule stipulated by the Court. The subsidiary had identified and allocated certain funds since commencement of the litigation, which is being used to settle legal expenses.

**21. RELATED PARTY BALANCES AND TRANSACTIONS**

At December 31, 2016 and 2015, related party balances, with no stated terms of repayment, and related party transactions comprise:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
	\$	\$
Directors' and officers' fees	41,998	49,560
Corporate management fee	41,409	39,698
Investment advisor fee	100,000	99,900
Key management compensation	591,573	230,322
Loan from Parent Company	180,000	180,000
Property Management Fees Paid	25,000	25,000

**22. CAPITAL MANAGEMENT**

The Company's objectives when managing capital are:

To safeguard the entities' ability to continue as a going concern, so that it can continue to provide returns for shareholders and benefits for other stakeholders.

**BENCHMARK (BAHAMAS) LTD.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2016**

**22. CAPITAL MANAGEMENT (Continued)**

To provide an adequate return to shareholders by selecting investments that provide an acceptable return commensurately with the level of risk.

The Company manages its capital structure and makes adjustments to it in light of economic changes to mitigate market risk. In order to manage the capital structure, the Company may adjust the amount of dividends paid to shareholders, issue new shares or liquidate assets to reduce debt.

A subsidiary of the Company is subject to externally imposed capital requirements. The Securities Industry Regulations, 2000 requires that a Class 1 broker-dealer shall maintain at least \$300,000 of regulatory capital, which consists of cash and cash equivalents, money market funds, government securities and listed securities. The subsidiary did not meet the required capital, for which a guarantee was provided by the Company. No penalties have been imposed by the Commission at year-end.

**23. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS**

**As Lessee**

A subsidiary of the Company had entered into a commercial lease agreement for office space with British Colonial Development Company Limited with average lease term of 5 years. The lease agreement expired during the year. This subsidiary is now leasing office space in the investment property owned by another subsidiary.

**As Lessor**

A subsidiary of the Company leases its investment property to various third parties under operating lease agreements. The average lease term is 5 years, with fixed annual rate for the period of the lease.

Future minimum lease receipts under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Within one year	346,405	346,405
Later than 1 year and no later than 5 years	<u>824,199</u>	<u>1,170,604</u>
	<b>\$ 1,170,604</b>	<b>\$ 1,517,009</b>

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2016

## 24. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Management is of the opinion that the fair value of the financial assets and financial liabilities of the Company approximate their carrying values as reported in these consolidated financial statements.

The following table analyzes the carrying amounts of financial assets and liabilities as defined in Note 4 (h):

	<u>Loans and receivables (amortized cost)</u>	<u>Fair value through profit or loss</u>	<u>Held-to- maturity (amortized cost)</u>	<u>Available for sale investments</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>2016</b>					
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	4,092,992				4,092,992
Due from brokers	1,589,743				1,589,743
Customer advances	520,398				520,398
Investments in securities		3,345,988			3,345,988
Other receivables	274,992				274,992
	<u>\$ 6,478,125</u>	<u>\$ 3,345,988</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 9,824,113</u>

	<u>Fair value through profit or loss</u>	<u>Other financial liabilities</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>			
Bank overdraft		99,270	99,270
Accounts payable & accrued expenses		1,024,112	1,024,112
Due to customers		9,033,831	9,033,831
Loan from Parent Company		180,000	180,000
	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 10,337,213</u>	<u>\$ 10,337,213</u>

BENCHMARK (BAHAMAS) LTD.  
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2016

**24. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND FAm.VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)**

	<b>Loans and receivables (amortized cost)</b>	<b>Fair value through profit or loss</b>	<b>Held-to- maturity (amortized cost)</b>	<b>Available for sale investments</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2015</b>					
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	2,025,736				2,025,736
Due from brokers	2,035,750				2,035,750
Customer advances	655,434				655,434
Investments in securities		3,035,410			3,035,410
Other receivables	241,480				241,480
	<u>\$ 4,958,400</u>	<u>\$ 3,035,410</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 7,993,810</u>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Bank overdraft				185,041	185,041
Accounts payable & accrued expenses				321,024	321,024
Due to customers				10,236,128	10,236,128
Current portion of bank loan				84,703	84,703
Loan from Parent Company				180,000	180,000
Non-current portion of bank loan				348,112	348,112
			<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 11,355,008</u>	<u>\$ 11,355,008</u>

*Fair value of financial instruments*

The Directors consider that the carrying amounts of all of the financial assets and liabilities of the Company approximate their fair values due to the following reasons:

- (i) Investments in securities are carried at fair value at each reporting period.
- (ii) Due from brokers, customer advances, other receivables excluding prepayments, due to customers, and accounts payable and accrued expenses approximate their fair values due to the short-term maturities of these instruments with no expected significant change in value over the short period of time.

BENCHMARK (BAHAMAS) LTD.

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2016

24. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)

*Fair value hierarchy and measurements*

The following table categorizes into three levels the inputs used to measure fair value of financial instruments:

**Financial assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis**

**Fair value measurements as at 31 December 2016**

	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>				
<b><u>Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss</u></b>				
Investments in securities	3,345,988			<b>3,345,988</b>

**Fair value measurements as at 31 December 2015**

	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>				
<b><u>Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss</u></b>				
Investments in securities	3,035,410			<b>3,035,410</b>

*Level 1*

The fair value of financial instruments traded in an active market is based on quoted market prices at the reporting date.

*Level 2*

The fair value of financial instruments not traded in an active market is determined by using valuation techniques. The fair value of the financial instrument within this category has been estimated using the present value method.

*Level 3*

The fair value of financial instruments is determined by inputs that are not based on observable market data.

There were no transfers between level 1 and 2 during the year.

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2016

## 24. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)

*Fair value hierarchy and measurements (Continued)***Financial assets and liabilities that are not measured at fair value on a recurring basis**

	Fair value measurements as at 31 December 2016			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>				
Cash at bank	4,092,992			4,092,992
Due from brokers	1,589,743			1,589,743
Customer advances		520,398		520,398
Other receivables		274,992		274,992
<b>FINANCIAL LIABILITIES</b>				
Bank overdraft	99,270			99,270
Accounts payable and accrued expenses		1,024,112		1,024,112
Due to customers		9,033,831		9,033,831
Loan from Parent Company		180,000		180,000

	Fair value measurements as at 31 December 2015			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>				
Cash at bank	2,025,736			2,025,736
Due from brokers	2,035,750			2,035,750
Customer advances		655,434		655,434
Other receivables		241,480		241,480
<b>FINANCIAL LIABILITIES</b>				
Bank overdraft	185,041			185,041
Accounts payable and accrued expenses		321,024		321,024
Due to customers		10,236,128		10,236,128
Bankloan		432,815		432,815
Loan from Parent Company		180,000		180,000

## 25. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

The Company has exposure to the following risks from its use of financial instruments:

- Credit risk
- Liquidity risk
- Market risk

This note presents information about the Company's exposure to each of the above risks and the Company's objectives, policies and processes for measuring and managing risk.

The Board of Directors has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of the Company's risk management framework.

The Company's risk management policies are established to identify and analyze the risks faced by the Company, to set appropriate risk limits and controls, and to monitor risks and adherence to limits. Risk management policies and systems are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in market conditions and the Company's activities.

### **Credit Risk**

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Company if a customer or counterparty fails to meet its contractual obligations, and arises primarily from the Company's cash in bank, customer advances, due from brokers and other receivables.

The Company's exposure to credit risk is influenced mainly by the individual characteristics of market and liquidity risk of the securities held as collateral for the receivables.

The Company has established an allowance for impairment that represents its estimate of incurred losses in respect of customer advances and other receivables. Recoverability of each of these assets is assessed individually, and specific provision is made as required.

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2016

**25. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)****Credit Risk (Continued)**

The table below classifies various financial assets in ascending order of exposure to credit risk:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
(a) Banks with credit-rating of B and above	4,092,992	2,025,736
(b) Stockbrokers	1,589,743	2,035,750
(c) Other receivables	274,992	241,480
(d) Due from customers	<u>520,398</u>	<u>655,434</u>
	<b>\$ 6,478,125</b>	<b>\$ 4,958,400</b>

**Liquidity risk**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Company will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations from its financial liabilities.

The Company's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure that, as far as possible, it will schedule the maturity of its financial assets to coincide with the maturity of its financial liabilities.

The risk is also mitigated by management's ability to negotiate to reschedule the maturity of financial assets and financial liabilities, and borrow temporary funds from its bankers to bridge any shortfall.

The Company maintains sufficient cash and marketable securities. Management reviews cashflow forecasts on a regular basis to determine whether the Company has sufficient cash reserves to meet future working capital requirements and to take advantage of business opportunities. The Company has further unused overdraft facilities of \$150,730 (2015: \$64,959) which can be used as an additional means of easing liquidity risk if considered necessary. The Company expects to meet its other obligations from operating cash flows and proceeds of maturing financial assets.

**BENCHMARK (BAHAMAS) LTD.**

**NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31 2016**

**25. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)**

**Liquidity risk (Continued)**

Management is of the opinion that disclosure of maturity profile of financial assets is not required.

	<b>0- 3 months</b>	<b>3 months- 1 year</b>	<b>Over 1 year</b>	<b>Total</b>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>2016</b>				
<i>Financial Liabilities</i>				
Bank overdraft	99,270			<b>99,270</b>
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	1,024,112			<b>1,024,112</b>
Due to customers	2,203,002	1,670,365	5,160,464	<b>9,033,831</b>
Loan from Parent Company		180,000		<b>180,000</b>
	<b>\$3,326,384</b>	<b>\$ 1,850,365</b>	<b>\$ 5,160,464</b>	<b>\$ 10,337,213</b>
<b>2015</b>				
<i>Financial Liabilities</i>				
Bank overdraft	185,041			<b>185,041</b>
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	321,024			<b>321,024</b>
Due to customers	2,410,071	1,827,370	5,998,687	<b>10,236,128</b>
Current portion of bank loan	20,527	64,176		<b>84,703</b>
Loan from Parent Company		180,000		<b>180,000</b>
Non-current portion bank loan			348,112	<b>348,112</b>
	<b>\$2,936,663</b>	<b>\$ 2,071,546</b>	<b>\$ 6,346,799</b>	<b>\$ 11,355,008</b>

**Market risk**

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices, such as foreign exchange rates, interest rates and equity prices will affect the fair value or future cash flows of the Company's financial instruments. The objective of market risk management is to manage and control market risk exposures within acceptable parameters, while optimizing the return. The Company is exposed to currency risk and interest rate risk.

**(a) Currency risk**

The Company undertakes transactions denominated in foreign currencies; consequently exposures to exchange rate fluctuations arise. Most of the Company's foreign currency transactions, assets and liabilities are denominated in US Dollars. The Company hedges currency risk by dealing in hard currencies and whenever possible, in US Dollars, which is at par with the Bahamian Dollar, and also by maintaining a spread to cover adverse fluctuations.

**25. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)**

**Market risk (Continued)**

**(b) Interest rate risk**

The Company is exposed to interest rate risk on margin facilities obtained from brokers. The risk associated with fluctuation in interest rates is factored into the underlying transactions for which the margin financing is used.

In 2015, the Company's subsidiary liquidated its margin and short positions, which will mitigate the interest rate risk in the future.

**26 SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

During November 2016, a subsidiary of the Company leased a tract of vacant land adjacent to the northern boundary of its investment property, with the intention of purchasing it in the amount of \$ 411,010.

During February 2017, subsequent to year-end, the agreement for purchase has been executed between the subsidiary and the vendor with completion date of within 90 days.

Lease payments made up to the date of purchase would be deducted from the purchase price mentioned above.