

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA BANK OF TANZANIA



In reply please quote:

Ref. No. FA.377/433/01/486

27th August, 2024

To: All Tier 2 Microfinance Service Providers

RE: PUBLICATION OF GUIDANCE NOTE ON DIGITAL LENDERS UNDER TIER 2 MICROFINANCE SERVICE PROVIDERS, 2024

Reference is made to the captioned subject.

- 2. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 12(3) of the *Microfinance Act, 2018*, the Bank of Tanzania has issued the Guidance Note on Digital Lenders Under Tier 2 Microfinance Service Providers, 2024.
- 3. The Guidance Note shall apply to all Tier 2 Microfinance Service Providers operating in Mainland Tanzania, and the effective date of the Guidance Note shall be 27th August 2024.
- 4. A microfinance service provider shall notify the Bank of Tanzania of all digital lending platforms they operate in the market within 14 days from the issuance date of the Guidance Note. Further, the Bank of Tanzania will suspend all lending platforms operated by unlicensed Microfinance Service Providers and those who fail to notify the Bank within the deadline.
- 5. All microfinance service providers with existing digital loan products and services before the issuance of the Guidance Note are directed to comply with the following within 30 days:
 - (a) To seek and obtain a no-objection letter from the Bank of Tanzania in line with the criteria provided in the Guidance Note in order to continue offering digital loan products and services.

A microfinance service provider shall not onboard new loans without (b)

obtaining a no-objection letter from the Bank of Tanzania to offer digital

loan products and services.

(c) In cases where a microfinance service provider operates more than one

digital lending platform (Mobile Application, Website or another

platform), the microfinance service provider shall establish a mechanism

to migrate all customer data and credit relationships into a single digital

lending platform, which will be submitted to the Bank for the request of a

no-objection letter. The microfinance service provider must ensure that

customers are informed of this exercise.

(d) A microfinance service provider shall notify the Bank of Tanzania of all

digital lending platform(s) which has been discontinued following a

migration of customer data and credit relationships and shall ensure

these platforms are closed immediately before the end of the moratorium

period.

6. Kindly note that the Guidance Note has been published on the website of the

Bank and can be accessed at: https://www.bot.go.tz.

Yours sincerely,

Emmanuel M. Tutuba

GOVERNOR

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