

Baraka Power Limited

Dividend Distribution Policy

a) Preamble:

Baraka Power Limited (BPL) was incorporated in Bangladesh on 26 June 2007 as a Private Limited Company. Later, on 25 September 2008, the Company was converted to Public Limited Company. On January 12, 2015 the company was renamed from its former name “Barakatullah Electro Dynamics Limited” to presently named “Baraka Power Limited”.

The Company issued shares to the public during 2011 and became a publicly listed Company. BPL became listed with both Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited and Chittagong Stock Exchange Limited on 16 May 2011 and trading of its shares in the bourses started on 19 May 2011.

Baraka Power Limited took part in tender initiated by Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and won the bid to implement, generate & supply electricity from a 51 MW power plant at Fenchuganj, Sylhet for a period of 15 years on Build, Own & Operate (BOO) basis. Accordingly, Baraka Power signed agreement with Bangladesh Power Development Board on 28 April 2008 for supplying electricity. The 51 MW Power plant at Fenchuganj, Sylhet has commissioned successfully on 10 October 2009 and started commercial operation on 24 October 2009.

b) Name of the Policy:

The name of this policy is “**BPL Dividend Distribution Policy**”.

c) Policy Statement:

This Policy is formulated in accordance with the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission's Directive No. BSEC/CMRRCD/2021-386/03 dated January 14, 2021.

This Dividend Distribution Policy's goal is to strike the correct balance between the amount of dividend distribution and profit retention; addressing future needs of expansion, capital expenditure, business growth opportunities, working capital arrangement, long-term and short-term fund arrangement etc. while eliminating debt from the Company's books of accounts.

This Policy will also address the management of unclaimed dividends to ensure that dividend distribution is carried out in accordance with existing law in the interests of the shareholders and the Company.

However, the Board's decision about the amount of dividend it recommends for any particular period will be final and cannot be contested on the grounds of the Policy.

In accordance with the Company's Articles of Association, the Companies Act, the applicable rules & regulations of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission, the Dhaka Stock Exchange Limited and the Chittagong Stock Exchange PLC and other applicable conditions from relevant regulatory authorities as well as lenders, the Company shall declare and distribute dividends in accordance with this policy.

In the event of any conflict between this policy and the requirement of regulatory framework, the regulatory framework will prevail.

d) Effective Date:

This Policy has been approved and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Company at its meeting held on 27 April 2022 and shall be effective and applicable for dividend, if any, declared for the Financial Year 2021-22 onward.

e) Legal Framework for Dividend:

Being a public limited company listed with the stock exchanges, dividend recommendation, declaration and distribution of Baraka Power Limited are subject to compliance of the following regulatory framework of Bangladesh

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1. The Companies Act, 1994.
2. Provisions of the Articles of Association of the Company.
3. Relevant Acts, Rules, Regulations, Directives, Orders, Notifications and Guidelines of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission.
4. Relevant Rules, Regulations, Notifications and Guidelines of the Stock Exchanges.
5. Relevant Tax Laws of the National Board of Revenue.
6. Relevant accounting principles and standards.

f) Type of Dividend Declaration:

1. Interim Dividend

Interim dividend is the dividend declared by the Board as and when considered appropriate based on interim financial report prepared for a financial period which is lower than the financial year. It is a preliminary distribution of profits by way of a dividend before determining the full dividend to be paid for the year. The Act authorizes the Board to declare interim dividend.

2. Final Annual Dividend

Final Annual Dividend is recommended for the financial year at the time of approval of the annual financial statements. The Board shall have the power to recommend final dividend to the shareholders for their approval at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Company. Dividend recommended by the Board of Directors cannot be changed prior to holding of the AGM.

g) Mode of Dividend:

1. Cash Dividend

Cash dividend is the distribution of money to the shareholders from the current and/or accumulated profit of the company. The Board of Directors have the right to recommend cash dividend on a declaration date, which entails paying a certain amount of money per share. Interim cash dividends are distributed after its approval by the Board while Annual Cash dividends are distributed to the shareholders after its approved in Annual General Meeting.

2. Stock Dividend

Stock dividend also known as bonus share is distribution of current and/or accumulated profit of the company to the existing shareholders in the form of fully paid up shares. In this case, each entitled shareholder receives a certain number of additional shares depending on his/her shareholding on the record date. Under the current regulatory framework although Annual Stock Dividend can be recommended by the Board, Interim Stock Dividends are not allowed. Stock dividends are allotted to the entitled shareholders after its approved in Annual General Meeting and approval by relevant regulatory body(ies).

h) Process of Dividend Declaration:

Based on the financial statements, management determines the financial ability of the Company with regard to dividend declaration. Based on the financial analysis, considering various internal and external factors, the amount and mode of dividend is recommended by the Board which is finally declared after approval by the shareholders and relevant regulatory authorities (if required).

i) Role of the Board:

The Board has the primary authority for recommending dividend. The recommendations made by the Board should be aligned with the greater interest of the shareholders and the company. The Board proposes the annual dividend subject to approval by the shareholders in Annual General Meeting (AGM) and approval by relevant regulatory authorities (if required).

j) Role of the Shareholders:

Except for interim cash dividend, Shareholders are the ultimate approving authority of dividend. After approval of recommended dividend by the shareholders, it becomes distributable. However, although the shareholders can approve a lower dividend, they do not have the right to approve a higher dividend than what is recommended by the Board.

k) Dividend Declaration Factors:

While recommending dividend the Board should consider the following internal and external factors –

Internal Factors

1. Profitability of the Company.
2. Accumulated profit of the Company.
3. Availability of Fund.
4. Need for Capital Expenditure.
5. Need for Expansion/Modernization of the business.
6. Opportunity and need for investment in available profitable ventures.
7. Cost of raising funds from alternate sources.
8. Cost of servicing outstanding debts.
9. Reserve for meeting contingent liabilities.
10. Historical dividend payout record of the Company as well as its peer companies.

External Factors

1. Adverse economic condition and Force Majeure event
2. Requirement of the regulatory framework
3. Conditions imposed by lenders

l) Utilization of Retained Earnings:

Pursuant to the compliance of relevant regulatory requirements the retained earnings of the Company may be utilized under the following areas:

- Issue of fully paid-up bonus shares
- Declaration of dividend-Interim or Final
- To finance the working capital
- Funding for capital expenditure/expansion plans /acquisition
- Repayment of debt
- Any other permitted use as may be decided by the Board.

m) Dividend Declaration Policy:

1. In compliance to prevailing regulatory framework, the Directors may from time to time pay to the members such interim dividends as appear to the Directors to be justified by the profits of the Company.
2. Decision about recommending interim dividend and entitlement for such dividend cannot be changed.
3. Decision about recommending or not recommending annual dividend and entitlement for such annual dividend, if recommended, shall be taken after considering the interim dividend already distributed and cannot be changed prior to holding of the Annual General Meeting.

4. No dividend shall be declared out of the capital reserve account or the revaluation reserve account or any unrealized gain or out of profit earned prior to the incorporation of the company, if any, or through reducing paid-up capital or through doing anything so that the post dividend retained earnings become negative or a debit balance.
5. In case of declaration of stock dividend for the year, the company shall explain the reason for declaring stock dividend and utilization of such retained amount as capital (stock dividend) shall be disclosed in the annual report.
6. No dividend shall be paid otherwise than out of profits of the year or any other undistributed profits.
7. The Company shall follow the requirement of the prevailing regulatory framework regarding declaration of dividend as prescribed by the regulatory authorities.
8. Before declaration of dividend, the Company may transfer a portion of its profits to reserve funds as may be considered appropriate by the Board at its discretion.
9. In the event of inadequacy or absence of profits in any financial year, the Company may declare dividend out of free reserves subject to the compliance with the requirement of the prevailing regulatory framework.
10. The company will not declare any dividend if the prevailing regulatory framework prevent such payment.
11. The company will not declare any dividend if there are reasonable grounds to believe that after payment of dividend the Company would become unable to pay its liabilities or discharge its obligations as and when they become due.
12. The Company shall not declare any Interim stock dividend.

n) Dividend Distribution Policy:

1. The Company shall pay of the annual or final dividend to the entitled shareholder within 30 days of approval.
2. Interim dividend shall be paid off to the entitled shareholders within 30 days of record date.
3. The Company shall pay off cash dividend directly to the bank account of the entitled shareholder as available in the BO account maintained with the depository participant (DP), or bank account as provided by the shareholder in paper form, through Bangladesh Electronic Funds Transfer Network (BEFTN) or may pay off such dividend through bank transfer or any electronic payment system as recognized by the Bangladesh Bank, if not possible to pay off through BEFTN.
4. The Company, upon receiving the claim on cash dividend from a stock broker or a merchant banker or a portfolio manager for the margin client or customer who has debit balance or margin loan, or as per intention of the client of stock broker or merchant banker or portfolio manager, shall pay off such cash dividend to the Consolidated Customers' Bank Account (CCBA) of the stock broker or to the separate bank account of the merchant banker or portfolio manager through BEFTN.
5. The Company, in case of non-availability of bank account information or not possible to distribute cash dividend through BEFTN or any electronic payment system, shall issue cash dividend warrant.
6. The Company shall pay off cash dividend to non-resident sponsor, director, shareholder or foreign portfolio investor (FPI) through the security custodian in compliance with the rules or regulations in this regard.
7. The Company shall credit stock dividend directly to the BO account or issue the bonus share certificate of the entitled shareholder, as applicable, within 30 (thirty) days of declaration or approval or record date, as the case may be, subject to clearance of the exchange(s) and the Central Depository Bangladesh Limited (CDBL).

o) Unpaid or Unclaimed Dividend Management:

1. No dividend shall bear interest against the Company.
2. The Company shall maintain detailed information of unpaid or unclaimed dividend and rational thereof, as per BO account number-wise or name-wise or folio number-wise of the shareholder; and shall also disclose the summary of aforesaid information in the annual report and shall also report in the statements of financial position (quarterly/annual) as a separate line item 'Unclaimed Dividend Account'.
3. The Company shall publish the year-wise summary of its unpaid or unclaimed dividend in the website.

4. Any unpaid or unclaimed cash dividend including accrued interest (after adjustment of bank charge, if any) thereon, if remains shall be transferred to a separate bank account of the issuer as maintained for this purpose, within 1 (one) year from the date of declaration or approval or record date, as the case may be.
5. The Company shall maintain a Suspense BO Account for undistributed or unclaimed stock dividend or bonus shares.
6. The Suspense BO Account shall be held under Block Module and such undistributed or unclaimed stock dividend or bonus shares shall not be transferred in any manner except for the purpose of allotting the bonus shares as and when the allottee approaches to the Company.
7. Any corporate benefit in terms of shares accrued on such undistributed or unclaimed stock dividend or bonus shares shall be credited to the Suspense BO Account.
8. The Company shall, upon receiving application from the allottee and after proper verification of identity and his entitlement, credit the bonus shares lying with the Suspense BO Account to the BO account of the allottee, or issue bonus shares to the allottee, as applicable, within 15 (fifteen) days of receiving application with an intimation to the Commission and the exchange(s).
9. Any voting rights on such undistributed or unclaimed stock dividend or bonus shares shall remain suspended till the rightful ownership claim of the shareholder is established.
10. The Company shall not forfeit any unclaimed cash dividend or stock dividend till the claim becomes barred by the law of land in force.
11. If any cash dividend remains unpaid or unclaimed or unsettled including accrued interest (after adjustment of bank charge, if any) thereon for a period of 3 (three) years from the date of declaration or approval or record date, as the case may be, shall be transferred by the Company to the Fund as directed or prescribed by the Commission.
12. If any shareholder claims his cash dividend after transfer of such dividend to the Fund, within 15 (fifteen) days of receiving such claim, the Company shall, after proper verification of the claim, recommend to the manager of the Fund to pay off such dividend from the Fund.
13. If any stock dividend or bonus shares remains unclaimed or unsettled including corporate benefit in terms of bonus shares thereon for a period of 3 (three) years form the date of declaration or approval or record date, as the case may be, shall be transferred in dematerialized form to the BO Account of the Fund as directed or prescribed by the Commission.
14. If any shareholder claims his stock dividend or bonus shares after transfer of such dividend or bonus shares to the BO Account of the Fund, within 15 (fifteen) days of receiving such claim, the Company shall, after proper verification of the claim, recommend to the manager of the Fund to pay off or transfer such stock dividend or bonus shares from the BO Account of the Fund.

p) Accounting and Tax Treatment:

Dividends are taxable income for shareholders. Depending on the entity, tax is deducted from the final dividend payment. Relevant accounting entries are made in accounting book and financial statements as per IAS and IFRS.

q) Review & Amendment:

The Board may amend, abrogate, modify or revise any or all provisions of this Policy. However, amendments in regulatory requirements shall be binding upon the Company even if not incorporated in this Policy.

r) Disclaimer:

This policy does not represent any commitment on the future dividend of the Company but represents a general guidance regarding dividend distribution.