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Executive Summary

This report provides the findings of an administrative inquiry by the World Bank Group Integrity Vice Presidency (INT) into allegations that Company A may have engaged in misconduct in connection with the Rural and Private Sector Development Project (the RPSDP) in Sierra Leone.

As part of the RPSDP, the implementing agency for the RPSDP issued a Request for Quotation (RFQ) for a contract (the Contract) to Company A. Company A submitted its proposal for the Contract, which included a bank guarantee purportedly issued by Bank A.

Subsequently, in response to the inquiry of the RPSDP Procurement Officer, Bank A wrote a letter, stating that the bank guarantee submitted by Company A in its proposal did not originate from Bank A and that the bank guarantee was not genuine. After reviewing the bank guarantee submitted by Company A and the letter from Bank A, INT sent a show cause letter to Company A, requesting its response regarding this matter. In response, Company A admitted that it had submitted a forged bank guarantee in its proposal for the Contract.

The World Bank imposed a sanction of debarment with conditional release on Company A. This ineligibility extends to any legal entity that is directly or indirectly controlled by Company A.
**Background**

The Rural and Private Sector Development Project (the RPSDP) in the Republic of Sierra Leone, which is financed by the International Development Association (IDA), is designed to support sustained growth in agriculture, with increased competitiveness in export and higher-value crops, increased employment, and increased rice and palm oil production. Towards this end, the RPSDP aims to improve efficiencies along the value chain of agricultural commodities with higher benefits flowing to the producers.

The implementing agency for the RPSDP issued a Request for Quotation (RFQ) for a contract (the Contract) to Company A. Company A submitted its proposal for the Contract, which included a bank guarantee purportedly issued by Bank A. Subsequently, Company A was awarded the Contract.

**Allegations**

In response to the inquiry of the RPSDP Procurement Officer, Bank A wrote a letter, stating that the bank guarantee submitted by Company A in its proposal did not originate from Bank A and that the bank guarantee was not genuine. This information was forwarded to the World Bank Group Integrity Vice Presidency (INT).

**Methodology**

INT’s investigation consisted of, among other steps, a review of a copy of the bank guarantee submitted by Company A, and a copy of the letter from Bank A.

**Findings**

Evidence indicates that Company A submitted a false bank guarantee in its proposal for the Contract.

After reviewing the bank guarantee submitted by Company A and the letter from Bank A, INT sent a show cause letter to Company A, requesting its response regarding this matter. In response, Company A admitted that it had submitted a forged bank guarantee in its proposal for the Contract.

**Follow Up Action by the World Bank**

The World Bank imposed a sanction of debarment with conditional release on Company A. This ineligibility extends to any legal entity that is directly or indirectly controlled by Company A.

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1 IDA is one of five institutions comprising the World Bank Group. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the IDA constitute the World Bank. IDA and the World Bank are used interchangeably throughout this Report.