



The Pakistan Credit Rating Agency Limited

## Rating Report

### Liberty Wind Power 2 Limited

#### Report Contents

1. Rating Analysis
2. Financial Information
3. Rating Scale
4. Regulatory and Supplementary Disclosure

#### Rating History

Dissemination Date	Long Term Rating	Short Term Rating	Outlook	Action	Rating Watch
01-Mar-2023	A	A2	Stable	Upgrade	-
04-Mar-2022	A-	A2	Stable	Maintain	-
04-Mar-2021	A-	A2	Stable	Initial	-

#### Rating Rationale and Key Rating Drivers

Liberty Mills Limited has set up a 50MW wind power plant “Liberty Wind Power 2 Limited” (LWP2) in Jhimpir, District Thatta, Sindh. LWP2 is awarded a cost plus tariff, with the payments to be received from CPPA-G backed by the sovereign guarantee. The plant successfully achieved its Commercial Operations (COD) on 27th May 2022 and has been supplying electricity to the national grid since then. The Company operates in the regulated power sector. Comfort is drawn from entity’s group association, having strong financial backing. Hydrochina International Engineering Company Limited & Hangzhou Huachen Electric Power Control Company were the EPC contractors for the project and shall also remain its O&M operators for the first two years after COD. The O&M contractor will be responsible for maintaining the operational benchmarks (Availability: 97%, Capacity: 38%) and shall provide the warranty bond (10% of EPC cost) in the form of irrevocable bank guarantee for 24 months after COD. This will provide additional cushion for the sustainable financial risk profile. Further, the company will maintain the Debt Service Reserve Account (DSRA), which will be backed by 6 months SBLCs, in total providing coverage of six months on its financial obligations till maturity. Foreign and local components of loan have a maturity of 13 and 10 years respectively with quarterly repayments started from Sep, 22. The project revenues and cash flows remain exposed to wind risk due to seasonal variation in the wind speed which may affect electricity generation, and ultimately cash flows may face seasonality. However, historical wind speeds provide comfort that LWP2 would be able to generate enough cash flows to keep its financial risk manageable. FCFO’s for June’22 stood at PKR 316 million while total receivables were recorded at PKR 403 million, which is mainly representing unbilled billing to the Power Purchaser. The company has provided 101.976 Gwh of electricity till Jan’23 after achieving COD to national grid. The company is in the process of applying for adjustment / true up in its original tariff and may have to rely on additional financing to service its debt if payments from power purchaser are not recovered on time. However, Power Purchaser has been releasing the due receivable during the month in which respective invoices become due, and the management expects the same trend in future.

The Company has signed Energy Purchase Agreement (“EPA”) with CPPA-G, as per the EPA, in case of non-project missed volumes the power purchaser shall be liable to pay the missed volumes calculated using tariff rates. The Company has adequate insurance coverage. Furthermore, external factors such as any adverse changes in the regulatory framework may impact the ratings. Going forward, the capacity of the Company to generate stable cash flows and timely receipt of payments from the Power purchaser in order to make timely repayments against the project debt remains crucial.

#### Disclosure

<b>Name of Rated Entity</b>	Liberty Wind Power 2 Limited
<b>Type of Relationship</b>	Solicited
<b>Purpose of the Rating</b>	Entity Rating
<b>Applicable Criteria</b>	Methodology   Correlation Between Long-term & Short-term Rating Scales(Jun-22),Methodology   Rating Modifiers(Jun-22),Methodology   Independent Power Producer Rating(Jun-22)
<b>Related Research</b>	Sector Study   Power(Jan-23)
<b>Rating Analysts</b>	Muhammad Mubashir Nazir   mubashir.nazir@pacra.com   +92-42-35869504

## Profile

**Plant** Liberty Wind Power 2 Limited (Liberty Wind-2) was incorporated in April 2015 by Liberty Mills Ltd. Liberty Wind 2 is a Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer (RE IPP) operating under the Renewable Energy Policy 2006 by the Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB). The company has set up 50MW wind power plant located in Jhimpir District Thatta, Sindh.

**Tariff** Liberty Wind Power-2 Ltd is awarded cost-plus tariff for wind power projects by NEPRA. Under NEPRA tariff determination for wind IPPs, the company has a generation tariff PKR 7.3311 per Kilowatt hour (KWh) for years 1-10 and generation tariff of PKR 2.4026 per Kilowatt hour (KWh) for years 11-25. The levelized tariff for the project is US¢ 4.7824/KWh at the time of the financial close. The company is in the process of applying for adjustment / true-up in its original tariff.

**Return On Project** The dollar IRR of Liberty Wind Power 2, as agreed with NEPRA, is 14%.

## Ownership

**Ownership Structure** Liberty Wind Power-2 is wholly owned by Liberty Group. (Liberty Mills Limited: 99.9%)

**Stability** Stability in the IPPs is drawn from the agreements signed between the company and the power purchaser. The stability factor is considered strong.

**Business Acumen** Liberty Mills Limited incorporated in February 1965, is in the business of manufacturing and processing all kinds of textile fabrics and made-ups. The group has demonstrated financial discipline throughout its history. Liberty group has gradually diversified into the power sector.

**Financial Strength** Sponsors have the ability to support the entity both on a continuing basis, and support in times of crisis. Financial strength of the sponsors is considered strong as sponsors have well-diversified profitable businesses.

## Governance

**Board Structure** The board is dominated by the sponsor's representatives. The company's board of directors comprises of three directors including CEO. All the board members are from Liberty Group

**Members' Profile** Qualified and experienced board, providing strategic guidance to the management and ensuring quality internal control framework.

**Board Effectiveness** Company's board members conduct board discussions where important matters related to the plant's efficiency, and monthly budgets are discussed. The board has been actively involved in providing strategic guidance to the company and implementing strong internal control framework.

**Financial Transparency** Yousuf Adil Chartered Accountants are the external auditors of the company. They have expressed an unqualified opinion on the company's financial statements at end-Jun22.

## Management

**Organizational Structure** The management team comprises qualified professionals possessing sufficient experience in various sectors. The company has a well-defined organizational structure with the CEO reporting to the board.

**Management Team** Mr. Azam Sakrani, the CEO, carries with him over two decades of experience in the banking and finance industry and industrial finance. Mr. Kashif Hanif, a member of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan, is the CFO.

**Effectiveness** Over the years company's effective management played a significant role in empowering the organization through its progressive results and systematic decision-making.

**Control Environment** The Company has appointed third-party contractors for regular operations and maintenance of the plant while the management oversees day-to-day financial and business matters.

## Operational Risk

**Power Purchase Agreement** Liberty Wind Power-2 has been developed under the Renewable Energy Policy 2006. EPA is with CPPA-G and has a tenure of 25 years from the date of its COD.

**Operation And Maintenance** The O&M is being managed by the Construction Contractors for the first 2 years after the COD whereas the long-term O&M contractor will be Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy (Private) Limited for the next 11 years.

**Resource Risk** As per the EPA, Liberty Wind-2 is responsible for the availability of the complex for the generation and delivery of net delivered energy. Furthermore, Liberty Wind-2 is responsible, at any time that the speed of wind at the site is within the cut-in wind speed and cut-out wind speed for the generation and delivery of net delivered energy.

**Insurance Cover** Insurance is attained for material damage, third-party liability, and delay in startup affecting the profits.

## Performance Risk

**Industry Dynamics** Power generation in Pakistan stood at ~153,874GWh in FY22, up ~7% YoY. Generation capacity, on the other hand, stood at ~43,775MW up ~10% YoY. With ~61% share in FY22, Pakistan's power generation capacity mix is highly concentrated in thermal technology. However, it has been transitioning towards nuclear and renewables, albeit slowly. Within the renewables, wind power projects saw the largest capacity additions in FY22, as 12 projects got installed bringing the tally to 36 and cumulative capacity to ~1,838 MW (~1,284 MW) up ~47% YoY. In FY22 Among the renewables, wind-based power plants had the highest capacity utilization of ~28% (FY21: ~26%), followed by Bagasse with ~26% (FY21: ~22%) and solar with ~18% (FY21: ~22%). According to NEPRA, the wind power potential of Pakistan is 50,000MW. Currently, wind IPPs' share is 4% in installed capacity.

**Generation** LWP2 achieved COD on 27 May 2022 and has been supplying electricity to the National Grid since then. The Company has supplied 101.9Gwh of electricity till Jan 23 to the grid.

**Performance Benchmark** The required availability for LWP2 under the EPA is 97%. Meanwhile, the capacity factor is 38%. EPC contractors will be liable to pay Liquidated Damages (LDs) as per the contract if the benchmark performance ratio is not met.

## Financial Risk

**Financing Structure Analysis** The total project cost approved under NEPRA is USD 63.90mln, consisting of 80% of debt (USD 51.12ml) and 20% of equity (USD12.78mln). The debt financing constitutes foreign loan of USD 25.5mln (3 months LIBOR+4.25%) and local loan of PKR 4.3bln (SBP refinancing rate of 3% + 1.75%). The local loan is eligible for refinancing under the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Financing Scheme for Renewable Energy. The foreign loan has the maturity of 13 years while the local loan has maturity of 10 years. Both the local and foreign loan are repayable in quarterly installments. The repayment of the loan started from Sep, 22.

**Liquidity Profile** As at end-FY22, total receivables of the company stood at PKR 403 million (which is mainly related to the unbilled amount) after achieving COD on 27th May'22. As circular debt continues to be an issue for companies operating in power sector. Consequently, IPPs have to manage their liquidity requirements from short-term borrowings. However, in case of LWP2, there is no such overdue amount in the end of month as the Powre Purchaser paying overdue amount regularly.

**Working Capital Financing** Renewable IPPs do not have to pay for fuel which minimizes their working capital needs. Nonetheless, the company has secured a working capital line of PKR 1 bln for LWP2.

**Cash Flow Analysis** The stability and sustainability of future cash flows of Liberty Wind Power-2 depend completely on the continuous performance of its wind turbines. The FCFO for June'22 were PKR 316 million after COD. The company would have to make quarterly principal repayments of debt, which also includes foreign debt. The company will maintain the Payment Service Reserve Account (PSRA), which will be equivalent to two quarterly payments (6 months). PSRA will be filled by 6 months SBLC.

**Capitalization** The leverage (Debt/Capital) of the Company stood at 80% at end FY22 as loan repayments had not yet started. However the leveraging is expected to decrease periodically with the timely repayment of a project-related loan. The need for short-term borrowings to fund its working capital remains there.



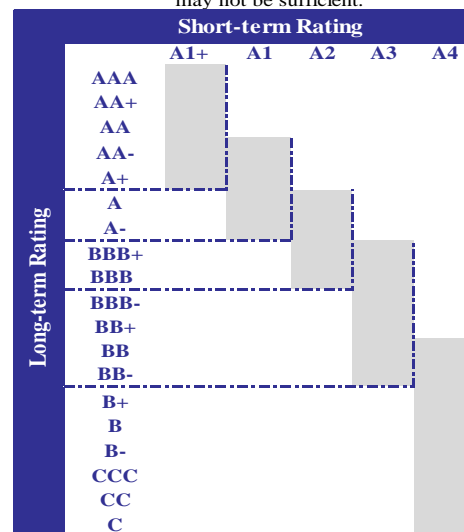
Liberty Wind Power 2 Limited Power	Jun-22 12M	Jun-21 12M	Jun-20 12M	Jun-19 12M
<b>A BALANCE SHEET</b>				
1 Non-Current Assets	11,174	3,743	551	28
2 Investments	-	-	-	-
3 Related Party Exposure	-	-	-	-
4 Current Assets	3,462	640	1,981	0
<i>a Inventories</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>b Trade Receivables</i>	403	-	-	-
5 Total Assets	14,636	4,383	2,533	28
6 Current Liabilities	2,315	566	85	0
<i>a Trade Payables</i>	2,238	-	-	-
7 Borrowings	9,540	1,617	257	-
8 Related Party Exposure	500	112	64	-
9 Non-Current Liabilities	0	1	0	-
10 Net Assets	2,281	2,088	2,126	28
11 Shareholders' Equity	2,281	2,088	2,126	28
<b>B INCOME STATEMENT</b>				
1 Sales	361	-	-	-
<i>a Cost of Good Sold</i>	(104)	-	-	-
2 Gross Profit	258	-	-	-
<i>a Operating Expenses</i>	(18)	(16)	(16)	(4)
3 Operating Profit	240	(16)	(16)	(4)
<i>a Non Operating Income or (Expense)</i>	1	(30)	1	-
4 Profit or (Loss) before Interest and Tax	241	(45)	(15)	(4)
<i>a Total Finance Cost</i>	(51)	(1)	(0)	-
<i>b Taxation</i>	(4)	2	(2)	-
6 Net Income Or (Loss)	186	(44)	(17)	(4)
<b>C CASH FLOW STATEMENT</b>				
<i>a Free Cash Flows from Operations (FCFO)</i>	316	(48)	(12)	(2)
<i>b Net Cash from Operating Activities before Working Capital Changes</i>	57	(61)	(12)	(2)
<i>c Changes in Working Capital</i>	1,427	342	(147)	0
1 Net Cash provided by Operating Activities	1,483	281	(159)	(1)
2 Net Cash (Used in) or Available From Investing Activities	(6,634)	(3,155)	(508)	(1)
3 Net Cash (Used in) or Available From Financing Activities	7,242	1,440	2,419	2
4 Net Cash generated or (Used) during the period	2,091	(1,434)	1,752	(0)
<b>D RATIO ANALYSIS</b>				
1 Performance				
<i>a Sales Growth (for the period)</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>b Gross Profit Margin</i>	71.3%	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>c Net Profit Margin</i>	51.5%	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>d Cash Conversion Efficiency (FCFO adjusted for Working Capital/Sales)</i>	482.1%	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>e Return on Equity [ Net Profit Margin * Asset Turnover * (Total Assets/Sh</i>	12.6%	N/A	N/A	N/A
2 Working Capital Management				
<i>a Gross Working Capital (Average Days)</i>	407	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>b Net Working Capital (Average Days)</i>	-1853	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>c Current Ratio (Current Assets / Current Liabilities)</i>	1.5	1.1	23.2	0.8
3 Coverages				
<i>a EBITDA / Finance Cost</i>	6.5	-80.3	-28.6	N/A
<i>b FCFO / Finance Cost+CMLTB+Excess STB</i>	0.2	-1.1	-3.7	-19.4
<i>c Debt Payback (Total Borrowings+Excess STB) / (FCFO-Finance Cost)</i>	35.7	-35.3	-25.7	-0.1
4 Capital Structure				
<i>a Total Borrowings / (Total Borrowings+Shareholders' Equity)</i>	80.7%	45.3%	13.1%	0.0%
<i>b Interest or Markup Payable (Days)</i>	386.3	6343.2	236.6	N/A
<i>c Entity Average Borrowing Rate</i>	0.9%	0.1%	0.1%	--
#	Notes			

### Credit Rating

Credit rating reflects forward-looking opinion on credit worthiness of underlying entity or instrument; more specifically it covers relative ability to honor financial obligations. The primary factor being captured on the rating scale is relative likelihood of default.

Scale	Long-term Rating Definition
AAA	<b>Highest credit quality.</b> Lowest expectation of credit risk. Indicate exceptionally strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments
AA+	
AA	<b>Very high credit quality.</b> Very low expectation of credit risk. Indicate very strong capacity for timely payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.
AA-	
A+	
A	<b>High credit quality.</b> Low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be vulnerable to changes in circumstances or in economic conditions.
A-	
BBB+	
BBB	<b>Good credit quality.</b> Currently a low expectation of credit risk. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is considered adequate, but adverse changes in circumstances and in economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity.
BBB-	
BB+	
BB	<b>Moderate risk.</b> Possibility of credit risk developing. There is a possibility of credit risk developing, particularly as a result of adverse economic or business changes over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met.
BB-	
B+	
B	<b>High credit risk.</b> A limited margin of safety remains against credit risk. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is contingent upon a sustained, favorable business and economic environment.
B-	
CCC	
CC	<b>Very high credit risk.</b> Substantial credit risk "CCC" Default is a real possibility. Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon sustained, favorable business or economic developments. "CC" Rating indicates that default of some kind appears probable. "C" Ratings signal imminent default.
C	
D	Obligations are currently in default.

Scale	Short-term Rating Definition
A1+	The highest capacity for timely repayment.
A1	A strong capacity for timely repayment.
A2	A satisfactory capacity for timely repayment. This may be susceptible to adverse changes in business, economic, or financial conditions.
A3	An adequate capacity for timely repayment. Such capacity is susceptible to adverse changes in business, economic, or financial conditions.
A4	The capacity for timely repayment is more susceptible to adverse changes in business, economic, or financial conditions. Liquidity may not be sufficient.



\*The correlation shown is indicative and, in certain cases, may not hold.

**Outlook (Stable, Positive, Negative, Developing)** Indicates the potential and direction of a rating over the intermediate term in response to trends in economic and/or fundamental business/financial conditions. It is not necessarily a precursor to a rating change. 'Stable' outlook means a rating is not likely to change. 'Positive' means it may be raised. 'Negative' means it may be lowered. Where the trends have conflicting elements, the outlook may be described as 'Developing'.

**Rating Watch** Alerts to the possibility of a rating change subsequent to, or, in anticipation of some material identifiable event with indeterminable rating implications. But it does not mean that a rating change is inevitable. A watch should be resolved within foreseeable future, but may continue if underlying circumstances are not settled. Rating watch may accompany rating outlook of the respective opinion.

**Suspension** It is not possible to update an opinion due to lack of requisite information. Opinion should be resumed in foreseeable future. However, if this does not happen within six (6) months, the rating should be considered withdrawn.

**Withdrawn** A rating is withdrawn on a) termination of rating mandate, b) the debt instrument is redeemed, c) the rating remains suspended for six months, d) the entity/issuer defaults, or/and e) PACRA finds it impractical to surveil the opinion due to lack of requisite information.

**Harmonization** A change in rating due to revision in applicable methodology or underlying scale.

**Surveillance.** Surveillance on a publicly disseminated rating opinion is carried out on an ongoing basis till it is formally suspended or withdrawn. A comprehensive surveillance of rating opinion is carried out at least once every six months. However, a rating opinion may be reviewed in the intervening period if it is necessitated by any material happening.

**Note.** This scale is applicable to the following methodology(s):

- a) Broker Entity Rating
- b) Corporate Rating
- c) Debt Instrument Rating
- d) Financial Institution Rating
- e) Holding Company Rating
- f) Independent Power Producer Rating
- g) Microfinance Institution Rating
- h) Non-Banking Finance Companies Rating

**Disclaimer:** PACRA has used due care in preparation of this document. Our information has been obtained from sources we consider to be reliable but its accuracy or completeness is not guaranteed. PACRA shall owe no liability whatsoever to any loss or damage caused by or resulting from any error in such information. Contents of PACRA documents may be used, with due care and in the right context, with credit to PACRA. Our reports and ratings constitute opinions, not recommendations to buy or to sell.

### **Rating Team Statements**

(1) Rating is just an opinion about the creditworthiness of the entity and does not constitute recommendation to buy, hold or sell any security of the entity rated or to buy, hold or sell the security rated, as the case may be | Chapter III; 14-3-(x)

### **2) Conflict of Interest**

i. The Rating Team or any of their family members have no interest in this rating | Chapter III; 12-2-(j)

ii. PACRA, the analysts involved in the rating process and members of its rating committee, and their family members, do not have any conflict of interest relating to the rating done by them | Chapter III; 12-2-(e) & (k)

iii. The analyst is not a substantial shareholder of the customer being rated by PACRA [Annexure F; d-(ii)] Explanation: for the purpose of above clause, the term "family members" shall include only those family members who are dependent on the analyst and members of the rating committee

### **Restrictions**

(3) No director, officer or employee of PACRA communicates the information, acquired by him for use for rating purposes, to any other person except where required under law to do so. | Chapter III; 10-(5)

(4) PACRA does not disclose or discuss with outside parties or make improper use of the non-public information which has come to its knowledge during business relationship with the customer | Chapter III; 10-7-(d)

(5) PACRA does not make proposals or recommendations regarding the activities of rated entities that could impact a credit rating of entity subject to rating | Chapter III; 10-7-(k)

### **Conduct of Business**

(6) PACRA fulfills its obligations in a fair, efficient, transparent and ethical manner and renders high standards of services in performing its functions and obligations; | Chapter III; 11-A-(a)

(7) PACRA uses due care in preparation of this Rating Report. Our information has been obtained from sources we consider to be reliable but its accuracy or completeness is not guaranteed. PACRA does not, in every instance, independently verifies or validates information received in the rating process or in preparing this Rating Report | Clause 11-(A)(p).

(8) PACRA prohibits its employees and analysts from soliciting money, gifts or favors from anyone with whom PACRA conducts business | Chapter III; 11-A-(q)

(9) PACRA ensures before commencement of the rating process that an analyst or employee has not had a recent employment or other significant business or personal relationship with the rated entity that may cause or may be perceived as causing a conflict of interest; | Chapter III; 11-A-(r)

(10) PACRA maintains principal of integrity in seeking rating business | Chapter III; 11-A-(u)

(11) PACRA promptly investigates, in the event of a misconduct or a breach of the policies, procedures and controls, and takes appropriate steps to rectify any weaknesses to prevent any recurrence along with suitable punitive action against the responsible employee(s) | Chapter III; 11-B-(m)

### **Independence & Conflict of interest**

(12) PACRA receives compensation from the entity being rated or any third party for the rating services it offers. The receipt of this compensation has no influence on PACRA's opinions or other analytical processes. In all instances, PACRA is committed to preserving the objectivity, integrity and independence of its ratings. Our relationship is governed by two distinct mandates i) rating mandate - signed with the entity being rated or issuer of the debt instrument, and fee mandate - signed with the payer, which can be different from the entity

(13) PACRA does not provide consultancy/advisory services or other services to any of its customers or to any of its customers' associated companies and associated undertakings that is being rated or has been rated by it during the preceding three years unless it has adequate mechanism in place ensuring that provision of such services does not lead to a conflict of interest situation with its rating activities; | Chapter III; 12-2-(d)

(14) PACRA discloses that no shareholder directly or indirectly holding 10% or more of the share capital of PACRA also holds directly or indirectly 10% or more of the share capital of the entity which is subject to rating or the entity which issued the instrument subject to rating by PACRA; | Reference Chapter III; 12-2-(f)

(15) PACRA ensures that the rating assigned to an entity or instrument is not be affected by the existence of a business relationship between PACRA and the entity or any other party, or the non-existence of such a relationship | Chapter III; 12-2-(i)

(16) PACRA ensures that the analysts or any of their family members shall not buy or sell or engage in any transaction in any security which falls in the analyst's area of primary analytical responsibility. This clause shall, however, not be applicable on investment in securities through collective investment schemes. | Chapter III; 12-2-(l)

(17) PACRA has established policies and procedure governing investments and trading in securities by its employees and for monitoring the same to prevent insider trading, market manipulation or any other market abuse | Chapter III; 11-B-(g)

### **Monitoring and review**

(18) PACRA monitors all the outstanding ratings continuously and any potential change therein due to any event associated with the issuer, the security arrangement, the industry etc., is disseminated to the market, immediately and in effective manner, after appropriate consultation with the entity/issuer; | Chapter III | 18-(a)

(19) PACRA reviews all the outstanding ratings on semi-annual basis or as and when required by any creditor or upon the occurrence of such an event which requires to do so; | Chapter III | 18-(b)

(20) PACRA initiates immediate review of the outstanding rating upon becoming aware of any information that may reasonably be expected to result in downgrading of the rating; | Chapter III | 18-(c)

(21) PACRA engages with the issuer and the debt securities trustee, to remain updated on all information pertaining to the rating of the entity/instrument; | Chapter III | 18-(d)

### **Probability of Default**

(22) PACRA's Rating Scale reflects the expectation of credit risk. The highest rating has the lowest relative likelihood of default (i.e, probability). PACRA's transition studies capture the historical performance behavior of a specific rating notch. Transition behavior of the assigned rating can be obtained from PACRA's Transition Study available at our website. (www.pacra.com). However, actual transition of rating may not follow the pattern observed in the past | Chapter III | 14-(F-VII)

### **Proprietary Information**

(23) All information contained herein is considered proprietary by PACRA. Hence, none of the information in this document can be copied or, otherwise reproduced, stored or disseminated in whole or in part in any form or by any means whatsoever by any person without PACRA's prior written consent