



MEDIA RELEASE

BCTL AUTHORISES TELEMOR FINTECH LDA TO TRIAL E-WALLET SERVICE

Banco Central de Timor-Leste (BCTL) today announced that it had approved on 13 August an application from Telemor Fintech, Lda to conduct a pilot of its e-wallet transfer system in Timor-Leste.

The Governor of BCTL, Abraão de Vasconcelos, said that an e-wallet enables customers to make payments via mobile phone and other handheld devices, rather than using cash. E-wallets are set to revolutionise payments in Timor-Leste because they offer e-wallet holders the ability to carry “cash” inside their mobile phones. Payment is made simply by sending a payment message from the payer’s phone which immediately transfers money from the sender’s e-wallet to the receiver’s e-wallet.

BCTL has authorised Telemor Fintech, a subsidiary company of Telemor, to conduct a trial run for 3 months to assess the feasibility of its e-wallet system.

The authorisation permits Telemor Fintech to offer e-payment services, cash top-ups and withdrawals through Telemor agents, balance enquiries and mini-statements.

BCTL also authorized Telemor Fintech to trial test the e-wallet platform for transfer between non e-wallet users.

While holders of e-wallet accounts will have a very convenient means of paying for goods and services without using cash, BCTL requires the total balance of customer funds held in the e-wallet system to be fully protected against loss or the failure of the operator. This will be achieved by Telemor Fintech depositing all customer funds into a special account held at BCTL.

The Governor said that the BCTL’s authorisation for the pilot also requires that Telemor Fintech comply with anti-money laundering laws and regulations. He added that regulating the maximum amount allowed to be held in an e-wallet account, setting maximum values of transactions that may be made within defined time periods, and adopting “know your customer” procedures, would go a long way to ensuring compliance with the relevant laws.

Dili, 13 August 2018

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