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# INVESTMENT MANDATE

SIL aims to deliver attractive risk adjusted returns to its shareholders by actively and prudently managing their funds across a variety of portfolios.

The company achieves this through the successful execution of opportunities in the global capital markets and the real sector.



# DIRECTORS' REPORT



**The Directors are pleased to present their report for the year ended December 31, 2015. The report represents the results for Sterling Investments Limited.**

## COMPANY RESULTS

Operating revenue net of interest expense was J\$82.33 million (2014: J\$68.21)

- The profit after income tax was J\$71.17 million (2014: J\$58.63 million).
- Shareholders' equity was J\$693.88 million (2014: J\$539.49 million)
- KPMG Eastern Caribbean, the external auditors, have indicated their willingness

to continue in office as auditors of the company.

The Directors wish to thank the management and all team members for their performance during the year under review. As always, we express our deep and sincere appreciation to the shareholders for their continued support and partnership.

By Order of the Board

Dated this February 20, 2016



# CORPORATE PROFILE



**Sterling Investments Limited** (SIL) is registered as an international business company in St. Lucia. SIL is an investment holding company that was formed in 2012 and exists to protect and grow the capital of its shareholders. Early investors in SIL avoided the National Debt Exchange, 14% devaluation in 2013 and 8% devaluation in 2014. SIL listed its ordinary shares on the main market of the Jamaica Stock Exchange in October 2014.

The company invests primarily in an array of high quality fixed income securities denominated in United States dollars. A small part of the company's portfolio is also dedicated to private equity investments that serve to boost the company's return on equity.

The company generates income in two ways: (a) through interest income earned on the securities in the portfolio; (b) through capital gains as a result of increases in the price of the securities. It offers investors the opportunity to enjoy:

- A hedge against devaluation and inflation
- Higher risk adjusted returns
- Diversification
- Access to the global capital markets
- Access to experienced and successful investment managers

SIL has the highest net profit margin and lowest efficiency ratio of any company on the Jamaica Stock Exchange. This is a direct result of the company's unique and competitive business model.

Sterling Asset Management is the investment manager for SIL and owns preference shares in the company.

## INVESTMENT MANAGER OVERVIEW

Sterling asset Management Limited is a 15 year old boutique investment management firm in Jamaica. With one of the highest capital adequacy ratios on the island, the company greatly exceeds the regulatory capital requirement. Sterling was one of the first local institutions to bring high quality, USD fixed income investments to Jamaican investors. These investments have provided a source of consistent growth and a safe haven to sophisticated investors locally and internationally. Sterling's hallmark product is an offshore USD mutual fund which has delivered returns of over 11.45% per annum between 2003 and 2015. US\$100,000 invested in the fund in 2003 would be worth over US\$443,364 at the end of 2015. SIL's investment strategy has been modelled in a similar way, but incorporates a private equity component to boost long term returns.



"The intelligent investor is  
a realist who sells to  
optimists and buys  
from pessimists."

-Benjamin Graham,  
The Intelligent Investor





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

THE BOARD OF STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED [SIL] IS COMPRISED OF:  
CHARLES ROSS, MICHEAL BERNARD, DEREK JONES, MAXIM ROCHESTER



### CHARLES ROSS

Charles is a founding director of Sterling Asset Management Limited. In his role as President for the past 15 years, the company has generated a return on equity in excess of 35% per annum. Charles is a qualified engineer with over 15 years' experience in the field. Charles left the field of engineering, to act as the Executive Director of the PSOJ. In this capacity, Charles managed the investments and income of the organization and became one of the PSOJ's principal spokespersons on macro-economic policy and on social issues of national concern.

### MICHAEL BERNARD

Former Managing Director of Carreras Group Limited, Michael possesses over 20 years of experience in leading and growing some of Jamaica's largest corporations. In addition to his extensive local and international business experience, Michael holds a B.A. and B.Sc. in Business Administration and Forest Management respectively, and an MBA from the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration.

### DEREK JONES – CHAIRMAN:

Derek is a seasoned lawyer with over 40 years of experience across a wide variety of civil, criminal and commercial matters. Derek enjoys the rare distinction of being ranked by Chambers and Partners in two jurisdictions, Jamaica and Cayman. After retiring from Myers Fletcher & Gordon in 2010, a founding partner of HSM Chambers in Cayman 2012.



# STERLING ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED

SAM'S BOARD CONSISTS OF WELL-RESPECTED AND EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS  
CHARLES ROSS, MAXIM ROCHESTER, MARIAN ROSS, ROBERT TAYLOR



## **ROBERT TAYLOR**

Robert possesses extensive experience in risk management, corporate banking, commercial and real estate law, real estate development. Robert spent 11 years at Citibank and left as the Resident Vice President, Financial Institutions & Public Sector Unit. He subsequently launched a full time law practice specializing in Real Estate and Commercial law



## **MARIAN ROSS**

For the past 6 years, Marian has helped to develop and execute Sterling's business strategy. She is currently on two years study leave. Previously, she worked as a Credit Analyst in Corporate Banking at First Citizens Bank, Trinidad where she worked with some of the region's largest conglomerates. She holds an honor's degree in economics.



## **MAXIM ROCHESTER**

Max, a former Territory Senior Partner of Price Waterhouse-Coopers, has over thirty (30) years' experience in the auditing of Jamaica's largest banking and insurance corporations. As such, Max is intimately familiar with the operations, financial systems, regulatory environment and reporting requirements of the local financial sector. His expertise is an invaluable asset to Sterling's operations.



# CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

## STRATEGIC VISION AND MISSION

I am pleased to report that in a year characterized by volatility, marked by the Greek struggles in the early part of the year, China's economic challenges in the second half and finally the FED's decision to raise rates in the latter half of the year, that Sterling Investments Limited has proved that the business model is a strong one, able to withstand huge market swings amidst great uncertainty. SIL's first full year on the stock exchange has been solid, as seen in the growth in assets, the return to shareholders and the growth in profit. The company has focused on prudent management with a focus on high quality securities. The strategy of realizing profits at opportune moments has paid off handsomely and in the coming year, there are two important strategic initiatives which when executed should provide increased value to the shareholders. This in addition to the continued protection from devaluation and inflation that investors have come to expect.

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW:

SIL has grown assets by 18.9%, increasing them to J\$935.8m from J\$787.0m in the previous year. Revenue also posted strong growth of 23.3%, increasing from J\$96.7m to J\$119.3m. Despite the wide market swings in bond prices in 2015, the portfolio posted strong growth in hard currency income to shareholders.

In 2015, SIL's total profit increased by approximately 21.5% from J\$58.6 million in 2014 to J\$71.2 million in

2015. The portfolio was able to benefit from additional funds raised from the rights issue earlier in the year. The company's strategy of using low cost forms of financing such as margin, to finance additional bond purchases has continued to pay dividends to shareholders. This is reflected in the company's healthy net interest margin of 92.5%. SIL remains a very profitable company.

During 2015, SIL paid J\$17,521,150.00 to shareholders in dividends, representing a dividend yield of 2.4%. Dividends are paid in USD, which affords investors a hedge against devaluation. The dividend payout ratio has averaged 40% since inception. However, earlier in the year the board approved an increase in the payout ratio from 40% to 50%. This means that investors can look forward to increased dividend income in the coming year.

SIL maintains a modest investment in a private equity project domiciled in the Eastern Caribbean. This project involves the development of a beachfront hotel in St. Kitts and Nevis. The units in the hotel are priced in United States Dollars and are being sold to applicants of the island's citizenship by investment program. Construction commenced in August 2014 and is scheduled for completion in 2016. The hotel will operate under the Embassy Suites by Hilton brand and is scheduled to open in early 2017.



# PERFORMANCE SUMMARY



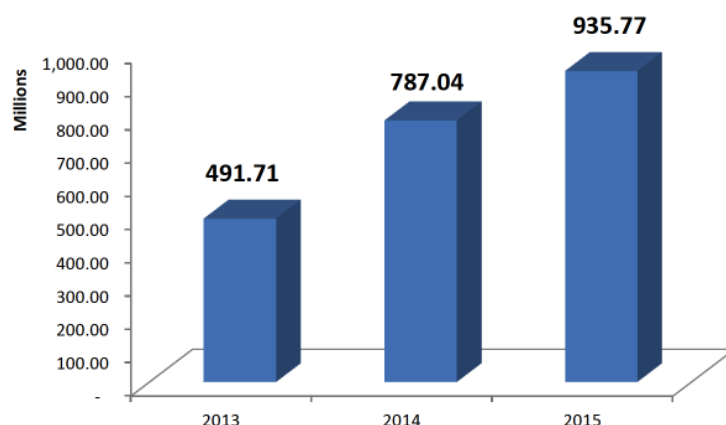
## *Major milestones*

In March 2015, SIL made some important strategic moves to increase the share capital of the company, by doing a stock split and simultaneously having a rights issue. These moves are consistent with the strategic direction that the company has outlined and will complement 2016's strategic initiatives. In addition, the rights issue increased the capital available to the company for investment.

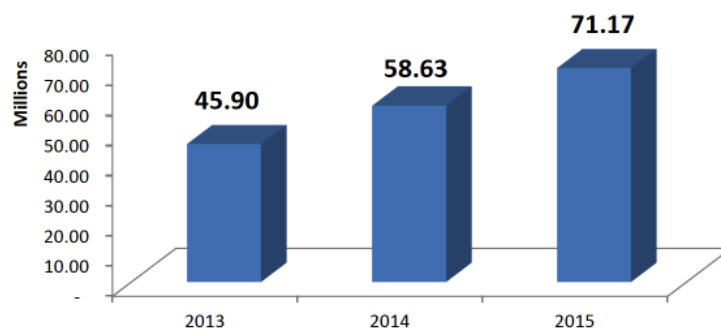
## OUTLOOK

Sterling Investments Limited has performed admirably in a very volatile market, and with even more volatility expected in the coming year, the company will continue to strike a balance between risk and return and to take advantage of any opportunities that may arise. They will continue to manage the portfolio with a view to maximizing income while taking advantage of opportunities for strategic profit taking. On behalf of the board of directors, I would like to thank all the shareholders for their continued confidence in SIL and look forward to some exciting developments in the coming year.

**Growth in Total Assets**



**Growth in Net Profit**



# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE



## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Board of Directors of SIL has the following responsibilities:

- Oversee and monitor the performance of the investment manager
- Periodically review the investment strategy and risk criteria to ensure that return on equity is being optimized
- Enforce good corporate and risk governance and ethical codes of conduct

The company's corporate governance guidelines can be found at: [www.sterling.com.jm](http://www.sterling.com.jm).

## BOARD SUB COMMITTEES

### Audit Committee

The Audit Committee assists the Board of Directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities by monitoring and assessing critical areas of the Company's operations and regularly reporting to the Board of Directors on same. The key focus areas consist of but are not limited to: the integrity of financial record keeping and reporting, the risk and control environment, the Internal Audit, the External Audit, Regulatory Compliance internationally and locally and the Company's Codes of ethical and business conduct.

## INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (IMC)

The Investment Management Committee aims to ensure that the assets and liabilities of Sterling Investments Limited are effectively managed to maximize return on equity, bolster the capital base and to safeguard the company against the adverse consequences of changes in interest rate and liquidity risk. These objectives are pursued in the context of a framework of strong risk management, investment and liquidity policy guidelines, which are outlined in the investment policy. The committee's mandate is to oversee the management of the company's assets and liabilities in the context of these objectives and budgeted targets.



# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE



CONT'D

## PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

### Assess and Approve:

The integrity of financial record keeping and reporting

Monthly in-house management accounts and explanations for divergence from budget

The system of internal controls and procedures

Stability and security of IT infrastructure

Internal audit report & findings and implementation of recommendations

Internal audit focus & budget for the financial year

Appointment of internal auditors

Annual audited financial statements with a view to ensuring they are complete, utilizing the appropriate accounting principles and consistent with information known to committee members

Appointment of external auditors

Local and international regulatory submissions

Codes of ethical and business conduct

### Meet privately with:

Internal auditors as deemed necessary

External auditors as deemed necessary

Sterling Asset Management is the investment manager for SIL and owns preference shares in the company.

## PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### Assess :

Local and international macro-economic conditions and the implications for the company's investment strategy

Management of market , liquidity and credit risk

Investment strategies employed to maximize risk adjusted return on equity

Quality and structure of funding and asset base

Adherence to liquidity , capital and trading policy limits

Achievement of budgeted profitability targets

# MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS



## BALANCE SHEET ANALYSIS

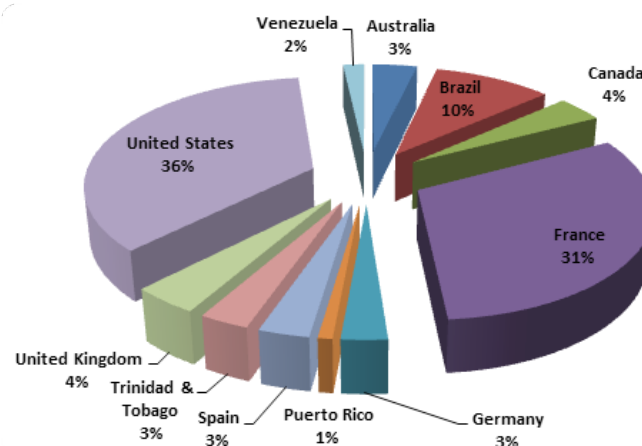
**S**IL's total assets increased by roughly 18.9% from J\$787 million in December 2014 to J\$935.8 million in December 2015. This growth was partly due to the implementation of a rights issue conducted in March 2015. The proceeds of the rights issue were used to augment the USD denominated fixed income securities in the portfolio to further enhance the hard currency earnings.

The company's liabilities shrank by 2.3% from J\$247.6

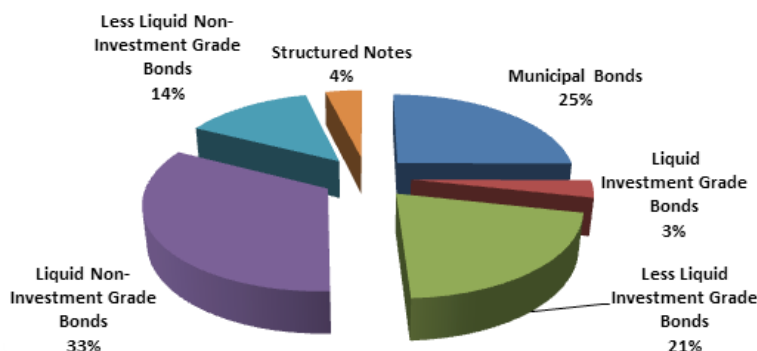
million in 2014 to J\$241.9 million in 2015. This was driven by a decrease in "margin loans payable" from J\$223.9 million in December 2014 to J\$214.3 million in December 2015. This decrease has led to margin loans representing 22.9% of total assets in December 2015, compared to 28.45% in December 2014. The company utilizes leverage to enhance returns to shareholders.

Total equity increased by 28.6% from J\$539.5 million as at December 2014 to J\$693.9 million as at December 2015, notwithstanding the negative impact of the widespread decline in the prices of bonds and equities. This increase was mainly due to the issuance of new shares during the fiscal year. Retained earnings increased by 58.8% highlighting the company's continued pledge for growth and value creation for stockholders.

## Portfolio Analysis in Diagrams Asset allocation by country



## Asset allocation by investment category



Weighted average coupon rate = 8.14%

Weighted average yield to call/maturity = 8.30%





# MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS



CONT'D

## PRIVATE EQUITY UPDATE

Approximately 7.7% of the SIL's investment portfolio is comprised of a preference share investment in a St. Kitts & Nevis real estate development project. The project involves the construction and sale of a 226 suite condominium hotel on land located at Frigate Bay, St. Kitts. The condominiums are being sold under the island's "Citizenship by Investment" program and are being purchased by applicants who wish to apply for St. Kitts and Nevis citizenship. Upon completion the hotel will be operated under the Embassy Suites by Hilton brand. Construction started in 2014 and is scheduled for completion by the end of 2016.

### Income Statement analysis

Total profit increased by 21.4% from J\$58.63 million in 2014 to J\$71.16m in 2015. This is primarily the result of higher levels of interest income and gains on the sale of investments.

SIL generates income through a number of different activities. The company's primary source of revenue is interest income generated by the securities in its portfolio. Total interest income increased by 32.3% from J\$55.02 million to J\$72.8m. This is due to the company's judicious management which has profited from its United States Dollar exposure.

Gains on sale of investments more than doubled from J\$4.9 million in December 2014 to J\$12.4 million in December 2015 as the company realized some of the trading gains in its portfolio. The company has managed its portfolio with continuous monitoring with a view to profit taking when conditions are favourable.

There was a minor decrease in foreign exchange gains stemming from a lower rate of devaluation in 2015 compared to the same period in 2014. The devaluation in 2015 was 5.0% compared to 7.8% in 2014. This figure decreased by 7.2% from J\$36.7 million as at December 2014 to J\$34.1 million as at December 2015.

### Expenses:

Operating expenses for the fiscal year ending December 2015 were J\$21.7 million or approximately 11.5% lower than the J\$24.5 million of operating expenses for the corresponding period in 2014. This was as a result of tight fiscal management. However, the results were impacted by an impairment charge of J\$9.6 million as a result of a restructuring of the debt of a Brazilian corporate bond. This is a one-off charge and will not recur in subsequent years.

Sterling Asset Management (SAM) receives a management fee of 2% of the value of assets under management. As a result of the increase in the size of the portfolio, management fees increased from J\$10.65 million in 2014 to J\$13.1 million in 2015. In addition to the management fee, SAM also receives a performance fee when the return on equity exceeds the 10 year UST plus 300 basis points. This fee increased by 14.05% from J\$9.3 million in 2014 to J\$10.6 million in 2015.

### Outlook

The European Central Bank has continued its negative interest rate policy and plans to increase the levels of quantitative easing underway. As such, we anticipate a continued rise in the value of bond prices issued by entities in that region. This will bode well for Our Portfolio.

# MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS



CONT'D

The U.S. Federal Reserve increased interest rates in December 2015 but is wary of raising interest rates too quickly or too aggressively given the weak outlook for global economic growth and the associated negative implications for achieving its labour market and inflation targets. The Fed's cautious approach to normalizing monetary policy holds two important implications for our portfolio strategy. Firstly, maintaining a highly accommodative policy stance should further reduce the chances of a U.S. recession and support the continued compression of credit spreads. Aided by support from global central bank accommodation, bonds should recover and perform fairly well in 2016. However financial markets will continue to be volatile and security prices will fluctuate throughout the year.

Secondly, a closer alignment of the Fed's forward guidance with investors' expectations should keep interest rates well anchored in the short term and support our strategy to very gradually extend portfolio duration and capture higher yields in 2016 whilst maintaining our focus on high credit quality USD instruments.



# RISK MANAGEMENT



## Risk Management

Effective risk management and optimization is essential to sustaining and furthering the success of our business. Risk is continuously analyzed with the objective of maximizing profits from upside risks (the risk of upward movement in the value of an asset) while also avoiding and minimizing potential losses arising from downside risks (the risk of losses arising from adverse movements in the market).

Risk Management is incorporated as part of the company's culture and is an ongoing, consultative, forward-looking and dynamic process. Risk is analyzed within a well-defined framework shaped by the Company's risk appetite, strategic objectives, competitive advantages and the prevailing regulatory and macroeconomic environment.

The Investment Management Committee oversees the formation of and adherence to the Company's general risk guidelines. Sterling measures risk using an array of quantitative and qualitative measures. General explanations of the key risk mitigation strategies are described below.

## Key Risks

SIL assumes market risks in the conduct of its business. Market Risk is a generic term for price risk and liquidity risk.

**Price Risk:** Price Risk measures the sensitivity of the Group's earnings to changes in: interest rates, commodity prices (including foreign exchange rates),

and derivative prices. The company assumes price risk commensurate with its budgeted targets, capacity to manage risk, and the sophistication of the markets it opts to invest in. SIL monitors and manages price risk by establishing a series of limits and observing the performance of the assets in the portfolio relative to these limits. A combination of the following limits are used to manage price risk:

Limits on the size of the positions in various asset classes or structures that can be held in the portfolio

Limits on the length of time the asset can be held for

Factor Sensitivity Limits

Potential Loss Amount

**Liquidity Risk:** Liquidity risk measures the capacity of an institution to adequately and promptly satisfy all scheduled and unscheduled contractual funding obligations. Effective liquidity management is essential to maintaining market confidence, meeting regulatory requirements, maintaining the flexibility necessary to capitalize on attractive asset purchases and business expansion opportunities, and protecting the company's capital base. SIL pursues effective liquidity management to achieve these objectives through:

The placement of limits on maximum amounts of funding that will become due during different time periods under business-as-usual conditions

Active liability management focused on the diversification of funding sources, instruments, and the synchronization of the maturities of its assets and liabilities.

A contingency funding plan, which is a formal plan for maintaining liquidity under adverse conditions

Active analysis and monitoring of the macro-economic

# RISK MANAGEMENT

## CONT'D



and interest rate environments in its operating jurisdictions.

SIL also mitigates market risk by conducting regular sensitivity analysis and stress tests on the company's portfolio and capital base and through the continuous validation of the adequacy and integrity of policies, assumptions, practices, and procedures that form part of the risk management strategy.

With the anticipated change in U.S. monetary policy, the prices of financial assets are likely to remain volatile and shareholders can expect to see continued fluctuations in the "fair value reserve" and market value of the underlying securities. The profit that has been retained in the company will act as a strong buffer for the capital base of the company.

The company's strong liquidity position has been bolstered by the modest use of leverage and strong flow of interest income. The rise in interest rates is expected to be gradual and slow. This is unlikely to immediately affect the cost of funding (in the form of margin loans) for the company in the short term.

### **Credit risk**

SIL assumes the credit risk inherent in the financial instruments it holds in its portfolio. Credit risk describes the likelihood that the issuer or guarantor of the instrument will fail to repay the principal or interest due on the security. SIL refers to the credit rating assigned to an issuer or instrument as a guide when making investment decisions. However, the company generally performs independent technical or credit review analysis in line with the objective of the purchase.

To mitigate credit risk, the company seeks to ensure that

the majority of its investment portfolio is concentrated in instruments issued by institutions or Governments of a high credit quality. Concentration limits and maximum piece sizes guide the purchasing decisions for the Group's investment portfolio.

### **Operational risk**

The standard industry definition of operational risk describes the risk of direct or indirect loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, people and systems or from external events<sup>1</sup>. SAM manages the operations of the business and mitigates operational risk through the existence of an independent audit function. SAM's operational procedures, business and accounting practices are audited annually by an independent audit firm. This firm reports monthly directly to SAM's Audit Committee on the findings of its internal audits. The company has proactively implemented international best practices that govern the execution of its daily activities.

### **Private Equity Risk Management**

SIL explores private equity opportunities through formal partnerships with experienced and reputable firms of professionals in the relevant industries. These partnerships provide one off viable projects as well as the relevant expertise to execute them. However, all projects will be rigorously assessed and approved by SIL's team of analysts and the Board of Directors respectively. To mitigate risks associated with Private equity projects, the investment manager rigorously analyses and evaluates the feasibility of each investment. The Board of Directors must approve all private equity investments. On an on-going basis, the investment manager actively monitors the execution and business strategies of these projects.



# TOP TEN SHAREHOLDERS



## TOP TEN SHAREHOLDERS For Sterling Investment Limited

Name	Volume	Percentage
ATL GROUP PENSION FUND TRUSTEES NOMINEE LIMITED	10,000,000.00	17.9
GRACEKENNEDY LIMITED PENSION SCHEME	5,227,270.00	9.36
STEPHEN GAGER	3,455,170.00	6.19
PAM-CABLE & WIRELESS PENSION REAL ESTATE FUND	3,000,000.00	5.37
V.M.B.S. A/C CONTRIBUTORY PENSION SCHEME	2,688,905.00	4.78
NATIONAL INSURANCE FUND	2,016,129.00	3.61
SATYANARAYANA PARVATANENI	1,937,630.00	3.46
CHARLES A. ROSS	1,892,790.00	3.39
WINNIFRED M MULLINGS	1,842,760.00	3.30
EVERTON LLOYD MCDONALD	1,599,790.00	2.86

As at December 31, 2015

# DIRECTORS & CONNECTED PARTIES REPORT



## DIRECTORS' & CONNECTED PARTIES REPORT for Sterling Investments Limited as at December 31, 2015

DIRECTORS	SHAREHOLDINGS	CONNECTED PARTIES
Charles Ross	1,892,790.00	306.060
Derek Jones		
Michael Bernard		
Maxim Rochester		

	Number of shares	% of total
Charles Ross	1,892,790	3.39%
Marian Ross	187,390	0.34%
Sterling Asset Management	18,700	0.03%
Charles Andrew Ross	99,970	0.18%

# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



## **STERLING INVESTMENT LIMITED**

Financial Statements

December 31, 2015





**KPMG Eastern Caribbean**

Morgan Building  
L'Anse Road  
P.O. Box 1101  
Castries, St. Lucia

Telephone (758) 453-1471  
(758) 453-0625  
Fax (758) 453-6507  
e-Mail kpmg@kpmg.lc

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Shareholders of  
STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements of Sterling Investments Limited ("the Company") set out on pages 3 to 34, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2015, the statements of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### *Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditors' Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether or not the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on our judgement, including our assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

KPMG is a global network of professional services firms providing Audit, Tax and Advisory services. We operate in 155 countries and have 174,000 people working in member firms around the world. The independent member firms of the KPMG network are affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. Each KPMG firm is a legally distinct and separate entity and describes itself as such.

Frank V. Myers      Brian A. Glasgow  
Cleveland S. Seaforth      Reuben M. John



## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)

To the Shareholders of  
STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

### *Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as at December 31, 2015, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

A handwritten signature of the KPMG firm, written in a bold, black, cursive script.

KPMG Eastern Caribbean  
February 20, 2016

Castries, Saint Lucia

## STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

### Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2015

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	213,152	1,343,020
Accounts receivable	5	27,731,676	18,963,875
Investment securities	6	<u>907,825,257</u>	<u>766,737,135</u>
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>\$935,770,085</u>	<u>787,044,030</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Margin loans payable	7	214,341,641	223,886,387
Other payables	8	14,039,600	12,508,133
Due to related company	9(c)(i)	13,124,190	10,650,889
Manager's preference shares	10	10,000	10,000
Income tax payable		<u>366,028</u>	<u>495,510</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>241,881,459</u>	<u>247,550,919</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Share capital	11	627,796,101	437,296,904
Fair value reserve	12	( 78,774,046)	10,976,493
Retained earnings		<u>144,866,571</u>	<u>91,219,714</u>
<b>Total equity</b>		<u>693,888,626</u>	<u>539,493,111</u>
<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>		<u>\$935,770,085</u>	<u>787,044,030</u>

The financial statements on pages 21 to 52 were approved for issue by the Board of Directors on February 20, 2016 and signed on its behalf by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Charles Ross Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Maxim Rochester Director

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial statements.



**STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED****Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income**  
**Year ended December 31, 2015**

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<b>Revenue</b>	13		
Interest income		72,778,939	55,016,387
Foreign exchange gains		34,073,892	36,708,090
Gains on disposal of available-for-sale securities		<u>12,437,526</u>	<u>4,979,908</u>
		<u>119,290,357</u>	<u>96,704,385</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Interest		( 5,442,115)	( 3,953,304)
Impairment loss on available-for-sale-securities		( 9,651,021)	( - )
Unrealised loss on embedded derivative		( 147,575)	( - )
Other operating	14	<u>( 21,719,906)</u>	<u>(24,541,621)</u>
		<u>( 36,960,617)</u>	<u>(28,494,925)</u>
<b>Operating profit</b>		82,329,740	68,209,460
Other income		8,875	7,493
Manager's preference share interest expense		<u>( 10,573,808)</u>	<u>( 9,271,165)</u>
<b>Profit before taxation</b>		71,764,807	58,945,788
<b>Taxation</b>	15	<u>( 596,800)</u>	<u>( 315,089)</u>
<b>Profit for the year</b>		<u>71,168,007</u>	<u>58,630,699</u>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>			
Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss:			
Realised gains on disposal of available-for-sale securities reclassified to profit for the year		( 8,482,202)	( 2,765,914)
Unrealised change in fair value of available-for-sale securities		<u>( 81,268,337)</u>	<u>2,923,458</u>
		<u>( 89,750,539)</u>	<u>157,544</u>
Total comprehensive (loss)/income for the year		<u>\$ ( 18,582,532)</u>	<u>58,788,243</u>
 Basic earnings per stock unit	16	 \$ <u>1.53</u>	 <u>15.09</u>
Diluted earnings per stock unit	16	\$ <u>1.75</u>	<u>17.43</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial statements.

# STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

## Statement of Changes in Equity Year ended December 31, 2015

	Share capital (note 11)	Fair value reserve (note 12)	Retained earnings	Total
<b>Balances at December 31, 2013</b>	<u>387,469,691</u>	<u>10,818,949</u>	<u>42,089,858</u>	<u>440,378,498</u>
<b>Comprehensive income:</b>				
Profit for the year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,630,699</u>	<u>58,630,699</u>
Other comprehensive income:				
Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss				
Realised gains on disposal of available-for-sale securities reclassified to profit	-	( 2,765,914)	-	(2,765,914)
Unrealised change in fair value of available-for-sale securities	<u>-</u>	<u>2,923,458</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,923,458</u>
Total other comprehensive income	<u>-</u>	<u>157,544</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>157,544</u>
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>157,544</u>	<u>58,630,699</u>	<u>58,788,243</u>
<b>Transactions with owners</b>				
Shares issued during the year	49,827,213	-	-	49,827,213
Dividends (note 17)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>( 9,500,843)</u>	<u>( 9,500,843)</u>
	<u>49,827,213</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>( 9,500,843)</u>	<u>40,326,370</u>
<b>Balances at December 31, 2014</b>	<u>437,296,904</u>	<u>10,976,493</u>	<u>91,219,714</u>	<u>539,493,111</u>
<b>Comprehensive income:</b>				
Profit for the year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>71,168,007</u>	<u>71,168,007</u>
Other comprehensive income:				
Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss				
Realised gains on disposal of available-for-sale securities reclassified to profit	-	( 8,482,202)	-	( 8,482,202)
Unrealised change in fair value of available-for-sale securities	<u>-</u>	<u>(81,268,337)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>( 81,268,337)</u>
Total other comprehensive income	<u>-</u>	<u>(89,750,539)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>( 89,750,539)</u>
<b>Total comprehensive (loss)/income</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>(89,750,539)</u>	<u>71,168,007</u>	<u>( 18,582,532)</u>
<b>Transactions with owners:</b>				
Shares issued during the year	190,499,197	-	-	190,499,197
Dividends (note 17)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>( 17,521,150)</u>	<u>( 17,521,150)</u>
	<u>190,499,197</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>( 17,521,150)</u>	<u>172,978,047</u>
<b>Balances at December 31, 2015</b>	<u>\$627,796,101</u>	<u>(78,774,046)</u>	<u>144,866,571</u>	<u>693,888,626</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial statements.

**STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED****Statement of Cash Flows****Year ended December 31, 2015**

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Profit for the year	71,168,007	58,630,699
Adjustments for:		
Interest income	( 72,778,939)	( 55,016,387)
Interest expense	5,442,115	3,953,304
Impairment loss on available-for-sale securities	9,651,021	-
Unrealised loss on embedded derivative	147,575	-
Taxation	596,800	315,089
Manager's preference share interest expense	<u>10,573,808</u>	<u>9,271,165</u>
	24,800,387	17,153,870
Changes in:		
Accounts receivable	3,878	( 2,008)
Margin loans payable	( 9,544,746)	192,334,437
Other payables	228,824	1,811,968
Due to related company	<u>2,473,301</u>	<u>2,850,919</u>
	17,961,644	214,149,186
Interest received	64,007,260	45,765,685
Interest paid	( 5,442,115)	( 3,953,304)
Tax paid	( 726,282)	-
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>75,800,507</u>	<u>255,961,567</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activity</b>		
Investment securities, being net cash used by investing activity	<u>(240,637,257)</u>	<u>(288,047,892)</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Issue of ordinary shares	190,499,197	49,827,213
Manager's preference shares interest paid	( 9,271,165)	( 10,362,673)
Dividends paid	<u>( 17,521,150)</u>	<u>( 9,500,843)</u>
Net cash provided by financing activities	<u>163,706,882</u>	<u>29,963,697</u>
<b>Decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>	( 1,129,868)	( 2,122,628)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>1,343,020</u>	<u>3,465,648</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	<u>\$ 213,152</u>	<u>1,343,020</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial statements.



## STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

### Notes to the Financial Statements Year ended December 31, 2015

#### 1. Identification

Sterling Investments Limited (“the Company”) was incorporated on August 21, 2012 in Saint Lucia under the International Business Companies Act, and commenced operations on December 1, 2012. The Company’s registered office is located at 20 Micoud Street, Castries, Saint Lucia.

The principal activities of the Company are holding and trading of tradable and other securities and other investments.

The Company has no employees and its activities are administered by Sterling Asset Management Limited to which management fees are paid [note 9(c)(ii)].

#### 2. Statement of compliance and basis of preparation

##### (a) Statement of compliance

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRS”) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

##### **New, revised and amended standards and interpretations that became effective during the year**

Certain new standards and interpretations, and certain amendments, which were in issue, came into effect for the current financial year. Their adoption did not result in any change in accounting policies and did not have any effect on the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

##### **New, revised and amended standards and interpretations not yet effective**

At the date of approval of the financial statements, certain new, revised and amended standards and interpretations, were in issue but were not yet in effect and had not been early-adopted by the Company. The Company has assessed their relevance and has determined that the following may be relevant to its operations:

- IAS 1, *Presentation of Financial Statements*, effective for accounting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2016, has been amended to clarify or state the following:
  - specific single disclosures that are not material do not have to be presented even if they are the minimum requirement of a standard;
  - the order of notes to the financial statements is not prescribed;
  - line items on the statement of financial position and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income (OCI) should be disaggregated if this provides helpful information to users. Line items can be aggregated if they are not material;

## STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
Year ended December 31, 2015

### 2. Statement of compliance and basis of preparation (cont'd)

#### (a) Statement of compliance (cont'd)

#### **New, revised and amended standards and interpretations not yet effective (cont'd)**

- IAS 1, *Presentation of Financial Statements* (cont'd)
  - specific criteria is now provided for presenting subtotals on the statement of financial position and in the statement of profit or loss and OCI, with additional reconciliation requirement for the statement of profit or loss and OCI; and
  - the presentation in the statement of OCI of items of OCI arising from joint ventures and associates accounted for using the equity method follows the IAS 1 approach of splitting items that may, or that will never, be reclassified to profit or loss.

The Company is assessing the impact that this amendment will have on its 2016 financial statements.

- IFRS 9, *Financial Instruments*, which is effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2018, replaces the existing guidance in IAS 39, *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement*. IFRS 9 includes revised guidance on the classification and measurement of financial assets and liabilities, including a new expected credit loss model for calculating impairment of financial assets and the new general hedge accounting requirements. It also carries forward the guidance on recognition and derecognition of financial instruments from IAS 39. Although the permissible measurement bases for financial assets – amortised cost, fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) and fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL) - are similar to IAS 39, the criteria for classification into the appropriate measurement category are significantly different. IFRS 9 replaces the 'incurred loss' model in IAS 39 with an 'expected credit loss' model, which means that a loss event will no longer need to occur before an impairment allowance is recognised.

The Company is assessing the impact that this standard will have on its 2018 financial statements.

- IFRS 15, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, is effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2018. It replaces IAS 11, *Construction Contracts*, IAS 18, *Revenue*, IFRIC 13, *Customer Loyalty Programmes*, IFRIC 15, *Agreements for the Construction of Real Estate*, IFRIC 18, *Transfer of Assets from Customers*, and SIC 31, *Revenue - Barter Transactions Involving Advertising Services*. It does not apply to insurance contracts, financial instruments or lease contracts, which fall in the scope of other IFRSs. It also does not apply if two companies in the same line of business exchange non-monetary assets to facilitate sales to other parties.

2. Statement of compliance and basis of preparation (cont'd)

(a) Statement of compliance (cont'd)

**New, revised and amended standards and interpretations not yet effective (cont'd)**

- IFRS 15, *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* (cont'd)

The Company will apply a five-step model to determine when to recognise revenue, and at what amount. The model specifies that revenue should be recognised when (or as) an entity transfers control of goods or services to a customer at the amount to which the entity expects to be entitled. Depending on whether certain criteria are met, revenue is recognised at a point in time, when control of goods or services is transferred to the customer; or over time, in a manner that best reflects the entity's performance.

There will be new qualitative and quantitative disclosure requirements to describe the nature, amount, timing, and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from contracts with customers.

The Company is assessing the impact that the standard will have on its 2018 financial statements.

- *Improvements to IFRS, 2012-2014* cycle, contain amendments to certain standards and interpretations and are effective for accounting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2016. The main amendments applicable to the Company are as follows:
  - IFRS 7, *Financial Instruments: Disclosures*, has been amended to clarify when servicing arrangements are in the scope of its disclosure requirements on continuing involvement in transferred assets in cases when they are derecognised in their entirety. A servicer is deemed to have continuing involvement if it has an interest in the future performance of the transferred asset - e.g. if the servicing fee is dependent on the amount or timing of the cash flows collected from the transferred financial asset; however, the collection and remittance of cash flows from the transferred asset to the transferee is not, in itself, sufficient to be considered 'continuing involvement'.

IFRS 7 has also been amended to clarify that the additional disclosures required by *Disclosures: Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities (Amendment to IFRS 7)* are not specifically required for inclusion in condensed interim financial statements for all interim periods; however, they are required if the general requirements of IAS 34, *Interim Financial Reporting*, require their inclusion.



## STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
Year ended December 31, 2015

### 2. Statement of compliance and basis of preparation (cont'd)

#### (a) Statement of compliance (cont'd)

##### **New, revised and amended standards and interpretations not yet effective (cont'd)**

- *Improvements to IFRS, 2012-2014 cycle (cont'd)*
  - IAS 34, *Interim Financial Reporting*, has been amended to clarify that certain disclosures, if they are not included in the notes to interim financial statements, may be disclosed “elsewhere in the interim financial report”. The interim financial report is incomplete if the interim financial statements and any disclosures incorporated by cross-reference are not made available to users of the interim financial statements on the same terms and at the same time.

The Company is assessing the impact that these amendments will have on its 2016 financial statements.

#### (b) Basis of measurement

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, except for the inclusion of available-for-sale investments at fair value.

#### (c) Functional and presentation currency

The financial statements are presented in Jamaican dollars, which is the functional currency of the Company.

#### (d) Use of estimates and judgements

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires management to make estimates, based on assumptions, and judgements. The estimates and judgements affect the reported amounts of, and disclosures relating to, assets, liabilities, contingent assets and contingent liabilities at the reporting date and the income and expenses for the year then ended. Actual amounts could differ from those estimates.

The estimates, and the assumptions underlying them, are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Judgements and estimates made by management in the application of IFRS that have a significant effect on these financial statements and/or have a significant risk of material adjustment in the next financial year are set out below:

STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITEDNotes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
Year ended December 31, 20152. Statement of compliance and basis of preparation (cont'd)

## (d) Use of estimates and judgements (cont'd)

## (i) Judgements

For the purpose of these financial statements, which prepared in accordance with IFRS, judgement refers to the informed identification and analysis of reasonable alternatives, considering all relevant facts and circumstances, and the well-reasoned, objective and unbiased choice of the alternative that is most consistent with the agreed principles set out in IFRS.

The determination of whether a security may be classified as 'loans and receivables' (note 6) or whether a security's fair value may be classified as 'Level 1' in the fair value hierarchy (note 19) requires judgement as to whether a market is active.

## (ii) Uncertainties arising from the use of estimates

## (1) Allowance for impairment losses

In determining amounts recorded for impairment of debt securities and other financial assets in the financial statements, management makes assumptions in assessing whether certain facts and circumstances, such as significant financial difficulty of the issuer or obligor, repayment default, and adverse economic conditions, are indicators that there may be a measurable decrease in the estimated future cash flows from outstanding financial asset balances – i.e. they are impaired. Management also makes estimates of the likely estimated future cash flows from financial assets that it determines are impaired, as well as the timing of cash flows. If the financial assets are individually significant, the amount and timing of cash flows are estimated for each asset individually. Where indicators of impairment are not observable on individually significant assets, or on a group or portfolio of assets that are not individually significant, management estimates the impairment by classifying each financial asset or group or portfolio of financial assets according to their characteristics, such as credit risks, and applying appropriate factors, such as historical loss experience, to each class with similar characteristics.

The use of assumptions makes uncertainty inherent in such estimates.

## (2) Determination of fair values

When measuring the fair value of an asset or liability, the Company uses observable data as far as possible. Fair values are categorised into different levels in a three-level fair value hierarchy based on the inputs used in the valuation techniques, as follows:

STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
Year ended December 31, 2015

2. Statement of compliance and basis of preparation (cont'd)

## (d) Use of estimates and judgements (cont'd)

## (ii) Uncertainties arising from use of estimates (cont'd)

## (2) Determination of fair values (cont'd)

## Level 1

This includes assets and liabilities that are measured by reference to published quotes in an active market. A financial instrument is regarded as quoted in an active market if quoted prices are readily and regularly available from an exchange, dealer, broker, industry group, pricing service or regulatory agency and those prices represent actual and regularly occurring market transactions on an arm's length basis.

## Level 2

This includes assets and liabilities that are measured using a valuation technique based on assumptions that are supported by prices from observable current market transactions, and for which pricing is obtained via pricing services, but where prices have not been determined in an active market. This includes assets with fair values based on broker quotes and assets that are valued using a model whereby the majority of assumptions are market observable.

## Level 3

This includes assets and liabilities that are measured using non-market observable inputs. This means that fair values are determined in whole or in part using a valuation technique (model) based on assumptions that are neither supported by prices from observable current market transactions in the same instrument nor are they based on available market data.

In the absence of quoted market prices, the fair value of a significant proportion of the Company's assets was determined using a generally accepted alternative method. Considerable judgement is required in interpreting market data to arrive at estimates of fair values. Consequently, the estimates arrived at may be significantly different from the actual price of the instrument in an arm's length transaction.

3. Significant accounting policies

## (a) Financial instruments

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to both a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. In these financial statements, financial assets comprise cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, and investment securities. Financial liabilities comprise margin loans payable, other payables, due to related company and manager's preference shares.



## STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
Year ended December 31, 2015

### 3. Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

#### (a) Financial instruments (cont'd)

Financial instruments are classified, recognised and measured in accordance with the substance of the terms of the contracts, as set out herein.

##### (i) Classification of financial instruments

The Company classifies non-derivative financial assets into the following categories: Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, loans and receivable, held-to-maturity and available-for-sale financial assets. Management determines the appropriate classification of investments at the time of purchase, taking account of the purpose for which the investments were purchased.

*Fair value through profit or loss:* Securities that are held for trading (i.e. acquired to generate short-term profits or are part of a portfolio of financial assets managed together for that purpose) or are designated as 'at fair value through profit or loss' upon initial recognition.

*Loans and receivables:* Securities acquired and loans granted with fixed or determinable payments and which are not quoted in an active market, are classified as loans and receivables.

*Held-to-maturity:* Securities with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturities that the Company has the positive intent and ability to hold to maturity are classified as held-to-maturity.

*Available-for-sale:* Securities are classified as available-for-sale, because they are designated as such or are not classified in any of the other categories.

The Company classifies non-derivative financial liabilities into the other financial liabilities category.

##### (ii) Embedded derivatives

Derivatives may be embedded in another contractual arrangement (a host contract). The Company accounts for an embedded derivative separately from the host contract when:

- the host contract is not itself carried at fair value through profit or loss;
- the terms of the embedded derivative would meet the definition of a derivative if they were contained in a separate contract; and
- the economic characteristics and risks of the embedded derivative are not closely related to the economic characteristics and risks of the host contract.

Separated embedded derivatives are measured at fair value, with all changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss, unless they form part of a qualifying cash flow or net investment hedging relationship.

## STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
Year ended December 31, 2015

### 3. Significant accounting policies (cont'd)

#### (a) Financial instruments (cont'd)

##### (iii) Recognition and derecognition

The Company recognises a financial instrument when it becomes a party to the contractual terms of the instrument. The Company initially recognises loans and receivables and debt securities on the date when they are originated. All other financial assets and financial liabilities are initially recognised on the trade date.

The Company derecognises a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or it transfers the rights to receive the contractual cash flows in a transaction in which substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred, or it neither transfers nor retains all or substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership and does not retain control over the transferred asset. Any interest in such derecognised financial assets that are created or retained by the Company, is recognised as a separate asset or liability.

The Company derecognises a financial liability when its contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset and the net amount presented in the statement of financial position when, and only when, the Company has the legal right to offset the amounts and intends either to settle them on a net basis, or to realise the assets and settle the liabilities simultaneously.

##### (iv) Measurement and gains and losses

*Fair value through profit or loss:* Financial assets which are held for trading or are designated as at fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss.

*Loans and receivables:* On initial recognition they are measured at fair value, plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, they are measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest method, less impairment losses. Premiums and discounts are included in the carrying amount of the related instrument and amortised based on the effective interest rate of the instrument.

Where securities classified as loans and receivables become quoted in an active market, such securities will not be reclassified as available-for-sale securities. An active market is one where quoted prices are readily and regularly available from an exchange dealer, broker or other agency and those prices represent actual and regularly occurring market transactions on an arm's length basis.

## STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
Year ended December 31, 2015

### 3. Significant accounting policies (cont'd)

#### (a) Financial instruments (cont'd)

##### (iv) Measurement and gains and losses (cont'd)

*Held-to-maturity:* On initial recognition they are measured at fair value, plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Premiums and discounts are included in the carrying amount of the related instrument and amortised based on the effective interest rate of the instrument. Subsequent to initial recognition, they are measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest method, less impairment losses.

Any sale or reclassification of a significant amount of held-to-maturity investments that is not close to their maturity would result in the reclassification of all held-to-maturity investments as available-for-sale, and prevent the Company from classifying investment securities as held-to-maturity for the financial year in which sale or reclassification occurs and the following two financial years.

*Available-for-sale:* On initial recognition, they are measured at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, they are measured at fair value, with unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in fair value treated as follows:

- Changes in the fair value of monetary securities denominated in a foreign currency and classified as available-for-sale are analysed between translation differences resulting from changes in amortised cost of the security and other changes in the carrying amount of the security. The translation differences are recognised in profit or loss, and other changes in carrying amount are recognised in other comprehensive income. Changes in the fair value of securities classified as available-for-sale are recognised in other comprehensive income.
- When securities classified as available-for-sale are sold or impaired, and therefore derecognised, the accumulated fair value adjustments accumulated in other comprehensive income are reclassified to profit or loss.

##### (v) Identification and measurement of impairment

At each reporting date, the Company assesses whether there is objective evidence that financial assets not carried at fair value through profit or loss are impaired. Financial assets are impaired when objective evidence demonstrates that a loss event has occurred after the initial recognition of the asset, and that the loss event has an impact on the future cash flows of the asset that can be estimated reliably.

## STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
Year ended December 31, 2015

### 3. Significant accounting policies (cont'd)

#### (a) Financial instruments (cont'd)

##### (v) Identification and measurement of impairment (cont'd)

Objective evidence that financial assets are impaired can include default or delinquency by a borrower, restructuring of a loan or advance by the Company on terms that the Company would not otherwise consider, indications that a borrower or issuer will enter bankruptcy, the disappearance of an active market for a security, or other observable data relating to a group of assets such as adverse changes in the payment status of borrowers or issuers in the group, or economic conditions that correlate with defaults in the group. In addition, for an investment in an equity security, a significant or prolonged decline in its fair value below its cost is objective evidence of impairment.

Impairment losses on assets carried at amortised cost are measured as the difference between the carrying amount of the financial asset and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. Losses are recognised in profit or loss and reflected in an allowance account against loans and receivables. When a subsequent event causes the amount of impairment loss to decrease, the decrease in impairment loss is reversed through profit or loss.

Impairment losses on available-for-sale investment securities are recognised by transferring the cumulative loss that has been recognised directly in other comprehensive income to profit or loss. The cumulative loss that is removed from other comprehensive income and recognised in profit or loss is the difference between the acquisition cost, net of any principal repayment and amortisation, and the current fair value, less any impairment loss previously recognised in profit or loss. Changes in impairment provisions attributable to time value are reflected as a component of interest income.

If in a subsequent period the fair value of an impaired available-for-sale debt security increases and the increase can be objectively related to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised in profit or loss, the impairment loss is reversed, with the amount of the reversal recognised in profit or loss. However, any subsequent recovery in the fair value of an impaired available-for-sale equity security is recognised in other comprehensive income.

#### (b) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash comprises cash on hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents comprise short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash, are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, and are held for the purpose of meeting short-term commitments (these investments include short-term deposits where the maturities do not exceed three months from the acquisition date). Cash and cash equivalents are measured at amortised cost.



## STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
Year ended December 31, 2015

### 3. Significant accounting policies (cont'd)

#### (c) Accounts receivable

Accounts receivable is stated at amortised cost, less impairment losses.

#### (d) Margin loans payable and other payables

Margin loans payable and other payables are stated at amortised cost.

#### (e) Revenue recognition

Revenue is income that arises in the course of the ordinary activities of the Company. Accordingly, revenue comprises interest income and income and gains from holding and trading securities.

##### (i) Interest income

Interest income is recognised in profit or loss for all interest-earning instruments on the accrual basis using the effective interest method. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts the estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to the carrying amount of the financial asset. The effective interest rate is established on initial recognition of the financial asset and is not revised subsequently. Interest income includes coupons earned on fixed income investments, accretion of discount on discounted instruments, and amortisation of premium on instruments bought at a premium.

##### (ii) Gain or loss on holding and trading securities

Gain or loss on securities trading is recognised when the Company becomes a party to a contract to dispose of the securities, or, in the case of financial assets measured at fair value, upon re-measurement of those assets.

#### (f) Interest expense

Interest expense is recognised in profit or loss on the accrual basis using the effective interest method. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts the estimated future cash payments through the expected life of the financial liability to the carrying amount of the financial liability.

#### (g) Foreign currencies

Foreign currency balances at the reporting date are translated at the foreign exchange rates ruling at that date. Transactions in foreign currencies are converted at the foreign exchange rates ruling at the dates of the transactions. Gains and losses arising from fluctuations in exchange rates are recognised in profit or loss.

STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITEDNotes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
Year ended December 31, 20153. Significant accounting policies (cont'd)

## (h) Share capital

## (i) Ordinary stock units

Incremental costs directly attributable to the issue of ordinary stock units are recognised as deduction from equity.

## (ii) Preference shares

The Company classifies capital instruments as financial liabilities or equity instruments in accordance with the substance of the contractual terms of the instrument. In the case of its preference share capital, it is classified as:

- equity if it is non-redeemable, or redeemable only at the Company's option, and any dividends are discretionary; in such a case, dividends thereon are recognised as equity distributions on approval by the Company's stockholders.
- liability if it is redeemable on a specific date or at the option of the stockholders, or if dividends are not discretionary; in such a case, dividends thereon are recognised as interest in profit or loss as accrued.

The Company's preference shares bear contractual entitlements to dividends that are cumulative, and not at the discretion of the directors. Accordingly, they are presented as a financial liability.

## (i) Income tax

Income tax on the profit or loss for the period comprises current and deferred tax. Income tax is recognised in profit or loss except to the extent that it relates to items recognised directly in other comprehensive income, in which case it is recognised in other comprehensive income.

## (i) Current income tax

Current income tax is the expected tax payable on the taxable income for the period, using tax rates enacted at the reporting date, and any adjustment to income tax payable in respect of previous years.

## (ii) Deferred income tax

Deferred income tax is recognised in respect of temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for income tax purposes. Deferred tax is measured at the tax rates that are expected to be applied to temporary differences when they reverse, based on laws that have been enacted by the reporting date.

A deferred tax asset is recognised only to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which the asset can be utilised. Deferred tax assets are reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that the related tax benefit will be realised.

## STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

### Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued) Year ended December 31, 2015

#### 4. Cash and cash equivalents

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Cash	3,000	3,000
Demand deposit accounts	<u>210,152</u>	<u>1,340,020</u>
	<u>\$213,152</u>	<u>1,343,020</u>

#### 5. Accounts receivable

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Interest receivable	27,731,676	18,959,997
Other	<u>-</u>	<u>3,878</u>
	<u>\$27,731,676</u>	<u>18,963,875</u>

#### 6. Investment securities

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Available-for-sale		
Corporate bonds (i)	600,717,370	473,039,584
Municipal bonds (ii)	209,795,708	236,537,551
Credit linked note (iii)	37,322,179	-
Loans and receivables		
Unquoted preference shares (iv)	<u>59,990,000</u>	<u>57,160,000</u>
	<u>\$907,825,257</u>	<u>766,737,135</u>

- (i) Corporate bonds earn interest at rates ranging from 5.125% to 12.75% per annum and mature over the period 2016 to 2049.
- (ii) Municipal bonds earn interest at rates ranging from 5.00% to 10.00% per annum and mature over the period 2023 to 2040.
- (iii) Credit linked note represents investment in Credit Suisse Contingent Coupon Callable Yield notes which will mature on June 19, 2018. The fair value change in embedded derivatives of \$147,575 was recognised in profit or loss account.
- (iv) Unquoted preference shares represent investments in cumulative redeemable preference shares issued by Sterling Developments (SKN) Limited, a related party [note 9(c)(i)]. They earn interest at 8% interest per annum and are redeemable.

#### 7. Margin loans payable

These are margin loans due to overseas brokers. The loans bear interest at rates ranging from 2.09% to 2.36% per annum (2014: 2.07% to 2.25%), are collateralised by securities purchased from the brokers with the loan proceeds, and have no set repayment date.

STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITEDNotes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
Year ended December 31, 20158. Other payables

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Manager's preference shares interest payable [note 9(c)(i)]	10,573,808	9,271,165
Other payables and accruals	<u>3,465,792</u>	<u>3,236,968</u>
	<u>\$14,039,600</u>	<u>12,508,133</u>

9. Related party balances and transactions

## (a) Definition of related party

A related party is a person or entity that is related to the Company.

(i) A person or a close member of that person's family is related to the Company if that person:

- (1) has control or joint control over the Company;
- (2) has significant influence over the Company; or
- (3) is a member of the key management personnel of the Company or of a parent of the Company.

(ii) An entity is related to the Company if any of the following conditions applies:

- (1) The entity and the Company are members of the same group (which means that each parent, subsidiary and fellow subsidiary is related to the others).
- (2) One entity is an associate or joint venture of the other entity (or an associate or joint venture of a member of a group of which the other entity is a member).
- (3) Both entities are joint ventures of the same third party.
- (4) One entity is a joint venture of a third entity and the other entity is an associate of the third entity.
- (5) The entity is a post-employment benefit plan for the benefit of employees of either the Company or an entity related to the Company.
- (6) The entity is controlled, or jointly controlled by a person identified in (i).
- (7) A person identified in (i)(1) has significant influence over the entity or is a member of the key management personnel of the entity (or of a parent of the entity).
- (8) The entity, or any member of a group of which it is a part, provides key management personnel services to the Company.

A related party transaction is a transfer of resources, services or obligations between the Company and a related party, regardless of whether a price is charged.



## STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
Year ended December 31, 2015

### 9. Related party balances and transactions (cont'd)

#### (b) Identity of related parties

The Company has related party relationships with its directors, investment manager and other entities under the common control of its investment manager.

#### (c) Related party amounts

- (i) The statement of financial position includes balances with related parties, arising in the ordinary course of business, as follows:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
	\$	\$
Entities with common shareholders and directors		
Unquoted preference shares [note 6(iv)]	59,990,000	57,160,000
Interest receivable	<u>13,702,045</u>	<u>8,482,857</u>
Total [note 18(a)(ii)]	73,692,045	65,642,857
Investment manager		
Manager's preference shares interest payable (note 8)	(10,573,808)	( 9,271,165)
Due to related company*	(13,124,190)	(10,650,889)
Directors		
Other payables	( <u>575,904</u> )	( <u>548,736</u> )

\*The amount due to related party is unsecured, interest-free and is repayable within twelve (12) months from reporting date.

- (ii) The statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income includes income earned from, and expenses incurred in, transactions with related parties, in the ordinary course of business, as follows:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
	\$	\$
Related entity		
Interest income on unquoted preference shares	4,687,077	4,509,527
Investment manager		
Manager's preference shares interest expense	(10,573,808)	( 9,271,165)
Management fees (note 14)	(13,124,190)	(10,650,889)
Directors		
Directors' fees (note 14)	( <u>2,247,456</u> )	( <u>2,133,120</u> )

## STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
Year ended December 31, 2015

### 10. Manager's preference shares

- (a) This represents 10,000 manager's cumulative preference shares (see note 11). The terms and conditions of these shares include the following:
- (i) The block of manager's cumulative preference shares, at all times, regardless of the number of ordinary shares issued and held, enjoy voting control to the extent of 51% of such votes as may be cast by shareholders of the Company with respect to any and all decisions by such shareholders;
  - (ii) The manager's cumulative preference shares rank *pari passu* as between and among themselves;
  - (iii) The manager's cumulative preference shares are entitled to a cumulative annual preference dividend of twenty five per cent (25%) of the Company's return on equity earned in excess of the hurdle rate (computed in accordance with the formula set out in the terms and conditions of issue) applied to the United States dollar value of the Company's profit and equity. The return on equity is calculated as the profit for the year of the Company divided by the value of the Company's average equity as at the end of the financial year, expressed in United States dollars and substantiated by the audited financial statements;
  - (iv) Apart from the right to the cumulative annual preference dividend, the manager's cumulative preference shares have no economic rights or entitlements save for the right in a winding up to the repayment of the capital paid thereon on a *pari passu* basis with the capital paid on the ordinary shares; and
  - (v) In the event that an entity which is (or becomes) the investment manager subsequently ceases to be the investment manager in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Company's Articles of Association, each of the manager's cumulative preference shares held by that entity shall thereupon automatically be converted into a fully paid ordinary share in the Company.
- (b) The dividend payment is recorded as manager's preference shares interest expense in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

### 11. Share capital

	<u>Number of units</u>	
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
(i) Authorised:		
Ordinary stock units of no par value	150,000,000	25,000,000
Manager's cumulative preference shares of no par value	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
	<u>150,010,000</u>	<u>25,010,000</u>

On February 21, 2015, the Board of Directors approved the increase in authorised share capital of the Company from 25,010,000 shares to 150,010,000 shares by the creation of an additional 125,000,000 ordinary stock units of no par value.

## STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

### Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued) Year ended December 31, 2015

#### 11. Share capital (cont'd)

##### (ii) Issued and fully paid:

	<u>Number of units</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Ordinary stock units				
Balance at beginning of year	<u>4,014,547</u>	<u>3,628,599</u>	<u>437,296,904</u>	<u>387,469,691</u>
Issued during the year	<u>51,861,734</u>	<u>385,948</u>	<u>195,062,057</u>	<u>49,827,213</u>
Less transaction costs	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>( 4,562,860)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net proceeds from issuance	<u>51,861,734</u>	<u>385,948</u>	<u>190,499,197</u>	<u>49,827,213</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>55,876,281</u>	<u>4,014,547</u>	<u>627,796,101</u>	<u>437,296,904</u>
Manager's cumulative preference shares	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
	<u>55,886,281</u>	<u>4,024,547</u>	<u>627,806,101</u>	<u>437,306,904</u>
Less: Manager's preference shares reclassified to liability (note 10)	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
	<u>55,876,281</u>	<u>4,014,547</u>	<u>\$627,796,101</u>	<u>437,296,904</u>

During the year, 51,861,734 ordinary stock units were issued for a net consideration of \$190,499,197.

#### 12. Fair value reserve

This represents the unrealised gains, net of losses, on the restatement of available-for-sale investment securities at fair value.

#### 13. Revenue

This represents income earned from holding and trading investment securities.

#### 14. Operating expenses

The following are among the items included in operating expenses:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Management fees [note 9(c)(ii)]	13,124,190	10,650,889
Auditors' remuneration - current year	2,637,104	2,440,732
- prior year	-	390,295
Directors' fees [note 9(c)(ii)]	2,247,456	2,133,120
Travel	1,077,926	1,218,638
Stock exchange listing	656,606	5,737,213
Professional fees	397,650	369,801
Other	<u>1,578,974</u>	<u>1,600,933</u>
	<u>\$21,719,906</u>	<u>24,541,621</u>

STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
Year ended December 31, 2015

15. Taxation

The Company elected to be charged at the rate of 1% (2014: 1%) as allowed under the International Business Companies Act. However, the effective tax rate is 0.83% (2014: 0.53%).

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Profit before taxation	<u>\$71,764,807</u>	<u>58,945,788</u>
Computed “expected” tax charge at 1% (2014: 1%)	717,648	589,458
Tax effect of differences between profit for financial statements and tax reporting purposes:		
Unrealised foreign exchange gains	( 340,739)	(367,081)
Unrealised loss on embedded derivative	1,476	-
Impairment loss on available-for-sale securities	96,510	-
Manager’s preference share interest expense	105,738	92,712
Under-provision in respective of prior year	<u>16,167</u>	<u>-</u>
Current tax charge, being total taxation charge	<u>\$ 596,800</u>	<u>315,089</u>

16. Earnings per stock unit

## (a) Basic earnings per stock unit

Basic earnings per stock unit is calculated by dividing the profit attributable to stockholders by the weighted average number of ordinary stock units in issue during the year.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Profit attributable to ordinary stockholders	<u>\$71,168,007</u>	<u>58,630,699</u>
Weighted average number of ordinary stock units in issue	<u>46,640,630</u>	<u>3,885,898</u>
Basic earnings per stock unit	<u>\$ 1.53</u>	<u>15.09</u>

## (b) Diluted earnings per stock unit

Diluted earnings per stock unit is calculated by dividing the profit attributable to ordinary stockholders by the weighted average number of ordinary stock units outstanding after adjustment for the effects of all dilutive potential ordinary stock units.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Profit attributable to ordinary stockholders	71,168,007	58,630,699
Interest expense of convertible preference shares	<u>10,573,808</u>	<u>9,271,165</u>
	<u>\$81,741,815</u>	<u>67,901,864</u>
Weighted average number of ordinary stock units in issue	46,640,630	3,885,898
Effect of conversion of convertible preference shares	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
	<u>46,650,630</u>	<u>3,895,898</u>
Diluted earnings per stock unit	<u>\$ 1.75</u>	<u>17.43</u>



## STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

### Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued) Year ended December 31, 2015

#### 17. Dividends

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Distribution to ordinary stockholders at \$0.3373 (2014: \$2.3667) per stock unit	<u>\$17,521,150</u>	<u>9,500,843</u>

#### 18. Financial risk management

The Company has exposure to credit, liquidity and market risks from its use of financial instruments. The Company's affairs are administered by the Investment Manager, a related company, which, together with the Board of Directors, has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of the Company's risk management framework. The risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the Company, to set appropriate risk limits and controls, and to monitor risks and adherence to limits. Risk management policies and procedures are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in market conditions, products and services offered.

##### **(a) Credit risk**

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Company that one party to a financial instrument will fail to discharge its contractual obligations, and arises principally from the Company's investment securities. The Board of Directors is responsible for oversight of the Company's credit risk, including formulating policies, establishing the authorisation structure for the approval of credit facilities, reviewing and assessing credit risk, and limiting concentration of exposure to counterparties. Additionally, the Investment Manager reports to the Board of Directors on a regular basis about credit quality, and the appropriate action is taken.

##### **(i) The Company manages the exposure to credit risk in the following way:**

It maintains cash and cash equivalents with major financial institutions which management regards as strong. These financial institutions are continually reviewed by the Investment Manager. Investments are held substantially in United States of America Government Agency and corporate securities.

Total credit exposure is the total of receivables and investment securities on the statement of financial position as there are no credit exposures not recognised in the statement of financial position.

##### **(ii) Concentration of credit risk**

The Company monitors concentration of credit risk by issuer and by geographic location. An analysis of concentrations of credit risk at the reporting date is shown below:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Issuer:		
Corporate – unrelated parties	648,529,130	479,756,588
Corporate – related party [note 9(c)(i)]	73,692,045	65,642,857
Municipals	213,335,758	240,297,687
Banks	213,152	1,343,020
Other	<u>-</u>	<u>3,878</u>
Total financial assets	<u>\$935,770,085</u>	<u>787,044,030</u>

STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
Year ended December 31, 2015

18. Financial risk management (cont'd)**(a) Credit risk (cont'd)**

## (ii) Concentration of credit risk (cont'd)

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Location:		
Europe	359,348,944	383,074,993
North America	352,639,276	272,061,678
Caribbean	108,625,620	66,989,755
South America	87,306,513	64,917,604
Other	<u>27,849,732</u>	<u>-</u>
Total financial assets	<u>\$935,770,085</u>	<u>787,044,030</u>

## (iii) Credit quality

Credit quality is measured primarily by the extent of breaches of contractual terms of debt securities.

- Impaired securities

Impaired securities are securities for which the Company determines that it is probable that it will be unable to collect all principal and interest due according to the contractual terms of the securities.

- Past due but not impaired securities

These are securities where contractual interest or principal payments are past due but the Company believes that impairment is not appropriate on the basis of the level of security or collateral available or the stage of collection of amounts owed to the Company.

- Write-off policy

The Company writes off loan or security balances (and any related allowances for impairment losses) when the Company determines that the loans or securities are uncollectible. This determination is usually made after considering information such as changes in the borrower's financial position, or that proceeds from collateral will not be sufficient to pay back the entire exposure.

## (iv) Settlement risk

The Company's activities may give rise to settlement risk at the time of settlement of trades and other transactions. Settlement risk is the risk of loss due to the failure of a party to honour its obligation to deliver cash, securities or other assets as contractually agreed.

18. Financial risk management (cont'd)**(a) Credit risk (cont'd)****(iv) Settlement risk (cont'd)**

For certain types of transactions, the Company mitigates this risk by conducting settlements through its broker to ensure that a trade is settled only when both parties have fulfilled their contractual settlement obligations.

There has been no change in the Company's exposure to credit risk or the manner in which it measures and manages risk.

**(b) Liquidity risk**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Company will encounter difficulty in raising funds to meet commitments associated with financial instruments. Liquidity risk may result from an inability to sell a financial asset quickly at, or close to, its fair value. Prudent liquidity risk management implies maintaining sufficient cash and marketable securities, and ensuring the availability of funding through an adequate amount of committed facilities.

**Management of liquidity risk**

Due to the dynamic nature of the underlying business, the Company manages this risk by monitoring its cash needs and obtaining liquidity support from custodian brokers and related companies. The Company's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure, as far as possible, that it always has sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when due, under both normal and abnormal conditions, without incurring unacceptable losses or risking damage to the Company's reputation.

The daily liquidity position is monitored and regular liquidity testing is conducted under a variety of scenarios covering both normal and more severe market conditions. The Company maintains the daily balances from the bank and broker accounts in order to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet the liability demands.

The following table presents the undiscounted cash flows payable (both interest and principal cash flows) based on contractual repayment obligations:

	2015				
	Within 3 months	3 to 12 months	No specific maturity	Gross outflow	Carrying value
Margin loans payable	214,740,257	-	-	214,740,257	214,341,641
Other payables	14,039,600	-	-	14,039,600	14,039,600
Due to related company		13,124,190	-	13,124,190	13,124,190
Manager's preference shares	-	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
	<u>\$228,779,857</u>	<u>13,124,190</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>241,914,047</u>	<u>241,515,431</u>

# STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
Year ended December 31, 2015

## 18. Financial risk management (cont'd)

### (b) Liquidity risk (cont'd)

	2014				
	Within 3 months	3 to 12 months	No specific maturity	Gross outflow	Carrying value
Margin loans payable	225,127,196	-	-	225,127,196	223,886,387
Other payables	12,508,133	-	-	12,508,133	12,508,133
Due to related company	-	10,650,889	-	10,650,889	10,650,889
Manager's preference shares	-	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
	<u>\$237,635,329</u>	<u>10,650,889</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>248,296,218</u>	<u>247,055,409</u>

There has been no change in the Company's exposure to liquidity risk or the manner in which it measures and manages risk.

### (c) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices, such as interest rate, equity prices, foreign exchange rates and credit spreads will affect the Company's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments. The objective of market risk management is to manage and control market risk exposures within acceptable parameters, while optimizing the returns for the given level of risk accepted.

The market risks relevant to the Company and the manner in which it measures and manages them are as follows:

#### (i) Interest rate risk

The following table summarises the carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities to arrive at the Company's interest rate sensitivity gap, based on the earlier of contractual repricing and maturity dates:

	2015				
	Within 3 months	Over 12 months	No specific maturity	Non-rate sensitive	Total
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	213,152	-	-	-	213,152
Accounts receivable	-	-	-	27,731,676	27,731,676
Investment securities	-	907,825,257	-	-	907,825,257
	<u>213,152</u>	<u>907,825,257</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,731,676</u>	<u>935,770,085</u>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Margin loans payable	214,341,641	-	-	-	214,341,641
Other payables	-	-	-	14,039,600	14,039,600
Due to related company	-	-	-	13,124,190	13,124,190
Manager's preference shares	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
	<u>214,341,641</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>27,163,790</u>	<u>241,515,431</u>
<b>Total interest rate sensitivity gap</b>	<u>\$(214,128,489)</u>	<u>907,825,257</u>	<u>(10,000)</u>	<u>567,886</u>	<u>694,254,654</u>
<b>Cumulative gap</b>	<u>\$(214,128,489)</u>	<u>693,696,768</u>	<u>693,686,768</u>	<u>694,254,654</u>	

## STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
Year ended December 31, 201518. Financial risk management (cont'd)(c) **Market risk (cont'd)**(i) **Interest rate risk (cont'd)**

	2014				
	Within 3 months	Over 12 months	No specific maturity	Non-rate sensitive	Total
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	1,343,020	-	-	-	1,343,020
Accounts receivable	-	-	-	18,963,875	18,963,875
Investment securities	-	766,737,135	-	-	766,737,135
Total assets	<u>1,343,020</u>	<u>766,737,135</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,963,875</u>	<u>787,044,030</u>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Margin loans payable	223,886,387	-	-	-	223,886,387
Other payables	-	-	-	12,508,133	12,508,133
Due to related company	-	-	-	10,650,889	10,650,889
Manager's preference shares	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
	<u>223,886,387</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>23,159,022</u>	<u>247,055,409</u>
<b>Total interest rate sensitivity gap</b>	<u>\$(222,543,367)</u>	<u>766,737,135</u>	<u>(10,000)</u>	<u>(4,195,147)</u>	<u>539,988,621</u>
<b>Cumulative gap</b>	<u>\$(222,543,367)</u>	<u>544,193,768</u>	<u>544,183,768</u>	<u>539,988,621</u>	

**Profile**

At year-end, the interest rate profile of the Company's interest-earning financial instruments, which are contracted at fixed interest rates was as follows:

	2015	2014
<b>Financial assets</b>		
Corporate bonds	600,717,370	473,039,584
Municipal bonds	209,795,708	236,537,551
Credit linked note	37,322,179	-
Unquoted preference shares	<u>59,990,000</u>	<u>57,160,000</u>
	907,825,257	766,737,135
<b>Financial liability</b>		
Margin loans payable	<u>214,341,641</u>	<u>223,886,387</u>
	<u>\$693,483,616</u>	<u>542,850,748</u>

*Fair value sensitivity analysis for fixed-rate instruments*

The following table indicates the sensitivity to interest rate movements at the reporting date, in terms of the effect on the Company's profit and stockholders' equity of a reasonably probable change in interest rates at the reporting date. The analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular, foreign currency rates, remain constant.



## STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
Year ended December 31, 2015

### 18. Financial risk management (cont'd)

#### **(c) Market risk (cont'd)**

##### (i) Interest rate risk (cont'd)

*Fair value sensitivity analysis for fixed-rate instruments (cont'd)*

	<u>2015</u>		<u>2014</u>	
	Effect on <u>profit</u> \$	Effect on <u>equity</u> \$	Effect on <u>profit</u> \$	Effect on <u>equity</u> \$
Change in basis points:				
-50bps	1,071,708	34,214,803	1,119,432	34,704,169
+50bps	<u>(1,071,708)</u>	<u>(31,728,322)</u>	<u>(1,119,432)</u>	<u>(31,991,798)</u>

##### (ii) Foreign currency risk

Foreign currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in foreign exchange rates.

The Company is exposed to foreign currency risk on transactions that it undertakes, or balances denominated, in foreign currencies. The main foreign currencies giving rise to this risk is the United States dollar (US\$). The Company ensures that the risk is kept to an acceptable level by monitoring its foreign currency exposure and, when necessary, adjusting its foreign currency positions in response to fluctuations in exchange rates.

At the reporting date, exposure to foreign currency risk was as follows:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,674	5,290
Accounts receivable	231,136	165,850
Investment securities	<u>7,566,472</u>	<u>6,706,938</u>
	<u>7,799,282</u>	<u>6,878,078</u>
Liabilities:		
Margin loans payable	1,786,478	1,958,418
Other payables	<u>28,814</u>	<u>26,150</u>
	<u>1,815,292</u>	<u>1,984,568</u>
Net foreign currency assets	US\$ <u>5,983,990</u>	<u>4,893,510</u>

## STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
Year ended December 31, 2015

### 18. Financial risk management (cont'd)

#### (c) **Market risk (cont'd)**

##### (ii) Foreign currency risk (cont'd)

###### *Sensitivity to foreign exchange rate movements*

This sensitivity is computed by simulating the effect on profit and equity of a different but reasonably probable rate at the reporting date.

A weakening or strengthening of the Jamaica dollar against the United States dollar at the reporting date would, respectively, increase or decrease profit by the amounts shown in the table below. The analysis assumes that all other variables, in particular, interest rates, remain constant.

		<u>2015</u>	
		<u>% Change in</u>	
		<u>Currency rate</u>	
			<u>Effect on</u>
			<u>profit</u>
			<u>\$'000</u>
			<u>Effect on</u>
			<u>equity</u>
			<u>\$'000</u>
Currency:			
USD	1% Revaluation	( 7,179)	( 7,179)
USD	15% Devaluation	<u>107,693</u>	<u>107,693</u>
		<u>2014</u>	
		<u>% Change in</u>	
		<u>Currency rate</u>	
			<u>Effect on</u>
			<u>profit</u>
			<u>\$'000</u>
			<u>Effect on</u>
			<u>equity</u>
			<u>\$'000</u>
Currency:			
USD	1% Revaluation	( 5,594)	( 5,594)
USD	15% Devaluation	<u>83,914</u>	<u>83,914</u>

There has been no change in the Company's exposure to market risk or the manner in which it measures and manages risk.

### 19. Fair value of financial instruments

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the reporting date.

The Company's accounting policies and disclosures require the measurement of fair values for financial assets and liabilities.

The techniques used to estimate fair values, together with the input used, are described below. The use of assumptions and estimates means that the estimates arrived at may vary significantly different from the actual price of the instrument in an arm's length transaction.

STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)  
Year ended December 31, 2015

19. Fair value of financial instruments (cont'd)

**Basis of valuation**

<u>Financial instrument</u>	<u>Method of estimating fair value</u>
(i) Cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, other payables and due to related company	Considered to approximate their carrying values due to their short-term mature.
(ii) Municipal and corporate bonds	Estimated using bid-prices published by major overseas brokers/dealers.
(iii) Credit linked note	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Obtain price based on the quoted price of the underlying credit default swap which is derived from Bloomberg on the valuation date, plus the valuation of the underlying note.</li><li>• Apply price to estimate fair value.</li></ul>
(iv) Unquoted preference shares	Estimated on the basis of the price of a new issue of identical shares (at par) close to reporting date.

## STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)  
Year ended December 31, 2015

## 19. Fair value of financial instruments (cont'd)

The fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities, together with the carrying amounts and their classifications shown in the statement of financial position, are as follows:

	2015							
	Carrying amount		Fair value					
	Loan and receivables \$	Available for sale \$	Other financial liabilities \$	Total \$	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$
<b>Financial assets measured at fair value</b>								
Corporate bonds	-	600,717,370	-	600,717,370	-	600,717,370	-	600,717,370
Municipal bonds	-	209,795,708	-	209,795,708	-	209,795,708	-	209,795,708
Credit linked note	-	37,322,179	-	37,322,179	-	37,322,179	-	37,322,179
	-	<u>847,835,257</u>	-	<u>847,835,257</u>	-	<u>847,835,257</u>	-	<u>847,835,257</u>
<b>Financial assets not measured at fair value</b>								
Cash and cash equivalents	213,152	-	-	213,152				
Accounts receivable	27,731,676	-	-	27,731,676				
Unquoted preference shares	<u>59,990,000</u>	-	-	<u>59,990,000</u>	-	59,990,000	-	59,990,000
	<u>87,934,828</u>	-	-	<u>87,934,828</u>				
<b>Financial liabilities not measured at fair value</b>								
Margin loans payable	-	-	214,342,641	214,342,641				
Other payables	-	-	14,039,600	14,039,600				
Due to related company	-	-	13,124,190	13,124,190				
Manager's preference shares	-	-	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>				
	-	-	241,516,431	241,516,431				

**STERLING INVESTMENTS LIMITED**

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)  
Year ended December 31, 2015

**19. Fair value of financial instruments (cont'd)**

2014									
Carrying amount					Fair value				
Other									
Loan and receivables		Available for sale	Other financial liabilities	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total	
\$		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Financial assets measured at fair value</b>									
Corporate bonds		473,039,584	-	473,039,584	-	473,039,584	-	473,039,584	
Municipal bonds		236,538,551	-	236,538,551	-	236,538,551	-	236,538,551	
		709,578,135	-	709,578,135	-	709,578,135	-	709,578,135	
<b>Financial assets not measured at fair value</b>									
Cash and cash equivalents		-	-	1,343,020					
Accounts receivable		-	-	18,963,875					
Unquoted preference shares		-	-	57,160,000	-	57,160,000	-	57,160,000	
		-	-	77,466,895					
<b>Financial liabilities not measured at fair value</b>									
Margin loans payable		-	223,886,387	223,886,387					
Other payables		-	12,508,133	12,508,133					
Due to related company		-	10,650,889	10,650,889					
Manager's preference shares		-	10,000	10,000					
		-	247,055,409	247,055,409					

The Company has not disclosed the fair values of financial instruments such as cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, margin loans payable, other payables, due to related company and manager's preference shares, because their carrying amounts are a reasonable approximation of fair values.

No items were transferred from one level to another.