



Net Loans totaled Bs 20,208 million

Total Assets of Mercantil Servicios Financieros registered 15.5% growth at the close of the first quarter of 2009

- *Its main subsidiary Mercantil Banco Universal fulfilled the regulatory minimum percentages established for the managed portfolios in the different sectors of the economy.*

Mercantil Servicios Financieros (Mercantil), a financial services provider of banking, insurance and investment services in Venezuela, announced its first quarter 2009 results. Total Assets registered Bs 48,665 million in Total Assets at March 31, 2009, reflecting a 15.5% year-on-year growth.

Mercantil's Corporate Communications Unit announced an 18.3% year-on-year increase in Total Deposits which reached Bs 37,857 million at March 31, 2009. The Loan Portfolio, Net totaled Bs 20,208 million, compared to Bs 20,683 million at the close of the first quarter of 2008.

The Asset Management business, which includes trust fund, securities brokerage, mutual funds and portfolio management services, amounted to Bs. 10,748 million at March 31, 2009.

The results demonstrate that at the close of the first quarter of 2009 Mercantil achieved Bs 4,197 million in Shareholders' Equity, 15.1% more than during the first quarter of 2008. The company obtained Bs 168 million in income during the same period.

The results obtained by Mercantil's main subsidiaries during the period under review show that Mercantil Banco Universal registered Bs 32,910 million in Total Consolidated Assets, Bs 27,197 million in Deposits and Bs 13,620 million in Total Net Loans. Shareholders' Equity reached Bs 2,698 million.

The information shows that Mercantil Banco Universal fulfills all the regulatory percentages required for the managed loan portfolios for the different sectors of the economy (agriculture, tourism, mortgage, microcredits and manufacturing). In terms of savings deposits Mercantil is Venezuela's leading bank with an 18.3% market share.

The Mercantil Seguros subsidiary registered Bs 1,719 million in Total Assets for the first quarter, a 33.5% year-on-year growth. Net Collected Premiums registered Bs 622 million,

representing 37.5% growth over the same period in 2008 and Shareholders' Equity reached Bs 327 million.

The Total Assets of Mercantil Commercebank and its subsidiaries in the United States reached US\$ 6,175 million in the first quarter. Deposits totaled US\$ 4,874 million compared to US\$ 4,889 million in the first quarter of 2008. The Loan Portfolio, net, reached US\$ 2,914 million and Shareholders' Equity US\$ 441 million.

Lastly, the Great Place to Work Institute included Mercantil Banco Universal and Mercantil Seguros among the best places to work in Venezuela, and the only companies from the country's financial and insurance sector on its list. The survey, which covered national and multinational corporations, takes into account the companies' working environment and the opinion of employees with respect to their human resource management policies and practices. This was the fourth year running that Mercantil Banco Universal has ranked on the GPTW's list of the best companies to work for in Venezuela. The evaluation was undertaken in 2008 and announced in March 2009.

Mercantil is a financial services provider of banking, insurance and investment services in Venezuela that operates in 11 countries in the Americas, Europe and Asia. *Its shares are listed on the Caracas stock exchange and its ADRs are traded over the counter in the United States. Its main subsidiaries are Mercantil Banco Universal, Mercantil Seguros and Mercantil Merinvest in Venezuela; Mercantil Commercebank in the USA and Mercantil Bank (Schweiz) in Switzerland. In April 2009 Forbes Magazine rated Mercantil among the world's 2000 largest companies For further information visit our website at www.bancomercantil.com*

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Mercantil Corporate Communications