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From:

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Sent:

Saturday, October 15, 2011 10:33 AM

To:

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Subject:

Fw: Afghan lawmakers OK funds for Kabul Bank bailout (AP)

From: OpsNewsTicker

Sent: Saturday, October 15, 2011 09:44 AM

To: NEWS-Mahogany

Subject: Afghan lawmakers OK funds for Kabul Bank bailout (AP)

KABUL (AP) - Afghan lawmakers have agreed to reimburse the government for bailing out the Kabul Bank, which nearly collapsed last year.

The lower house on Saturday passed a bill to provide up to \$825 million over the next eight years to recapitalize Afghanistan's central bank.

The bank's troubles began after reports that top bank executives issued more than \$800 million worth of questionable loans to shareholders, Afghan officials and friends.

Finance Minister Omar Zakhilwal says he hopes Saturday's decision will lead the International Monetary Fund to extend Afghanistan a new line of credit.

Afghanistan has been without IMF backing for more than a year, threatening to choke off billions in aid to the country.

Zakhilwal says \$70 million worth of questionable loans has been recovered.

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