

11th July, 2003

BAN ON TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES: STATE BANK CLARIFIES

A report appearing in a section of the press today says that the State Bank has banned the trade union activities. The report is incorrect and misleading.

It is clarified that the State Bank has not put any ban on the trade union activities. In fact, the State Bank has implemented the order of the National Industrial Relations Commission (NIRC), Islamabad, which was passed on 8th July, 2003. The NIRC in its order has declared that the SBP and SBP Banking Services Corporation (Bank) are two separate legal entities and both the organizations are separate establishments and should have separate Collective Bargaining Agents. The NIRC order has also cancelled the registration of the existing industry wise trade unions of the workers of the SBP.

It may be pointed out that the State Bank had maintained excellent and cordial relationship with the outgoing CBA and looks forward to similar relationship when the new trade bodies are registered and elected through elections. The SBP management wishes to place on record its appreciation to the outgoing CBA for its cooperation.

The State Bank of Pakistan expects that the new trade unions will be formed soon and registered in compliance with the orders of the NIRC. Referendums will be held as specified under the law to elect the Collective Bargaining Agents. These newly elected CBAs will be the recognized trade unions which will enjoy all the privileges laid down in the Industrial Relations Ordinance.