

Directors' Responsibility for Financial Reporting

The responsibility of the Directors, in relation to the Financial Statements, is set out in the following statement. The responsibility of the Auditors, in relation to the Financial Statements, is set out in the Report of the Auditors on page 75 of the Report.

The Companies Act No. 7 of 2007, requires that the Directors prepare for each financial year and place before a General Meeting, Financial Statements comprising an Income Statement, which presents a true and fair view of the profit or loss of the Bank and its subsidiaries for the financial year and a Balance Sheet, which presents a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Bank and its subsidiaries as at the end of the financial year.

The Directors are of the view that, in preparing these Financial Statements:

- i. the appropriate Accounting Policies have been selected and have been applied consistently. Material departures, if any, have been disclosed and explained;
- ii. all applicable Accounting Standards have been followed;
- iii. judgments and estimates have been made which are reasonable and prudent.

The Directors are also of the view that the Bank and its subsidiaries have adequate resources to continue in operation and have applied the going-concern basis in preparing these Financial Statements. Mercantile Leasing (Financial Services) Limited continued to scale down its operating leases business and it is likely that the Company will be wound up during the year 2009.

The Directors are responsible for ensuring that the Bank and its subsidiaries maintain sufficient accounting records to be able to disclose, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the entities and to be able to ensure that the Financial Statements of the Bank and its subsidiaries meet with the requirements of the Companies Act, the Banking Act and the Listing Rules of the Colombo Stock Exchange.

The Directors are also responsible for taking reasonable steps to safeguard the assets of the Bank and its subsidiaries and, in this regard, to give proper consideration to the establishment of appropriate internal control systems, with a view to preventing and for the detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Directors are required to prepare Financial Statements and to provide the Auditors with every opportunity to take whatever steps and undertake whatever inspections they consider to be appropriate, for the purpose of enabling them to give their audit report.

The Directors are of the view that they have discharged their responsibilities as set out in this statement.