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Confident of getting non-withdrawal guarantee from depositors

Pramuka staff submits fresh proposal to CB

The Pramuka Bank Employees Union and the Stakeholders Association on Wednesday submitted a fresh proposal to the Central Bank in a bid to re-open the specialized bank.

The proposal has assured Central Bank that guarantees would be obtained from majority of customers that their deposits would not be withdrawn in the event of a re-opening.

Head of the Union Sunimal Dabarera told the Daily Mirror FT that a proposal was submitted on Thursday following a meeting on Wednesday. He said that they had found an investor who had expressed willingness to deposit Rs. 500 million in Pramuka provided it is re-opened under a more sound and responsible management and effective supervision.

"So far we have got guarantees from depositors who hold around Rs. 500 million and we are in the process of targeting others and make the to-



Pramuka depositors protest outside the Bank yesterday with placards urging President and Premier to intervene in to the matter. Pic by Manoj Ratnayake.

tal to around Rs. 1.5 billion. We are doing this to safeguard the interest of both the depositors and the employees as we are confident that Pramuka could resume operations and grow under a new Board and greater Central Bank supervision instead of a no-win liquidation," he said.

He said that the balance depositors are state agencies while the Rs. 1.5 billion earmarked covers the average public. Pramuka

has also raised nearly Rs. 900 million through debentures, holders of which are at the bottom of the priority list in a liquidation.

The stakeholders and depositors of Pramuka held yet another protest outside the Bank premises and there were placards urging President and Premier to intervene in to the matter. Mr. Dabarera said that resumption of Pramuka would ensure that all liabilities would be in the long term whilst se-

curing the employment of the staff. "If the Central Bank can spend more time in speaking and getting assurance from the depositors rather than working on the liquidation our efforts would be greater success," he added.

The Pramuka debacle continues to cause growing concern among the public as well as the financial services industry as the Central Bank is yet to make public its detail findings through a press conference.