

ALL INDIA BANK OFFICERS' CONFEDERATION

(Registered under the Trade Unions Act 1926, Registration No.:3427/Delhi)

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CIRCULAR No. 2014/31

DATE: 28/03/2014

TO ALL AFFILIATES/MEMBERS

Dear Comrades,

OPENING OF BANK BRANCHES ON SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS & EXTENDED WORKING HOURS ON SATURDAYS

Members are aware that soon after we came to know that Banks have been asked to work for extended hours till midnight not only on Saturday 29th and Monday 31st but also on Sunday, the 30th March, 2014, through Press Releases, Mass Media and Management to facilitate collection of taxes, we came into action. Please refer to our communication ref no. GS/2014/IBA/13 dated 20th March, 2014. We are happy that other three Officers' Organisations were with us and joint communications were sent on 24th March and 26th March, 2014, conveying our protests to IBA/Government of India/RBI, citing the infringement of our rights, the cost implications and undue favour to tax payers despite their procrastination. The cost factor was of utmost importance in view of the statement being given by the Finance Minister, which unjustifiably linked profitability to our due rights of wage negotiation. The communication was followed up passionately through personal and telephonic communications, with the IBA/Government Authorities.

We are happy that our collective efforts yielded results and RBI came out with a communication ref no. RBI/2013-14/535 Dt. 26/03/2014, which advised to keep "designated branches conducting government business open for extended hours till **8.00 pm** only on Saturday, March 29 and Monday, March 31, 2014 at locations where March 31, 2014 has not been declared as a public holiday". It further advised that "on Sunday, March 30, 2014 and on Monday, March 31, 2014 (at places where holiday has been declared) banks may keep **select branches** open as a regular working day for transacting government business at key location identified by them, **based on volume of transactions.**" For the sake of clarity, we wish to advise that only electronic transactions will be permitted till midnight on March 31, 2014 and bank branches are not required to be kept open for this purpose.

In view of this development and after due consultation with many senior leaders of various affiliates of Confederation and others Officers' Organizations, a consensus has

been reached not to resort to call of boycott. While reaching at this consensus, the issues taken into consideration were as follows:

- Compassionate consideration by IBA/Government/RBI of our concerns raised in the above referred communications.
- This tax collection exercise is for annual closing of Government accounts, having major financial repercussions and in the wider interests of the nation. Boycotting the same would have wider ramifications in the form of losing public sympathy and earning their displeasure.
- Another important factor was non willingness of Award staff unions to boycott the instructions and this would have jeopardized the success of our boycotting initiative.
- We also had to keep in mind that new Secretary, DFS (MOF), Sh. Gurdial Singh Sandhu is taking over charge and need to be given justifiable time and opportunity to review the situation for taking a judicious decision to our concerns.

We are sending another communication to IBA regarding our decision to keep select branches open for extended working hours/ on holidays, under protest while demanding a reasonable compensation for the same for the officers' community as well. Meanwhile, we urge upon all our affiliates to put up their demand for monetary compensation to their respective Bank Managements.

We appreciate the concern and support extended by all our affiliates in an urge to fight out the menace of exploitative instructions of calling bank officers to work for extended hours/working on holidays. We would like to advise that though the decision taken for not boycotting may be uncomfortable, but appears appropriate in the light of aforesaid circumstances, in the present scenario. We, however, assure all our members that our struggle would remain relentless till we achieve our rightful and just demands.

With revolutionary greetings,

Comradely yours,



(HARVINDER SINGH)
GENERAL SECRETARY