

ALL INDIA BANK OFFICERS' CONFEDERATION



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Circular No. 2018/59

Date: 21.08.2018

To All Affiliates (Please Circulate)

Dear Comrades,

STAND BY KERALA

Kerala, the God's own country is facing a crisis of unprecedented nature. From the last fortnight, we have all seen stories pouring out from the southernmost part of our country, stories which have rendered us heartbroken and sad beyond words. The heavy rains and subsequent floods that have engulfed the majority of the state have led to flooding of dams and wiping away villages leaving death and destruction in its wake. Rescuers, the people who took risk of their lives to lend a helping hand came back with reports of inundated households, many with trapped bodies of women and children inside who unwillingly succumbed their lives to the fury of nature.

The worst floods the state has seen in decades cost around 357 lives thus far and destroyed 26000 homes, bearing losses to the tune of approxRs 20000 crores. Thousands of people are still feared marooned awaiting rescue and relief including the aged and infirm. The loss of human lives and property cannot be compensated. In 3270 rescue camps around 10.28 lakh people are staying of which 1 lakh are kids below the age of 12.

There is little to hope for while standing amidst the din of such major catastrophe. But while we bear the pain and suffering of the affected in our hearts, we also take solace and courage from the outstanding work which is being done by various organisations who have exemplified selfless service in these moments of grand crisis. Humanity in its finest form has been displayed time and again in these few weeks. There are no words to adequately convey our appreciation to the fishermen community who willingly took up the challenge of rescuing the affected, risking their life and livelihood. The Indian Army and other central forces has jumped in with all their might and are providing invaluable service by extracting stranded people from inundated areas. State Government, Central Government, various aid organisations, prominent public figures have all extended their helping hands. Camps are being set up, food and medicines are being distributed, relief measures to the last mile are being undertaken. Every effort is being made to bring back normalcy in the lives of the people in this beautiful land. A worried nation with a heavy heart is praying morning and night for safety of their brothers and sisters in these sombre times.

Last but not least, to the credit of our AIBOC Kerala State Committee, true to its tradition and legacy, are in the forefront, extending help, not only to our membership but also to the length and breadth of the state where the poor and needy are being relieved of their agony. I really feel privileged to have such a vibrant and active unit, and whole heartedly extend revolutionary greetings for their gallant and kind gestures. In these desperate times, AIBOC Kerala has shown again that they do not carry their flag lightly on their shoulders. The people for whom they stand, they stand all the way. And they will serve them. A flood may break their home, may take their sleep but will never break their resolve.

Now Kerala has got some respite from rain but is facing the huge task of rehabilitation. With livestock dead and decaying, dead bodies of human beings floating in flooded water, the chances of epidemics and disease outbreaks are at its heights.

Yes comrades, Kerala is calling..., the time has now come to undertake the reconstruction work, with a huge task of reaching the poor and needy. Though we are limited by our means and resources, the

time has come to extend the hand of help to the citizenry of Kerala and supplement the good work that is happening there. However, small the help may be, that little help can bring an iota of comfort to the tear stained cheeks of a little child who has been pained beyond imagination. It need not be a large gesture but it will matter to people who are surviving on prayer and kindness. AIBOC, being the apex organisation of Bank Officers, when our own membership are also suffering along with lakhs of citizenry in a fully devastated state solemnly promises to rise to the occasion and do whatever little things we could with great love and passion.

AIBOC has decided to contribute an amount of Rs.5.00 lakh initially for the relief and reconstruction work. I am fully aware that many of the affiliates have already extended help to the flood relief work in Kerala. But the task is onerous and colossal and destruction is severe. It is time to augment our efforts to wipe the tears of distressed.

In this backdrop, I am appealing to the entire membership along the length and breadth of the country, and all our affiliates to organise the task of mobilising resources for flood relief and reconstruction work in Kerala with utmost priority. AIBOC with its own limited resources have always been in the forefront at the time of any natural calamities. This is an hour when we should redeem our commitment to the society once again by standing with the people in the State of Kerala.

I am confident that the entire membership and affiliates will rise to the occasion and respond to this organisational call "**Rebuild Kerala**".

#standbykerala

#letstogetherrebuildkerala

With Revolutionary greetings,



Soumya Datta
(General Secretary)