



Association of Officers of UCO Bank
(Registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926)
Affiliated to All India Federation of UCO Bank Officers (AIFUCBO)
An Affiliate of All India Bank Officers Association (AIBOA)

Circular No. 115/2018-21

April 14th, 2020

TO ALL THE MEMBERS

Ref: COVID-19 and UCOites

We reproduce hereunder the full text of letter no. AIBOA/MD/2019-20/62 dated April 13th, 2020 issued by Com. Mahesh Gupta, General Secretary, All India Federation of UCO Bank Officers addressed to The Managing Director & CEO on the captioned subject for information of all concerned.

Comradely Yours,

Yours truly,

Ajoy Kumar Mondal
General Secretary

Quote

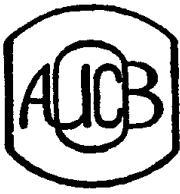
The Managing Director & CEO
UCO BANK

Respected Sir,

Re: COVID-19 and UCOites

We all are aware of this deadliest virus so far seen on this Earth planet. It has already penetrated almost all the countries in the world. Till date there is no medicine or vaccine to fight this menace. As per W.H.O. and other medical experts only Total Lockdown and keeping Social Distance are the only preventive measures available for the time being.

As per Govt. of India Banking too has been declared an essential service besides few others. However, employees working in Bank branches where they are to serve large number of customers coming from different strata of life, have great risk of coming into contact with any carrier of Corona virus. Sir, we are very thankful to you for considering safety of employees your top priority over business. We also appreciate that Bank has taken many positive steps towards this by allowing, branches to work with minimal staff. Besides work from home facility too has been provided to staff and physically handicapped staff dependent on some other person to reach the



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branch, have been given total exemption from attending duties. We also appreciate that staff has been advised to use face masks and sanitizer in the branch. However, we have large number of branches in rural and far flung areas. These face masks or sanitizers are not available there in local market. Also these branches are heavily understaffed being run by 1 or 2 staff. Hence, neither they are in a position to come on alternate days nor the basic preventive things like mask and sanitizers are available to them.

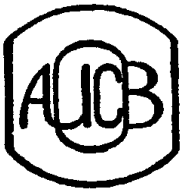
So our first request to you is to procure these basic necessities at Zonal Office level and arrange for its delivery at their doorstep. Sir, though we have lauded efforts of Corporate Office but we are pained to bring it to your kind notice that many of the Executives at Zonal Office level have lost all human values. Even in this global crisis where everyone fears for his life, they consider themselves as immortal. Their acts are so condemnable that we feel ashamed. Bankers are at present on National duty. They are attending Bank despite apprehensions of their family members who for the fear of their safety are dissuading them to go to Bank. Skelton Staff working in branches are under constant fear of being infected by Corona. But still without considering their working conditions and present psychology pressurising them to complete all pending work like E-KYC, inspection reports, recovery in NPA/SGNPA accounts etc. They are even threatening them of disciplinary actions for not obeying their instructions. We are receiving information that in many departments in Head Office too "work from home" concept is not being implemented. Sir, we request you to see that Head Office staff is not deprived of this facility.

Sir, we recall our meeting with you when you asked us to give our optimum in **2020**, so that our Bank comes out of PCA with Net Profit. We hope to hear this long awaited news from you very soon.

Sir, as you are aware that many Banks have already given many incentives to their staff for attending Office by risking their lives, we also seek your kind attention to examine the same for our Staff. We thank you for granting one such incentive in the shape of one month's salary as interest free advance. We request you to sanction an amount of Rs.1000/- per month towards PPE like face masks and sanitizer for themselves as well as their family members who too run the risk of being affected due to attending Office by employees.

Sir, in this fearful situation the most sought after issue is of **Enhanced Suitable Insurance cover to staff**. Govt. of India, State Govts, PSUs and other authorities have given additional insurance cover of Rs.50 lakh to their staff in the event of loss of their life by fighting Corona virus. We Bankers who too are warriors of this deadliest virus but feeling singled out of this most essential cover. We, therefore, request you to make all out efforts and use all the resources available at your end to grant this insurance cover till such period this threat perception exists. Sir, as stated above that many Banks have given incentives to their staff for attending Office and have sanctioned one day salary to every staff member who attend Office for six days, we too request that same facility be extended to our Staff also.

In the last we request you that in the present era when interest rates have come down quite low, a thorough examination be made on interest charged on different Staff loans and necessary corrections compatible with repo rate be made at the earliest so that Staff gets significant relief in interest component.



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We are very optimistic that a leader like you having compassion and highest regard for its workforce with the thought that "**Our first customer is our staff**", will definitely act on our various requests as made in this letter.

Regards,

(Mahesh Gupta)
GENERAL SECRETARY

Unquote