

2nd April 2020

Dr. M. Beena I.A.S.
Chairperson
Cochin Port Trust
Willingdon Island
Cochin

Respected Ma'am

Request for Waiver of Lease Rent at the Cochin Port

I write on behalf of our member leaseholders on the Willingdon Island. At a time when the Corona virus pandemic has seriously affected the day to day life of all concerned and has totally disrupted business, not only here but across the world the prospects for the revival of normal business as before seems to be a distant dream. Our member establishments who are in one way or the other connected to the Cochin Port and its related activities have totally shut down on account of the nationwide lockdown and face a very uncertain future.

As you are aware, all the establishments have remained closed since the 23rd of March due to the lock down declared by the Government. Operations were disrupted three weeks before on account of the restraints imposed by the State Government even before the complete lockdown and most of the establishments were not fully functioning from then onwards. This has affected businesses adversely and the financial loss that will come about on account of this remains to be seen. Our member companies who include the Port's Leaseholders face very difficult days ahead trying to find ways to keep their business afloat while at the same time retaining and supporting their employees as directed by the Government during this crucial period.

Taking into account all of the above, we make this appeal to you to kindly consider total waiver of the payment of Lease Rent that is due for the four months period from 1st March 2020 till at least 30th June 2020.

Your timely intervention in this regard will be of immense support to the lease holders in the Cochin Port and provide a much needed relief to the business establishments here.

In this connection, we bring to your kind attention that the Government of Kerala, Industries Department has decided to exempt MSME's from the payment of rent for three months vide Orders - INDUSTRIES (B) DEPARTMENT G.O.(Rt)No.276/2020ID dated,30/03/2020.

I hope you will consider this request favourably and oblige given the unprecedented crisis that we are faced with.

Thanking you in advance,

Yours sincerely,

V.Venugopal
President