

# **The Free Trade Zone Manufacturers Association**

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General Circular: To All Members

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Subject: Business continuation of export-oriented manufacturing enterprises considering COVID19 out break**

Further to our circular dated 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the chairman and the executive committee have contacted the Chairman BOI after a couple of emergency meetings with the Executive Director Zones and Director Zone KEPZ taking in to consideration the inquires made by many of the member enterprises with regard to the business continuation, the loss of business and payment of wages plus other related issues due to the period of work from home declared by the government with effect from 20<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> March.

As a result of this, the Chairman BOI has consulted the Presidential secretariat and Mr P B Jayasundera has issued a communique last evening.

Accordingly, all the export-oriented manufacturing organizations can work during this period with necessary safety precaution to ensure the safety of the employees. Further it is assured that the relevant government agencies specifically the BOI will continue to provide all services even with a skeleton staff.

However, we find that many organizations are facing difficulties in their cargo movements on air freight (exports and imports) and courier where we are currently attending to the issue in providing a remedy.

About leave and salary considerations as a result of the holidays, the Commissioner general of Labour will be issuing a directive at later date when the dust settled. We will issue further communiques regarding any future developments on this issue and will advise accordingly.

Thank you

**Dhammika Fernando**

Hon General Secretary

Attached: the original letter form the Secretary to the President (FTZMA water marked) / Sinhala translation of the same.