



भारत सरकार **GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**
वित्त मंत्रालय **MINISTRY OF FINANCE**
राजस्व विभाग **DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**

सीमा शुल्क आयुक्त का कार्यालय
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS

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In the fight against devastation and gravest humanitarian crisis faced by people of state, Customs formations in Kerala stand besides the Government of Kerala. Some of the steps taken in this direction are enumerated below:

A. Enabling steps for clearance of relief materials:

- a. The Honourable Chief Minister of Kerala has addressed a letter to the Union Finance Minister requesting for issue of an exemption for duty free import of relief material from abroad. It has been reported that many rulers especially in Middle East have publicly appealed and extending help to flood victims of Kerala.
- b. Public Notice No. 29/2018 by this office and Public Notice No. 10/2018 by the Chief Commissioner, Central Tax, Central Excise and Customs, Kerala Zone have been issued. These notices will enable faster and smooth clearance of relief materials received. Specific Duty Exemption Notification proposal has also been forwarded to CBIC by the Chief Commissioner.
- c. Two inflatable boats, which were airlifted from the UAE have already been cleared immediately by the Thiruvananthapuram Air Cargo based on the undertaking of the State Government.
- d. CBIC has been requested to press Customs CAT-I boats stationed at Mangalore to be pressed into service for movement of relief material. Nearby

International Airports like Coibatore and Madurai have also been asked to be ready for immediate clearance of relief materials.

- e. Nodal officer has been asked to identify areas and small/medium projects that can be taken up for medium or long-term measures such as safe drinking water, clean up of hospitals/schools/villages under Swachhta Action Plan.

B. Rescue and Relief measures:

- a) The formation has deployed teams of staff members in flood rescue and relief operation and Shri V. A. Moideen Naina, Asst. Commissioner has been nominated as nodal officer, who is coordinating the rescue/ relief efforts by our staff. The nodal officer has firsthand knowledge of topography and is also coordinating with district administration to maximise the impact of our efforts.
- b) In face of inundation of Cochin International Airport, our officers led by Shri Roy Varghese, Asst. Commissioner ensured protection of government documents and other properties. In the process they got trapped in the airport for more than 48 hrs and another team of Customs had to reach there to evacuate.
- c) From the day one of the flood, our lighter marine assets were deployed for rescue/ relief operations. Once it became unviable to ply our boats, which are heavier and not suitable for non-uniform shallow water, a Dinghy was taken from Lakshadweep Administration and rescue operation was continued. High Engine trucks were also hired for carrying out relief and rescue work.
- d) Officers have mobilised monetary and human resources and large number of relief camps were assisted with man and material.
- e) Officers are also engaged in post flood cleaning work of flood affected homes of staff members.

Sumit Kumar
20/08/18

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(सुमित कुमार, भा. रा. से. SUMIT KUMAR, IRS)

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