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ALL THE MEMBERS:

Dear Comrades,

We reproduce hereunder the CIRCULAR NO. 27/79/2014/35, dated: 9th October, 2014, issued by our National Organization – AIBEA for information.

With Greetings,

Yours Comradely,

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**(JAGDISH M BHAVTHANKAR)
GENERAL SECRETARY**

Dear Comrades,

Clarion call from *WFTU*

International Action Day against UNEMPLOYMENT

The foremost and premier global trade union, the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) has been celebrating its Founding Day i.e. 3rd October every year by observing Global Action Day highlighting the various vital issues confronting the working class and trade union movement as a part of its campaign and struggle against exploitation and for a better world and equitable society which we deserve.

Having been founded on 3rd October, 1945, this year, 3rd October, 2014 marked the **70th Founding Day of WFTU**. To mark this special occasion, WFTU has called upon all its units all over the world to observe the day highlighting the issue of unemployment. (Since 3rd October was a holiday in most of the States in our country followed by various other festival holidays, we will observe the programme during middle of October, 2014).

Why we need to fight unemployment: Unemployment is not just the problem of the unemployed youth but a matter of serious concern for the trade union movement at large. As all of us know, unemployment is a concomitant byproduct of capitalism and arises out of the extreme greed for profit making. Unemployment is a deliberate creation of the capitalists with a view to exploit the workers and force them with lower wages counter-posing the desperate willingness of the unemployed persons to accept still lesser wage. Unemployment breeds and leads to issues like contractual jobs, temporary jobs, casual jobs, depressed wages, absence of job security, etc. as against regular jobs with fair wages, job permanency, etc. Hence we have to fight against unemployment.

Unemployment – not a problem of the unemployed alone: Unemployment today is the biggest and most dangerous problem for the international working class in the whole capitalist world. Millions and millions are unemployed, and are condemned to poverty, who are deprived from even basic livelihood, millions are working as slaves in the unregistered labour, in part-

time work, in sub-contracted work under squalid working and paying conditions. Every family has unemployed members. This makes it a general problem.

Unemployment – a tool to exploit: The capitalists, the corporates, the monopolists, the employers, and their Governments take advantage of this problem in favor of their interests. They reduce the salaries, and they cut down the social subsidies. They propose a development in favor of monopolies where workers have no rights, paid poor salaries, no stable working hours, no social security, etc. Hence the WFTU feels that the struggle against unemployment is equally the task for the working class and all the trade union organisations. Only class-oriented struggles can create a way out from the current situation in favor of the unemployed. The working class in alliance with the poor peasantry, the self-employed, the indigenous sections of the affected people and the progressive intelligentsia must demand proper solution to this problem.

Fight unemployment – globally and locally: Unemployed people are there in large numbers in every continent - in Asia, in South and North America, in Europe, in Africa, in Middle East, and in Australia. Unemployment is an inherent characteristic of capitalism; it is part of its DNA. Today, as a result of the international capitalist crisis, the percentage of unemployment has increased in all countries. Hence this International Action Day to demand right to work, right to dignified work and to demand immediate measures of protection for the unemployed.

How many are unemployed : According to ILO, more than 200 million people are officially unemployed worldwide, including nearly 80 million young women and men eager to secure their first job, but this is only the tip of the iceberg. The number of workers in vulnerable employment – 1.5 billion (around half of the world's labour force) – and persons working but surviving on less than US \$ 2.00 per day – 1.2 billion – is on the rise again. According to the ILO report, 6% of the total global workforce is unemployed. And, we must keep in mind that the definition of the ILO excludes a large number of unemployed or people who are deprived of a living wage. For example those who work even one hour per day as per the data collection, the seasonal workers, the workers in family businesses who are not getting paid, those who participate in vocational training programs or are working in internship and are not receiving a living income, those who have stopped registering as work-seekers since they have lost hope because of longtime unemployment, former peasants who have recently lost their land and are seeking for employment. etc. are not included as unemployed.

Why does unemployment exist ? Unemployment is an inherent characteristic of the capitalist mode of production. The capitalist production is organised with profits as its only and exclusive goal and not for the needs of the people. Unemployment is useful to the capital. It is utilised to preserve the fear of dismissal and to blackmail the working class into lowering its standards and demands in the negotiation for the selling price of its labour force.

Also, in the name of unemployment, labour and trade union rights are being violated and abolished, the 8-hour working day is violated, flexible working conditions are promoted, contract work is implemented on monthly, weekly and per day basis. Sub-contractual work is legalised as a modern-day slavery system. Furthermore, unemployment is necessary in capitalism as the unemployed reserves are an inexhaustible source of labour force available for all possible choices of capitalist investment.

Why does unemployment increase rapidly ? In conditions of international capitalist crisis, the percentage of profit the capitalists expect from their investments is less than in normal period of development. This is one of the basic reasons why companies are being merged or acquired, investments are stopped or moved, there is a general re-arrangement, concentration

and centralisation of the production in the framework of the competition e.g. transfer of investments to other countries with cheaper labour force or change of field of investment. Many middle-size or larger companies close down. In general, a destruction of the productive forces takes place heavily affecting the greatest productive force: the working class. Millions of wage-earners are pushed to unemployment by the closing down of companies or the application of reforms in public sector. More are affected by anti-labour policies, salary-cuts and pension-cuts, by the attack in labour and social rights.

Can unemployment be eliminated ? Definitely ! This must be the goal of the world working class struggle, that is to eradicate unemployment and abolish exploitation of man by man. We deserve a society where all the people will have a job and dignified living, healthcare conditions and human development on all levels to ensure a humane society. For this we need to fight constantly, continuously and continually. At a time when the contemporary social needs of the masses are expanding, it is a tragedy and irony that millions of labour hands remain unused in unemployment. The satisfaction of all the contemporary needs of the people would provide substantial employment avenue. The stopping of privatisation also would generate employment opportunities.

Fight for an exploitation-free society: This is why, along with the struggle for the survival of the unemployed, along with the struggle against the policies that generate and increase unemployment, it is necessary that trade unions have to fight against the economic system that breeds unemployment. That is why WFTU underlines that with the abolition of the capitalist barbarity and the exploitation of human by human, with the formation of a society where the people's needs and not the profit will be the central objective of the policymaking process, the unemployment will be a distant memory.

Fight against the current model of development and growth : The current growth model that has evolved since the early 1990s in the name of globalisation and liberalisation has become economically inefficient, socially unstable, environmentally damaging and politically unsustainable. It is jobless growth. Profit greed is the basis and people's welfare is the casualty. It no longer commands legitimacy. It has worsened the lives of the workers and common masses. Unemployment is a pet child of this model of development. Let us resolve to fight against this social menace.

With greetings,

Yours Comradely,



**C.H. VENKATACHALAM
GENERAL SECRETARY**

PROGRAMME : We call upon all our State Federations to observe the Day on a any convenient day between 15th to 30th of this month by holding hall meeting or by holding mass demonstration in all the States. Please send us report and photo of the programme.

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