Muscat Bakery's response received 10th June 2020 re allegations of unpaid wages, and subsequent lack of access to food, medicines and shelter

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited Muscat Bakery to respond to the following item:

• Undocumented Indians Stranded in the Gulf due to Overstaying Fine

Sir,

We are in receipt of your email and thank you for giving us opportunity to hear from us. We very well acknowledge the fact that few of our employees to a count of 40 pax are left without their pay for the past 2-3 months.

We Muscat Bakery Markets LLC, were the largest bakery chain in Muscat with 40 branches all over Oman equipped with most modern factories and 100 catering vehicles all over. However, the last 3 years the previous management made drastic steps towards expanding the business in to chocolate factories and other projects with huge investments without much results and even some factories were left without opening. This led to huge debts with banks, other financial institutions and in the market, which led to operations glitches in the company. However, the company strived its best to keep the employees paid every month, but eventually due delay in the paying salaries led the so-called employees stop from working which ultimately led low production and sales. Adding to this the Covid-19 pandemic medical emergency led the company to a complete stand still. The employees who had projected themselves to not having access to food and medicines are utter false. As the management themselves and several other bodies have provided them enough food supplies during the last few months for survival. Of course, the unavailability of flights have led them to be stranded without a choice but to stay in the country.

Meanwhile, we were trying our best to involve new investors who can invest by being the stake holders of the company. Now we hope that from 1st June 2020 onwards a new stake holder will be joining the board of directors of the company and the present financial issues will be solved to an extent. Till then we have seeked cooperation from all employees to stay with us. Few of the employees who never understand the situation has invited media attention and had given false news about the situation.

We hope the situation will be better in the coming days and look forward for a bright future for this company and its employees.

Thanking you

For Muscat Bakery Markets LLC

Management