

Banorte implements emergency plan for Wilma and Stan victims

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Mexico City, October 26, 2005.- On Wednesday, Grupo Financiero Banorte announced its emergency aid plan for Banorte customers affected by hurricanes Stan and Wilma in communities located in the states of Quintana Roo and Chiapas.

The plans includes several components geared to help Banorte customers face the difficult circumstances in communities such as Tapachula, Cancún, Playa del Carmen, Puerto Morelos, Cozumel and Isla Mujeres. As of today, those customers will be able to make the most of several support mechanisms offered by the bank for payment of its loans.

Banorte's objective is to provide its customers who are up-to-date on their loans greater availability of cash, thus enabling them to earmark all of their resources for their most pressing expenses without having to worry about making their payments to Banorte until February 2006.

The emergency plan includes all Banorte customers, both individuals and corporate persons located in the six communities hardest hit by the hurricanes, by way of offering differentiated means of support such as the following:

HOUSING MORTGAGE LOANS.- In view of the importance of family assets, Banorte will pay in full the next three monthly installments on its loans granted in the above mentioned communities, thus completely relieving its customers of that responsibility during said period of time.

INDIVIDUALS.- Credit card, Car, Payroll and Consumer loan holders will not have to make their November and December 2005 and January 2006 monthly payments now. The latter monthly installment can be made at the end of their loan period with no penalty interest or late payment penalties.

In the specific case of credit card holders, the minimum payment for the next three months will not be required of cardholders. Normal payments will resume in February 2006.

CORPORATE PERSONS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO CARRY OUT BUSINESS ACTIVITIES:

In view of the importance of micro-entrepreneurs to the economy and their sheer numbers in the region, any micro-entrepreneur who has a current loan with the non-bank bank PRONEGOCIO will be similarly favored by the mortgage loan 3-month installment cancellation. Consequently, BANORTE will make the monthly installment payments until January 2006, releasing those borrowers of that financial burden.

During the three months of the program, small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) that have loans from Ps70,000 to Ps11 million with Banorte will enjoy "zero minimum payment", as well as monthly payments deferred until the end of the life of their loan without charging any type of penalty interest.

For large companies, and particularly those in the area's tourism sector, Banorte will place at the disposal of such companies an expeditious cash flow needs analysis service aimed at alleviating any bottlenecks that the companies could face over upcoming months. In addition and regardless of size, the bank will offer all companies new or additional loans, in which the bank commits to providing speedy service to find the best solution to the customer's needs, all within the customer's payment capacity, thus enabling their properties to be re-built or repaired.

Customers insured with Banorte will obtain the benefit of quick payment on their insurance policies, thus also making it possible for them to begin reconstruction work as soon as feasible. Likewise people insured with other insurance companies who would like to speed up their claims process, will be able to obtain leverage with Banorte for up to 60% of the amount of the claim submitted to the other insurance company, thus enabling them to rapidly begin reconstruction.

The foregoing emergency aid plan will assist 12,000 Banorte customers in the area, whose loan portfolio presently amounts to Ps1.9 billion.