



དཔལ་ལྷན་འབྲུག་གཞུང་།  
ལྷན་ཁྲུས་གཞུང་ཚོགས་ཡིག་ཚང་།

**ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN**  
Cabinet Secretariat  
Tashichho Dzong

**Cabinet Secretary**

C-3/141/2023/1612

April 24, 2023

Tashi Wangmo  
Secretary  
Ministry of Industry Commerce and Employment  
Thimphu

**Subject: Approval to allow Hotels below 3 star rating for Tourist Accomodation.**

Dear *Tashi*,

I am pleased to convey the following directives pertaining to the proposal to allow non-star hotels to cater to tourists subject to the fulfillment of minimum standards.

1. Allow the non star hotels that have already been assessed and certified under Phase I and Phase II assessment exercise to cater to tourists.
2. Extend the existing **star rating system** of hotel classification with inclusion of one star and two star categories to include the hotels below 3 star rating that are assessed and certified for catering to tourists. The "Blue Poppy" category shall be used for special "Homestays" that meet a defined set of criteria which, among others, shall include heritage value of the property, quality of the services provided, etc ( not including modern amenities ) that befit the brand value of our national flower. The Department of Tourism shall develop the defined set of criteria for "Blue Poppy" Homestays.
3. The Department of Tourism, MoICE to coordinate assessment of the remaining hotels that have not been assessed during phase I and II assessment exercise. While the coordination and supervision of the assessment shall be carried out by the Department of Tourism, the actual assessment of hotels shall be carried out by respective Dzongkhags.

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## Cabinet Secretary

4. For places that currently do not have one star and above hotels certified to cater to tourists, existing hotels in such places/localities shall be allowed to cater to tourists on a time bound provisional basis. However, these hotels must undergo a reassessment within a specified period, which shall be determined by the Department of Tourism.
5. The Department of Tourism shall ensure that all relevant rules and regulations affected by the above LZ directives are revised accordingly.
6. Any notifications that the Ministry/Department may issue in relation to the above directives shall be shared with the Cabinet Secretariat before the notifications are made public.

This has reference to the 141st Session of the Third Lhengye Zhungtshog held on April 11, 2023.

With warm regards,

  
(Kesang Deki)

### Copy to:

1. Dasho *Zimpon*, Office of the Gyalpoi *Zimpon*, *Tashichhoedzong*, Thimphu
2. PS to Hon'ble Prime Minister, *Gyaljong Tshokhang*, Thimphu.
3. Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Industry Commerce and Employment, Thimphu.