



# PAKISTAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION

(REGISTERED WITH THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN)

Ref: PHA/113/2020

March 25, 2020,

The Prime Minister of Pakistan  
Prime Minister Office  
Islamabad

**Honorable Prime Minister,**

Sub : **Appeal for Bailout for the survival of the Hotel Industry of Pakistan**

We welcome the relief package announced by the honourable Prime Minister of Pakistan amid the coronavirus outbreak. We believe it will help the industry in fending off some of the impacts of this deadly pandemic on the business and industry as well as on the common man.

We want to invite the attention of the honourable Prime Minister towards the apathy of the Hotel Industry, which is one of the "direct" affectees of the economic disaster brought upon by the deadly virus and the unfolding situation. Not only the hotels have fallen empty, all kinds of activities including food business, meetings & conferences, and other banquet events have all dried up leaving the hotels without any resources to pay salaries to their staff and other expenses.

This has brought the industry on the verge of collapse and since the impact on the hotel industry will go beyond the recovery from this pandemic, it is all but certain that many hotels in the country will shut down forever, which will not be good for the tourism industry of Pakistan in particular and for the country's economy and reputation in general. The ensuing unemployment will be another stain on the face of the country as there are hundreds of thousands of persons whose livelihood is directly or indirectly connected to the Hotel industry.

We, therefore, urge the honorable Prime Minister to immediately come to the rescue of the hotel industry in the form of following special package:

- 1) Taxes and duties exemptions;
- 2) Interest-free long term loans with grace period of two years;
- 3) Exemption from utility bills for a period of six months;
- 4) Financial aid for the payment of staff salaries and other expenses.

This will give the industry some breathing space and will help it in standing up back on its feet. We trust that the government fully understands the gravity of the situation of the dwindling Hotel industry and will come to its rescue at this crucial moment.

With profound regards and looking forward to your kind approval of above badly-needed relief for the Hotel industry of Pakistan.

  
Zubair Baweja  
Chairman

Cc : Dr. Abdul Hafeez Shaikh, Advisor to PM on Finance & Revenue

Cc : Chairman, FBR