



Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis &
Human Resource Development
Islamabad

Special Assistant to Prime Minister

*D.O. No.1(2)/2020-SAPM
Islamabad the 30th April, 2020*

Subject: **INCLUSION OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM RELATED BUSINESSES IN RELIEF AND RECOVERY MEASURES.**

My Dear

I hope this letter of mine will find you in good health.

The COVID-19 outbreak has brought the world to a standstill with unparalleled and unforeseen impact on lives, economies, societies and livelihoods. There are growing risks of a global recession and a massive loss of jobs. The worldwide outbreak has negatively impacted all segments but according to UNWTO tourism has been the worst affected of all major economic sectors.

2. Government of Pakistan is fully cognizant of the problems faced by businesses, corporations and associated workforce and has launched a number of initiatives to support the economy in these testing times. Utilities bills payment was deferred for three months, EOBI contribution deferred for 6 months, State Bank of Pakistan introduced concessional credit for payroll finance to business for payment of wages and salaries to the workers and employees of business concerns, deferment in repayment of principal amount of loan for one year, banks are encouraged to provide loans without any collateral, allocation of Rs. 144 billion for the Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme to support the needy during this pandemic. In the same vein, a support package of over Rs50 billion for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) was approved under the scheme titled 'Chota Karobar-o-Sanat Imdadi Package'.

3. This situation requires special attention and support for the tourism and hospitality sectors in Pakistan. This Industry has the potential to bounce back quickly and contribute significantly in socio-economic recovery process. The provincial governments are therefore, requested to:-

- i. Assign priority to tourism related businesses i.e. tour operators, food outlets, restaurants and accommodation providers etc. in their relief and recovery measures.

- ii. Tourism within provinces should be at the center stage of the recovery strategy
- iii. Provide corporate tax exemption facility to travel, tourism and hospitality sector Government dues, levies, taxes etc. on tourism sector need to be waived off for at least next 12 months.
- iv. Introduced re-skilling programs and training activities for effected workers.
- v. Department of Tourist Services (DTS) may exempt annual renewal of license fee for the year 2020 and those paid in 2020 may be extended till the end of 2021 without any incremental fee of charges.
- vi. The temporary workforce/daily wages related to T&T Industry be accommodated in all packages considered by the Provincial Governments.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Sayed Zulfiqar Abbas Bukhari)
Special Assistant to the Prime Minister
/Chairman NTCB

Distribution:-

- i. Minister for Tourism, Government of Punjab, Lahore
- ii. Minister for Tourism, Government of Sindh, Karachi
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- vii. Managing Director, PTDC, Head Office, Rawalpindi