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DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment

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NOTIFICATION

Only approved and certified accommodation providers to cater to tourists

The Department of Tourism (DoT), Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment, would like to remind all existing and prospective accommodation service providers, including Village Homestays, that prior clearance, technical approval, and official certification from the Department are mandatory before operating or catering to tourists in Bhutan, as per the Tourism Rules and Regulations (TRR).

This established policy ensures visitor safety, promotes authentic hospitality, and maintains quality standards across the industry.

Accordingly, all providers must observe the following requirements:

1. Mandatory Prior Approval Before Construction and Operation

No individual, entity, or business may commence accommodation services intended to cater to tourists without obtaining prior approval from relevant agencies and certification from the Department of Tourism. All tourist night halts, including camping and outdoor stays, must take place only at Department of Tourism-approved and certified accommodation or designated sites. **Overnight stays at non-certified premises, private properties, or unauthorized open areas are strictly prohibited.**

2. Mandatory Certification and Timely Renewal

All approved and certified accommodation establishments must obtain and maintain a valid Star Rating Certificate or official approval/certification under the Tourism Rules and Regulations (TRR) 2024. Establishments must ensure continuous compliance and apply for timely renewal prior to certificate expiration.

3. Penalties for Non-Compliance

As per the Tourism Rules and Regulations 2024 the following is applicable for non-compliance:

- **Uncertified Operations (Clause 57):** Constructing, establishing, or providing tourism accommodation services without valid prior approval, certification, licensing, or registration shall attract a fine of **Nu. 50,000 per service provided**.
- **Late Renewal Fees (Clause 161):** A late renewal penalty of **Nu. 50 per day** (including weekends and public holidays) will be levied on all delayed renewal applications.

The department and competent authorities conduct regular monitoring inspections to ensure full compliance across the sector. Therefore, all establishments are hereby reminded to ensure compliance to the TRR requirements.

For inquiries and clarifications, please contact the Department of Tourism (scd@moice.gov.bt) .



Standard and Compliance Division
Department of Tourism

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