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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF BHUTAN



ཁྲི་འཛིན།

CHAIRPERSON

Ref.: NC/CP-02/2019/6984

Date: 15th July 2019

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan
Gyal Yong Tshokhang
Thimphu

Subject: Concern over the Government's decision to include Sarpang as one of the four Focus Dzongkhags in the Tourism Development Flagship Program in place of Zhemgang.

Your Excellency,

This has reference to letter no. S-20/110 dated 24th July, 2019 of the Cabinet Secretary addressed to the Secretary of the GNH Commission regarding the decision of Hon'ble Prime Minister to include Sarpang as one of the four Focus Dzongkhags in the Tourism Development Flagship Program of the 12th Five Year Plan, in place of Zhemgang. The National Council expresses its concerns on the decision and draws the attention of the government on the following:

- Both the National Assembly and the National Council passed the Budget Appropriation Bill for the Financial Year 2019-20 of Nu. 64,826.725 million (Current budget: Nu. 34,652.765 million, and Capital budget: Nu. 30,173.960 million) on 14th June 2019 and 20th June 2019 respectively.
- As per the Schedule in the Budget Appropriation Bill, the approved appropriations for the Tourism Council of Bhutan (TCB) under Sl. No. 25, is a total of Nu. 258.540 million (Current budget: Nu. 58.540 million, and Capital budget: Nu. 200 million).
- The detailed budget allocations for the FY 2019-20 are presented in Chapter 4 of the National Budget Report for FY 2019-20 in which, Nu.11 million each is allocated to four focused Dzongkhags viz: Zhemgang, Lhuentse, Dagana and Gasa for specific interventions to develop tourism.
- Since the National Budget Report for the Financial Year 2019-20 is an integral part of the Budget Appropriation Bill for the Financial Year 2019-20, it is deemed legally binding on the government to ensure implementation of activities/programs as per the allocations.



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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF BHUTAN



ཁྱེད་ཀྱི་ཕྱོད་ལྷན་ལ།

CHAIRPERSON

Therefore, the decision to include Sarpang in place of Zhemgang as one of the four Focus Dzongkhags in the Tourism Development Flagship Program of the 12th Five Year Plan, is viewed as not in line with the Budget Appropriation Bill 2019-20 passed by the Parliament and the National Budget Report of the financial year 2019-20.

In view of the above, the National Council calls upon the government to review and take appropriate actions accordingly.

With best regards,

(Tashi Dorji)

Chairperson of the National Council.

Copy to:

1. Honorable Speaker, National Assembly of Bhutan.
2. Honorable Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thimphu.
3. Honorable Opposition Leader, National Assembly of Bhutan