

MINUTES OF MEETING WITH HOTEL OWNERS OF AIZAWL CITY AT OFFICE CHAMBER OF DIRECTOR, TOURISM DEPARTMENT, MINECO, AIZAWL ON 13th MAY, 2020 AT 10:00 AM.

List of Members Present is enclosed as Annexure

Agenda Items:

1. Additional Empanelment and fixation of common tariffs for Hotels empanelled as quarantine facilities.
2. The Mizoram Tourist Trade Act, 2020 and data/statistics.
3. Relief/assistance packages for Hotel industry due to Covid-19 crisis.
4. Organization of hoteliers for development of tourism as industry in Mizoram.

The meeting was Chaired by Pu V Lalengmawia, Director, Tourism Department who welcomed the members and apprised them of the agenda and other important matters to be discussed in the meeting as a way forward to bring the private sector and the Government together for the benefit of all and growth of Mizoram Tourism. The Chairman wished that the members may take active participation in the discussions so that any grievance may be addressed on the spot. After fruitful discussions on various matters, the following are the deliberations of the meeting as detailed below:

I. Additional Empanelment and fixation of common tariffs for Hotels empanelled as quarantine facilities.

In pursuance of DM&R Notification No. B. 13021/109/2020-DMR dt. 11th May, 2020 and on instructions on the matter, the possibilities of empanelment of hotels as quarantine facilities in addition to the eight (8) already Notified by Government of Mizoram were discussed. The hotel representatives put forth the existing problems like many hotels being rented buildings, families living in the same building, layout of hotels not befitting of being used, shortage of staff for proper running etc. which makes them unfit for use as quarantine facilities.

The meeting decided that the Government may be advised to not empanel any more hotel as quarantine facility, except under emergency circumstances for which a time period of 3 or 4 days may be given to the hotels for preparation before actual use.

In regards to common tariffs for empanelled hotels within Aizawl city to be used for quarantined persons, the hotel representatives agreed to the following rates of stay per night:

Sl.No	Item Type	Rate	Remarks
1	Non-AC Single Room	Rs. 990/-	
2	Non-AC Double Room	Rs. 1500/-	Exclusive of GST

3	All Other AC Rooms	As per hotel rates	
4	F&B Items	As per hotel rates	

It was expected that the hotels, during the quarantine periods may be assisted to operate following standard protocols like health screening, security, sanitization/disinfection etc. The meeting also expressed that to ensure safety of hotel staff and to enforce social distancing norms, room cleaning/servicing will not be done during the quarantined period; the guests may be provided with necessary items for those purposes. The District Authorities may be requested to provide the hotels with round the clock security and disinfection of rooms after check-out.

II. The Mizoram Tourist Trade Act, 2020 and data/statistics

The Chairman informed the meeting that with the Gazette Notification of the Mizoram Tourist Trade Act, 2020, the Government will now have control and supervision over many tourism-service related businesses like hotels and restaurants, which till now have been functioning without proper monitoring. As the State Government is in the process of updating its Tourism Policy, and the rules, regulations and by-laws that will accompany the said act, the Chairman invited the members as important stakeholders to give comments and feedback so that there will be proper involvement in all tourism-sector matters on their part.

The importance of having accurate tourist/visitor arrival data and statistics for planning and development initiatives was also stressed for which the Chairman expressed that the private sector also give due importance to queries and information sought by the Department and urged the members to submit their replies timely and continuously. Electronic media like whatsapp and/or email may also be used for such correspondences. Average turnover/occupancy data etc. required by the Department will be furnished by the Association.

III. Relief/ assistance packages for Hotel industry due to Covid-19 crisis.

The Chairman expressed that the tourism industry is one of the hardest hit due to the coronavirus crisis, and if needed, a special assistance package for the service sector will be put up to the concerned authorities. The members stated that they have been giving wages to their employers even whilst shutting down operations, and that assistance in the form of waiving/subsidizing of running bills like electricity, water would be most welcome. It was decided that the Hotel Owner's Association would frame such relief package in line with other states' proposals and submit it to the Director on 15th May, 2020 for examination and further action.

IV. Organization of hoteliers for development of tourism as industry in Mizoram.

The Chairman expressed to the meeting the importance of all hoteliers, in order for them to be a part of the organized workforce and for better co-operation with the Government, be affiliated in the Hotel Owner's Association and urged the office bearers of the association to take proactive role in recruitment, especially of newer hoteliers and to work together for the much needed upliftment of Tourism in Mizoram.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks from the Chair.

Enclosed: Attendance Sheet

Sd/- V LALENGMAWIA

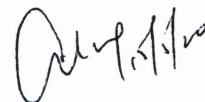
Director

Tourism Department

Memo No. D.11028/1/2020-DTE(TOUR)/169-172: Dated Aizawl, 15th May, 2020

Copy to:

1. The Under Secretary, Tourism Department for information.
2. The President/General Secretary, Hotel Owners Association for information and necessary action.
3. All members present for information and necessary action.
4. Office copy.



(ALAN LALTHANZARA)

Deputy Director

Tourism Department