

Standard Operating Procedure for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
during Lockdowns in Bhutan

Scenario One: Lockdown in Bhutan Only

(In the event India decides to lift the lockdown despite rising number of COVID-19 cases in India)

1. National Coordination

MFA COVID-19 Task Force shall

- a. work closely with the National Task Force and Nodal Groups in close coordination with our Embassies, Missions and Consulates (Missions) and Bhutanese residing abroad.
- b. depute officials to key border points as necessary to monitor the situation in adjoining States of India and to support the National Task Force and other Nodal Groups in the field.
- c. liaise closely with the Embassy of India in Thimphu (EoI), Consul General of India in Phuentsholing (CGI), Royal Bhutanese Embassy in New Delhi (RBE Delhi) and the Royal Bhutanese Consulates in Kolkata and Guwahati (RBC Kolkata & Guwahati).

2. Information Sharing

- a. MFA shall keep all countries and International Organizations informed on the lockdown in Bhutan.
- b. MFA shall disseminate regular updates on the situation in Bhutan through all channels.

3. Restriction of Cross Border Movement of People

- a. MFA shall coordinate with GoI to implement the restriction on the cross-border movement of people.

4. International Community in Bhutan

- a. MFA shall ensure that Diplomatic Missions and International Agencies in Bhutan are regularly kept informed of developments in Bhutan.
- b. MFA shall ensure the wellbeing of the international community in Bhutan.

5. Evacuation of Foreigners from Bhutan

- a. MFA Evacuation Desk shall facilitate, where required, evacuation of foreigners from Bhutan.

6. In the event of lockdown in India, MFA through diplomatic channel shall:

- a. facilitate all imports.
- b. Evacuation of Bhutanese from India.
- c. Mobilize International Assistance.

7. Bhutanese Residing Outside Bhutan
 - a. MFA and all its Missions shall monitor the situation of Bhutanese residing abroad
 - b. Provide advisories and respond where necessary by facilitating their evacuation.
8. International Community in Bhutan
 - a. MFA shall ensure that Diplomatic Missions and International Agencies in Bhutan are regularly kept informed of developments
 - b. MFA shall ensure the wellbeing of the international community in Bhutan.
9. MFA's Operation
 - a. MFA shall monitor the situation related to the pandemic and its implications on national security.

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