

PRESS RELEASE

February 20, 2021

1. Hon'ble Finance Minister, Lyonpo Namgay Tshering launched the *electronic* Daily Allowance & Travel System (*eDATS*) at Thimphu on 20th February, 2021.
2. The *eDATS* is an online travel authorization and claims system of the Royal Government of Bhutan. It will be rolled-out for implementation to all the Budgetary Bodies w.e.f. from 1st July 2021 (FY 2021-22).
3. This is an important milestone towards strengthening the Public Financial Management through digitalization of daily allowance and travel payment process.
4. The implementation of *eDATS* is expected to bring the following benefits:
 - Reduced Turnaround Time (TAT) in processing travel claims;
 - Uniformity in application of rates and travel distance;
 - Eliminate double claims/payment;
 - Minimize risks of fraud, corruption and rent seeking opportunities;
 - Real-time reports for monitoring and decision making purposes; and
 - Support the overall Government initiative of digitalization.

Ministry of Finance
Department of Public Accounts

5. With the implementation of *eDATS*, it is expected to greatly reduce administrative burden through paperless procedures and help to provide timely reports for monitoring and decision making purposes.

6. The *eDATS* is developed in-house by the Department of Public Accounts (DPA), Ministry of Finance with financial support under multi donor fund (MDF) which is contributed by European Union (EU) and Austrian Development Agency (ADA), and administered by the World Bank (WB).
