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ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
TASHICHHODZONG  
THIMPHU

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Subject: Lifting of the moratorium on the import of vehicles**

In light of the improving macroeconomic indicators, the Royal Government has taken the decision to lift the moratorium on the import of vehicles effective 18 August 2024. The decision comes as a result of a comprehensive review of our economic situation, which promises robust growth.

The economic conditions that previously necessitated the imposition of the moratorium have improved. With a positive outlook on economic growth as a result of prudent fiscal and monetary policies, the Government is confident that the lifting of the moratorium will further support economic expansion and boost general public confidence. Nevertheless, the Government will continue to monitor the economic environment closely and make adjustments as needed to sustain our positive trajectory.

As the number of vehicles on our roads is expected to increase following the lifting of the moratorium, the Government recognizes the importance of maintaining the livability of our towns and cities, particularly the capital territory of Thimphu. The rapid growth in the number of cars poses challenges to urban life, including traffic congestion, pollution and strain on infrastructure.

In response to these concerns, the Government has given directives to design a differentiated vehicle registration system specifically for Thimphu Throm. This system will be distinct from the registration processes in other parts of the country and aims to regulate the number of vehicles in the city more effectively. By managing the influx of vehicles, we seek to minimize the negative externalities and ensure that Thimphu City remains a vibrant and livable city for all residents.

The Royal Government appreciates the cooperation and understanding of the businesses and general public during the period of the vehicle import moratorium and look forward to your continued support and cooperation as we implement measures to balance the economic growth with sustainable urban living. The Royal Government will keep the public updated on the new registration system.

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