

**Attitude Hospitality Ltd**  
**15 August 2023**

**Ratings**

| Facilities/Instruments | Amount<br>(MUR Million)              | Rating <sup>1</sup>                                                  | Rating Action                                                                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Bond Issue</b>      | <b>1,000<br/>(One Thousand Only)</b> | <b>CARE MAU A-; Stable<br/>[Single A Minus; Outlook:<br/>Stable]</b> | <b>Revised from CARE MAU<br/>BBB+; Stable<br/>[Triple B Plus; Outlook:<br/>Stable]</b> |

**Ratings Rationale**

The revision of rating assigned to the Bond Issue of Attitude Hospitality Ltd (AHL) primarily factors in the improved operational and financial performance with occupancy levels reaching pre-covid levels, improved average room revenue and comfortable cashflow of the major dividend paying companies and popularity of 3/4-star hotels among budget conscious tourists. The rating further derives strength from the satisfactory track record and experience of the promoters in the hotel sector, the professional and qualified management team, established track record of the promoters in acquiring loss-making hotels and successfully turning them profitable, improved tourism industry and strong demand for hotel rooms since re-opening of international borders and a pent-up tourists' arrivals to Mauritius. Given that the company has already in principle approval to refinance the existing debt from the lenders, CARE believes that the refinancing is unlikely to be a major concern from rating perspective. The rating is, however, constrained by project risk associated with capacity addition programme in some hotels, direct competition from local budget accommodation, foreign exchange risks and sensitivity of the Mauritian hotel industry with respect to tourists' arrivals.

**Rating Sensitivities:*****Positive factors that could, individually or collectively, lead to positive rating action/upgrade***

- Ability to maintain occupancy rate above 80% and projected ARR
- Improvement in operational & financial performance of the dividend paying companies
- Successful completion of renovation in different hotels within the envisaged cost and timeline

***Negative factors that could, individually or collectively, lead to negative rating action/downgrade***

- Significant addition to debt to fund expansion or acquisition increasing the gearing level
- Decline in ARR and occupancy level
- Higher than projected dividend or any support extended to the subsidiary companies

**BACKGROUND**

Attitude Hospitality Ltd. ("AHL") was incorporated, as Jason Hotels Company Ltd in May 2008, by Mr. Michel Pitot and his son Mr. Jean Michel Pitot. In July 2014, the company was rechristened as AHL. Since inception, AHL's focus has been to position itself as a mid-market (3-4 stars category) hotel player in the tourism sector of Mauritius. AHL through its subsidiaries manages 8 hotels along the north and east coast of Mauritius with 1,085 rooms. It has also established itself as a leading brand in the mid-market segment (3/4-star category) hotels in Mauritius within a price range of Mur 6,000- 11,000 per night. All the 8 hotels are partly owned, some fully owned whilst remaining are leased to subsidiaries and associates. AHL was initially promoted by Pitot family. In October 2010, United Investments Ltd acquired 39.4% stake in AHL. At present, the Pitot family through various

<sup>1</sup>Complete definitions of the ratings assigned are available at [www.careratingsafrica.com](http://www.careratingsafrica.com).

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companies owns the majority share (59%) of AHL. The balance 38.91% is held by United Investment Limited and 2.09% by directors.

**Management:** AHL is a professionally managed company. It is governed by a 11-member Board of Directors comprising of 3 members from the Pitot family, 3 Executive Directors, 3 Non-Executives (including 1 nominated by the Mauritius Investment Corporation "MIC"), 2 Independent directors, and a number of eminent industrialists and professionals. The strategic affairs of the company are looked after by the Chief Executive Officer - Mr. Jean-Michel Pitot.

**Performance in FY23:** The company received MUR 68 million of dividend from Attitude Property Ltd in FY23 vis a vis MUR 29 million in FY22 and Interest income amounted to MUR 40 million in FY23. In FY23, AHL posted positive EBITDA and PAT of MUR 103 million and MUR 23 million respectively (EBITDA of MUR 59 million and negative PAT of MUR 2 million respectively in FY22). The company will not pay any dividend over bond tenure expiring in May 2024.

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### Annexure I

#### Long /Medium-term Instruments

| <b>Symbols</b>      | <b>Rating Definition</b>                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CARE MAU AAA</b> | Instruments with this rating are considered to have the highest degree of safety regarding timely servicing of financial obligations, in Mauritius. Such instruments carry lowest credit risk. |
| <b>CARE MAU AA</b>  | Instruments with this rating are considered to have high degree of safety regarding timely servicing of financial obligations, in Mauritius. Such instruments carry very low credit risk.      |
| <b>CARE MAU A</b>   | Instruments with this rating are considered to have adequate degree of safety regarding timely servicing of financial obligations, in Mauritius. Such instruments carry low credit risk.       |
| <b>CARE MAU BBB</b> | Instruments with this rating are considered to have moderate degree of safety regarding timely servicing of financial obligations, in Mauritius. Such instruments carry moderate credit risk.  |
| <b>CARE MAU BB</b>  | Instruments with this rating are considered to have moderate risk of default regarding timely servicing of financial obligations, in Mauritius.                                                |
| <b>CARE MAU B</b>   | Instruments with this rating are considered to have high risk of default regarding timely servicing of financial obligations, in Mauritius.                                                    |
| <b>CARE MAU C</b>   | Instruments with this rating are considered to have very high risk of default regarding timely servicing of financial obligations, in Mauritius.                                               |
| <b>CARE MAU D</b>   | Instruments with this rating are in default or are expected to be in default soon.                                                                                                             |

**Modifiers {"+" (plus) / "-"(minus)} can be used with the rating symbols for the categories CARE MAU AA to CARE MAU C. The modifiers reflect the comparative standing within the category.**

#### Rating Outlook

The rating outlook can be 'Positive', 'Stable' or 'Negative'.

A 'Positive' outlook indicates an expected upgrade in the credit ratings in the medium term on account of expected positive impact on the credit risk profile of the entity in the medium term.

A 'Negative' outlook would indicate an expected downgrade in the credit ratings in the medium term on account of expected negative impact on the credit risk profile of the entity in the medium term.

A 'Stable' outlook would indicate expected stability (or retention) of the credit ratings in the medium term on account of stable credit risk profile of the entity in the medium term.

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**Contact us****Chief Executive Officer**

Name : Mr. Saurav Chatterjee  
Phone : + 230 5862 6551  
E-mail : [saurav.chatterjee@careratingsafrica.com](mailto:saurav.chatterjee@careratingsafrica.com)

**Analytical Contact:****Chief Rating Officer**

Name : Mr. Vidhyasagar Lingesan  
Phone : +230 5273 1406  
E-mail : [Vidhya.sagar@careratingsafrica.com](mailto:Vidhya.sagar@careratingsafrica.com)

**Senior Rating Analyst**

Name : Ms. Pooja Appadoo  
Phone : +230 5955 3060  
E-mail : [pooja.appadoo@careratingsafrica.com](mailto:pooja.appadoo@careratingsafrica.com)

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CARE Ratings (Africa) Private Limited (CRAF) is the first credit rating agency to be licensed by the Financial Services Commission of Mauritius in May 2015. It is also recognized by Bank of Mauritius as External Credit Assessment Institution (ECAI) from May 2016. CRAF is also licensed by Capital Markets Authority of Kenya to operate as a Credit Rating Agency in Kenya. CRAF intends to expand across other geographies in Africa with Mauritius as its hub of operations. With an equitable position in the Mauritius capital market, CARE Ratings (Africa) Private Limited provides a wide array of credit rating services that help corporates to raise capital and enable investors to make informed decisions backed by knowledge and assessment provided by the company.

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CRAF has had a pivotal role to play in developing bank debt and capital market instruments including MMIs, corporate bonds and structured credit.

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