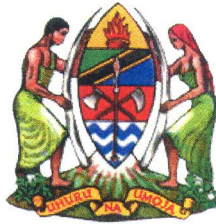


The United Republic of TANZANIA
Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism



PUBLIC NOTICE

I called you here today to give you updates on what's going on in our efforts to reopen tourism in the country. You will recall that my Ministry held a meeting with tourism stakeholders in Arusha on 11th and 12th May 2020 to deliberate on specific measures for re-opening of the tourism in the country. The purpose of the meeting was to agree on measures for preventing the spread of Corona virus in the tourism related activities in the country while attending tourists.

As you may be aware, COVID-19 disaster has had a huge impact on the worldwide tourism industry. The countries that bring us the most tourists have been severely affected by COVID-19 and have prevented their citizens from traveling abroad, and some have even banned their citizens from leaving their homes without strict conditions. As a result even major airlines have missed passengers and therefore cancelled their flights to many destinations in the world including Tanzania.

The results of these measures are that we do not currently receive foreign tourists at all. This is a huge loss for the country's economy. Tourism companies also suffer huge losses. We have lost many jobs due to this pandemic.

However, there are indications that some countries are beginning to allow their citizens to travel abroad. Several airlines have also planned to resume international flights, some of which will begin international flights by the end of this May 20, 2020.

In a meeting between the Ministry and the representatives of tourism associations held in Arusha, it was agreed on steps that the Government and the Private Sector will take to convince tourists to start coming again to Tanzania.

These steps have two main goals.

First, and foremost, we will take steps to ensure that tourists entering the country do not bring Corona virus to the country. Airlines will be responsible for making sure that all passengers are screened for Corona virus, and those

found with the virus will not be allowed to travel. We will only allow tourists to enter the country once we find evidence that those tourists are not infected with COVID-19.

It is therefore important for Tanzanians to know that our first responsibility is to protect the health of Tanzanians.

Our second goal is to make sure that when tourists enter the country they are safe and not infected with COVID-19. We have developed something called Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) which is a guide on how to receive and serve tourists from the time they arrive at the airport to the rest of their stay in the country and the time they leave Tanzania, the aim is ensure they do not become infected with Corona virus.

The primary purpose of the SOP is to ensure that the entire tourism business chain, from airport, land transport, accommodation, food and tourist destinations, complies with the guidelines of the Ministry of Health Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDEC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), to ensure that tourists and all service providers are safe against COVID-19.

Some of the key issues that have been agreed with the Private Sector on how to conduct tourism activities are as follows:

- (1) We must get proof that every tourist arriving in the country is not infected with COVID-19;
- (2) The airport staff will have to be tested for COVID-19 so that only those who are safe will provide services. In addition, all attendants will have to wear facemasks all the time; they will also have to wear gloves and will have to use sanitizers as directed by MoHCDEC. In addition, they must make sure that they observe the social distance of not less than one meter from one the staff to another and from the guest;
- (3) All other staff members on the tourism activities value chain will be regularly monitored to ensure they are not infected with the Corona virus. Only staff that are not infected with Corona virus will be allowed to cater to tourists. However, all staff will have to wear masks and make sure that they stay at least one meter apart between themselves and the tourist;
- (4) All tourist transport facilities, tourist accommodation and all other facilities used by tourists must be cleaned and sanitized before and after service in an acceptable manner to ensure that they do not become infected with Corona virus.

These are just some of the features of the SOPs that we have agreed to implement. We will soon be putting all the SOPs in public as well as distributing the same to foreign embassies in the country, to our overseas embassies as well as to local and overseas tourism agencies.

Government and the Private Sector will ensure that this guidance is adhered to and will monitor its implementation closely. It is in the interest of the tourism industry to ensure that tourists stay safe while in the country and that because this guideline has been developed jointly between the Government and the Private Sector, there is no doubt that it will be fully implemented.

Through this SOPs I would say two things.

Firstly, tourism will re-start here in the country and will have no impact on Tanzanians. We will make sure that the health of Tanzanians is a priority.

Secondly, tourists who come to the country will be COVID- 19 free. We will make every effort to keep them safe. The measures we take to protect them are in line with the MoHCDEC and WHO guidelines. In addition to these guidelines, we will further increase our confidence to our tourists that they will stay safe.

I am grateful to H.E. Dr. John Pombe Magufuli, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania for agreeing to reopen the sky of Tanzania and to eliminate the need for tourists to stay on the 14-days quarantine when they enter the country.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Issued by:



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Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism
DODOMA,
May 18, 2020