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The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Ministry of Culture and Tourism

ቁጥር / 3-70/237
Ref.No.

ቀን 14 SEP 2020
Date

To: Ethiopian Tour Operators Association

Addis Ababa

Subject: Preparation For Ethiopian Tourism Re-opening

The outbreak of Covid 19 has disrupted the international tourism to its core. The pandemic has also negatively affected Ethiopian Tourism over the last consecutive months leading to a high economic impacts on the sector.

The ministry of culture and tourism, in collaboration with sectorial associations and other stakeholders, proactively conducted various activities which have helped to minimize the impacts and support the sector to recover thereby building resilience. A tourism recovery Strategy and plans were prepared and practical steps were taken to fully implement them. The major activities that Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MOCT) has carried out include but not limited to: giving hand to the tourism investment, supporting communities who are highly susceptible to the problem in tourist destinations, awareness creation and sensitization of the tourism community to protect the spread of covid 19 and, more importantly, ensuring destinations readiness for post-covid tourism activities.

The possibility to completely control the pandemic globally in the very short period of time is felt to be difficult and as such, international organizations like UNWTO provide advices that encourage countries to re-open their borders for travellers implementing effective standards and protocols for protection of Covid 19. In line with this, African countries including our neighbours are opening up their borders for travellers.

It is believed that making all the necessary precautions, re-opening Ethiopian tourism sounds timely and relevant. To these end, MOCT has designed National Tourism protocols aimed to ensure Safe Travel experiences in the country. These protocols are sought to assure the safety of tourism establishments, employees, destination communities and travellers thereby building confidence and trust of visitors to experience Ethiopia. Hence, the safe travel protocols basically target hospitality establishments, tour operators, tourist sites and destinations, event management and other sub-components of tourism.

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የመ.ሣ.ቁ } 1907
P.O.Box }

ስልክ } +251-011-551 7020
Tel }

ፋክስ } +251-011-551 2889
Fax }

ኢ-ሜይል } tour-com@ethionet.et
Email }

መልስ በሚጽፉልን ጊዜ እባክዎን የእኛ ደብዳቤ ቁጥር ይጥቀሱ
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Therefore, notifying that Ethiopia will reopen tourism in the beginning of October, I urge all tourism stakeholders and concerned government institutions to make adequate preparations to safely host international travellers.

Best Regards



Hirut Kassaw Wondim (PhD)
Minister



Cc:

To: Tourism Development State Minister Office

MoCT