



TOURISM BUSINESS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA WELCOMES LIFTING OF COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

PRETORIA, 22 MARCH 2022 – The Tourism Business Council of South Africa welcomes the further lifting of COVID-19 protocols by President Cyril Ramaphosa. The TBCSA strongly believes the changes announced are a step in the right direction as the sector seeks to recover to pre-pandemic levels.

Over the last few months, the tourism sector has been lobbying government to suspend the pre- departure PCR COVID-19 test requirement for foreign travelers entering South Africa. The announcement of changes to the travel requirements for foreign visitors goes some way to appeasing the struggling tourism sector. As of Wednesday 23 March 2022, fully vaccinated foreign visitors to South Africa will no longer be required to produce a negative PCR test upon entry. Those who are not vaccinated will, however, still be required to produce a PCR test that is not older than 72 hours.

This move will help the country boost its international tourism arrivals which had declined due to the impact of COVID-19. The sector is also pleased that sports tourism restrictions will be lifted. This will ensure that stadiums operate fully and generate much needed revenue for travel and hospitality.

“We are delighted by these changes. The opening of sports and other outdoor events will go a long way towards boosting tourism. People can once again travel around the country to support their favourite sports teams and attend outdoor entertainment events” says TBCSA CEO Tshifhiwa Tshivhengwa.’

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, South Africa was one of the leaders in hosting high profile exhibitions and conferences thanks to the country’s infrastructure and famous city destinations. The tourism sector is ready to claim back this accord, and this

move by the government to allow meetings, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE events) to operate at higher capacity per venue will help in this regard.

Tshivhengwa says the sector's pledge to support government's COVID-19 protocols and regulations remains. He says: "The tourism sector will continue to work with government to help achieve high levels of vaccinations by making sure that our frontline staff are vaccinated. The tourism sector will also continue to monitor the proposed regulations by the Department of health to replace the state of disaster after the 16th of April as these will determine the sector's operations.

The country's tourism sector has been slowly clawing back some of its losses over the past two years. Tshivhengwa states that the latest lifting of restrictions is the catalyst that will see an accelerated recovery of the tourism sector.

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ABOUT TBCSA

The Tourism Business Council of South Africa (TBCSA) is the umbrella organisation representing the unified voice of business in the hospitality, travel, and tourism sector.

The TBCSA was established in February 1996 by leading tourism businesses and associations to form a unified platform to engage with the South African government around the development of the sector.

It is a not-for-profit, member-centric organisation mandated to facilitate key industry programmes aimed at driving growth and the development of the sector. In its scope of work, the TBCSA serves to unite and influence the diverse travel and tourism sector to contribute to a competitive, responsible, and inclusive tourism economy. The TBCSA monitors and influences macro-economic developments which impact on the sector.

