

EAST AFRICA TOURISM PLATFORM

BANNING OF KENYAN AIRLINES INTO TANZANIA OVER COVID PROTOCOLS

Kigali, August 28, 2020





BANNING OF KENYAN AIRLINES INTO TANZANIA OVER COVID PROTOCOL

- The significance of travel and tourism to the EAC partner states economies cannot be over-emphasized. Prior the COVID-19 pandemic, Tourism in EAC contributed an average of 8.1% to GDP and 17.2% to export earnings and generates 7.1% of employment. As regards to employment, tourism employed about 1,278,000 direct and 1,981,000 indirect jobs in the partner states. Travel and tourism have also important backward linkages to regional economies and therefore contributes to growth and employment in other sectors
- The world is currently facing an unprecedented global health, social and economic emergency with the COVID-19 pandemic. Globally, international tourist's numbers could fall 60-80 per cent. According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the EAC partner states were projected to lose over US\$5.4 Billion of tourists spending this year given the long-term closure of seaports and airports with about 7.4 Million international tourists not travelling to their preferred EAC destinations.
- Tanzania resumed international flights on the 18th of May 2020 whereas Rwanda and Kenya reopened to commercial flights of 1st of August 2020.
- As the region resumes international travels, air connectivity and affordability has been and is still a major challenge throughout the region.
- The Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) recently revoked the approvals for Kenya Airways, Air Kenya Express, Fly540, and Safarilink Aviation citing the disagreement over the handling of passengers arriving from Dar es Salaam after Kenya excluded Tanzania from the list of countries whose nationals would be allowed entry under the coronavirus restrictions.
- As East Africa Tourism Platform we advocate for open sky policy to liberalize our region's airspace and create a single aviation territory.

PARTING SHOT

- As the East Africa Tourism platform, we call upon the governments of Tanzania and Kenya to continue with the dialogue and seek the most appropriate actions to resolve the disagreement to allow resumption of Kenyan airlines flights to Tanzania.
- Furthermore, this is an era for open sky policy. Regional governments should act with speed and liberalize their airspaces to let their citizens enjoy the benefits enshrined in Yamoussoukro Decision and AU Vision 2063.
- Policy makers should take decisive and proactive actions to steer regional airlines to greater heights.

Notes to Editor:

The East Africa Tourism Platform is the apex private sector body for Tourism in East Africa. The EATP Mission is to promote intra and inter-regional tourism through advocacy, marketing, skills development, research and information sharing. The East Africa Tourism Platform was established 2011 and is supported by Trademark East Africa. The Platform under the leadership of key tourism leaders in the region motivates and define private sector participation in the emerging EAC policies and behavior. It makes the voice of the private hard and relevant in the regional integration process, pursuing common a common agenda as a sector.

Effective June 2020, EATP Secretariat moved to Kigali and is hosted by the Rwanda Chamber of Tourism. The Rwanda Chamber of Tourism is the private sector pillar, of the Rwanda Private Sector Federation, which is dedicated to promoting and representing the interests of the Rwandan business community.



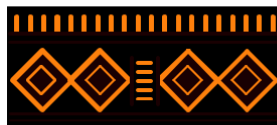
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