National Tourism Policy Updates

Cabinet has agreed to the establishment of a Tourism Policy Development Committee (TPDC) for the revision of the National Tourism Policy (2010). The committee comprises 12 experts from Trinidad and Tobago in tourism and related fields. The TPDC’s first meeting commenced on April 18, 2019, with its most recent being held on February 13, 2020.

Their mandate is to assess the current and proposed policy/regulatory context for tourism policy, including the National Development Strategy – Vision 2030, to derive critical policy coherence across key contributing sectors; to facilitate the consultative process for stakeholder engagement on policy issues; to utilize information gathered through consultations, comparative research and expertise to develop a revised National Tourism Policy for Trinidad and Tobago; and to develop the national vision and strategic direction for policy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, while addressing key issues and challenges facing the sector.

To date, the Committee has held 39 virtual meetings, has consulted with 49 Influencers and Special Interest groups, has interviewed key staff at various Regional Corporations (RCs) and has visited various sites and attractions to become more familiar with the tourism products that are offered in the various regions.

Five (5) Stakeholder Engagement Sessions were held during the period September 11 – September 20, 2019 in five (5) different regions in Trinidad. Sessions were also held in Tobago during the period December 11 to 12, 2019 to secure the inputs of Tobago’s tourism stakeholders into the revised Draft National Tourism Draft Policy.

The heightened restrictions on gatherings, in response to COVID-19, has challenged the Committee to find new, virtual ways to host its proposed final consultations in Trinidad and Tobago. However, TPDC continues its work on various sections of the Policy.

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