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சற்றுலாத்துறை அமைச்சு
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

6 වන මහල, රක්ෂණමන්දිරය, නො:21, වෝක්ෂෝල් වීදිය, කොළඹ 02. 6ஆம்மாடி ரக்ஷணமந்திரய இல:21, வொக்ஷோலீதி கொழும்பு02. 6thFloor, Rakshana, Mandiraya, No.21, Vauxhall Street Colombo 02.

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எனது இல } MT/SEC/01/10
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உமது இல }
Your No. }

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திகதி } 27.11.2020
Date }

To: Employees of Sri Lanka Tourism Authority, Sri Lanka Promotions Bureau,
Sri Lanka Conventions Bureau and Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel
Management
Presidents of Tourism Associations
IGP Sri Lanka Police
Universities in Sri Lanka

Dear Employees, Industry Stakeholders, Sri Lanka Police, Academia and any interested Stakeholder

Proposals for New Tourism Act

The current Tourism Act, No. 38 of 2005 has since 2005 to the present date served to govern the Sri Lanka tourism industry. However, since the tourism industry is a vibrant growing industry the world, we have in the implementation thereof in recent times, become aware that there are certain shortcomings and institutional and infrastructure issues which need to be rectified in order to make the Act current and more viable.

Under the current Tourism Act, No. 38 of 2005 four (04) Institutions were created/established for the management of the tourism industry. i.e. The Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA), The Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB), The Sri Lanka Convention Bureau (SLCB) and The Sri Lanka Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management (SLITHM).

However, with the effluxion of time and the implementation of the provisions of the Act, it was made apparent that the fragmentation of roles and responsibilities had led to a significant overlap among the four institutions. This proved to be one of the key problems which the management faced as it resulted not only in a duplication of roles, but also in incurring a much higher financial burden. It is in this context that it has been agreed that it would be prudent to amalgamate/consolidate three if not all four institutions created under the present Act, in order to facilitate the synergies, efficiencies, cooperative and united approach required across their activities for the progress and development of the tourism industry.

The need to amalgamate/consolidate the Institutions was discussed with President at a meeting held with the Hon. Minister, myself and the officials of the Authority early this year. After being briefed on the situation, the His Excellency stated that it would be prudent to proceed with the proposed amalgamation/consolidation.

Under the current Act, No. 38 2005 the Tourism Development Fund provides reliable independent base financing for ongoing activities and for the implementation of the Tourism Strategic Action Plan and other initiatives. The independent financing, responsibilities, authorities and powers granted under the existing legislation are necessary for a national tourism Authority and should not be fragmented or devalued. In fact, the powers need to be further strengthened to meet the Tourism strategies of the present day and for going forward with the development programmes.

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Since the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic, the tourism industry has been badly affected and we now realise that it is imperative that we have a legal mechanism in place in the new Act to provide for Protocols which will help to keep both the visitors/tourists and our staff and the persons serving the tourism industry in various capacities, safe in the face of danger of spread of the epidemic.

In this regard we seek your support in obtaining written recommendations from each one of you so that the views expressed can be considered in drafting the new Tourism Act. Please forward your recommendations to chairsec@srilanka.travel by 10th December 2020. Your prompt action in this regard will be highly appreciated.

Your sincerely



S. Hettiarachchi
Secretary to Ministry of Tourism

Copy:

- 01. Hon. Minister of Tourism
- 02. Secretary to the President
- 03. Chairperson - Sri Lanka Tourism

} For your kind information

