



THE TOURISM INDUSTRY LAUNCHES COVID-19 PROTOCOLS SAFETY APP

“Travel Safe - Eat Safe Certification Programme, free self-regulation App and Training, launched to help tourism businesses and restaurants reopen and operate safely” – TBCSA

PRETORIA, 6 AUGUST 2020 – Through a multi-stakeholder partnership, the Tourism Business Council of South Africa (TBCSA), has launched a tourism and hospitality industry application, Opus4business App. The new app will aid in the safe reopening of the industry by enabling business owners to register and implement the COVID-19 tourism safety protocols.

The industry designed tourism protocols have received the World Travel and Tourism Council’s (WTTC) stamp of approval. The approval further gave TBCSA issuing rights for the WTTC Safe Travels stamp, within South Africa. The specially designed stamp will allow travellers to recognise businesses in South Africa which have adopted world class health and hygiene protocols for safe travel.

The Opus4business App is a quick, easy, and paperless way to show full understanding of the importance of safe industry operating protocols and record compliance with them for tourism industry business owners. The *Travel Safe - Eat Safe Certification* provides evidence that health screening, distancing and cleaning procedures are in place and helps businesses seamlessly manage COVID-19 health screening for employees, suppliers, delivery agents and customers in full compliance with the Protection of Personal Information Act. The app can facilitate contact tracing if needed.

Industry operators are invited to download the app and complete the pledge to demonstrate that the hospitality and tourism industry can operate safely, to our customers and to the authorities. This will assist in supporting safe demand growth and help us move forward to open up more tourism activity safely.

“The app is yet another way the industry is demonstrating self-regulation and a readiness to open for domestic and international travel in the country. We are encouraging businesses to download the app and take their teams through the training to increase compliance in the industry and to keep staff and customers in the sector safe .” says Tshifhiwa Tshivhengwa, CEO of TBCSA.

The Travel and Tourism industry like many others, has been gravely affected by COVID-19. Many businesses have already been exposed to the safety protocols and as the industry begins to slowly reopen, the TBCSA believes that this technology puts safety in the hands of every stakeholder within the tourism value chain, which is an important part of the successful rebuilding of the sector.

Business operators can download the app on <http://tourismsa.opus4business.com/> and also features an online PPE marketplace featuring small and large suppliers nationally.

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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 with the task of:

- Lobbying the public sector and behalf of its members
- Facilitating key industry programmes aimed at driving growth and development in the sector
- Monitoring and influencing macro-economic developments which impact on the sector
- The organisation serves to unite and influence the diverse travel and tourism sector to contribute to a competitive, responsible, and inclusive tourism economy. The work of the organisation and its strategy is guided by the following priority areas:
 - Providing organised business in the sector a route to Government
 - Focussing on legislative issues and policies impacting on the travel and tourism sector
 - Managing and growing TOMSA
 - Member engagement and Communication
 - Influencing the marketing of destination South Africa
 - Research – commissioning, collating and communicating