

PRESENTATION ON RECOVERY PLANS POST COVID-19 (NIGERIA)

Tourism is believed to be the hardest sector hit by the coronavirus pandemic and the outlook remains highly uncertain with flights grounded, entertainment and hospitality industries are facing declining demand and patronage with travel crashes and cancellations.

Travel restrictions put in place in virtually all countries around the world. Covid-19 seriously disrupted the tourism industry which has caused major losses, which has resulted in billions of dollars in revenue loss and hundreds of thousands of job loss in Nigeria.

Measures introduced to contain covid-19 led to a near complete cessation of tourism activities around the world with sector risk being among one of the last to recover due to ongoing travel restriction and global recession.

Covid-19 pandemic has given rise to what may be the most challenging global health and economic crisis in the world, Nigeria is gradually opening up just like the rest of the world and it is important to put in place measures that will enable development and growth of the tourism sector.

Domestic tourism in Nigeria is gradually picking up, and Government has taken impressive immediate action to restore and re-activate the sector with the aim to protect jobs and businesses. Nigeria is now developing measures to build a more resilient tourism economy post covid-19, which include: plans to support the sustainable recovery of tourism promoting, digital transition and move to a greener tourism system and

rethinking tourism for the future, this requires global co-operation and evidence based solutions. Minimizing job losses and building recovery in 2021 with key policy. Government has put the following measure in place:

- Fiscal and monetary policies
- Monetary stimulus package to assist business in other to minimize job loses
- Adjustment in the interest loan for small businesses
- Financial support to domestic airline operators
- Financial support to Travel agents, airport handling companies and other auxiliary services.
- Strengthening public private sector partnership
- Promoting domestic tourism and supporting safe return of international tourism.

Tourism policy will need to be more reactive and in the long term it will move to more flexible system, able to adapt faster to changes of policy focus.

The recovery will be gradual and with the launch of the vaccine. The sector will recover, starting with the domestic, followed by regional and finally International tourism.

The first batch of vaccine for Nigeria is expected today and the government is making concerted effort, with the support of some industry players to ensure that a huge number of our population is vaccinated before the end of the year.

The non- pharmaceutical interventions like wearing of mask, regular hand washing, social distancing are part of the new normal for the Country and the citizens.