TBCZ
TOURISM BUSINESS COUNCIL of ZIMBABWE

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER EDITION 2023



Paul N. Matamisa – CEO

Finally we are relaunching Tourism Business Council Newsletter which we hope will become a regular feature every month, to share information on the various developments country wide. In that regard we request for you to share whatever news and information there maybe.

The Newsletter is going to be shared electronically to expedite quick distribution as well as contain running and printing costs.

We have seen it appropriate to produce the inaugural electronic version of the Magazine in the month of Tourism- September.

Talking about World Tourism Month, the Honorable Barbara Rwodzi, Minister of Tourism and Hospitality on the 27th September 2023 celebrated World Tourism Day in Mtoko at the scenic and innovative Suskwe Lodges. The theme for this year's World Tourism Day was "Tourism and Green Investments" which talks to People, Planet and Prosperity of Nations through Tourism. To green the People means taking care of our People in all aspects of their lives-be they the labour force, travelers and tourists, domestic or international all, deserve special care.

To green the planet we need to conserve nature so that we leave for future generations all we have today and leaving no desolation of any sort behind us.

With Prosperity, it is imperative humanity grows in standards of living through raising Gross Domestic Product of the country.

Cognisance is brought to mind that Government has set for policy to achieve middle to upper income living standards for all Zimbabweans.

Suskwe Lodge is a new development in Mtoko. This development was selected to be the venue for the year's celebrations with the Theme "Greening Tourism Investments". The operator has gone all the way to develop a green investment facility meticulously done to blend in with the environment and proper care not to destroy the environment. The idea behind the project is to create luxury relaxation for guests with little or no disturbance to nature.

Suskwe is worth visiting for outdoor enthusiasts.

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TBCZ Update

Following a meeting between the Tourism Business Council of Zimbabwe and the Reserve Bank or Zimbabwe, it was decided to host a series of workshops around the country to ensure that operators had a full understanding of various compliance issues related to their operations. The workshops were held in Harare, Bulawayo and Victoria Falls, where there was good attendance and a high level of interaction and information sharing.

RBZ representatives gave presentations on topics that included export policies, transitory accounts, liquidation policy, marketing agreements, off-shore accounts, registration of contracts and submission of TRAS 1 and TRAS 2 forms, which yield information on sector performance.

Liquidation

25 percent of export income is liquidated to enable allocation of forex to organisations and people without access to foreign currency income. For example, payment of fees for tuition by students comes from this income. This income is also used towards expenditure related to electricity, water, medical needs and national programmes.







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Compliance
The TRAS 1 form is not being submitted as required by a great many operators, possibly because of a lack of understanding of it by SMEs. It is related to hospitality operations and provides for data collection for national statistics. This information helps show the true value of tourism to the national economy, including information on employment, GDP and forex generation. The TRAS 2 form is being submitted as required, as the industry involved, which is hunting, understands its purpose. In fact, if this form is not submitted hunters may not export their trophies. TBCZ insists operators comply as it is essential for the travel and tourism sector to be compliant with regulations and because the information ensures the sector is not undervalued.

Offshore Bank Accounts
These accounts are not meant to be trading accounts but rather they are transitory means to facilitate receipts from external sources and should be repatriated to Zimbabwe within 90 days. It is a legal requirement to apply through authorised dealers (banks) to Exchange Control to operate such an account.

Marketing Contracts
The law requires tourism operators to regularise any existing business arrangements with international partners and to apply for any future ones. It is a requirement to register such agreements before trading. The RBZ has given an extension to October 31 2023 for compliance for regularisation of existing contracts.

Commissions
The maximum amounts permitted payable to external partners for marketing commissions is 15 percent, and all such agreements should be registered by October 31 2023.



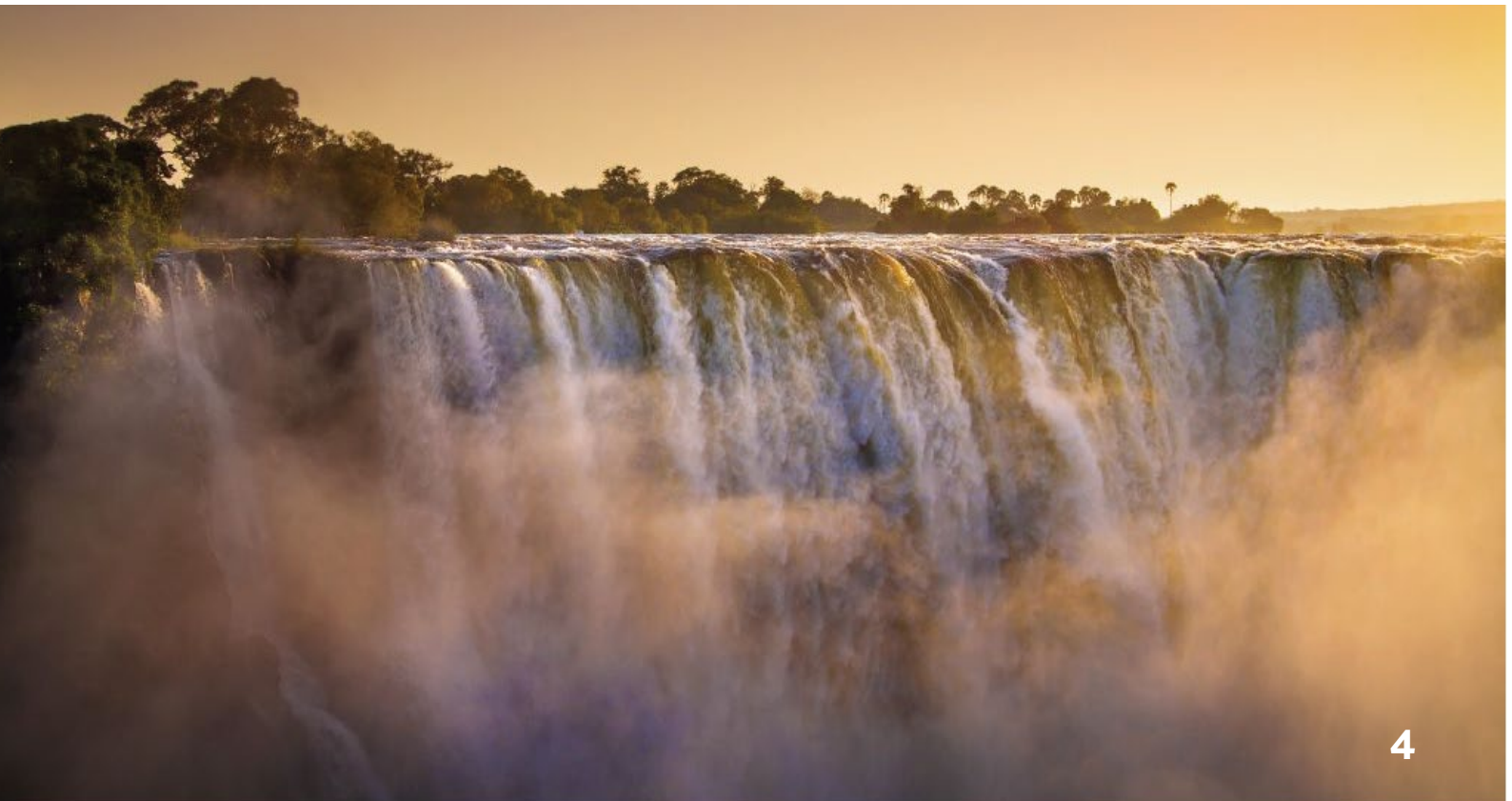
Zimbabwe Tourism Authority issues

At the workshops, ZTA focused on two areas: the two percent levy on guest expenditure on goods and services in the tourism trading and the Tourism Satellite Account system. On the issue of the levy, operators were reminded that this was not a levy on operators' revenues but was a tax on the guests undertaking expenditure, for which operators are designated collecting agents on behalf of the Government.

The TSA is a system of collecting and collating data, much of which is outdated. A new means of collecting data is dependent on funding. There is a high level of non-compliance among small business operations resulting from ignorance of the law, which the workshops and subsequent publicity are aimed at correcting.

The TSA is a UNWTO-sponsored system for collection and collation of tourism information. Input of data comes from operators and the data should be supplied timeously and accurately. This is an international system and tourism operators are encouraged to do their part to produce credible information, for the good of the sector and the national economy.

Compliance with the law is beneficial to all parties involved, including the operators themselves. Out of 1 726 operators registered with ZTA only 52 percent are fully compliant. Non-compliance raises such issues as misperception of externalisation of funds, and it is incumbent this is corrected by compliance.





TBCZ Request

TBCZ requested that operators should be permitted special Visa cards that are linked to transitory accounts to facilitate down-stream payments for small amounts up to $5 000 per transaction. TBCZ also requested that ZESA could be paid as a down-stream operator from transitory deposits.

TSA is a UN-WTO sponsored system for collection and collation of Tourism information. The challenge of the system which ZTA are currently meeting has to do with the input data which comes from operators. The integrity of the statistics depends on the inputted data in the first place. Industry is encouraged to provide the correct information timeously. The information provides for correct statistics which business requires for planning purposes. The same information is required by Government to produce relevant policies governing the economy.

It is recognized that TSA brought in new information that is now required. This is an international system and tourism operators are encouraged to do their part to produce credible information, for the good of the industry and nation.

For further information, members of TBCZ may contact the TBCZ secretariat, details of which are:
No. 7 Knight Bruce Rd, Milton Park, Harare
Tel. 0242 250 246
Email: admin@tbcz.co.zw



MEETING WITH MINISTER B. RWODZI

President Nhau led the Tourism Business Council Presidium and Secretariat to meet the recently appointed Minister of Tourism and Hospitality, Honourable Barbara Rwodzi.

It was the first time we met Honourable Rwodzi as the substantive Minister of the sector.
The Minister spelt out her modus operandi going forward. She related the need to work closely together as one unit for the cause of Tourism.

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TBCZ Presidium



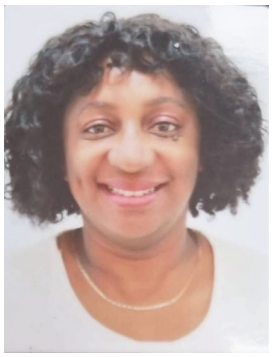
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