



## **TTA Tour Operator Chapter Meeting Minutes**

14 July 2017

Railway Café at Makers Village

### **Opening and welcome**

Mnqobi Mahlangu (Managing Director of Ubuhle be Narha Tours and TTA Board member) welcomed the tour operators, the speakers of the day; Cross Boarder Travel Agency (CBTA) and the Ditsong Museums of SA. Mnqobi introduced himself and Patrick Konzolo (Sales & Finance Director Zilko Tours & Travel and TTA Board member) and requested that all attendees introduce themselves so everyone can get to know each other.

### **Presentation from Cross Boarder Road Transport Agency (CBRTA)**

The first presentation was from Cross Boarder Road Transport Agency. Mr Pieter Meyer Snr Manager: Regulatory Services briefed the attendees on the background of CBRTA. He explained that CBRTA was an entity of Government that is mandated to regulate common movement of passengers and goods across borders and that their entity reports to the Ministry of Transport. The CBRT Act creates the Cross-Border Road Transport Agency CBRTA and gives effect to various international agreements that regulates cross-border road transport.

He added that the CBRTA is responsible for the administration and implementation of the C-BRT Act and to provide for co-operative and coordinated provision of advice, regulation, facilitation and law enforcement in respect of cross-border road transport by the public and private sectors.

He further explained that the role that CBRA plays is to assist tour operators obtain permits to cross borders into other countries and ensure that operation is in line with the prescribed legal framework. He added that CBRA seeks as an advisory entity to the Minister on cross boarder road transport policy and on strategies to counteract restrictive measures implemented by other states.

Mr. Pieter Meyer shared with the attendees on the application procedure, permit requirements and the availability of application forms and the process of applying and the criteria which CBRA looks into when people apply.

In closing Mr. Pieter highlighted the opportunities and benefits that CBRTA offers such as the domestic operators to expand into cross-border taking advantage of:

- Annual Events
- Weekend Packages
- Historical
- Eco-tours

He thanked TTA for the opportunity and the platform and encouraged tour operators to get in touch with him or his colleagues should they need more information regarding CBRTA.

Please see below names for the relevant contact persons:

- For Permit Applications and Enquiries: Mr Pieter Meyer/ Snr Manager: Regulatory Services/ [Pieter.Meyer@cbrta.co.za](mailto:Pieter.Meyer@cbrta.co.za) / 012 471 2112 / [permits@cbrta.co.za](mailto:permits@cbrta.co.za)
- For Industry Development & SMME: Mr Patrick Mathebula/ Manager Operator & Development/ [Patrick.Mathebula@cbrta.co.za](mailto:Patrick.Mathebula@cbrta.co.za) / 012 471 2146
- For Support & Challenges encountered at the Borders: Ms Nandipha Mboxela/Operator Relations Officer: Tour Operators/ [Nandipha.Mboxela@cbrta.co.za](mailto:Nandipha.Mboxela@cbrta.co.za) / 012 471 2019

### **Presentation from Ditsong Museums of South Africa by Mr. Willie Mutshesi**

The second and final speaker was from Mr Willie Mutshesi from Ditsong Museums of SA. He introduced himself to the attendees and gave background on how the Ditsong of Museums of SA formation which consists of an amalgamation of 8 museums. He also shared that the Ditsong Museums of SA is a government entity under the Department of Arts and Culture. Mr. Willie informed everyone that all 8 museums have a rich South African historical story to share with interesting facts that are educational to visitors and tourists, the eight museums consist of the following:

- Ditsong: National museum of cultural history
- Ditsong: national museum of natural history
- Ditsong: national museum of military history
- Ditsong: national museum of military history
- Ditsong: Pioneer Museums
- Ditsong: Sammy Marks
- Ditsong: Willem Prinsloo Museum
- Ditsong: Tswaing Meteorite Crater

Mr. Willie also informed attendees on how they also offer school educational programs, ensuring that schools are aware of this attraction and that they learn and are educated about the various historic aspects that occurred in the city and South Africa.

In closing he encouraged all tour operators to visit the museums and include Ditsong Museums of South Africa to their packages and allow tourists and visitors to learn more about this attraction and its offerings.

A suggestion was raised by Mngqobi Mahlangu that the museum can perhaps consider a pass/ card that can allow visitors to use when visiting all museums. Mr. Willie noted the suggestion and said he'll inform the Marketing Manager and more information will be communicated regarding the suggestion.

Mngqobi thanked the speakers for their time and for imparting knowledge to attendees. TTA Tour Operator chapter members were given a platform to discuss any issues relevant to their chapter and the tourism industry which the association can assist:

#### **The following issues were raised:**

- Concerns regarding parking and restrictions at Church Square
- Security concerns for tour operators and what measures tour operators can take to be safe
- Communication platform amongst tour operators to report incidents, traffic and construction delays etc.
- A suggestion was brought forward that TTA Tour operator members can form a WhatsApp group as an immediate means of communication.

Patrick Konzolo informed members of the lack of response from tour operators when RFP are requested for conferences in the City; he also raised concerns on the issue of non-

functioning email addresses when the TTA office is sending out communiques etc. He explained that the suggestions and concerns raised will be shared with the TTA Board and communication will follow thereafter.

#### **Presentation from Railways Café @ Makers Village by TJ**

TJ from Railway Café explained on the authentic look and feel from their establishment and how they are involved in community work, and focus on the importance of recycling material while creating unique art in the process, the venue aims to change mental stimulus and it seeks new possibilities and allows people to appreciate art while enjoying their freshly cooked meals and refreshing drinks.

For more information on the Railways Café @ Makers Village click here: [www.makersvillage.co.za](http://www.makersvillage.co.za)

Patrick thanked everyone for attending and informed them that minutes would be circulated. The meeting was adjourned at 16:33 pm.