



For immediate release:

PRESS RELEASE

**MINISTER OF TOURISM AND DIASPORA RELATIONS ALONG WITH
MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS DO WALKTHROUGH AT PGIA**

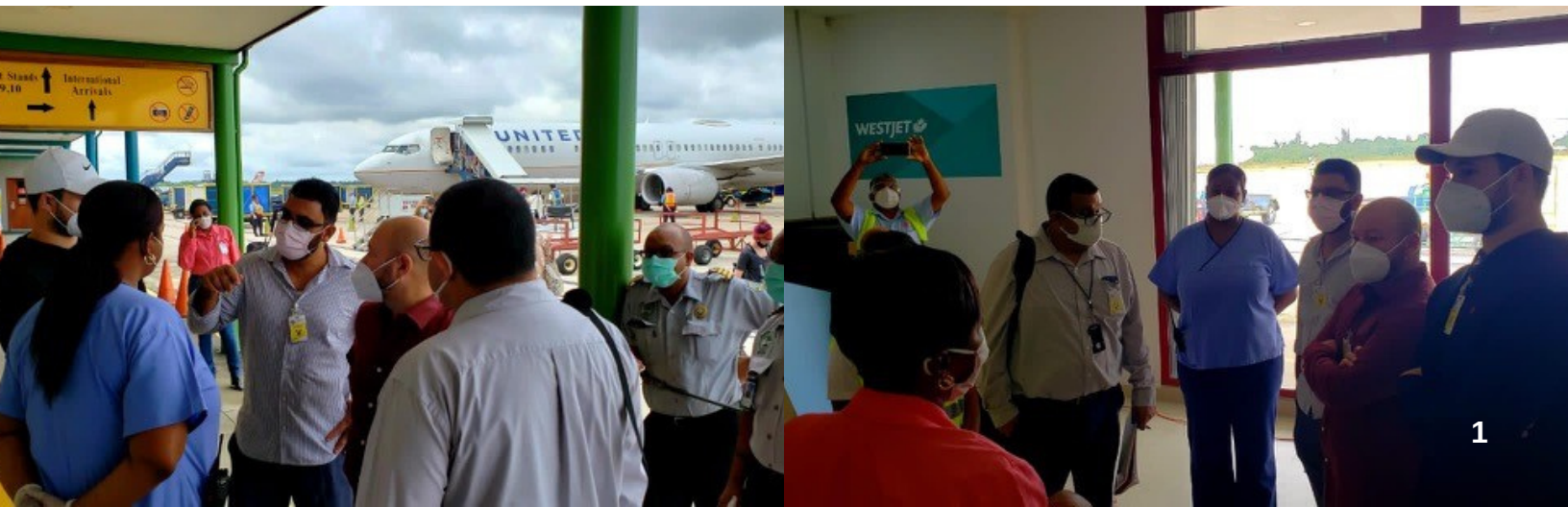
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It is no secret that the recovery of the tourism industry is critical to the country’s economic recovery, so it is imperative that the airport experience is addressed urgently. We must do everything we can to address the concerns and avoid negative feedback, which would be counterproductive to all the efforts we are making to bring tourists back.

December 4, 2020 - Hon. Anthony Mahler, Minister of Tourism and Diaspora Relations, along with Hon. Michel Chebat, Minister of Health and Wellness made a visit to the Phillip Goldson International Airport today. The purpose of their joint visit was to personally observe flight arrival protocols with a view to addressing immediate concerns received from the tourism private sector.

The visitor experience and delays in processing arriving passengers have been major concerns for the industry, and it is expected that during the month of December, the number of arriving tourists and Belizeans will only increase, compounding the problem if it is not immediately addressed. The guest experience is a priority, but so too is the health and safety of all frontline workers and arriving passengers, so the solutions must be carefully determined.

“It is no secret that the recovery of the tourism industry is critical to the country’s economic recovery, so it is imperative that the airport experience is addressed urgently. We must do everything we can to address the concerns and avoid negative feedback, which would be counterproductive to all the efforts we are making to bring tourists back,” commented Hon. Anthony Mahler.



Both Ministers Mahler and Chebat did the walkthrough, together with personnel from Health, Tourism, Customs and Belize Airport Concession Company, where they did a detailed review of the process and protocols. They even had conversations with visitors to get direct feedback. This visit follows two previous visits within the last week carried out by the teams at the Ministry of Tourism and Diaspora Relations, the Department of Civil Aviation and the Belize Tourism Board, so there is a good understanding of where the bottlenecks exist.

Various areas of concern exist, and these details have been noted and expressed to all relevant parties in an effort to find an immediate solution to the issues at hand. As a result, a plan will be developed to revise the current protocols and allow for better management of safe passenger flow. The systems at the Philip Goldson International Airport, the main entry point for Belize, must function optimally if Belize is to be successful in meeting the objectives of tourism recovery.

-End of Release-

Contact:

Ministry of Tourism and Diaspora Relations

106 South Street, Belize City, Belize

www.tourism.gov.bz

Telephone: 227-2801

Email: info@tourism.gov.bz

