



Honourable Minister Stuart Young MP
Ministry of National Security
Republic of Trinidad & Tobago
Temple Court 1
31-33 Abercromby St.
Port of Spain,
Trinidad & Tobago

Dear Honourable Minister Young,

Subject: Trinidad & Tobago Yacht Services Sector - Approximately 2000 Jobs and their Dependents Still Awaiting Relief

It is with great humility and respect that we write to you. You and your fellow ministers have been given a task like none before you have ever had. It has been a hard road and will continue to be for the foreseeable future.

For the tireless hours, days, and months of stress and effort that you all have had to face, we, as citizens, commend and thank you.

The Yacht Services sector is in collapse. International customers being denied entry into the country is destroying the industry so completely and unnecessarily.

It is now November, the beginning of the yachting season in the Caribbean. The customers abroad that have left their vessels in dry dock in the boatyards of Chaguaramas at the beginning of the year, vessels that have been effectively trapped here, now want to return to reclaim their boats. Under current policy, they are barred from doing so.

We understand that arrival by air is problematic and that mechanisms for this are still being looked at carefully by the government. However, arrival by sea is very straightforward and safe.

As you may recall, you have most graciously granted permission to the writer to repatriate nationals from Barbados by boat in these past months. The procedures and protocols are in place and have all been followed regarding quarantine in Chacachacare. All officials could not have been more professional and pleasant.

The protocols for dealing with health and quarantine of sea going vessels have been in place for hundreds of years. Sea vessels by their physical nature are easily quarantined. This form of quarantine costs virtually nothing to the country in way of expense and poses no risk to nationals. In the modern day we also have testing as an additional safeguard to the quarantine period.

So, we have the way. What we need now, to save this industry and the jobs of the workers it employs, is to have the will. The moral and political will. There is no medical or scientific reason to block these

customers from returning by sea. This is so very clearly demonstrated by the situation in Grenada, where hundreds of our customers have been given refuge throughout this pandemic.

We understand quite clearly that politically you may be criticized for opening to non-nationals while we still struggle to repatriate nationals. However, you need to **start** somewhere. Again, bear in mind, we hold some of these people's valuable vessels in our possession and expect them to continue to pay us to store them while they are not allowed to return to their sea going homes. For many, the only homes they own.

Attached for your reference is a letter from Dr Roshan Parasram approving the necessary protocols for implementation.

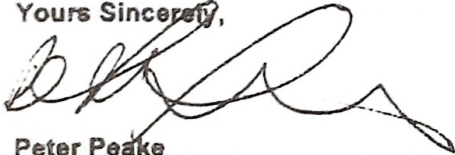
Minister Young, we urge you to consider how easy it is for us to start moving in a positive direction to save this people employing, US dollar earning industry.

Grenada is eating our lunch.

Please allow us to invite our valuable customers in so that we may make a contribution to the country's foreign exchange earnings while saving the livelihoods of this industry's workforce.

We look forward to your urgent attention to our request.

Yours Sincerely,



Peter Peake
Yacht Services Association of Trinidad & Tobago
President