

Thailand scraps proposed tourism fee

- A Monitor Report

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Bangkok : Thailand has scrapped a plan to implement a THB 300 (USD 8.20) tourism fee for visitors arriving in the country by air. Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin announced the government's decision to drop the plan during a visit to Chiang Mai on June 8.

"The fee ... was abandoned with the rationale that its elimination could encourage higher tourist spending in other areas, thereby providing a more substantial boost to the economy," said Thailand's Government Public Relations Department on its website.

Thailand's previous government approved the controversial fee in February 2023, with a spokesperson for the country's Prime Minister's Office saying at the time that collected fees would "be used to manage and develop tourism".

However, the fee faced opposition from the private sector, said the

Government Public Relations Department. Thailand has been moving to boost tourism in the country in recent months.

In May, its government approved longer visa stay periods for tourists, postgraduate students and remote workers, and better visa conditions for retirees.