

Date: 01 December 2005

Press statement on damage causing animals

The department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism has noted with serious concern the continuing human-wild animal conflict incidents in the Province. The main victims are local communities living in the border of the Kruger National Park, along the Zimbabwe and Mozambique borders where livestock has been lost, property damaged and people injured or even lost life.

We would like to commend our officers deployed in all the Districts in the manner in which they have been responding to these incidents. As much as it is our role to protect animals against any form of ill treatment, to us human life is paramount. Our Environmental Compliance officers eliminate animals only where they are likely to constitute a danger to human life or property otherwise they had to be captured and translocated in line with the Limpopo Environmental Management Act of 2003 following procedures laid down by the department. It should be stressed that no person may hunt or eliminate a damage causing animal without a permit from the delegated authority.

We have been in constant touch with the SANPARK on the maintenance of various fences around protected areas and reliable efficient patrol systems. As the Provincial government we must commit ourselves to continue to work together with neighboring countries such as Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Botswana especially in the management of elephant populations.

The department would like to make a call to communities not to try and scare damage causing animals or do anything that is provocative when they come across them. They must rather immediately call our District officers deployed throughout or the police. The following are contact officers and their details:

- 1] Mopani-W Moganya: 082 802 4205**
- 2] Capricorn-M Maso: 082 802 4152**
- 3] Vhembe-S Mashele: 082 802 4193**
- 4] Waterberg-S Makhari: 082 802 4134**
- 5] Sehkukhune-R Mphahlele**
- 6] Bohlabela-O Moagi:**

Issued by: Moss Tseli

Spokesperson

Tel: [015] 293 8524

Fax: [015] 293 8317

Mobile: 082 573 8783

For more information contact: Margaret Nmutamvuni @ 082 8063251/ [015] 291 4094.