



North West Parks Board

North West Province

Republic of South Africa

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MEDIA RELEASE

NORTH WEST PROVINCE BLOEMHOF DAM NATURE RESERVE HOSTS THE 4TH WORLD ANGLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

North West Parks Board Bloemhof Dam Nature Reserve will once again host a world angling competition at its Bamboesspruit and VerlatenKraal fishing sites. The championship is set to bring over 500 world anglers to the North West Province who deem fishing as a sporting activity. The 500 are a fraction of 42 world countries fishing fraternity who will brace the country's fishing venues from the 9th February until 17th February 2019.

The North West Province will host 27 countries who will compete under the carp and feeder fishing code. The carp is a 72 hours non-stop competition where anglers catch fish day and night without rest whilst the feeder last for only 7 hours. Bloemhof Dam shores will be hosting 215 anglers for each code.

The competition is set to bring about economic benefit to Bloemhof town and its communities, including nearby towns of Wolmaransstad and Christiana. The towns' developments are visible from the increased accommodation facilities, retail shops and increased interest in fishing by the public at large especially school children.

The 2019 competition is the 3rd World Carp and Feeder Angling Championship to be held at Bloemhof Dam Nature Reserve after having successfully hosted similar competitions 2008, 2010(women championship) and 2013. Other international events include, South Africa women angling competitions that are held annually at Bloemhof-Sanveld site of the Free State.

The World championship is not the only competition held in Bloemhof. The dam hosts over 10 competitions during the year. The most popular one being the annual fishing bonanza that is organized by the Eco-care trust. The annual 4 days competition attracts over a 1000 fishermen and their families who compete for the 'big catch'. The prizes range from cash, fishing utensils and family getaway trips. The biggest fish ever caught weighed over 15kg between carp and barber.

The North West Parks Board Chairperson, Dr Khakhane Leballo and MEC for Rural Environment and Agricultural Development, Desbo Mohono are delighted to be the custodians of this prestigious world championship. "The dam is ready, we are ready as the government including the people of Lekwa-temane Local Municipality. This competition marks a tick to the province status as a destination of choice for fishing. All hands are on deck to

Partnering with Stakeholders to Provide World Class Wildlife Experience in a Malaria Free Environment.

Board of directors: Dr. TE Khakhane-Leballo (Chairperson), Dr. H Magome, Pastor P TThabanyane, Adv. M Raborife, Kgosi KS Lekoko, Ms. P Mashiane, Mr. F Thupaemang, Ms. N Maharaj, Adv. ST Kholong, Mr. ZJ van der Merwe (ex-officio)

ensure that South Africa Fresh Bank Angling Federation (SAFBAF) and the World Sport Federation continue to bid for future world angling championships to be held in Bloemhof Dam. The government is going to make sure that the community and town of Bloemhof economy spin offs reach every house hold and children in particular. We will make sure that the youth take up fishing as a sporting code and their parents enter into aqua??... programmes offered by government to create jobs said the MEC.

SAFBAF is an NGO that is managed by volunteers and funded by lotto. The federation has affiliated members from other provinces who are part of the South Africa team that will be representing the country during the championship. The affiliated teams hold regular competitions to prepare for the world championships. The competitions range from junior championships, ladies and men teams competitions.

Bloemhof Dam 2 competitions will start on the 10th February 2019 until 17th February 2019. The first being the carp on the 10th February until 13th February, and the second, the feeder, starting on the 13th February to 17th February 2019 respectively. There will be two closing ceremonies hosted by the Federation, one in partnership with Dr. Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality. The Department of Tourism, Tourism Board, Department of Education are on board have collaborated with North West Parks Board to ensure that this event is given the stature and support it deserves.

The South Africa teams have started practicing and will hold fishing clinics for 60 school children and their teachers selected from Bloemhof town local schools. The children will attend taught basic fishing techniques and rules. The clinics are sponsored by the federation and Parks Board as part of their community development programmes that will continue throughout the year. The programme vision is to have an affiliated group of children from Bloemhof.

The championships will start with an opening ceremony on the 9th February, 2019 in Sandton, where all participants will be welcomed to the country before departing to their different provinces competition venues on the same day.

The province will host a ceremony on the 10th February 2019 at Bloemhof Dam Bamboesspruit Fishing site to hand over the dam shore to SAFBAF and the World Angling Federation teams, whilst the closing ceremonies will be held on the 13th and 16th February 2019 at venues yet to be confirmed by SAFBAF.

More information regarding the event can be sourced from the federation website www.fishingworldgames2019.co.za; and www.northwestparks.org.za

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