



North West Parks Board

**North West Province
Republic of South Africa**

Pilanesberg National Park ,
Manyane Gate, Mogwase
P.O.Box 1201
MOGWASE
0314

PR AND COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Tel: +27(14) 555 1600
Fax: +27 (14) 555 1625
Email: drangaka@nwpb.org.za

**The Editor
Mahikeng Mail News Paper
13 Martin Street
MAHIKENG
2735**

Email: Bobby@mafikengmail1.co.za;
Tebogo@mafikengmail1.co.za;
Aista@mafikengmail1.co.za;

6th December 2017

Dear Mr. Bobby Saul

**RESPONSE: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON “EXTINCTION OF RHINO IN THE NW
IMMINENT
ANTIPOACHING – ITS NOW OR NEVER”**

The North West Parks Board noted the contents of the editorial comment published in the 17th November 2017 edition, page 4 with the title as stated above. The views and opinions expressed about Pilanesberg and the rhino poaching status expressed by the unknown individual with an unsubstantiated view of the current status of poaching in Pilanesberg, other reserves and the private game farms across the Province.

The author is not privy to the systems used by Parks Board for reserves surveillance as part of our security measures. The article seem to insinuate that government is reactive to poaching and such is devoid of any truth. The fact is that NWPB together with other law enforcement agencies actively participate in joint forums where poaching and other issues are discussed.

Poachers are being caught and executed without publicity. National Government through Environmental Management Inspectorates (EMIs) compliance and enforcement programmes address the illicit trade and trafficking of wildlife and wildlife products of which the details are not also not shared publicly.

The Board wishes to put some into the correct context issues relating to Rhino Poaching, and in a way enlightening the public on facts about the matter:

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 Tlhabanyane, Adv. M Raborife, Kgosi KS Lekoko, Ms. P Mashiane, Mr. F Thupaemang, Ms. N Maharaj, Adv. ST Kholong, Mr. ME Mothobi (ex-officio)

- Our parks rhino poaching stats do not amount to daily incidents as stated in the article. The statistics show that Pilanesberg has lost just over 10 Rhinos (including those injured) this year.
- Parks Board works within government legislation and provincial ordinances when it comes to apprehending poachers;
- The Board has stringent measures in place towards anti-poaching and has employed field rangers to conduct anti-poaching operations, including Conservation Community Ambassadors, augmented by Environmental Monitors;
- The ambassadors and monitors conduct awareness on anti-rhino and generic wildlife poaching to communities and different conservation groups and structures.
- The Board works with relevant law enforcement structures during anti-poaching missions who include the SAPS, Private Rhino Owners Association (PROA) and neighbouring farmers' security structures.
- Field Rangers undergo bi-monthly firearm practices and evaluations to ensure full compliance with the Firearm Control Act and to ensure that they maintain their musketry skills. They also conduct arbitrary internal stop and searches operation within the parks and also participate on external road blocks arranged by SAPS.
- Department of Environmental Affairs represents South Africa on illicit trade and trafficking engagements in SADAC (and that includes high government level engagements with Mozambique, particularly relating to rhino poaching).
- It is evident from what is stated that the Board is doing everything possible to curb the scourge of poaching in the 15 Reserves it manages as protected areas and that actions taken are informed by policy derived from the government legislation and the rule of law.

Parks Board is more than willing to engage with shareholders on matters related to Enhancing the Management of Conservation Areas in the Province to ensure that everyone concerned and involved is attended to and well informed.

End.

ISSUED BY

**DINAH RANGAKA
PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER
NORTH WEST PARKS BOARD**

**TEL : 018 397 1507
CELL: 084 374 7935
EMAIL: drangaka@nwpb.org.za**

ENDORSED BY

**D. MOMPEI
ACTING CEO
NORTH WEST PARKS BOARD**

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 Tlhabanyane, Adv. M Raborife, Kgosi KS Lekoko, Ms. P Mashiane, Mr. F Thupaemang, Ms. N Maharaj, Adv. ST Kholong, Mr. ME Mothobi (ex-officio)

