



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

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OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

PRESS RELEASE

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RE: Clarification on the supposed lion and elephant hunt

An online advert by Savannah Safaris has caused outrage specifically on social media with many criticising the Ministry for approving such a hunt. In this regard, we would like to clarify to the public that the hunt of both the lion and the elephant was not at all sanctioned or permitted by the Ministry.

Even though Torra conservancy has under its annual quota for this year one lion for hunting, they still need to make an application to hunt that lion to the Ministry for consideration. It is disturbing to note that Savannah Safaris has advertised an elephant for trophy hunting, which is not in its annual quota for 2017. It is unprofessional and unethical that the advertisement was made before the allocation of the annual quota was finalized, and without prior consultation from the Ministry.

Therefore, the Ministry wished to assure the public that the matter will be addressed with Savannah Safaris in an effort to ensure compliance to the code and conduct expected from the professional hunters.

The Ministry would further like to caution registered hunters to refrain from causing such unnecessary outrage through unauthorized and unethical undertakings which have potential to harm our reputable and sustainable hunting industry. Our hunting should be defined by professionalism and good conduct so that it continues to contribute significantly to the GDP of the country, poverty reduction and the betterment of livelihood of rural communities in the country, and to further the objectives of wildlife conservation.

Furthermore, a general impression has been created that Namibia's lions are depleting as a result of trophy hunting and human wildlife conflict. On the contrary, Namibia has a healthy lion population in several parks and an expanding lion population outside game parks, which has grown in north western Namibia from an estimated 25 animals in 1995 to around 150 to date. As a result more lion and human conflict has been experienced particularly in the

Kunene region and as part of our lion population management strategy offtakes by means of trophy hunting are crucial.

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism will conduct investigation into the matter and will provide feedback to the public on the matter.

The Ministry once again encourages the public to consult our offices directly to raise their concerns instead of sensationalizing issues on social media such as Facebook.

Sent Via Email

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