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Department:
**Rural, Environment and Agricultural
Development**
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Media Advisory

MEBALA YA RONA BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE - 13-15 October 2016

Tuesday, 04 October 2016

The MEC for Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development, Manketsi Tlhape and the Bokone Bophirima Premier, Supra Mahumapelo will host the inaugural 2016 Mebala Ya Rona Biodiversity Conference. The three days conference which will be hosted under the theme: "Business of nature", seeks to offer new solutions to challenges faced by wildlife and biodiversity sectors in the country.

The Bokone Province through its Rebranding, Repositioning and Renewal (RRR) concrete has committed to take action and accelerate biodiversity transformation. As part of the conference, the department would like a great contribution to be made to the blueprints for conservation, guideposts for growth and sustainable use of resource base, transformation action, and a vision for how communities wish to leave lands, waters, and wildlife for future generations.

The following are key dialogue areas for the conference:

- The captive lion breeding and hunting industry amid current national and internal pressure; can the practice still be sustainable;
- Harnessing and maximising the potential of devil's claw plant and any other material in deriving economic value for the locals;

- Endorsement of consultation towards the review of the legal framework in ensuring the efficient and effectiveness of integrated permitting system;
- Growth and sustainability of the wildlife sector to ensure access, inclusion and improved contribution to the GDP through both export and local consumption of products.

In addition to the deliberations and formal sessions, there will be a cocktail dinner on 13 October, a transformation fundraising dinner through a catalogue auction on 14 October and Mebala Ya Rona Market Day on 15 October. The market day offers a range of family fun activities as well as product offering by local SMMEs, crafters and entertainment.

Conference Details:

Date: Thursday, 13- Saturday, 15 October 2016

Venue: Bakgatla Gate, Pilanesberg, Bojanala Platinum District

Media is invited to attend and cover this historic event.

Transport is available for community on request.

RSVP by Friday, 07 October 2016 to: dmti@nwpg.gov.za and

nnete@motswakomedia.co.za

For more information please visit Mebala Ya Rona website: www.mebalayarona.org.za

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Issued by the Communication Services Directorate

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