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Media Release

NW COMMUNITY GROUPS SET TO BENEFIT FROM WILDLIFE AUCTION FUND

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Rustenburg: Eight community based projects in the North West province have been placed on a shortlist and identified to potentially benefit from Wildlife auctions funding as part of the Bokone Bophirima Biodiversity transformation programme. The Rona Nna Legacy fund has to date managed to raise R1,6 million aimed at developing emerging biodiversity projects across the province. Following the successful hosting of the Inaugural Mebala Ya Rona Wildlife Auction in March 2017, the Department of Rural, and Environment & Agricultural Development (READ) successfully hosted the second auction on 02 March 2018 in Molokwane Lodge, Rustenburg in order to continue with efforts to address the funding challenges which is amongst the many other critical hindrances of growth and transformation within the Biodiversity Sector.

The "Roma Nna Legacy Foundation" was launched last year to assist development of new entrance projects for inclusivity, capacity development, and other related matters. The Fund is meant to be a key platform for collaborative contribution by both the industry and government towards transformation. The proceeds are entirely dedicated to assist emerging game farming activities which include start-up game for stocking; addressing Infrastructure challenges; capacity building aspects; further catalytic projects; necessary feasibility studies, business plans; and land availability.

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Speaking during the auction MEC Manketsi Tlhape said the provincial administration was keen to concentrate on economic growth for the disadvantaged groups. “the continued exclusion of black people from the mainstream wildlife economy can no longer be sustainable, and the only viable option to encourage economic growth is through meaningful participation of this disadvantaged group in key productive areas of this sector’s economy,” MEC Tlhape emphasised.

The main objective of Mebala Ya Rona biodiversity transformation initiative remains that of growing of the wildlife, biotrade & eco-tourism economies, so as to ensure crucial transformation (inclusiveness) of the sector, whilst assisting to build and encourage the investors’ confidence in the local products.

MEC has welcomed stakeholder participation in the projects. “We welcome continuous participation of the Wildlife Industry, Exhibitors, donors and sellers for this second Auction. We still have vivid memories of the success of the inaugural Auction in the same venue last year. The contribution you make in promoting biodiversity economy and facilitating this crucial conversion is treasured. We hope for a ground-breaking day in today’s auction and are comfortable that our transformation efforts through Biodiversity are on a growing trajectory,” MEC Tlhape said.

Tlhape said she was looking forward to more participation of all interested parties. She further said government alone was not going to be able to transform the outlook of the industry. She said it was the industry itself that needed to ensure participation of people of colour in the mainstream economy of the sector and it needed to persist. In order for this to be realised, MEC Tlhape said the industry needed to explore possibilities of the standardised preferential procurement systems or the ever-important capacity building measures or even the crucial resource provisioning. Tlhape emphasized that government would place efforts to create conducive environment for such transformation to unfold through identification of critical catalysts towards unlocking the real value of the sector.

Stephan Palos, the Confederation of Hunting Association (CHASA) CEO, pledged the association support to Mebala Ya Rona Auctions and the biodiversity projects in its entirety. "Our strategic focus areas and the association has been and will continue to work with government to create a new wave of growth and prosperity in the wildlife industry by leveraging our unique natural strengths for the benefit of all," he further said.

The 2018 Wildlife auction was successfully hosted in partnership with Vleissentraal auctioneers. The auction included 3000 animals from at least 15 different species, trophy hunting as well as biltong hunting packages.

Photos:

Photo 1: The 2nd Annual Mabala Ya Rona Wild Life Auction at Molokwane Game Farm drew Wildlife enthusiasts together

IMG 4381: MEC Manketsi Tlhape says biodiversity sector is an enabling platform emerging entrepreneurs the sector

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