

ANNEXURE 2



read

Department:
**Rural, Environmental and Agricultural
Development**
North West Provincial Government
Republic of South Africa



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**TO : CHAIRPERSON
NORTH WEST EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**FROM : Ms. MANKETSI TLHAPE
MEC : READ**

**SUBJECT : EVALUATION REPORT ON THE PROPOSAL BY THE SOUTH
AFRICAN GAME BREEDERS ASSOCIATION ON WILDLIFE
TRANSFORMATION**

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the submission is to provide to the Bokone Bophirima Executive Council (BB EXCO) an inspection report on the proposal by the South African Game Breeders Association (SAGBA) on wildlife sectoral transformation.

The submission further seeks approval of BB EXCO on the implementation modalities starting from 1st April 2015.

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2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. South African Game Breeders Association (SARGBA) made a proposal to the North West Parks and Tourism Board (NWPTB) on donation of wildlife and request for government assistance through its proposal dated 6th November 2014. The same was shared with the Member of Executive responsible for the NWPTB.
- 2.2. An EXCO memo dated 15th December 2015 was sponsored by MEC READ to request permission to investigate the SAGBA proposal and provide a report in that regard by the end of February 2015. EXCO granted the approval in that regard.
- 2.3. An inspection team led by READ and comprising of the other experts within the North West Parks and Tourism Board visited the South African Rare Game Breeders Association's facilities in Swartruggens in the Kgetleng River Local Municipality within the Bojanala District Municipality.

3. MOTIVATED SUBMISSION

Transformation of the wildlife sector has been expressed in the State of the Province Address 2015 by the Premier of Bokone Bophirima as critical area towards economic growth. The submission serves as a vital response to this call for transformation

4. ANNEXURES

- DRAFT Game Donation Policy in the North West Parks and Tourism Board

5. DISCUSSIONS

Inspection Findings

- 5.1. The proposal also seeks to establish beneficiation schemes in the form of empowering varied community structures as part of the current SARGBA. In achieving all these, SARGBA needs government to donate game for this venture to materialize.
- 5.2. The excursion revealed that the state of the art characterisation of operational property in line with the stated facts on the proposal submitted to EXCO:
- Comprises of a five farm consortium with a total land hectorage of about 2000ha with prospects of acquisition of more land during the partnership.
 - Currently the farms are a home to various species of game which include sable antelope, buffalo, gemsbuck just to name few of the charismatic species.
 - The vegetation is typical mountain bushveld vegetation, located on shallow soils with notable valleys, providing a variety of habitats.
 - The farms are sub-divided in smaller breeding camps. Fences are very sturdy, and designed to keep out predators.
 - The breeding program is very intensive; the animals receive supplementary feeding, parasite control is applied, and animals are monitored very closely through remotely operated cameras.
 - The facility is deemed suitable for the conceptual proposal and can be developed into a fully-fledged business plan.

Motivation for this approach or case

- 5.3. The wildlife industry in South Africa is highly prevalent in the rural parts of this country and predominately so in the North West Province. This is one of the main economic development contributors into the country's gross domestic product.
- 5.4. On annual basis the industry has the capacity to generate about R 8 billion from hunting, and related derivatives. Ironically and whilst all these economic activities are taking place within the most impoverished communities, black South African's participation in this industry is estimated at less than 5%. ?
- 5.5. Previously disadvantaged communities and those that are receiving their land through the land restitution process do not have necessary skills and capacity to manage these once productive and business orientated ecotourism and game production ventures. There is a need to address this anomaly through a radical but government policy compliant process.
- 5.6. Game ranching generally works essentially on five levels :
- The first level is the sale of **hunting trips and venison** (a low cholesterol, low-fat protein alternative for which the market, both and internationally, has hardly been tapped);
 - the second level is the sale of live game at auctions and the translocation of these animals;
 - the third level is the processing of animal products;
 - The fourth level is the providing of game lodges, conference facilities and related services.
 - The fifth level is of breeding high value game and colour variants.
- 5.7. The latter is not conservation, but purely financially driven and responding to a very obvious market. Conservation agencies are very critical about

these breeding practises and its impact on sustainable wildlife management. At all five of these levels, significant economic opportunities at a functional and operational area can be derived from the industry.

- 5.8. Government has embarked on a drive to do things differently with a view to empower communities whilst improving the economy of this country. National Department of Environment has identified wildlife economy as a sector for economic development. This is referred to as a game changer programme and the North West Province need to vehemently participate in and become the leaders in this transformation agenda.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The SARGBA seem to present a case that will address the transformation agenda highlighted above. Partnerships and meaningful capacity building are critical in ensuring that the programme achieves its intended objectives. The following will constitute critical success factors of the wildlife economy and transformation agenda in the province:-

- **Rights to the land ownership**, which will recognize the community and individual's rights of land ownership is critical for sustainability of wildlife economy.
- **Hard Structures**, which implies setting up "hard" legal and governance structures which are capable of engaging with the commercial world, state and conservation agencies. They must be able to merge traditional and new democratic organizations.
- **Partnerships with the private sectors** which will ensure that communities are able to set up successful wildlife based businesses by themselves. Therefore, partnerships with the private sector are needed.

- **Continued and properly structured technical support** which should be sensitive, appropriate and able to assist the community to pursue its vision until they achieve the set goals.
- **Skills development**, aimed at producing extensive skills development programmes in the areas of leadership, conservation management, hospitality and tourism training, consumptive and non-consumptive and commercial skills.
- **Conflict mediation** should be core in the management of conflicts that arise in the course of implementing integrated conservation and development programmes. In many cases, this mediation has been provided by outside agencies. In addressing the issue of adaptability, there is a need to recognize that this venture is a "living" programme that requires constant change and adaptive management approach.
- **Beneficiation and business model** that supports equitable management and control of partnership enterprise
- Selection of **legible beneficiaries** with skill appropriate skill mix and resources to venture into partnerships
- Policy instrument for **Game Donation Policy** within the North West Parks and Tourism Board.

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1. FINANCIAL

The main financial implications to be by government in relation to this transformation initiatives is on game donation by the NWPTB.

7.2. ORGANIZATIONAL

A strong governance structure in line with the proposal is required to control and management the transformation vehicle through SARGBA

7.3. COMMUNICATION

None

7.4. CONSULTATION

The proposal has not been communicated to the Board for NWPTB on account of the repeal processes of the old act. However, the report is enriched with technical inputs form READ and NWPTB particularly on the parks function. The department also seeks to consult EXCO on the DRAFT Game Donation which has been reworked to consider beneficiaries and to include communities and to include entrepreneurs.

7.5. LEGAL

Upon approval of the proposal by EXCO as well as the game donation policy, legal binding agreements will be signed between parties and the basis of a costed business plan.

7.6. POLITICAL

The wildlife sector is a critical area for socio-economic transformation and has the potential to create jobs and empower previously disadvantaged people and enhanced BBBEE

8. RECOMMENDATION

The following are recommended:

- 8.1. that EXCO note the positive inspection findings on the facilities for the South African Rare Game Breeders Associations (SARGBA) to support the approval
- 8.2. that EXCO note the favourable motivation on the approach and the case at hand in relation to SARGB.
- 8.3. that EXCO approves the proposal by SARGB for implementation by READ
- 8.4. that READ provides further guidance on implementation through development of costed business plan, approval of the game donation policy, selection of beneficiaries, signing of agreements , monitoring and reporting on this project.

SUBMITTED BY



DR. P MOKAILA,

ACTING HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

DATE: 24/03/2015

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION,



HON. M. TLHAPE, MPL

MEC: RURAL, ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

DATE: 25/03/2015