

MEDIA RELEASE - 19 November 2001

FIRE IN THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK: CARTE BLANCHE

In the light of the official inquiry launched by myself as Chairperson of SANParks, following the horrendous fire in the Kruger National Park recently, Senior Management were asked not to pre-empt the outcome of the inquiry by speaking to the media.

Many of the facts as portrayed by Carte Blanche on Sunday evening, 18 November 2001, are refutable. Amongst many other inaccuracies, the Director of Kruger National Park did not say that families of those who refused to bury their deceased family members in the Kruger National Park would not be given financial assistance. Identification of the authentic relatives of those who died as a result of the fire was an extremely difficult process and involved various other persons besides Mr David Mabunda (such as the relevant Chiefs in the region).

It is sad, and disappointing, that Carte Blanche should have sensationalised Operation Prevail and linked it to the events surrounding the fire.

SANParks is prepared to make a full statement as soon as the inquiry has been completed.

M MOROBE
CHAIRPERSON: SANParks

- Ends -

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