

Media Release - 29/06/2001

Sanparks Rejects Allegations Of Irregularities In The Administration Of The Kruger National Park

In a statement issued in Parliament today, the Democratic Alliance says that it has been alerted to gross irregularities in the administration of the Kruger National Park and cited the Satara Camp as an example.

South African National Parks (SANParks) rejects these allegations and objects, in the strongest of terms, to the DA exploiting the current restructuring process, "Operation Prevail", underway in the parks to score political points.

"Operation Prevail" is a restructuring programme aimed at making the parks more efficient and cost effective. It has the blessing of the SANParks Board of Trustees who at the latest Board Meeting held on 27 June expressed full support for the process and congratulated Management for the exemplary manner in which "Operation Prevail", including the consultations with unions, is being implemented.

SANParks prides itself in having a sound corporate governance system and any allegation of misconduct or irregularity is fully investigated and dealt with according to the organization's Code of Conduct. The internal investigation into the operations of our Buffalo breeding programme, which resulted in the dismissal of the project manager, is a case in point. In the case of Satara Camp, an internal investigation has been launched against the Camp Manager who has been suspended pending the outcome of the investigation.

SANParks is aware of the fact that the strong anti-restructuring lobby that has emerged in the Kruger Park is orchestrating a negative media campaign in an attempt to derail the process. This campaign will not succeed and we wish to assure the South African public that their parks are being well looked after.

Please address all media queries to:

Dr Salifou Siddo
Head: Communications
South African National Parks
Tel: (012) 426 5018
Fax: (012) 343 0153
E-mail: Salifous@parks-sa.co.za
Website: www.parks-sa.co.za

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