

To: All Media

Attention: News Editors

Date: 21 August 2019

MEC KGOSIENTSHO RAMOKGOPA OFFERS CONDOLENCES TO FAMILY OF GAME LODGE OWNER WHO DIED DUE TO SEVERE INJURIES FROM A LION ATTACK

Gauteng MEC for Economic Development, Agriculture, Environment and Environment, Dr. Kgosientsho Ramokgopa is saddened by news of the death of a lion owner at a private game farm just outside Dinokeng Game Reserve, north of Tshwane. This incident was reported on Tuesday afternoon.

It is believed that, the lion attacked the man who is the owner of the game lodge while trying to fix a broken fence at his establishment. He sustained severe injuries and was pronounced dead by the paramedics who rushed to the scene after being alerted by the people nearby. “On behalf of the Gauteng Provincial Government and the broader tourism fraternity in the Gauteng City Region, I would like to express our deepest condolences to the family, relatives and friends of the deceased,” said MEC Ramokgopa.

This unfortunate incident happened outside the jurisdiction of the Game Reserve which the provincial government is managing. The lion that was involved with this fatality was not one of the wild free-roaming lions of the Dinokeng Game Reserve. No landowners and/or product owners or staff of the Dinokeng Game Reserve were involved in the incident.

“We would like to appeal to all the private game farm owners and workers to exercise caution and total vigilance in their day to day interaction with wild animals. Adherence to safety standards and protocols by everyone involved is non-negotiable as we strive to build a safe and growing visitor economy in the province that creates jobs and memorable visitor experience,” explained Ramokgopa.

While the police are continuing with their investigations, the MEC would like to assure visitors to the province and locals alike that, the province’s tourism attractions and experiences remains safe and accessible despite this incident. We are looking forward to another bumper

tourism and heritage month in September and part of our drive next month will be to encourage locals to be tourists in their own backyard and welcome visitors with a warm smile and super knowledge about their province.

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