



MEDIA ADVISORY

FREE STATE GAME AUCTION

The Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs will host the Game auction from the 13th till 14 April 2012 at the Willem Pretorius Nature Reserve.

During this two-day event, a total of 865 animals will be sold to the highest bidder. On the first day, 74 hunting packages will be auctioned off at 14:00. The packages consist of trophy hunts, biltong hunts and Trophy Buffalo bulls. The hunts will take place on 8 of the 14 Provincial Nature reserves. On the second day from 11:00 491 live game of 16 different species including 23 disease free Buffalo and 1 white rhino will be sold. All sales will be per catalogue.

The Game Auction is a part of the game management plan which manages game population. Currently the department has livestock of 24 000 animals in the reserves. With the absence of predators in the reserves, game auction remains the most viable method of controlling game population.

Conservation management is important to our economy and can contribute to job creation and poverty alleviation. In the 2012/2013 Budget Vote speech, MEC Mamiki Qabathe mentioned that the Department is looking in the development of a Free State Game (Venison) Brand in which there is a interested European party that wants to invest in it by starting a deer farm in the province but also source deer and other game from other sources for export to the European market.

The department is also discussing the possibility of canning of deer and other game meat for local and export market. Game restaurants are also a venture that the department is looking into. With that mentioned this is the perfect time for all those interested to start investing in this cause and also participate in events of this nature.

The game auction is a family affair as there will be a bicycle race on Saturday 08:00 as well as numerous vendor stalls, beer garden and different food outlets.

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FREE STATE PROVINCE

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