



MEDIA RELEASE

DETEA ISSUES LOAN OF 7 BUFFALO TO FS GAME FARMER

In support of the Free State Provincial government's programme to address challenges faced by farmers who were previously disadvantaged and prevented from participating in the mainstream economy, the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DETEA) has heeded the call and embarked on an empowerment programme aimed at bringing transformation to the lucrative game industry as well as to introduce and attract as many interested black farmers to the well-established Black Game Ranchers in the province.

In the past 3 years 13 emerging, black game farmers have benefited from the donation programme. The Department had donated 10 Blue Wildebeest, 6 Zebra, 20 Springbok, 20 Blesbok and 5 Gemsbok and currently the donated species have grown to 100 Springbok, 17 Wildebeest, 80 Blesbok, 11 Zebra and 7 Gemsbok.

The department has, this time round, taken another twist as it will loan valuable game species to Black Game Ranchers. Mr Dube, the owner of Three Sisters Game Ranch has been part of the game ranchers program of the department since 2008 and has been identified as the first black farmer to be loaned 7 Buffaloes by the DETEA for a period of 3 years, with the option to extend the loan period for a further 2 years.

The occasion will be graced by the national Deputy Minister, Rejoice Mabudhafari as well as the Free State MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mr Mxolisi Dukwana

The estimated value of the buffaloes to be loaned to him amount to about R1,2 million. Though all off-springs born on the farm of Mr Dube will be his property, he must return 8 Buffalo to the Department at the end of the loan term. Since the inception of the donation programme, Mr Dube managed to permanently employ at least 10 people on his farm.

The DETEA event to mark the loan of the buffaloes will be held as scheduled below:

Date: 01 February 2011
Time: 13h00
Venue: Smithfield; Three Sisters Game Ranch
(Attached please find the map for your convenience)

COMMUNICATION & ICT

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