



Wildlife Economy
Department of Environmental Affairs
473 Steve Biko Street, Arcadia, Pretoria, 0083

14 August 2018

Request for support in establishing the Game Meat Cluster of the Xhariep District Farmers

Dear Mr Mkefe and Mr Matibe

I write to you subsequent to several telephonic and personal engagements or discussions. As you may be aware, the Xhariep District in the Free State Province has been earmarked for the development of an Agripark (an initiative spearheaded by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform which seeks to create a network innovation system of agro-production, processing, logistics, marketing, training, extension services for the advancement and development of rural communities whose livelihoods depends on natural resource-based economies such as agriculture and wildlife).

Nonetheless, within the Xhariep AgriPark one of the key economic activities identified is the production, processing and sale of game meat(Venison) domestically and internationally. Processes to construct the Agripark are currently underway, mapping of potential farms for game meat production has been undertaken, and also structures such as the District Agri-parks Management Council (DAMC) to oversee the functioning of the Agripark have been endorsed.

As emerging game meat producers in the Xhariep District we have been participating in various programmes of the Department of Environmental Affairs (Wildlife Economy Unit) aimed at developing SMME's in the wildlife value chain.

In the recent game meat indaba which took place in the Kruger National Park, the Department have exposed us to other opportunities which we can pursue as emerging game meat producers such as the formation of a **Xhariep Game Meat Cluster**.

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We view the formation of the Xhariep Game Meat Cluster as the right platform to address the current bottlenecks facing the game meat industry in the district and the country at large such as lack of investment, the difficulties to access markets (domestically and internationally), lack of skills specifically for new entrants, lack of research etc.

In taking this initiative forward, we are planning to have a workshop which will be attended by established and emerging game farmers, various associations in the wildlife sector, academia, local and Provincial government department to pave a clear strategy on the proposed endeavour .

The Department of Environmental Affairs has made great strides in ensuring that as emerging farmers we receive adequate support to meaningfully participate in the whole wildlife value chain.

To achieve this new undertaking, as emerging game meat producers we humbly request the Department to assist in the planning of the workshop and possibly with logistics (securing a venue, catering and Speakers). The identified date for the workshop is the 26 September 2018 in Bloemfontein.

We are hopeful that our request will be highly considered by the Department Please do feel free to contact me (details provided below) should you require more information.

Hope you will find the above in order,

Yours faithful;

Mr Lefa Tlhapuletsa

For any queries please contact me on this number 0825524016 or email me on lefa@kalema.co.za

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