

Media Statement
For Immediate Release
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EDTEA MEC, MR RAVI PILLAY, CALLS FOR A UNITED FRONT AGAINST POACHING IN THE PROVINCE

The Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) in KwaZulu-Natal is calling on communities to work with law enforcement and conservation agencies to clamp down on poaching.

The Department is deeply concerned about poaching incidents which are being reported across the province. Yesterday a report of a possible violent opposition to enforcement was reported. The circumstances around this incident are being investigated and thus information will be released once a full report has been received.

“The South African police, communities, conservation agencies such as Ezemvelo, tourism organisation and all relevant stakeholders need to work together to protect our natural resources. All of us have a duty to ensure the sustainable use of resources for the benefit of present and future generations,” said MEC Ravi Pillay.

MEC Pillay said the department will continue working with law enforcement agencies to curb poaching. He added that, apart from this crime having a detrimental effect on the environment, it also has a negative impact on the tourism sector and on economic development.

“The natural resources that we are endowed with are one of our key selling points as a destination. Some of our unique species are a core attraction to travelers and therefore depleting these resources will have a negative impact on our attractiveness as a tourist destination,” he said.

MEC Pillay concluded saying that the criminal elements and syndicates who are behind poaching activities, some of which are sophisticated and apparently well financed, should be isolated and reported to law enforcement by communities.

“It is in our best interest to ensure that we protect our natural resources that is why we need this new united front against poaching syndicates,” he said.

Issued by the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs