

REMARKS OF THE MEC FOR EDTEA ON UKHOZI FM FOLLOWING THE IHLUHLUWE GAME RESERVE (ISIQIWI) ESCAPE OF WILD ANIMALS TO NEARBY COMMUNITIES

30 August 2022

Durban - Ukhozi Fm (SABC) - MEC Siboniso Duma.

This morning the MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) had an interview with millions of listeners of Ukhozi Fm's morning Breakfast Show, to explain and respond to the matter of wild animals that have broken out of the Game Reserve (Isiqiwi) in Hluhluwe Game Reserve and are now allegedly seen roaming surrounding communities.

The MEC highlighted that the Department and its leadership is indeed concerned about the situation and the safety of the community and will be spending the whole day today (30 August 2022) observing the fencing around the Game Reserve.

"It is true that communities and nature can live together in peace and harmony, provided that there is responsibility and understanding. And yes, we are aware of instances where some in the community would have been tempted to remove the fencing for reasons related to socio-economics and this is unacceptable as it puts our people's lives in danger". MEC Duma

The MEC went on to remark that "His department would engage with the Department of Agriculture to see how can they both intervene to provide nature with water dams, manage both grass and water ecosystems which are essential for feeding and grassing the animals, so that wild animals and community livestock do not need to share these natural breeding necessities that complicates the problem".

The department of Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) and officials are requesting the surrounding communities to be cautious while the matter is attended with speed and order is restored.

Today the MEC of EDTEA Mr. S Duma, the media and community stakeholders are on the ground in Hluhluwe to deal with the situation and ensure that our people are safe.

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For Enquiries
Malusi KanoGida Mchunu
078 327 7093
EDTEA Media Liaison

Media Liaison desk
Sibahle.mtshali@kznedtea.gov.za