

MEDIA RELEASE - 8 March 2004

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KNP NOT UNDER SIEGE FROM POACHERS

South African National Parks (SANParks) announced today that the articles published in the Afrikaans Sunday press yesterday claiming that poaching is out of control in the Kruger National Park and that a former employee of the KNP protection services had been fired because of his attempts to lift the lid on the poaching problem were totally inaccurate.

"To even suggest that the KNP is not patrolled regularly is ludicrous as the park employs more than 200 field rangers who go on patrol every day. We would never deny that we have experienced some poaching incidents in our parks as is the case with numerous other conservation areas all over the world – including those of the rich western countries - but I am satisfied that our anti poaching strategies are on track." said SANParks Chief Executive, Mr David Mabunda.

Poaching incidents referred to in Rapport are presently the subject of an intensive South African Police Service (SAPS) investigation and, as such, SANParks may not comment until the final report has been released in order not to pre-empt the results of that investigation.

"SANParks has no control over disgruntled former employees going to the media but pleads to the media that information received in this manner should be treated with extreme caution as such persons usually have personal scores to settle with the organisation," said Mabunda .

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