

MEDIA RELEASE - 15 April 2004

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KNP RHINOS INJURE TWO PEOPLE

Two people were seriously injured when a group of three white rhinos attacked a group of people on a morning walk in the Kruger National Park this morning.

Both men, a KNP guide Mr Elias Chauke and a guest from Vereeniging were part of a group of five tourists and two guides who were on a morning walk from Biyamiti Bush Camp when the incident happened.

"The rhinos burst onto us as we approached the river bed and caught Elias who tried firing his rifle to no avail. I was not in a good position to fire my rifle but managed to hit the rhino with the butt of my rifle and it dropped Elias and ran off," explained KNP field guide Mr Dumisani Zwane.

Mr Chauke suffered serious injuries to his back, chest and arms. Another rhino charged through the site and mauled the guest - who has requested that his name is not mentioned - in the buttocks.

According to Mr Zwane, the rhinos then fled the scene.

A doctor from Skukuza, Dr Russouw Ferreira, was airlifted to the scene and stabilised both men before they could be airlifted to nearby Afsaal Picnic Spot where an ambulance rushed them to Nelspruit Medi Clinic.

The group was then safely escorted back to Biyamiti Bush Camp.

The incident happened at around 08:30 near a tributary of the Biyamiti River in the Southern Region of the Kruger National Park.

It is believed that the rhinos attacked the group as they were boxed in between the people and a relatively steep riverbank.

Kruger National Park management expressed its sympathy towards the tourist and to Mr Chauke.

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Issued by:

Raymond Travers
Media Relations Practitioner
Kruger National Park
Tel: 013 735 4116
Cell: 082 908 2677
E-mail: raymond@sanparks.org

Enquiries:

William Mabasa
HOD: Public Relations and Communications
Kruger National Park
Tel: 013 735 4363
Cell: 082 807 3919
E-mail: williamm@sanparks.org