

Media Release - 10 September 2001

Kruger Fire Disaster Update

The memorial service for the victims of the fire which devastated Kruger National Park last week will be held at the Skukuza rugby field in the park at 13:00 tomorrow, Tuesday 11 September. Twenty-three (23) people died in the blaze which destroyed 60 000 hectares (final figure) of the 2-million hectare park. The fire has now been extinguished.

The Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Rejoice Mabudafhasi, will deliver an address at the service.

The Bushbuckridge Taxi Association and Great North Transport have kindly offered to make taxis and buses available tomorrow to transport mourners to Skukuza for the memorial service. We are still awaiting confirmation from Busco in Nelspruit to ferry people from the Makoko and surrounding areas.

A mass funeral service is being planned by the Kruger National Park and representatives from the various communities. It will start at the Skukuza rugby field at 08:00 on Saturday morning (15 September) and will proceed to the Kruger Gate Cemetery at 10:00.

Two of the injured remain in hospital - Moses Lekhuleni and Sandros Ngwenya.

The names of the 23 deceased, of which 17 have been positively identified, are:

SANParks Permanent Employees

Shadrack Mhlanga
Phillip Fakude
Wilson Ngobeni
Fransisco Nyathe

Temporary Contract Workers

Christina Sibuyi
Yvonne Mondlana
Raimina Risenga
Mildred Ndlovu
Lizzy Mashele
Florence Mokoena
Lettie Manzini
Allita Makhubela
Miriam Ngomane
Eslina Sithebe
Nomina Nkuna
Glenah Ndimande
Linah Lekhuleni
Sarah Mazibuko (also known as Sarah Mawela)
Velapi Ngwenya
Comuphepa Lubisi
Flora Zwane
Miriam Nkuna
Lilly Mapanga

For those who would like to contribute to the Disaster Fund set up to help the families of the victims, here are the details of the bank account:

KNP Fire Disaster Fund
ABSA Current
Acct no: 40 54 043 666

Donations in kind can be made to:

Bulelwa Ngqakamba in the Office of the Director of the Kruger Park, phone: 013 735 4384.

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For more information on this release contact:

William Mabasa
Public Relations Manager
Kruger National Park
Tel: 013-735-4363
Cell: 082-807-3919

Dr Salifou Siddo
Head: Communications
SANParks
Tel: 012-426-5018
Cell: 082-802-3316

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