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DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

NO. 4765

26 April 2024

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998)**ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK TEAM TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE MINISTERIAL TASK TEAM REPORT ON VOLUNTARY EXIT OPTIONS AND PATHWAYS FOR THE CAPTIVE LION INDUSTRY FOR A PERIOD OF 18 MONTHS, EFFECTIVE FROM 1 MAY 2024 TO 30 NOVEMBER 2025**

I, Barbara Dallas Creecy, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby establish a Task Team to facilitate the implementation of the Ministerial Task Team Report for a period of 18 months effective from 1 May 2024 to 30 November 2025.

I established the Ministerial Task Team to identify and recommend voluntary exit options and pathways for the captive lion industry, in terms of section 3A of National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), by notice in the *Government Gazette* (Government Notice No. 2846, *Government Gazette* No. 47666 of 7 December 2022), extended by Government Notice No. 3536, *Government Gazette* No. 48783 of 13 June 2023 and further extended by Government Notice No. 4332, *Government Gazette* No. 50076 of 05 February 2024. The Ministerial Task Team Report to identify and recommend voluntary exit options and pathways for the captive lion industry dated 15 February 2024, was released on 3 April 2024.

The Government Notice (Government Notice No. 2846, *Government Gazette* No. 47666 of 7 December 2022) that established the Ministerial Task Team provided in paragraph 1.2 that *“on the determination of the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, specific members may be requested to continue with key aspects of the work to facilitate implementation of the exit strategy and other Task Team outcomes”*.

I therefore appoint the following specific members of the Ministerial Task Team to facilitate the implementation of the outcomes of the Ministerial Task Team Report for a period of eighteen (18) months, with effect from 1 May 2024 to 30 November 2025:

- Mr Kamalasen Chetty, Chairperson;
- Mr Obeid Katumba; and
- Dr Kelly Marnewick.

The Terms of Reference of the Ministerial Task Team are attached in the Schedule hereto.

The report of the Ministerial Task Team can be accessed on the following link:

https://www.dffe.gov.za/sites/default/files/reports/ministerialtaskteamMTTreport_captivelionindustry.pdf



BARBARA DALLAS CREECY
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

TERMS OF REFERENCE

TASK TEAM TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE MINISTERIAL TASK TEAM REPORT ON VOLUNTARY EXIT OPTIONS AND PATHWAYS FOR THE CAPTIVE LION INDUSTRY

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (the Department) upholds the Constitutional mandate in the Bill of Rights especially the role of government encapsulated in section 24, which advocates for the environment to be protected through reasonable legislative and other measures that secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development. Further to this, is the operationalization of the objectives of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No.10 of 2004) on conservation, sustainable use and fairness and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. The parameters in question refer to protection of the environment through measures that promote the environmental, social and economic imperatives for the present and future generations.
- 1.2 The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment appointed the High-level Panel (HLP) of experts for the review of policies, legislation and practices on matters of elephant, lion, leopard and rhinoceros management, breeding, hunting, trade and handling. The HLP submitted its report to the Minister in December 2020. Cabinet approved the report for implementation in April 2021, and the Minister released the report to the public in May 2021. The report included recommendations regarding the captive lion industry, and government has adopted this goal for implementation:

“South Africa does not captive breed lions, keep lions in captivity, or use captive lions or their derivatives commercially”.

The recommendations were: *“Minister puts in place a process to halt and reverse the domestication of our iconic lions, through captive lion keeping, breeding, and commercial use, putting in place ethical and humane procedures for euthanasia of existing captive lions; and Minister puts in place policy decisions for an immediate halt to (1) the sale of captive lion derivatives, including the appropriate disposal of existing lion bone stockpiles and lion bone from euthanised lions, (2) the hunting of captive bred lions, and (3) tourist interactions with captive lions, including, so-called, ‘volun-tourism’, cub petting, etc.; and The Minister engages with other Departments and the SETAs to identify mechanisms to protect employment of workers on captive lion facilities, including redeployment to other components of the wildlife sector, repurposing/retraining, and/or incorporation into the agricultural sector.”*

- 1.3 The Ministerial Task Team was appointed in December 2022, following above mentioned recommendations by the High-Level Panel. The Ministerial Task Team was established to identify and recommend options and pathways from captive lion industry. The Ministerial Task Team Report to identify and recommend voluntary exit options and pathways for the captive lion industry dated 15 February 2024 was approved by Cabinet on 27 March 2024 and released on 3 April 2024. The Terms of Reference (ToRs) that were attached to the Government Notice (Government Notice No. 2846, Government Gazette No. 47666 of 7 December 2022) that established the Ministerial Task Team provided in paragraph 1.2 that *“on the determination of the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, specific members may be requested to continue with key aspects of the work to facilitate implementation of the exit strategy and other Task Team outcomes”*. Now that the Ministerial Task Team

has finalised its report with clear recommendations and outcomes, it has become necessary for the Minister to retain certain members of the Ministerial Task Team who will continue to assist with the key aspects of the work and facilitate the implementation of the outcomes of the Ministerial Task Teams Report as contemplated in the Notice that established the Ministerial Task Team.

2. MEMBERS OF THE MINISTERIAL TASK TEAM

2.1 The Minister has decided to appoint three members of the Ministerial Task Team who will assist with the key aspects of the work and facilitate the implementation of the outcomes of the Ministerial Task Teams Report as follows:

2.1.1 Mr Kamalasen Chetty, Chairperson;

2.1.2 Mr Obeid Katumba; and

2.1.3 Dr Kelly Marnewick.

2.2 The appointment terms of these three members are for a period of eighteen (18) months from 1 May 2024 – 30 November 2025.

3. FOCUS AREAS FOR THE EXTENDED TASK TEAM

3.1 Develop a clear communication strategy and implementation plan (with timeframes and deliverables/goals for long, medium and short term), for the recommendations outlined in the Ministerial Task Team Report;

3.2 Oversee and assist in the implementation of the recommendations of the Ministerial Task Team Report;

3.3 Undertake and finalise engagements with facility owners who have volunteered and shown interest in exiting the captive lion industry, through mutually agreed terms and addressing the socio-economic impacts;

3.4 Facilitate engagement between donors and facility owners who are interested in voluntarily exiting the industry, to aid their facilities' smooth transition out of the captive lion industry;

3.5 Assist with interpretation of the Ministerial Task Team's recommendation(s);

3.6 Assist with training and capacity of Provincial staff to assist with the implementation of the Ministerial Task Team's recommendations;

3.7 Oversee and assist in the implementation of "short-term measures – Ministerial Directives" recommendations;

3.8 Undertake any other tasks related to the Ministerial Task Team Report identified during the course of their work; and

3.9 Provide advice to the Minister or Department on any other matters related to the captive lion industry on request by the Minister or Department.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MINISTERIAL TASK TEAM

4.1 Each Task Team member is to serve in his or her personal capacity and cannot be represented by an alternate.

4.2 The Task Team's role is advisory in nature and will be facilitated by the Chairperson, appointed by the Minister.

- 4.3 The Task Team will assist the Department on implementing the recommendations of the Ministerial Task Team Report.
- 4.4 All matters discussed, documents and opinions evaluated should be treated with the utmost confidentiality. The Ministerial Task Team members will be required to sign a non-disclosure agreement and may not disclose any information to the public, organisations, or the media, unless the disclosure is for consultation purposes in the course of the work of the advisory committee, and with the approval of the Department.
- 4.5 The Task Team must seek consensus on the matters before it. In order to achieve such consensus Task Team members will need to show a measure of flexibility and understanding for differences of views between Task Team members. Where consensus is not achieved the minority views expressed must also be captured in recommendations of the Task Team.
- 4.6 The Task Team must liaise closely with the intergovernmental support group which the Department will establish in consultation with affected spheres of government.
- 4.7 The Task Team members may be requested to present information to platforms to be identified by the Department.
- 4.8 The key outputs of the Task Team will be a communication plan, an implementation plan, and a successful process and closed out captive lion facilities for all the volunteered candidates and reports.

5. ADMINISTRATION AND SECRETARIAT

All administrative, financial and logistical matters related to the Task Team's work will be managed by a dedicated Secretariat appointed by the Department.