



**MINISTER
FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Private Bag X447, Pretoria, 0001, Environment House, 473 Steve Biko Road, Tel: (012) 399 8743
Private Bag X9052, Cape Town, 8000, Tel: (021) 469 1500, Fax: (021) 465 3362

Ref: EDMS MCE210564

Ms Simone Eckhardt
CEO: Stichting SPOTS
Netherlands

Email: info@stichtingspots.nl

Dear Ms Eckhardt

INCIDENT ON OLIVIA LION BREEDING FACILITY

I refer to your electronic mail dated 7 October 2021 regarding the above.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) has taken note of your concerns regarding the incident that took place on the farm Olivia of Mr Charl Terblanche, in the Free State Province.

I have received a report from the Provincial Department of Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTE) in relation to this farm and I was informed that both DESTE and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) have visited the farm on numerous occasions, two criminal cases have been opened with the SAPS and the investigations are ongoing.

Many of the animals that remained on the farm have been re-homed, a permit has been issued to move another five animals to a vetted facility and for the final six lions that are left, a home has been found and DESTE is awaiting the permit application from this facility. Once all the animals have been re-homed, the DESTE has advised that the facility will be deemed to be closed and no further permits of any type will be issued in favour of the owner.

It has been agreed with DESTE that the lion facilities in the Free State must be prioritised for inspection and a zero-tolerance approach to even minor transgressions, non-compliance, omissions, and so forth must be adopted. Environmental Management Inspectors from DESTE and this department as well as officials from the SAPS and the SPCA will be working as part of a joint task team, conducting compliance and enforcement activities in relation to predator facilities in the coming months.

Yours sincerely

**MS B D CREECY
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

DATE: 29/11/2021

