



**EMS
FOUNDATION**

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DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE LEADER'S OFFICE

Marks Building (2nd and 3rd Floor)
Parliament
Plein Street
Cape Town
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Via email: leader@da.org.za

Monday 1st June 2020

Dear Mr John Steenhuisen,

THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE FULLFILLING IT'S ROLE AS A CREDIBLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE RULING GOVERNMENT

The EMS Foundation hereby officially acknowledges the [press release](#) issued by Ms Hannah Shameema Winkler and we refer to the news [article](#) published in the foreign media on the weekend.

It is refreshing to note that the Democratic Alliance, the official opposition political party in South Africa, has finally, publicly questioned decisions taken by the Department of the Environment, Forestry and Fisheries.

The EMS Foundation published a report called the [Extinction Business](#) in 2018. The report highlighted a two year investigation into South Africa's Big Cat Captive Breeding Industry which included the concise details of South Africa's controversial Lion Bone Export business. The publication of this report led to a two-day colloquium held in Parliament in 2018. The Parliamentary Committee recommended that this industry be shut down immediately. Minister Creecy has ignored this recommendation. Judge Kollapen rule in August 2019, in the Gauteng High Court, that the lion bone export quota is unlawful and constitutionally invalid.

In May 2019 the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries made an amendment to the Animal Improvement Act, 1998 to include thirty-three wild mammal species under Table 7 of the regulations. The thirty-three species include Black and White rhino, cheetah, giraffe, lion and twenty-eight indigenous and non-indigenous game species, are now treated in the same manner, as livestock in so far as the recognition of breeders rights is concerned. These decisions taken without any public consultation. In November 2019 a coalition of twenty-one South African [animal protection organisations responded](#) to the AIA.

The world has been negatively affected by the zoonotic disease known as COVID-19, this zoonotic disease highlights the dangers of the trade and consumption of wild animals. The EMS Foundation and their lawyers

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have appealed for a moratorium whilst the risk associated with the lion bone industry and the rhino horn industry in South African can be properly assessed. The EMS Foundation raised issues around the wildlife trade, Emerging Infectious Diseases and government policy with [Minister Creecy](#), [Minister Didiza](#) and [Minister Mkhize](#). On the 25th March 2020 EMS also wrote to [Minister Creecy](#) about the captive 'big cat' industry.

Minister Creecy appointed a [High Level Panel](#) in October 2019. The EMS Foundation joined many other organisations in questioning the process of the appointment of this panel on which there is not a single member representing the rights of the wildlife about which all the decisions will be made.

On the 22nd May 2020 the EMS Foundation and the Ban Animal Trading South Africa organisation published a report called [The Breaking Point](#) this report is culmination of a four year investigation into South Africa's legal live wildlife trade with China. Within four days of the release of this report Minister Barbara Creecy contacted the authors. A direct result of the emergency meeting held between these parties was that the Minister issued a public statement, she has agreed to officially investigate the allegations of serious corruption.

All the decisions taken by Minister Creecy mentioned in this communication seem to indicate that she is being influenced by the wildlife farming industry, as they see it as their Constitutional right to drive the Wildlife Economy. Local and global animal welfare organisations have registered their objections to these questionable decisions which will undoubtedly negatively affect South Africa's conservation reputation and jeopardize the livelihoods of South Africans employed in the eco-tourism industry.

The EMS Foundation underscores the importance of decision taken by the Democratic Party to ensure better service delivery and preventing complacency of the ANC government, may these decisions extend to support South Africa's wildlife heritage. We urge you to take the position to serve as a watchdog ensuring that the ANC functions within the confines of the law, we ask you to expose the corruption, nepotism and the abuse of power within the office of the Environment, Forestry and Fisheries.

Kind Regards,

Michele Pickover
DIRECTOR