

From: Michele Pickover <michele@emsfoundation.org.za>

Sent: Thursday, 12 June 2025 10:43

To: 'adebloccq@parliament.gov.za' <adebloccq@parliament.gov.za>

Subject: Opposing Agendas in the Democratic Alliance Regarding Controversial Captive Lion Industry and Lion Bone Trade

Importance: High

Dear Mr De Blocq

I hope this email finds you well.

I am writing to you on behalf of the [EMS Foundation](#). Our Foundation is committed to social and inclusive justice, compassion and the advancement and protection of the dignity, rights and general welfare of vulnerable and marginalised groups and individuals in South Africa, with particular focus on: youth at risk, the elderly and the conservation and protection of wild life.

The [EMS Foundation](#) is extremely concerned about the ambiguous and contradictory messages created by the Democratic Alliance with regard to the highly contentious issue of the captive lion industry, including the lion bone trade (see our report on SA's lion bone trade: <https://emsfoundation.org.za/wp-content/uploads/THE-EXTINCTION-BUSINESS-South-Africas-lion-bone-trade.pdf>)

As the Democratic Alliance spokesperson for Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment you made a public statement on the 16th November 2024, confirming that Party that supports the steps taken by Minister George against canned lion hunting and the lion bone trade.

The following statement was made after Minister George issued two government notices, one announcing the voluntary exit pathways for current holders of lion bone stockpiles and the second calling for comments on the prohibition of the establishment of new captive breeding farms. "Captive lion breeding underpins the twin industries of canned lion hunting and the lion bone trade. Both industries face serious ethical and regulatory issues. Their prominence has led to strong criticism of South African internationally because of their misalignment with global conservation and welfare principals." See: <https://www.da.org.za/2024/11/minister-george-moves-to-end-controversial-captive-lion-industry>

DFFE, simultaneously, encouraged South Africans to voluntarily surrender lion bones and derivatives. See: <https://www.gov.za/news/media-statements/forestry-fisheries-and-environment-encourages-public-voluntarily-surrender>

Minister George, on behalf of the DFFE subsequently reconfirmed the invitation to individuals in possession of lion bones and other big cat parts to register their interest in voluntarily exiting the “canned lion industry” during an interview on Radio Sonder Grense.

In April 2025 eleven members of the SA Predators Association (SAPA) filed a notice with the Gauteng Division of the High Court in Pretoria seeking to reinstate the lion bone export quota. Of concern is that neither SAPA, nor Minister George nor the DFFE have publicly disclosed the existence of these legal proceedings.

See: <https://nspca.co.za/nspca-opposes-industrys-lion-bone-quota-comeback/> and <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2025-03-18-lion-bones-back-in-the-crossfire-after-breeders-challenge-sales-ban/>

Given the above, it is very concerning that Willie Aucamp, the National Spokesperson for the Democratic Alliance and Desiree van der Walt attended the Annual General Meeting of the Sustainable Use Coalition of South Africa (SuCO) at Mabalingwe in Limpopo last weekend. This was not in their personal capacities.

Willie Aucamp, stated in on his social media platform that he was privileged to address the Annual General Meeting of the Sustainable Use Coalition of South Africa (SUCo-SA) at Mabalingwe.

See:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/18AAqKwaUu/?mibextid=wwXlfr>.

“Their aim of driving sustainable use to enable biodiversity conservation through species enhancement and habitat conservation is a noble one and is supported by a number of passionate member organisations with a total membership of more than two hundred thousand members. These members are: Wildlife Ranching SA, Confederation of Hunting Associations of SA, National Hunting and Shooting Associations, South African Falconry Association, South African Predator Association, South African Taxidermy and Tannery Association, SA Wingshooters Association, The True Green Alliance, Parrot Breeders Association of Southern African. The passion with which these organisations are doing their work is a testament to their unwavering dedication towards sustainability in their respective areas.”

The South African Predator Association responded to Wille Aucamp's social media post:

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CHASA - Confederation of Hunting Associations of SA

Thank you for your attendance and genuine concern for issues of the greater hunting & wildlife sector. We trust you will be a great messenger of the challenges, possibilities and genuine human benefits which flow from the conservation work we do.

21h Like Reply

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South African Predator Association · Follow

A privilege to receive the positive message from Willie Aucamp and Desiree van der Walt. Positive for the future of our industry

21h Like Reply

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The problem with the Democratic Alliance sending such conflicting messages is that South Africans will misperceive the party's beliefs. The DA needs to be consistent in their policies and decision-making and avoid mixed messages.

Will these mixed negatively affect the current litigation?

We are hopeful that you will be able to allay our concerns as a matter of urgency.

Altruism and Compassion,

Michele Pickover

Executive Director

Phone: +27 82 253 2124

Email: Michele@emsfoundation.org.za

Web: <https://emsfoundation.org.za>



