

63-YEAR-OLD DIES, FOLLOWING A HIPPO ATTACK

The MEC for Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET), Mr. Thabo Mokone has with great sadness received news of a Hippopotamus attack on a 63-year-old woman. The MEC has admitted that the incident is unfortunate and no life should be lost in such a gruesome manner.

The attack took place on Wednesday night, (09-10-19), following the spotting of a Hippo and its offspring by residents of Magona/Gidjana villages in Malamulele, Vhembe District.

Due to scarcity of such incidences, the residents tailed the animal fuelled by curiosity and ignorance of the danger attached to such action.

Assuming the Hippo felt provoked, threatened and overwhelmed by the primitive need to protect its young, it attacked. Those around managed to swiftly escape while the 63-year-old was unfortunate and fell victim to the animal.

Although such incidences are not common around the area, the Department urges all community members to be vigilant and refrain from approaching stray wild animals whenever spotted but should rather alert the authorities.

Limpopo continues to take great pride of its environment and all animals dwelling within such environment. As a province bordering three countries, occupying the greatest territory of wildlife we will from time to time notice such wildlife intrusion in residential areas.

MEC Mokone has dispatched a team of Field Ranger to track down the Hippos and escort them to a wildlife friendly environment.

As Government our prayers are currently with the family of the deceased.

For More Information, Contact:
Zaid Kalla
Departmental Spokesperson
Mobile: 060 985 5158
Email: KallaZ@ledet.gov.za