



News Bulletin

17 May 2017

ESTATE UPDATES

Telkom Fiber Optic and Water Projects

Both these projects have been approved by the members and the board is now completing the business formalities of the projects before we move to the exciting execution stage in the coming weeks.

Rubbish Collection

Just a gentle reminder to residents that our rubbish collection days are **Thursdays**. There seems to be a new trend, or perhaps some confusion, whereby residents leave their bins/bags at the top of their driveways, this is not necessary as the estate team will collect the bags from your house. Please, in future, refrain from taking the bins/bags to the top of your driveway as they are rather unsightly, particularly as some bins remain there for several days. Please also ensure that your bins are secured against monkey and baboon activity.

Remember, you can purchase recycle bags from the RVHOA office.

Additional Lighting

For security purposes additional LED lighting is being fitted to the Main Gate entrance.

Contact Details and e-mails

Please ensure that your contact details are always up to date with the HOA to ensure that you receive all communications sent out from the office.

Please use your stand number as displayed on your levy statement as a reference, particularly with regards to payments made.

WINTER SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING

Although the winter feeding program has commenced, as of last week, only some of the animals started showing an interest in the additional feed. Currently only the waterbuck are utilizing the additional feed. We shall continue to monitor all the feeding stations. The welcome rain over this weekend will hopefully extend the natural feeding patterns.



GAME CAPTURE

As we are expecting another dry winter season, we have accepted the offer and opportunity to reduce some of the game numbers on the estate.

This proposal includes the removal by darting of:

5 Waterbuck, 10 Impala and 14 Kudu

To date the capture company has darted:

3 Kudu, 3 Impala and 5 Waterbuck (waterbuck removal now completed)

The removal of impala is on hold as the wild dogs are currently assisting us with this exercise!

Warthog numbers will be evaluated as we progress into the dry season.

photo - Rob Severin

ANIMAL MORTALITIES

There is plenty of predation activity on the estate at the moment.

We request residents to please report any kills they may come across to estate management via sms (071 675 2525) as we need to keep track of these mortalities.

Please include the following information in your sms:

Date occurred or discovered

Species

Age (juvenile, sub adult or adult)

Sex

Location (more or less)

FIRE BREAKS

Even after the recent unexpected rain, the dry season is upon us and we remind residents to cut the mandatory firebreaks and trim trees away from their thatched roofs. The estate team does not have the capacity to assist at the moment so please make use of maintenance companies that are working on the estate.

FISHING & SWIMMING

Fishing and swimming in the estate dams is not permitted for safety reasons and you will shortly see signs to this effect going up in appropriate places.

COMMUNITY BUSH CLEARING

As mentioned in the April news bulletin, the controlled community bush clearing program is again underway so you may see them from time to time working on the estate.

MALARIA

There are currently many malaria cases being reported in and around Hoedspruit. Please take necessary precautions against mosquito bites (using insect repellent, sleeping under a net if you have one), keep home test kits on hand and consider having your homes sprayed with an eco-friendly spray.

In part the late rains and resulting puddles could be contributing factors as this mosquito lays its eggs in standing water. The anopheles mosquito is the species that transmits malaria and interestingly it is silent - unlike the nuisance mosquito which buzzes incessantly.

Once the malaria mosquito has found a host (ie a person with malaria) that mosquito is then infected and able to infect other humans until the end of its mosquito life. The human is a carrier until such time as they have been medicated and the parasites have been eradicated from their system. The medications today do this very effectively if treated timeously.

Bats are a good controller of mosquito numbers so, in the long term, erecting bat breeding boxes may be helpful in managing populations.

Anopheles Mosquito

• **Identification features**

- Spotted wings
- When at rest, inclined at an **angle of 45*** to the surface
- No buzzing sound

