



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**Statement of the Ministry of Tourism on the publication and distribution of fabrications about the Minister and rhino poaching**

**16 August 2017**

The Ministry of Tourism has noted with concern the fake news report purporting to reflect the views of the Minister of Tourism, Tokozile Xasa, on rhino poaching. We state categorically that the Minister did not and could never have expressed any views remotely justifying the criminal and barbaric practice of rhino poaching.

Minister Xasa cautions the public to be mindful of the proliferation of fake news websites and other platforms that peddle untruths intended to confuse and cause harm rather than inform the public.

The Minister condemns rhino poaching as she does all other forms of animal cruelty. Rhinos are an important part of our national and cultural heritage and must be protected for the benefit of current and future generations. Working together with civil society and communities, our sister Department, the Department of Environmental Affairs, continues to register success in fighting poachers.

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