

**MEDIA RELEASE - 03 November 2003**

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**SANParks NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE ASSUMES OFFICE**

The newly appointed South African National Parks Chief Executive, Mr David Madoda Mabunda, assumed office today.

Mr Mabunda's appointment to this crucial position was confirmed by cabinet on the 08 October 2003 . He comes on the heels of Mavuso Msimang, who has now joined SITA (State Information Technology Agency) as Chief Executive Officer, also formally assuming office today.

"Mr Mabunda inherits a more healthy and focused organisation which has in the past five years developed from strength to strength. His significant experience and knowledge of the organisation together with his experience and interest in the eco-tourism sector will certainly assist the organisation as it proceeds to consolidate the advances achieved thus far," said the chairperson of the SANParks Board, Murphy Morobe.

"SANParks is a dynamic organisation which offers one a lot of challenges and opportunities in both the sectors of conservation and tourism. I expect that the support I will be receiving from my colleagues will make these challenges and opportunities easier and a pleasure to deal with." said Mabunda.

While addressing a team of his managers, Mabunda said, "The focus of this organisation for the past few years, apart from a development of its conservation mandate, has been on its people and we intend to continue in this light. No drastic changes are expected at this stage. It is important that in taking over from where Mavuso left off, continuity is ensured."

**Ends...*****Issued by: South African National Parks******Inquiries: wanda mkutshulwa, Head of Communications,  
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