Black Mambas strike poachers

THE WOMEN-LED BLACK MAMBA

Anti-Poaching Unit is a poacher’s worst nightmare as they relentlessly patrol fences, look for snares and remain alert to any threats to the wild animals they are dedicated to protecting.

The Black Mamba Anti-Poaching Unit is the first majority female anti-poaching unit in South Africa. It was established in 2013 by conservationist and field ecologist Craig Spencer, Managing Director of Transfrontier Africa NPC, to protect the Olifants West Region of Balule Nature Reserve. They are part of the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEEF).
Tourism Safety Monitors to patrol Table Mountain

Tourism Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane says the launch of the Tourism Safety Monitors will help improve safety around Table Mountain and bolster tourist arrivals.

Kubayi-Ngubane said this when she introduced 69 new safety monitor recruits at the launch of the National Tourism Safety Awareness Campaign at Table Mountain in Cape Town recently.

“I am excited because I am able to say to our tourists we are doing something about their concerns and today we are here deploying our safety monitors.

“We are rolling out our safety campaign to ensure that when tourists come here, they enjoy this beautiful country and go back to their countries and tell many other people to visit South Africa,” she said.

The launch followed concerns over the number of incidents, where tourists fell victim to violent attacks on Table Mountain.

In a recent incident, an Ukrainian tourist was attacked and murdered for his belongings while hiking on Chapman’s Peak.

This sparked outrage over the lack of safety patrols on Table Mountain, which is world renowned as one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World.

In addition to the 69 recruits, about 19 more are still in training and will be deployed in the near future. They will monitor activities on the mountain and report promptly to the police if there is anything suspicious.

The initiative is in partnership with South African National Parks, the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, SA Police Service and the business sector. It also boosts job creation efforts as the safety monitors were previously unemployed.

The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries calls on members of the public to report any suspicious activities around wildlife to its Environmental Crime Hotline on 0800 205 005 or the SAPS number 10111