

MEDIA STATEMENT

CONGO FEVER LATEST

11 January 2013

Bloemfontein: The Department of Economic Affairs, Tourism and Environmental Affairs in the Free State is happy to announce that Mr Johannes Ngwato (47) the employee at Kalkfontein Dam Nature Reserve is on his way home today after being released from the Hospital. Mr Ngwato spent ten (10) days at the Life Rosepark Hospital in Bloemfontein after showing symptoms consistent with Congo Fever on New Year's Day.

As a result of this incident, the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs in consultation with the Department of Health decided, as precautionary measure and in the best interest of both the public and the Staff at Kalkfontein Dam Nature Reserve, to close the reserve until such time the risk of the disease has been sufficiently been minimized.

Mr Ngwato was placed in isolation at the Hospital where he received specialized care and all the people who had contact with him at the resort were sent home with strict instruction to monitor their temperature for any sign of fever. None of these people have shown any worrying signs.

Both departments are confident that the danger of the spread of the disease in the area has been eliminated and therefore the reserve will be open for the public on Monday 14 January 2013.

The MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs in the Free State MEC Mamiki Qabathe would like to thank the doctors and management at the Life Rosepark Hospital for the efficiency and professionalism in helping Mr Ngwato and supporting his family. She would also like to thank all members of the public for their cooperation and understanding during this time resort remained closed.

Issued jointly by the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs and the Department of Health in the Free State

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