

SANParks warns public of fraudsters

Allafrica.com reports that members of the public, the business community and staff members have been warned to be on the lookout for people who falsely and publicly claim to represent the Kruger National Park (KNP) on various aspects of its business.

Managing executive of the Kruger National Park, Abe Sibiya, said in a statement that certain online forums claim to represent the South African National Parks (SANParks) and in particular the KNP "by offering customer care facilities that discuss conservation and tourism related matters for guests."

"We would like to put it on record that SANParks already has its own established formal procedures and channels for handling guest feedback and does not need a third party to deal with issues on its behalf." Some online forums bypass existing SANParks channels by inviting customers to report incidents or lodge complaints concerning the National Parks. "They then [...] approach staff members at the relevant parks [or] camps [...] for a follow-up and feedback."

According to Allafrica.com, Sibiya voiced concern that some online operators claimed that they are raising funds for various conservation causes which they hand over to the SANParks Honorary Rangers. "SANParks has a healthy relationship and a direct contact with the Honorary Rangers," and therefore no third party is required. "We would like to advise members of the public to resist any illegal fundraising approaches made in SANParks' name as we believe this action constitutes fraud," Sibiya explained.

Read the [full article](http://allafrica.com) on <http://allafrica.com>.

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