

**2 February 2010**

**PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY DR GERT DRY,  
PRESIDENT OF WILDLIFE RANCHING SOUTH AFRICA (WRSA)**

**WRSA supports Sable import court ruling**

“Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA) has an unassailable responsibility to protect the sustainable use of game in South Africa, as well as protecting the game and red meat industry from exotic diseases,” says Dr Gert Dry president of WRSA. “While WRSA supports the importation of cloven-hoofed animals, it must be done in a responsible manner ensuring that the interests of stock farmers and wildlife ranchers, and the long-term sustainability of both industries, are protected. It is imperative that the correct protocols must be in place to protect local industries and the South African population.”

WRSA supports the court order issued on 29 January, which prevents the minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries from issuing permits for the importation of sable antelope from Zambia, until such time as she has conducted the risk analysis, published her proposed policy, considered comments thereto from interested parties and only thereafter published her decision regarding the policy on the importation of Zambian sable. The case was brought before the court by the Red Meat Industry Forum (RMIF).

“WRSA is available to support the department of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, in the development of the required protocols, risk analysis and policies to implement the court ruling, should they need our support. WRSA will of course fully participate in the required public participation processes,” said Dr Dry.

The RMIF case before the court is that the RMIF is, in principle, not opposed to the importation of Zambian sable antelope or any other cloven-hoofed animals from Zambia. However, the question is whether or not any cloven-hoofed animals may be imported from Zambia and what the import permit conditions must be if importation is permitted. This can only be determined after due process has been followed. This is essential before such a drastic change in policy can be undertaken. It was the RMIF’s view that due process was not followed.

**For more information, contact the WRSA Head Office at 012 335 6994.**

**End**