



Republic of Namibia

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**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Press Release
(For Immediate Release)**

11 August 2021

Editors and Journalists

Ministerial update on the Elephant Auction.

The Ministry has successfully sold 57 out of the 170 elephants which were put on tender in December 2020. The sale of these elephants will raise a total 5.9 million Namibian dollars and attracted five bidders of which only three were successful.

A total of 15 elephants will be captured and remain in Namibia while 42 will be exported out of Namibia. The capturing will start this month to be conducted by Namibian Registered Game Capture Operators and supervised by the Ministry's officials.

The Elephant tender for 170 elephants was advertised on the 3rd December 2020 and closed on the 29th January 2021. The elephants that were put on auction includes 30 from Omatjete area, 50 from Kamanjab-commercial farming area, 60 from Grootfontein-Kavango cattle ranch area and 30 Grootfontein-Tsumkwe area.

With this auction, we intend to reduce elephant numbers in specified areas to minimize human elephant conflicts which has become persistent leading to extensive damages to properties, life losses and a disruption of people's livelihoods.

The allocation of where the elephants will be captured from is still to be done, the Ministry will consider the social behavior of elephants and how severe the situation is in the listed areas to inform the allocation.

The funds generated through this auction will be transferred into the Game Product Trust Fund to be reinvested in the conservation of Namibia's wild animals, including in community conservancies. Particularly the funds will be used for human wildlife conflict management, wildlife management among others.

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