



# Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa

***“It is not only what we do, but also what we do not do, for which we are accountable” - Molière***

*The Professional Hunters' Association of South Africa (PHASA) in conjunction with our legal counsel MJ Hood and Associates have reviewed the outcomes of PHASA's 40<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM). As a collective we have decided that it is important to once again give clarity as to why and how changes were made to PHASA Constitution.*

## **PHASA STATEMENT**

PHASA is aware of various press releases and comments that have been made in public arising out of the adoption of the new constitution by PHASA at its AGM on the 22nd of November 2017.

PHASA respects the viewpoints of any personal individual so long as those viewpoints are based on the correct facts.

PHASA does not want to engage in a debate in public with fellow hunting organisations who have difference of opinion or a vested commercial interest in attacking how the internal and democratic mechanisms of PHASA are implemented.

The adoption of the new constitution by PHASA has been perhaps unfairly crystallised into a single issue, that of captive bred lion hunting.

To do so ignores the factual background relating to the adoption of a new constitution by PHASA.

An ill-considered series of administrative actions taken by then Exco PHASA in 2016 resulted in litigation that exposed fundamental flaws in the constitution of PHASA and the manner in which powers of Executive Committee (EXCO) were exercised.

PHASA embarked upon a process of changing its constitution to bring its constitution in line with the constitution of the Republic of South Africa, to make it both administratively fair to members and EXCO and to properly define the relationship between PHASA and its members and how that relationship should operate.

In doing so, PHASA concluded that its existing constitution was so fundamentally flawed, that it needed to be replaced in its entirety.

The constitution was circulated for extensive comment and much comment was both received and taken into account by the PHASA EXCO prior to finalising the constitution.

In doing so, PHASA sought to remedy the failings of previous EXCO's in not listening to its members and embarking upon administrative and legal steps that focused on both narrow issues and narrow commercial interests. At all times PHASA was driven by the imperative that its actions should be transparent, democratic and fair.

At the annual general meeting, the new constitution was ratified by 79% of members who were entitled to vote. This is an overwhelming acceptance of the new constitution.

Through the innovative mobile app, PHASA allowed all eligible members to vote. The app finally broke the "proxy war" that had a skewed influence on previous AGM's.

This was an open and democratic process, and the voting established that there was only a small minority of people who did not agree with the constitution and what it offered to PHASA and the public.

This small minority has attacked PHASA in public, ignoring the facts and in order to promote their own narrow commercial interest and has encouraged other organisations who share similar beliefs and philosophies to PHASA to attack PHASA based upon a misrepresentation of the factual situation.

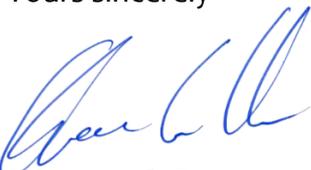
This has unfortunately resulted in those organisations acting in exactly the same way that the previous ExcOs acted in adopting unilateral steps to terminate relationships or memberships of PHASA without proper processes.

PHASA regrets that such steps have been taken but remains committed to building relationships in both professional hunting and in hunting, to promote conservation and to protect hunting rights.

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For any further information individuals or Associations are welcome to contact myself, our PHASA office or any member of EXCO.

Yours sincerely



Dries van Coller  
PHASA President

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