



## **WORLD FIRST DEDICATED BABY RHINO ORPHANAGE OPENS IN SA**

Africa's first specialist, dedicated, non-commercial centre to care for baby rhinos has officially opened at the Wildlife & Cultural Centre at Legend Golf & Safari Resort in the Limpopo Province. This Orphanage forms a vital part of the Rhino Response Strategy National Rescue and Response network.

The first resident is a five-month-old black rhino who is believed to have been abandoned by his mother. The little rhino will move into the centre, from his current temporary shelter, where he will be given 24-hour attention. Carers are currently feeding him, sleeping with him and ensuring he receives expert medical attention.

As part of the ethical protocols adopted by The Rhino Orphanage, the arrival of the baby rhino was kept under wraps until his condition stabilised to give him the best chance of survival and rehabilitation.

Working alongside Centre Director Arrie Van Deventer and his team, world renowned rehabilitation expert, Karen Trendler coordinates the Rhino Response Strategy and provides rhino rearing and rehabilitation expertise.

Trendler explains "The young calf that was found was in need of urgent and specialised medical attention and needed a secure and caring facility where he could receive the appropriate care, with the ultimate aim of rehabilitating him into the wild where he belongs".

With only a few hours notice, The Rhino Orphanage mobilised a 24-hour care team that set up temporary facilities to relocate and nurse the little calf back to health. When in need of specialist veterinary care, the team moved him to the Onderstepoort veterinary facility but he has now returned home to the orphanage. As soon as the final construction of the specialist facilities at the orphanage is complete, the rhino will be moved to increasingly larger and more natural premises. "Here we will be able to monitor his progress as we build up to his ultimate release back into a safe and secure wild environment," says Trendler.

The centre will not be open to the public as the rhinos need to be protected and have the very best chance of survival, to ultimately be released back into the wild.

"The orphanage will have specialist medical facilities to care for these often extremely young and badly injured creatures, from an intensive care unit to, we hope, a special ambulance to transport them under proper medical supervision from the place of the killing. Security will be extreme and it is vital we give the babies the very best chance of one day returning to the wild where they belong, so they will only be cared for by the medical and rehabilitation staff and the public will only be allowed to view them via CCTV camera," states Van Deventer.



Van Deventer added, “We are committed to adhering to stringent protocols and those are all in place. With the partnership with FNB Investment Products, we couldn’t wish for more supportive, proactive partners. This war is going to be hard fought and long, so we need people across the world to stand up and help us in any way they can.”

Lezanne Human, CEO of FNB Investment Products, says, “This partnership is reflecting our commitment towards investing in South Africa's future. We are actively involved in creating an investment and savings culture in South Africa, in order to create a sustainable future. This is another tangible way of getting involved in building that future.”

Human continues “The Rhino Orphanage provides an opportunity not only for us but for everyone, to help build our future.”

The Wildlife Centre is already home to a range of endangered species and animals being rehabilitated, including the once mythical white lions.

“It is amazing to have our first resident, he is a very special rhino and we are delighted to have worked with such a prestigious and conservation-minded resort with our first orphan. Arrie and his dedicated team have shown the passion and commitment needed to fight this abhorrent issue of rhino poaching. We have spent many hours planning this orphanage and it is wonderful to see it all beginning to come together,” says Trendler.

The Rhino Orphanage has been established as a not-for-profit charity (Section 21 company in South Africa) with all donations going directly to fund the centre and the care and rehabilitation of the rhinos.

“There is so much more to do and we still need help from others who care as much as we do,” concludes Trendler.



People who would like to help can contact The Rhino Orphanage via [pete@theazaleagroup.com](mailto:pete@theazaleagroup.com) or can make a donation directly into the below account;

Account Name: Legend Rhino Orphanage

Bank: First National Bank

Branch: Mokopane

Code: 26-02-48

Account Number: 62366479171

For International donations the SWIFT code is: FIRZAJJ

## ENDS

### Notes to Editor:

Karen Trendler started Wildcare from her kitchen in 1986, and has become an internationally recognized expert on rehabilitation and crisis management, especially with rhinos. The building of the specialist centre which will include an intensive care unit, treatment rooms, rhino accommodation units and support infrastructure has been made possible by several major donations.

Agricultural machine specialists New Holland donated a new tractor to the project after hearing of the plans while conferencing at the resort while Build-It and Spar provided a substantial amount of building materials. All the bricks have been donated by Zebetela Bricks in Limpopo.

the  
rhino   
orphanage  
*Ntlo ya Lerato*

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**For pictures, please go to:**

FTP Site : <http://legendho.tzo.net:8081>

Username : LLHRMarketing

Password : llhr130

**For more media information, please contact:**

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