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Community boards call for suspension



The Community Resource Board – CRBs members through their national coordinating office have called for trophy hunting blocks across the country until after government releases funds owed to respective communities.

This follows the advertising of trophy hunting licenses for 2019 in selected game management areas by the ministry of tourism and arts. Trophy hunting in Zambia is allowed to keep the animal population in check and communities who have been persuaded to abandon their historical and cultural way of life.

Zambia has since early 1980's embraced Community Based Natural Resources Management – CBNRM system which gives user rights to rural communities who live side by side with the wildlife and Zambia's wildlife Act brought communities to participate and benefit from the management of wildlife resources.

The Zambia National Community Resource Board Association – ZNCRBA National coordinator Isaac Banda said in an exclusive interview that government has since 2012, not released funds to the boards which are meant to support community coordinators and book keepers across the country, resulting in increased rural poverty.

Banda is however saddened that since the transformation of Zambia Wildlife Authority – ZAWA to Department of Wildlife and Conservation communities and their Royal Highnesses have been denied their income of over K4 million for the year 2018. He said the way to improve rural and chiefdoms community incomes and livelihoods.

He said after engaging government through the Ministry of Tourism and Art in various consultative meetings, funds will be released to the communities of which nothing has been done to date.

The board has since accused government and in particular the ministry of Tourism of not demonstrating any concern despite knowing how communities are suffering without their money.

“We are immediately calling for the suspension of the hunting activities in all hunting block of Zambia. We



withdrawn our support, making the existing agreements null and void. We will be working with our community members to further hunting until the matter is resolved," he said.

Zambia's wildlife Act of 2015 recognizes the communities as co-managers of wildlife in Game Management Areas (GMAs). It allows for business for CRBs in the GMA in which they raise funds. Most community members have resulted to doing business in the GMA standards.

However, the cries arising from the board of lack of funding for the communities for over 5 years only leave a bitter taste considered by the Zambian government. One has to understand that there are communities that were living in the GMA and have to abandon their hunting activities and instead become community scouts and community animal keepers.

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I'm amazed, I have to admit. Seldom do I come across a blog that's both educative and interesting, and without a doubt, you have hit the nail on the head. The problem is something that too few men and women are speaking intelligently about. Now I'm very happy that I found this during my search for something relating to this.

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