



**Extract from Quarta Pretorius, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2005)**

*He began his service with the then National Parks Board on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 1966 in the Golden Gate National Park where he was appointed the Section Ranger as well as Camp Manager for the Park. In the same year, he was transferred to the Tsitsikamma Coastal Park, where he remained until on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1967. A lifelong dream was fulfilled when he was appointed as a Section Ranger in the Kruger National Park, Skukuza Section. During this time he married Quarta who joined him for the rest of his career. In January 1968 Ben was transferred to the Shingwedzi Section where he remained until August 1977. During this time he successfully completed the National Diploma in Nature Conservation at Pretoria Technikon. He was transferred back to Skukuza where he remained until August 1981. From there he was transferred to the Olifants Section of the Kruger National Park, where he remained until his next transfer in August 1984 to Punda Maria. The 13 years at Punda Maria were where he was happiest and can be considered the highlight period of his career.*

*Ben was well skilled in technical ways and had a great deal to do with the initial planning and developing of the different wilderness trails camps in the KNP. He almost single handedly built Napi Trails Camp during 1991. Sadly the camp burned down completely 10 years later. In April 1997, he was transferred to Pretoriuskop Section in the South of the park. This is where he ended his career in June 2001, having to take early retirement as a result of restructuring in the KNP. Ben settled in 2001 in Naboomspruit, where he passed away on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2002.*

**Extract from the Kruger Park Times, 12th January, 2005**

*Masbambela was only recently 'discovered' due to his home range being to the West of Shingwedzi; generally well away from the main tourist routes. He has been sighted at Gumbandevu (Punda Maria) and at Red Rocks (Shingwedzi). His tusks are probably second only in size to Duke's. He has been named after Senior Section Ranger Ben Pretorius who served as a Section Ranger in the Kruger National Park from 1967 – 2001. Ben was respectfully known by his Field Rangers as Masbambela, meaning 'one who can "stand his man" in the work place as well as by his physical strength'.*

addo elephant

agulhas

augrabies falls

bontebok

golden gate highlands

karoo

kgalagadi transfrontier

knysna lake area

kruger

mapungubwe

marakele

mountain zebra

namaqua

table mountain

tankwa-karoo

tsitsikamma

|ai-|ais/richtersveld

vaalbos

west coast

wilderness