



25<sup>TH</sup> August 2024.

**STATEMENT FROM THE PROFESSIONAL GUIDES & OUTFITTERS ASSOCIATION OF ZAMBIA.**

**RE: Buffalo Hunting Incident – PH Greg Michelson.**

It is with great sorrow that we share the details of the hunting incident that cost the life of PH Greg Michelson.

Early morning of Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024, Greg, his client, client's wife and hunting crew, set off to hunt for Buffalo in Nyaminga Hunting Block in Zambia. An hour into their drive they chanced upon 6 Buffalo bulls (Kakulis). Greg, determined the oldest & biggest trophy & got his client in position to shoot it, the client fired a shot & the wounded Buffalo took off.

The hunting party, Greg, client, client's wife, wildlife scout & three trackers, set off to follow the Buffalo. They were soon on the blood trail & started tracking it. After three hours the client asked Greg if he & his wife could return to the vehicle, as they were exhausted. The wildlife scout was asked to escort them back to the vehicle, but, before splitting up Greg asked the client if his tracker could take the client's firearm, as the wildlife scout would be escorting them back & had the only other firearm in the group. This was done & they parted ways.

After tracking the Buffalo for some time, the Buffalo reached a thicket. One of the trackers was told to climb a tree and check but could see nothing and Greg decided that with the team they should enter the tall grass. They walked in a line shoulder to shoulder with the blood trail in front of them, trailing right, and at this stage they heard a loud snort & the Buffalo charged from a short distance from the extreme left where Greg was. The Buffalo had circled back to lie in wait. Greg shot at it, but was hit mid-body by the Buffalo, which then commenced to toss him three times before disappearing back into the thick grass. The tracker did not fire for fear of hitting Greg in the process.

There being cellphone signal, the tracker, called the wildlife scout to return & finish off the Buffalo. The two trackers then dragged Greg further away from the scene for fear of the Buffalo charging again. The tracker then called the Outfitter, informing him of the incident & requesting a medivac. This was immediately arranged through Staravia Charters & SES Medical Services. The Wildlife scout arrived and quickly dispatched the Buffalo. The trackers then started clearing a road back to the hunting vehicle in the rugged terrain. The team loaded Greg on the vehicle & proceeded to the Waka Waka Airstrip, approximately 20minute drive. Greg was still alive at this stage, but losing a lot of blood & had internal injuries.

The charter with medical team arrived at the airstrip shortly afterwards where , upon examination, they confirmed that Greg had passed away.

We pay homage to all that so bravely stood by Greg in the last hours of his earthly life.

Rest in peace Greg.

**THE BUFFALO INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT**

