



**moonbears.org**  
'in harmony for no harm'

05 November, 2013

**RE: Minister accused of being an “animal racist”**

The founder of moonbears.org- a Korean organization dedicated to abolishing bear farming and establishing sanctuaries for released bears in Korea- today called for the resignation of Minister Yoon, Sung- gyu of the Environment Department. The organization has suggested that the name of his portfolio should be changed to “The Minister for Animal Death”.

The Minister has indicated that on cessation of farming the majority of bears in captivity will be slaughtered as they are not "native" to Korea. The minister has been accused of being an "animal racist".

He said there only 2 Asiatic black bears are worth saving amongst all farmed bears and the rest are not so given they are not native to Korea.

The total budget of USD 2 Million for the slaughter program has been given to MOE and this budget mainly focuses on slaughtering and disposal expenses.

“These animals are in this situation as direct result of a government policy to support bear farming- they would never have been brought into the country if the Government had not fostered this industry in the early 1980’s and their welfare is now the responsibility of the Government” moonbears.org said.

“The only alternative and one even supported in China by the Government is to use government funds, supported by private donations to establish sanctuaries so these animals can live out their days in peace and with respect after years of abuse resulting from Government policy and regulatory incompetence”

moonbears.org also said it is hard to believe that in a country with such a large Buddhist population, the Minister can promote such cruelty following the original cruelty created by Government policy.

“This is an international disgrace.” moonbears.org said “it is a shameful thing for Korea”.

moonbears.org has called again for the Government to spend a fraction of its budget to establish sanctuaries which can be used as parks once finally the last of the bears have died from natural causes.

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