



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 279 {CW416E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO.16 of 2023

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Ms H S Boshoff (Mpumalanga: DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) Whether the exterior and interior of the Dinosaur Interpretive Centre at the Golden Gate Highlands National Park in Clarens in the Free State that was commissioned by the SA National Parks in 2019 has been completed; if not, (a) why not and (b) what are the reason for the delays; if so,
- (2) whether (a) any guests are welcome to visit and (b) the necessary staff has been appointed; if not, why not; if so, how many guests visited the centre since inception?

279. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (1) The construction of the Dinosaur Interpretive Centre was completed and the completion certificate was issued on 28 November 2022. The display and exhibition phase must still be concluded and the appointment of a service provider is eminent.
 - (a) The contractor appointed for the construction works did not complete the building within the agreed contract period (March 2020). The works completion was issued in November 2022, more than two years later than originally planned.
 - (b) The poor performance by the contractor is the main reason for the late completion. This also led to the removal of the display and exhibition from the construction contract to be

implemented separately. A tender for the completion of the design, manufacturing and installation of the display and exhibition had to be issued, impacting the completion date of the total product. It is envisaged that the display and exhibition will be completed in June 2024.

- (2) The Dinosaur Interpretive Centre is not as yet open to the public.
- (a) The building and associated infrastructure were completed, but are not open for guests or visitors. Provision is made for visitors to view the building on request, and they are accompanied by staff from the park.
 - (b) Staff have not been appointed, and existing staff from Golden Gate Highlands National Park will be transferred to the centre and trained to manage the new facility. Any new appointments for the centre specifically will be made closer to the time of the centre becoming fully operational.

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MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: