



environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1076 {NW1371E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 19 of 2020

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 05 June 2020

Ms A M M Weber (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) With reference to her reply to question 468, on 26 March 2020, in which a disciplinary hearing was scheduled to be concluded on 27 March 2020, what (a) was the outcome of the specified disciplinary hearing and (b) actions that were taken against the Section Ranger of the Vlakteplaas section who was found to be responsible;
- (2) (a) why has it taken almost one year to hold the disciplinary hearing and (b) what systems and procedures have been implemented to ensure that this does not happen again, either at the Nwaxitsumbe Breeding Camp or any other facility where animals are not able to search for naturally occurring water; and
- (3) what was the Rand value of the Roan antelope that died from dehydration because of not being provided with water?

1076. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (1) (a) The Section Ranger was found guilty on a charge of Gross Negligence following an internal disciplinary hearing. No further criminal charges were laid against the ranger as there was no evidence of criminal activity that was established.

- (b) A sanction of Summary Dismissal was meted out to the Section Ranger on the charge of Gross Negligence.
- (2) (a) The investigation carried out by the Environmental Crime Investigation unit of the South African National Parks (SANParks), and the disciplinary process took longer than expected due to a number of postponements requested by the defendant and unavailability of a Chairperson and witnesses. Delays such as this are common during disciplinary processes and are unfortunately outside the control of the organisation as defendants, witnesses and staff critical to the investigation exercise their rights within the law.
- (b) An Action Plan has been developed, specifically for the management (safety and security) of the Nwaxitsumbe Roan Breeding Camp. The direct responsibility for implementation of the Action Plan is vested in the Vlakteplaas Section Ranger and overseen by the Regional Ranger of the Nxanatseni North Region, with close oversight also being provided by the Head Ranger at Kruger National Park. Key Performance areas, specifically focused on the management and welfare of the breeding camp, have been reviewed and drafted for the Section Ranger, Regional Ranger and Head Ranger. The Action Plan includes weekly visits and reporting by the Section Ranger and Field Rangers at the camp to ensure integrity and functionality of the electrified fences, water reticulation equipment, adequate water provision and availability, assessment of the condition of animals and to ensure that adequate food is available. The Action Plan is designed with sufficient controls to ensure that such an event does not happen again.
- (3) SANParks does not sell any cloven-hoofed antelope from Kruger National Park due to disease regulations and, therefore, does not have a sound basis to estimate the possible Rand value of the Kruger Roan antelope.

Regards



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

DATE: 19/6/2020