



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1153 {NW1286E}

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Mr M N Paulsen (EFF) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

Whether, given that indigenous and subsistence fishers never agreed to the co-op system as it has proven to be unworkable, he has found that a shift to an individual rights-based system will truly empower participants in the specified sector; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

1153. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

The cooperative model for implementing the Policy for Small-Scale Fisheries in South Africa (2012) was not unilaterally imposed by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE). Rather, the DFFE initiated a comprehensive, participatory process between 2007 and 2012, engaging coastal fishing communities, including indigenous and subsistence fishers, industry experts, traditional leaders, and civil society organisations in the policy development process. This process included a series of national and provincial workshops that ensured the voices of small-scale fishers were central in shaping the policy. A significant outcome of this process was the introduction of the cooperative system, which was designed to empower small-scale fishers by promoting collective ownership, enhancing market access, and improving resource management practices.

The DFFE has no intention of shifting to an individual rights-based system for the small-scale fishing sector. The current cooperative model aims to support small-scale fishers by providing a collective platform through which they can negotiate better access to resources, markets, and services that would otherwise be difficult for individual fishers to achieve.

Regards



DR D T GEORGE, MP

MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 26/03/2025