



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1186 {NW1323E}

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Ms L Managa (EFF) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) Whether his department has outreach programmes where young people, especially from the coastal communities, may engage with the research conducted on the research vessels in environmental conservation; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) how does his department promote awareness among young South Africans about the role of research vessels in environmental conservation?

1186. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- 1) The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), through the Branch: Oceans and Coasts, organises open days, particularly for the **SA Agulhas II**, where schools and the local community can engage with officials about the work being done in conservation and protection, as well as sustainable development. The open days are held in all major coastal cities, such as Cape Town, East London, Durban, and Gqeberha, where the harbour can house the vessel.

Special attention is given to schools from disadvantaged communities, offering them exposure to the various opportunities within marine science. Students are educated on the wide array of careers in marine science, the skills and qualifications required, and are provided with marine science professionals and industry experts to learn from their experiences. They are also given a guided tour of the vessel - **SA Agulhas II**, where they are educated on its functionality and capabilities.

2) Throughout all outreach campaigns across the country, information is shared with young South Africans, featuring scale models of the vessels, videos, online content, and available career opportunities. Students are given training opportunities onboard the vessels, internships, and exposure to DFFE's work at sea and along the coast. The DFFE also conducts its annual Oceans-to-Land Skills Development and Capacity Building programme throughout the year. This programme offers young people from the rural areas of the respective five (5) inland provinces, such as Free State, Gauteng, North-West, Limpopo and Mpumalanga, opportunities to engage with maritime education, focusing on the following subsectors:

- Marine Manufacturing and Repairs;
- Marine Transport;
- Aquaculture;
- Fisheries;
- Offshore Oil and Gas; and
- Coastal and Marine Tourism.

Regards



DR D T GEORGE, MP

MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 26/03/2025