



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Ref: 02/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 204 {NW214E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 2 of 2024

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 16 FEBRUARY 2024

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

(a) Which provinces in the Republic have employed cloud seeding techniques in the 2023-24 financial year, (b) what specific reasons and/or circumstances led to its usage in the specified provinces and (c) how does she ensure (i) regulation and (ii) oversight to safeguard environmental integrity and public welfare?

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

(a) To the knowledge of the South African Weather Service (SAWS), no cloud seeding techniques were employed in any province of the Republic of South Africa (RSA) during the 2023/2024 financial year. The cloud seeding research that SAWS was involved in was suspended in 2001.

(b) SAWS is unaware of any cloud seeding research and/or techniques employed in any province in the 2023/2024 financial year.

(c) (i)(ii) Regulation and Environmental Oversight:

From a regulatory and oversight perspective, any organisation, institution or individual conducting activities impacting water resources to either augment or reduce the supply of water

on a large scale in South Africa, is obliged by law to obtain a licence or permit from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in this regard.

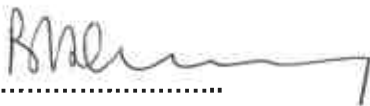
The legislation governing cloud seeding during the 1970s and 1980s was as follows:

- a) Sections 33C and 33D of the Water Act, 1972 (Act No. 45 of 1972)
- b) The Weather Modification Control Act, 1972 (Act No. 78 of 1972)
- c) The Water Amendment Act, 1975 (Act No. 42 of 1975)

To our knowledge, the Acts cited above have been repealed by the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) (NWA).

Section 37(1)(b) of the NWA specifically refers to the management and control of cloud seeding activities. Legal compliance involves the authorisation and issuing of licences and permits, providing permission to operators to conduct cloud seeding (rainfall augmentation) projects. In terms of the NWA, the jurisdiction to provide such licences and permits rests with the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).

To the knowledge of SAWS, if cloud seeding activities are to be undertaken in the RSA, the DWS will be the originator of the appropriate authorisation to conduct the above operations.



MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
DATE: 28/2/2024