



## environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Ref: O2/1/5/2

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 2376 {NW2951E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 38 of 2020

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 16 October 2020

**Mr N Singh to ask (IFP) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

In light of the fact that eight environment ministry officials have been suspended in relation to a R2 billion tender fraud (details furnished), and her department's undertaking that it would, in due course, implement system recommendations that were outlined in the forensic investigation report, what (a) are the recommendations and (b) is the expected timeline for the implementation of the recommendations?

**2376. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

- a The forensic investigation report made the following recommendations with regard to improvement to supply chain management processes:
  - i. The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) should revise its functionality criteria for tenders such that there is compliance with the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, 2000: Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2017.
  - ii. The DEFF should revise its practice of appointing the same officials to serve on the Bid Specification Committee (BSC) and Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC). The

functions of bid specification and evaluation should be segregated in order to minimise the risk of collusion between officials.

- iii. The DEFF should implement a system whereby all BSC, BEC and Bid Adjudication Committee (BAC) meetings are mechanically recorded. Such recordings should be filed for reference.
- iv. The Supply Chain Management (SCM) Directorate should ensure that all minutes of BSC, BEC and BAC meetings are prepared within a reasonable period and filed. Such minutes should be signed by the relevant officials present at such meetings.
- v. The DEFF should cancel all contracts and/or negotiations with bidders who did not meet the mandatory and functional requirements of the bid.

b. The following recommendations have been implemented to date:

- i. Criteria for evaluation of tenders have been amended to ensure objectivity and transparency. All Terms of Reference are reviewed by a quality assurer and are approved by the BAC.
- ii. BAC meetings are recorded and minutes are prepared timeously. The BAC will only consider tenders for adjudication if the BSC and BEC minutes are included in submission.

The following recommendations will be implemented in due course:

- iii. Amendments to the SCM with regard to the BSC and BEC composition
- iv. Contracts are currently being reviewed by Counsel to consider any legal risks and to advise regarding the due process that must be followed when contracts are cancelled.

**Regards**



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

**DATE: 27/10/2020**