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environmental affairs

Department: Environmental Affairs REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (For written reply) QUESTION NO. 443 {NW1415E} INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 10 of 2019

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Ms C V King (DA) to ask the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries:

- (1) Which beaches lost their blue flag status in (a) 2016, (b) 2017 and (c) 2018; and
- (2) whether any measures are in place to restore the blue flag status of the specified beaches; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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

- (1) The following beaches lost their Blue Flag status:
 - (a) 2016: Struisbaai Beach (Agulhas Municipality).
 - (b) 2017: Gouritsmond Beach (Hessequa Municipality); Santos Beach (Mossel Bay Municipality); Wilderness Beach (Garden Route District Municipality); Kleinemonde Beach (Ndlambe Muncipality).
 - (c) 2018: No Blue Flag beaches lost their status in 2018.
- (2) (a) 2016: Struisbaai Beach The municipality opted not to apply in 2016 in order to carry out infrastructure upgrades at the site. Struisbaai became a Blue Flag beach again in 2017.

(b) 2017:

- Gouritsmond Beach The municipality lost the Blue Flag status due to failed water quality. Gouritsmond became a Blue Flag beach again in 2018.
- Santos Beach The municipality lost the Blue Flag status due to failed water quality. Santos Beach became a Blue Flag beach again in 2018.
- Wilderness Beach The municipality did not apply to the programme in 2017 for unknown reasons. Wilderness Beach have submitted an application for Blue Flag status in 2019/20.
- Kleinemonde Beach The municipality did not apply to the programme in 2017 due to budgetary constraints. Kleinemonde Beach has, since then, not returned to the programme.

Regards

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

DATE: 3/9/2019