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(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 496 (NW572E)
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Mr M N Paulsen (EFF) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

(a) What are the reasons that her department has removed the target of expenditure on companies that are owned by women and that they were not reinstated, (b) how will she measure the progress of efforts that are meant to support businesses owned by women without the specified target and (c) what measures will she put in place to ensure that businesses owned by women are not disadvantaged in the contracting process without the specified target?

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

- (a) The target was set in 2019 on the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) 5-year Strategic Plan when the National Treasury's Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Regulations of 2017 was still in effect. The Department revised its policy in line with the new Preferential Procurement Regulations of 2022.
- (b)(c) The DFFE's new Supply Chain Management Policy makes use of Specific Goals applicable for preferential procurement. The specific goals in the policy allocate preference points to enterprises/entities from the following categories:
 - (i) More than fifty percent (50%) ownership by black people;
 - (ii) More than fifty percent (50%) ownership by women; and

More than fifty percent (50%) ownership by people with disabilities. (iii)

The Department stipulates one or more of these Specific Goals for its Tenders.

The Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) Act and the regulations requires departments to submit annual reports as well as the Departmental BEE Certificate for monitoring by the BEE Commission. The Department complies with this.

MS B D CREECY, MP