



**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

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

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 582 {NW686E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 8 of 2024

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Mr D W Bryant (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) Whether, with reference to her recent announcement that 499 rhinos were poached in the Republic in 2023, amounting to an increase of 51 from the previous year, the SA National Parks (SANParks) is working with provincial parks to help roll out polygraph testing for staff members in provincial parks to help reduce poaching instances in KwaZulu-Natal; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) What (a) total number of polygraph tests were carried out on SANParks staff and (b) is the job description of each person who was tested;
- (3) Whether any of the polygraph tests carried out on SANParks staff assisted in identifying persons who were involved in poaching; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details in this regard?

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

- (1) The primary mandate of South African National Parks (SANParks) is to oversee the conservation of South Africa's biodiversity, landscapes, and associated heritage assets through a system of national parks. At this stage, there have been no engagements between SANParks and the provincial park authorities to conduct polygraph testing of staff at provincial parks.

(2) (a) The procurement process for a polygraph testing company will be finalised by the end of April 2024, following which the testing can commence.

(b) Not applicable.

(3) Not applicable.


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MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
DATE: 19/4/2024