



## forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Ref: 02/1/5/2

### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For oral reply)

QUESTION NO. 814 {NO5251E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 46 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 21 November 2023

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

Whether, in view of the recent spike in criminal incidents on Table Mountain which is a cause for concern for locals and tourists, she has investigated and found the allegations to be true that members of the Sea, Air and Mountain unit of the Table Mountain National Park have been operating without firearms during the crisis due to the expiry of firearm licences; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what (a) are the reasons and (b) steps have been taken to remedy the situation?

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

- a) The allegation that team members of the Sea, Air and Mountain (SEAM) Unit operated without firearms due to the expiry of firearm licences is not true. Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) rangers, including those rangers in the SEAM Unit, are issued with firearms depending on operational responsibilities and competency to handle firearms in line with the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act No. 60 of 2000) (FCA). Not all SEAM rangers are automatically issued with firearms as it is not the only method or means used for combating criminal activities at TMNP.

- b) Rangers in the SEAM team who qualify to be issued with firearms have been issued with the same. Other rangers who have not been issued with firearms are undergoing formal re-assessment to ensure that the organisation is compliant with the provisions of the FCA.



.....  
**MS B D CREECY, MP**  
**MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**DATE: 28/11/2023**