



## **environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Ref:02/1/5/2

**MINISTER**

**QUESTION NO. 31 FOR ORAL REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

A draft reply to Mr T Z Hadebe (DA) to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**MS NOSIPHO NGCABA  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**DATE:**

**DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED**

**MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP  
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**DATE:**

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For oral reply)

QUESTION NO. 31 {NO481E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 3 of 2016

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 23 February 2016

Mr T Z Hadebe (DA) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:

What (a) total amount of money was spent by her department on combating rhino poaching in the (i) 2013-14 and (ii) 2014-15 financial years and (b) are the details of such spending in each specified financial year? NO481E

### 31. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

(a) (i). & (ii) The amount of money spent on combating rhino poaching is reflected in the relevant Annual Reports of the Department.

#### (b) 2013-14

The expenditure by the department was mainly towards the implementation of The National Strategy on the Rhinoceros population of South Africa as well as the integrated Strategic Management Approach, focusing on:

- Building and maintaining internal capacity to respond to the on-going scourge through - National Wildlife Information Unit,
- Enhancing capacity for rangers in SANPARKS. Additional funds received for maintaining National Parks Infrastructure, amongst others fencing on eastern boundary of Kruger National Park to enhance protection.
- Mobilising and supporting the law enforcement agencies nationally to support the implementation of the strategy (Support the established Mission Area Joint Operations Centre - MAJOC in the Kruger National Park – September 2014),
- Development of an Action Plan and co-ordination of engagements with security cluster and the private rhino owners,
- International engagements and negotiations culminating in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Mozambique (April 2014), Implementation Plan with China (March 2015), and Vietnam (Dec 2013 and the implementation Plan - May 2014) signed;
- Deployment of new technologies in the fight against rhino poaching; and
- Forensic analysis on Rhino DNA in relation to items found at rhino crime scenes as well as during other cases involving rhino horn (eg. seizures at ports, illegal possession of rhino horn etc). The forensic analysis of rhino DNA is currently undertaken by the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory (at the University of Pretoria) and the DEA currently pays for this forensic analysis on behalf of the SAPS.

#### 2014/15

In addition to the above, the department obtained and utilized donor funds to enhance the capacity at the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory of the University of Pretoria by funding additional resources in the form of laboratory assistants to analyse both routine and forensic rhino DNA samples. Advanced Biodiversity Crime Scene Training was provided to both the

Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) and the SAPS. This training has enabled officials to more effectively process rhino crime scenes and perform necropsies, understanding the unique challenges associated with these type of crime scenes. Both these training interventions and the provision of four mobile forensic units (purchased to be equipped for utilization in the field) contributed to us being able to attend to and process all the rhino crime scenes by the end of 2015.

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