



**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

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

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

(For oral reply)

QUESTION NO. 299 { CW271E }

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 17 of 2023

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Mr M S Moletsane (Free State: EFF) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) What is the status of the fish hatchery that was launched by the then Member of the Executive Council in the Letsemeng Local Municipality in the Free State in August 2012;
- (2) whether such hatchery is still operational; if not, why not; if so, (a) what is its success rate and (b) how many job opportunities has it created for the Letsemeng community?

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

- (1) In the Letsemeng Local Municipality, there is no fish hatchery, the only fish related project that was established, was a small-scale fish farm that was overseen by the Free State Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (FSDARD). I am informed that it is no longer in operation, and the Honourable Member would need to ask the provincial government why.

What I can share with the Honourable Member is that there is a fish hatchery in the Kopanong Local Municipality, in the Gariiep District Municipality, not in the Letsemeng Local Municipality. The name of the facility is sometimes referred to as the fish hatchery, but the full name of the

facility is the Aquaculture Technology Demonstration Centre (ATDC) and the facility is fully operational.

(2) The hatchery is fully operational.

(a) The ATDC has successfully implemented four key functions which are as follows:

- Training and Capacity Building;
- Research and Development;
- Culture technology and demonstration; and
- Hatchery and breeding techniques.

(b) The ATDC has created several job opportunities for local communities in and around the Gariiep dam area. The job opportunities vary from General Workers, Security Personnel, and technical support staff. Currently, the ATDC employs a total of forty-five (45) of which thirty-nine (39) individuals are from the local communities.

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

DATE: