



## forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

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Ref: O2/1/5/2

### **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

(For written reply)

**QUESTION NO. 1628 {NW1834E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 15 of 2021**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 28 May 2021**

#### **Mr N Singh (IFP) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

- (1) Whether, in light of the fact that her department's mission is to provide leadership in environmental management and conservation and to give effect to the right of citizens to an environment that is not harmful to their health and/or well-being, as well as to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations, her department, in the interest of taking a people-centred approach, has implemented methods to ensure that the conversation regarding the protection, sustainability and conservation of the environment is normalised for the benefit of average South African citizens as well; if not, why not; if so, what has she noted to be the successes of the methods;
- (2) whether there are measures to localise the language around environmental sustainability so that it does not remain at higher levels, but applies to citizens in remote areas who are more vulnerable to environmental crises; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether, in light of the fact that the forestry and fisheries sector also includes self-employed individuals in the grey economy, her department has put measures in place to protect fishers in the informal sector in line with COVID-19 related adjustments; if not, why not; if so, how successful have the measures been?

**1628. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

- 1) The department is implementing a public education and awareness programme aimed at educating communities about the protection and management of the environment, inclusive of forestry and fisheries. This involves the utilisation of various communications platforms like radio, television, publications and an accelerated community outreach programme. The programme produces material in official languages, in recognition of various language needs in our communities.

In addition, the department implements a number of key programmes aimed at ensuring that its environmental protection and conservation mandate is carried out in a manner that aims to achieve social transformation, equitable access and sharing of socio-economic benefits arising from natural resources. In recent years the department has launched and continues to implement a number of programmes, known as Operation Phakisa programmes, which are as follows: The Biodiversity Economy, Oceans Economy and the Chemicals and Waste Management Operation Phakisa.

The department further implements the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) for the Environment Sector, working together with its four public entities, provinces, local government and other partners in the sector. The broader common key objectives of this programmes are to ensure that the department implements environmental protection, conservation and sustainable development intervention in a manner that also benefits ordinary South Africans and ensure increased participation of previously marginalised communities and individuals in the different economies and industries within the environment sector.

- 2) Refer to response in question 1 above
- 3) The department was instrumental in ensuring that the fishing sector was included as part of the essential services during the harsher lockdown levels at the beginning of the Covid pandemic. This intervention enabled some fishing activities to continue, whilst adhering to the provisions of the Disaster Management Act and Regulations.

The Department also worked with the fishing industry to deliver Personal Protective Equipment and face masks to small-scale and Interim Relief fishers in all four coastal provinces.

**Regards**



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

**DATE:** 11/6/2021  
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