



**environment, forestry
& fisheries**

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1672 {NW2062E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 28 of 2020

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 24 July 2020

1672. Ms A M M Weber (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) Whether she has been informed that staff members of Letaba Rest Camp in the Kruger National Park have moved into the bungalows in the rest camps reserved for tourism; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what (a) are the reasons that staff members moved into the bungalows, (b) plans are in place to resolve the specified issue and (c) will be the impact on the revenue when the park reopens for tourism;
- (2) whether she has been informed that there are persons residing in the Kruger National Park who are in isolation because they are showing symptoms of Covid-19 infection; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the further relevant details?

1672. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (1) The Chief Executive Officer of SANParks issued a public statement addressing this issue on 12 July 2020. On 25 March 2020 when the National State of Disaster was announced and the National Department of Health (NDoH), National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) and World Health Organization (WHO) announced measures that should to be observed to

avoid community spread of COVID-19, SANParks immediately put measures in place to ensure strict compliance with lockdown regulations, social distancing and hygiene guidelines.

- (a) SANParks management moved some essential staff to portions of the rest camps so as to be compliant with WHO protocols on social distancing in staff living quarters. The move is temporary, as their living quarters are being repurposed to be compliant and to avoid community infections.
 - (b) Refurbishment of staff accommodation is almost complete. Extensive consultation and training have taken place with staff to discuss administrative controls required to help prevent the spread of the virus. Those staff who have not already moved back into the living quarters will move back between 01 and 15 August 2020 in a phased approach.
 - (c) There will be no impact on tourism as all tourist facilities will be available.
- (2) As of 28 July 2020, there is only one essential employee who resides in the Park and is in isolation at Kruger National Park (KNP) with COVID-19 symptoms. Contact tracing has taken place by the Provincial Department of Health (DoH) in accordance with NDoH guidelines.

Regards



MS BD CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 7/8/2020