



**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

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

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1643 {NW1848E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 16 of 2021

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

- (1) Whether, with reference to the drafting of new animal welfare legislation, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development is aware of the recommendations of her department's High-Level Panel of Experts for the Review of Policies, Legislation and Practices on Matters of Elephant, Lion, Leopard and Rhinoceros Management, Breeding Hunting Trade and Handling, regarding animal welfare; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) how will her department take the recommendations into account regarding the drafting of the new animal welfare legislation, considering that the specified recommendations have been accepted by the Cabinet?

1643. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (1) Yes, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) is aware of the recommendations of the High-Level Panel (HLP). The report has been tabled to Cabinet and the latter has approved the release of the report and its recommendations for implementation.

- (2) The DALRRD will still be responsible for developing the primary welfare legislation. To this effect, the DALRRD has developed a draft Animal Welfare Bill, which is a consolidation and update of the currently available animal welfare legislation. The provisions of the Draft Animal Welfare Bill will apply to domestic animals and wild animals in general. The Draft Animal Welfare Bill, which is still to be subjected to the relevant legislation development processes, creates the necessary enabling provisions to address specific HLP recommendations through its subordinate legislation.

National biodiversity legislation will provide supporting provisions relating to the well-being of wild animals in order to address specific welfare-related legislative gaps. To this effect, amendments have been proposed for the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEMBA), which form part of the National Environmental Management Laws Amendment Bill, 2017 (NEMLA Bill).

The HLP further recommended that norms and standards be developed for the five species (elephant, white rhino, black rhino, lion and leopard), which should be based on the One Welfare model. The NEMLA Bill already creates the necessary empowering provisions for the development of such norms and standards.

The DALRDD and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) will coordinate their efforts to further develop and finalise legislative provisions in terms of their respective Bills, to jointly give effect to the HLP's recommendations relating to welfare.

Regards



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

DATE: 18/6/2021