



## **environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**Ref:02/1/5/2**

**MINISTER**

### **QUESTION NO. 1801 FOR WRITTEN 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**

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

**DATE:**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**(For written reply)**

**QUESTION NO. 1801 {NW1960E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 19 of 2018**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 01 June 2018**

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

- (a) Will she undertake an investigation into the neglect of Clivia plants by Customs officials at the OR Tambo International Airport due to their large value, (b) what immediate steps can be taken to ensure that (i) clearance procedures for these Clivia plants can be expedited and (ii) due diligence is practiced when these plants are being held in Customs to ensure their wellbeing, (c) can she give any assurance to breeders attending the International Conference of Clivia Breeders taking place in South Africa in September 2018, that their Clivia plants will be treated with the necessary care in Customs and (d) what recourse do plant breeders have when an entire consignment is lost due to neglect at Customs?

**1801. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:**

- (a) Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) of the Department of Environmental Affairs investigates non-compliance with Regulations under the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act and the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act such as the Threatened or Protected Species Regulations (ToPS) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The department has not been informed of the neglect of Clivia plants by Customs officials at OR Tambo International Airport. Please note that only one Clivia species, namely *Clivia mirabilis* or "Oorlogskloof" Bush Lily is listed on ToPS as protected. If the plants which were neglected by Customs at OR Tambo International have been identified as *Clivia mirabilis* then the departmental EMIs can investigate what has transpired and why the plants were neglected.
- (b) As indicated above, the Department of Environmental Affairs is responsible for the regulation of restricted activities relating to species listed under, among others, ToPS and CITES. The South African Revenue Service (SARS) Customs and Excise is the only body which can clear goods being imported into the country. You will thus need to request SARS Customs and Excise to assist with (i) clearance procedures for these Clivia plants and to ensure that (ii) due diligence is practised to ensure their well-being when these plants are being held in the Customs area.
- (c) It is not possible for the department to give any assurance to breeders attending the International Conference of Clivia Breeders taking place in South Africa in September 2018, that their Clivia plants will be treated with the necessary care by Customs. This request needs to be made to SARS Customs and the Department of Finance.

- (d) Similarly, the question would need to be referred to SARS Customs and the Department of Finance in relation to any recourse that plant breeders may have if an entire consignment is lost due to neglect at Customs.

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