



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 571 {NW761E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 11 of 2020

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 17 April 2020

Mr M N Paulsen (EFF) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

(a) What number of grievances, such as those made by the Lamberts Bay small-scale fishers with regard to the registration process, were lodged with her department and (b) how were or will the specified grievances be resolved?

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

(a) and (b) The Department received numerous complaints regarding the composition of the Western Cape small-scale fishers list. Many of these complaints were raised during Ministerial engagements with fishing communities along the West Coast, the Cape Town Metro and the South Coast/Overberg in the Western Cape. As a response to complaints regarding the final list of small-scale fishers in Western Cape, an announcement of an independent audit process on the process of registration and verification of small-scale fishers in Western Cape was made during the community stakeholder engagements. The purpose of the audit is to ensure that fishers who were unfairly excluded from the final list of small-scale fishers are included in the final list and they form part of small-scale fishing co-operatives eligible for rights allocations.

An independent audit and advisory firm, BDO South Africa ("BDO"), has been appointed to audit the registration and verification process of small-scale fishers in the Western Cape. A draft audit report has been finalised and a final report will be presented for my consideration. In the interim, all declared small-scale fishers have been exempted and included as part of the current interim relief dispensation to access traditional linefish and west coast rock lobster species. The department is also in the process of ensuring that small-scale fishing rights are allocated to fishing co-operatives within the current financial year.



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

DATE: ~~2~~ 01/05/2020