



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 39 {NW43E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 1 of 2020

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

What are the full details and outcome of the SANParks investigation into the deaths of approximately 14 endangered Roan antelope in the Antelope protection enclosure in the Kruger National Park in the beginning of 2020?

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

An investigation into the death of 20 roan antelope in the Nwaswistumbe Breeding Camp was carried out by the SANParks Environmental Crime Investigation Services (ECI). The investigation report suggested that the cause of death of the animals was lack of water over a period and therefore suggests negligence on behalf of the Section Ranger, Vlakteplaas who is responsible for managing the well-being of the animals and camp. The report recommended that disciplinary action be taken against the Section Ranger, Vlakteplaas Section.

A SANParks Disciplinary Hearing is confirmed and scheduled for 05 March 2020 to address the issue. In the meantime, SANParks has taken the following corrective measures with regard to the Roan antelope deaths at the Nwatsumbi Breeding camp at Vlakteplaas:

- The Section Ranger and his Field Rangers are and will continue to conduct regular patrols of the camp - no less than three times per week to determine general status and condition of animals

Roan, fence integrity, water availability, grazing and veld conditions and fire protection. The monitoring patrols will be increased during the dry months.

- Monitoring of the camp in line with the Sections Safety and Security Plan.
- Weekly and monthly reporting to the Regional Ranger, Nxanateseni North.
- Regular inspections by the Regional Ranger Nxanateseni.
- The monitoring plan for the camp to be included in the Section Ranger and Regional Ranger's Quarterly Key Performance Appraisals.
- Section Ranger has been fully briefed about his responsibilities regarding the safety and security of the Roan antelope and breeding camp programme.
- Re-structuring of functions in KNP such as merging Conservations Services with Ranger Services.



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

DATE: 27/02/2020