



environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 983 {NW1272E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 17 of 2020

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 22 May 2020

Ms H S Winkler (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) What are the reasons that the Terms of Reference of the High Level Panel (HLP) make no reference to the (a) 2018 colloquium on captive lion breeding and (b) resultant parliamentary resolution instructing her Department to introduce legislation with a view to closing down the industry?
- (2) What are the reasons that the HLP is duplicating the extensive work and public consultations that were done at the 2018 captive lion breeding colloquium?
- (3) How will the HLP address the reputational risks of culling and captive lion breeding given that there are no tourism experts or representatives on the panel?

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

- (1) The Panel has been established to, amongst others reasons, give effect to the resolutions made by the Portfolio Committee on Environmental Affairs during the National Colloquium on Captive Lion Breeding for Hunting in South Africa: harming or promoting the conservation image of South Africa, which was held from 21 to 22 August 2018.

Part of the work of the Panel entails the review of reports on various species, including Parliamentary Committee reports, national assessments, publications, reports by international and national Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and United Nations (UN) bodies as well as any other credible sources.

Even though the resolutions of the Colloquium are not explicit in the Terms of Reference (ToRs), they are, however, implied in the comprehensive scope of the work of the Panel, and as such form part of the review of existing policies and practices relating to lion in the broader sense, taking into account all the views and concerns raised by different stakeholders around issues such as reputational risks and welfare considerations.

- (2) The review of legislation relating to the captive breeding of lion for hunting and the lion bone trade is just one aspect, in respect of lion, that the Panel will be considering, and it is further just one component of the total scope of work of the Panel. Therefore, consulting the public on the aspects to be considered by the Panel would not necessarily duplicate the work and consultation undertaken in 2018 in respect of the Colloquium, but to complement it. It needs to be mentioned that many of the aspects that were considered by the Lion Colloquium relating to management, handling, keeping in captivity, hunting and trade are not exclusive to lions, but affect other iconic species, such as elephant, rhinoceros and leopard. Hence it was decided that a holistic assessment of the four species is needed to inform further recommendations whilst still appreciating species specificities.

The Panel will consider all relevant documents and reports, including the Lion Colloquium report, as well as oral and written inputs from a range of stakeholders, including communities. This will be complemented by some level of ground-truthing of the information received, through site visits to selected captive breeding facilities, private and state protected areas.

- (3) The scope of the work of the Panel does not limit the Panel from engaging/consulting with any relevant stakeholders, depending on the nature of the issue; and this includes tourism experts. It was highlighted in the *Government Gazette* No. 42247 that the assignment of the Panel will entail public hearings, submissions, scientific evidence and other forms of information that will enable the Panel to effectively execute its functions. The work of the Panel would further entail consultation with key stakeholders, through round table meetings, which would be conducted in a

structured approach that will systematically deal with all relevant stakeholders. I am informed that the Panel has already commenced engagement with the Tourism sector and will continue to do so as part of a comprehensive stakeholder engagement strategy that it has adopted.

Regards



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MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
DATE: 5/6/2020