



**environment, forestry
& fisheries**

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1063 {NW1355E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 19 of 2020

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 05 June 2020

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

Whether, in view of the conclusion of the investigative report series *Breaking Point: Uncovering South Africa's Shameful Live Wildlife Trade with China*, the second part of *The Extinction Business*, that wildlife trade between the Republic and China is massive, ever-expanding, ecologically unsustainable, damaging and closely intertwined with illegal activities, she is aware that some of the wildlife traders in the Republic have links to international organised crime syndicates and that animal trade forms a crucial link in their illegal activities; if so, (a) how does her Department intend to ensure that the reportedly identified traders are not issued permits in future and (b) what are the relevant details in this regard?

1063. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

(a & b) The Minister had an online meeting with the EMS Foundation and Ban Animal Trading, on 22 May 2020, in relation to the Report and the allegations made therein of illegal activities with regard to the export of various species to China. The Minister regards the allegations set out in the Report in a serious light and has already initiated an investigation. The investigation will, amongst other things, address permit abuse allegations and pursue remedial and/or appropriate action. The allegations that some of the wildlife traders in South Africa have links to international organised crime syndicates and that the legal animal trade forms a crucial link to illegal activities will also form part of the above mentioned investigation.

The Department has requested that further information from the authors of the report be provided in order to assist the investigation and remedial measures. Only once the matter has been comprehensively investigated and the allegations factually verified, will appropriate action be taken, if necessary, against the mentioned traders, exporters and agents.

Regards


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MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
DATE:.....19/6/2020