



**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1597 {NW1803E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 15 of 2021

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 28 May 2021

Mrs C Phillips (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:


- (1) With reference to her reply to question 1077 on 18 June 2020, how was the conclusion reached that there was not sufficient evidence for criminal charges to be laid against the ranger while there was sufficient evidence of the severity of the offence for the ranger's summary dismissal;
- (2) what are the reasons that no charges were being laid against the ranger concerned while he clearly contravened stipulations of the Animal Protection Act, Act 71 of 1962, which states that any person who unnecessarily starves, underfeeds and/or denies water to any animals and causes any unnecessary suffering to any animals shall be guilty of an offence?

1597. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- 1) At the time of the disciplinary hearing, the South African National Parks (SANParks) was of the view that the charges were not criminal in nature but related to the employee's conduct in the workplace. The charges were laid in accordance with SANParks' Disciplinary Policy Procedure and Code.

- 2) SANParks management consulted legally on its initial decision not to pursue criminal charges. The management has since reviewed this decision and will proceed to lay charges against the employee and allow the National Prosecuting Authority to decide as to whether to pursue the case or not. The case number will be provided to the Honourable Member as soon as it is received.

Regards



.....

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

DATE: 8/6/2021