



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 2595 {NW3071E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 29 of 2021

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 26 November 2021

Mr D W Bryant (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) With reference to her reply to question 2230 on 27 September 2021, what are the relevant details of the progress that has been made to change (a) future employment contracts and (b) existing employment contracts to include polygraph testing;
- (2) what number of employees refused to undergo polygraph testing if only 71 employees from ranger services voluntarily undertook polygraph testing;
- (3) whether SANParks considers to deploy the employees who refused to undergo polygraph testing to less critical areas; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

2595. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

1. a. The employment contracts of SANParks employees have not been reviewed as the policy has not been finalised. Consultations with the trade unions on the revised policy are yet to take place and no contracts will be changed.
- b. Existing contracts have not been revised or changed because the current policy (under revision) renders polygraph testing voluntary.

2. None of the selected employees refused to undertake polygraph testing. The 71 employees who undertook polygraph testing were selected based on their seniority and risk exposure.

3. No. There has been no decision to redeploy any employees. Under the current policy, polygraph testing is voluntary. A change of employment conditions as a result thereof might constitute unfair labour practices. SANParks is further exploring options in this regard through the revision process currently underway.

Regards



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

DATE: 8/12/2021