



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. 2797 {NW3390E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 29 of 2022

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 02 September 2022

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

- (1) What (a) is the progress of the disciplinary hearings of certain persons (names and details furnished) at SANParks and (b) was the outcome of each disciplinary hearing regarding the specified persons;
- (2) whether she will furnish Ms A M M Weber with the breakdown of the costs of the disciplinary hearings of the persons;
- (3) whether she will furnish Ms A M M Weber with a detailed breakdown of the legal costs incurred which amount to R2,7 million in respect of the disciplinary hearings of a certain person including the (a) number of hearings held, (b) persons paid, (c) hours spent (d) rates charged and (e) travel and boarding costs of witnesses?

2797. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (1)
 - (a) The disciplinary process for Mr Mkefe was concluded in June 2022. The disciplinary process for Mr Thwala is continuing and has not been finalised. Mr Thwala has also lodged two CCMA applications and the cases are pending.

(b) Mr Mkefe was summarily dismissed on 29 June 2022. However, soon after the verdict, he lodged a CCMA application and the dispute remained unresolved after the CCMA conciliation meeting held on 15 August 2022. SANParks is awaiting a CCMA arbitration date. Mr Thwala's disciplinary process has not been finalised, the outcome is unknown at this stage.

(2)

The total amount spent for disciplinary hearings for the two employees is R7 153 394 which includes R1 277 219 spent to the Chairpersons of the two disciplinary hearings.

(3)

An amount of R2 951 387 34 was paid for both the attorneys and the Chairperson of the Disciplinary hearing for the said employee (Mr Mketeni):

- (a) 18 days were utilised for the hearings.
- (b) The attorneys were Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr Inc. and the Senior council is Advocate Nasreen Rajab-Bundlender SC.
- (c) 18 hearing days.
- (d) Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr attorneys charged R3 500 per hour while the Senior Council charged an hourly rate of R2 800.
- (e) An amount of R30 581.72 was spent on travelling and related costs for the witnesses.

Regards



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

DATE: 12/9/2022