



## 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. 1559 {NW1802E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 15 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 05 May 2023

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

Whether, with reference to her reply to question 911 on 17 March 2023 that only five ranger positions have been filled, nine positions are being finalised and that SA National Parks is awaiting the outcomes of the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process for six other positions and noting her verbal comments in response to questions during the Portfolio Committee on Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, the ranger positions that were identified as prioritised positions and budgeted for in the 2023-24 financial year have been budgeted for; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the details of the (a) RPL process of rangers and (b) qualifications and training years' service required for each grade of ranger from field ranger to section rangers, including external and internal courses and qualifications required?

#### **1559. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

The prioritised ranger positions have been budgeted for in the 2023/24 budget.

- (a) On recognition of prior learning for rangers, SANParks has partnered with the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC). During Phase 1 of the Recognition of Prior Learning

(RPL), the required information from 22 qualifying employees was submitted for evaluation. All results have been received. During Phase 2, information for 31 qualifying employees was submitted and is in the process of being assessed by the SAWC. It is envisaged that the results of all RPL assessments will be received by 31 May 2023, following which management will make a decision on the way forward.

(b) The following is a list of qualifications, training and years of experience required for the different categories of ranger positions:

#### **Field Ranger**

- Grade 12
- Field Ranger Basic Training (NQF Level 2 and above)
- Firearm Competency for Business Purposes
- Code 08 driver's licence will be an advantage

#### **Field Ranger Lance Corporal**

- Grade 12 plus Environmental Management Inspector (EMI) Certificate (Grade 5 designation)
- Five years' experience (Field Ranger) within operations, including all infrastructure maintenance, area coverage and anti-poaching activities
- Must also be equipped with hard skills, in other words, the ability to use a wide range of firearms, technically skilled
- Code 08 driver's licence

#### **Field Ranger Corporal**

- Grade 12 plus Environmental Management Inspector (EMI) Certificate (Grade 5 designation)
- Para-military course for Field Rangers – NQF Level 2 and above
- Five years' experience as Field Ranger Lance Corporal within Ranger operations, including all infrastructure maintenance, area coverage and anti-poaching activities
- Must also be equipped with hard skills, in other words, the ability to use a wide range of firearms, technically skilled

- Code 08 driver's licence

### **Field Ranger Sergeant**

- Grade 12 plus Environmental Management Inspector (EMI) Certificate (Grade 5 designation)
- Five years' experience as a Field Ranger Corporal within Ranger operations, of which at least two years should have been in the position of Lance Corporal, including all infrastructure maintenance, area coverage and anti-poaching activities
- A certificate in Natural Resource Management or National Diploma in Nature Conservation will be an added advantage
- Must also be equipped with hard skills, in other words, the ability to use a wide range of firearms, technically skilled
- Code 08 driver's licence

### **Section Ranger**

- National Diploma in Conservation Management or related field, or NQF Level 6 in Conservation or Natural Resources Management (or equivalent)
- EMI Grade 2 designation (compulsory) or must qualify in the stipulated period
- Minimum of 10 years' experience as a Field Ranger or in conservation management in a protected area
- At least 5 of these 10 years as a Sergeant or Full Corporal or in a supervisory function in conservation management in a protected area
- Five years of hands-on participation and relevant experience in the implementation of the holistic range of conservation management aspects
- Previous experience in participating, coordinating, conducting and leading anti-poaching operations with special emphasis on rhinoceros and/or elephant poaching, snaring and poisoning

- Experience in constituency building related to establishing productive and beneficial relationships with communities and the relevant internal, external and sister departments and entities



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**MS B D CREECY, MP**  
**MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**  
DATE: 16/5/2023