



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. 2055 {NW2324E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 19 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 26 May 2023

Ms H S Winkler (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

(1) With regard to the recent withdrawal of the long-awaited Threatened or Protected Species regulations from 2007 Regulations and the related Norms and Standards on 31 March 2023, (a) what are the reasons that her legal advisors required additional time to consider Professional Hunting ASA and Wildlife Ranching South Africa's urgent application as she had already submitted a comprehensive answering affidavit clearly outlining her opposition to the urgent application, and additionally arguing that the application was not urgent and (b) on what basis did she withdraw the regulations;

(2) (a) what processes must now be followed before the regulations and related Norms and Standards are gazetted again and (b) on what date (i) does she envisage that they will be gazetted again and (ii) will the process be concluded?

2055. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

1) (a)(b)

The tight timeframes provided to respond to the application did not sufficiently enable the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) to carefully consider the implications of all the arguments raised by the applicants. It is for this reason that the Minister took

a decision, firstly to withdraw the TOPS Regulations and species list; and secondly, to re-publish the afore-mentioned for public comment in order to strengthen administrative processes. The related Norms and Standards were also withdrawn due to some of the over-lapping definitions that would no longer exist after the withdrawal of the TOPS Regulations.

- 2) (a) The withdrawn TOPS Regulations and species list will be re-published in the *Government Gazette* for public comment.
- (b) (i) It is envisaged that the TOPS Regulations and species list will be re-published for public comment by end of June 2023 for 30 days.
- (ii) The extent of comments received will determine future timelines for finalisation.



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

DATE: 6/6/2023