



## 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. 2355 {NW2690E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 23 of 2023

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

What (a) negotiations have taken place with the surrounding communities to ensure that the improved R40 million Hluhluwe-iMfolozi boundary fence that is provided to Ezemvelo is not dismantled as has happened in the past, (b) concrete steps will be taken to address the capacity shortfalls in scientific staff in the provincial nature reserves and (c) specific measures have been taken to improve the wellness of the staff at the Kruger National Park to prevent them from entering into the illicit wildlife trade?

#### **2355. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

- a) The Memorandum of Understanding signed by iSimangaliso and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife includes stakeholder engagement sessions with communities and the traditional authorities surrounding the park to ensure that the boundary fence to be erected, is not dismantled.
- b) Information related to scientific staff at provincial nature reserves needs to be referred to the Provincial Management Authority for a response.
- c) Ranger Wellness programmes where rangers are empowered through information-sharing sessions and workshops to resist being tempted by criminal syndicates.

Counselling services are provided to rangers, particularly in cases where rangers have been involved in contact crimes.

- SANParks also has a wellness programme, which is supported by in-house psychologist that assist in providing psychological support to rangers.
- SANParks is in the process of implementing an Integrity Management Policy to promote ethics in the organisation. There is also a hotline for whistle-blowers to report any incidence of fraud and corruption.
- Working with strategic partners such as the SANParks Honorary Rangers, SANParks has implemented programmes such as Project Embrace, which provides counselling and psychological support to rangers.
- Career-pathing has also been introduced to assist staff who aspire to move into managerial positions by studying and improving their work experience.
- Workshops are hosted periodically on lifestyle awareness and to avoid debt traps.

Forums with communities have also been established to form alliances at community level.

**Regards**



**MS B D CREECY, MP**

**MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

DATE: 20/6/2023