



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 2422 {NW2772E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 23 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 9 June 2023

Ms T Breedt (IFP) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

(1) Whether, with reference to the withdrawal of the Regulations pertaining to Threatened and/or Protected Terrestrial and Freshwater Species (TOPS) and its associated species list, as well as the Revised National Norms and Standards for the Management of Elephants in South Africa (Elephant Norms and Standards) on 31 March 2023, in response to a request for an urgent interdict on the basis that her legal advisers required more time to study the objections of Wildlife Ranching South Africa and the Professional Hunters Association of South Africa (the applicants) to the TOPS Regulations and the Elephant Norms and Standards, her legal advisers have now completed their study of the applicants' objections; if not, why not; if so, what are the results of the specified study;

(2) given the serious implications of the withdrawal of the TOPS Regulations and Elephant Norms and Standards, including uncertainty and potential loss of income for the wildlife farming and hunting sectors, what are the relevant details concerning (a) how and (b) by what date she intends to reintroduce the relevant regulations?

2422. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- 1) Yes, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) has completed its thorough analysis of the objections raised by Wildlife Ranching South Africa and the Professional Hunters Association of South Africa. The decision to republish the draft revised TOPS Regulations and TOPS list will enable the DFFE to strengthen the administrative processes relating to the implementation of these draft regulations and species list.
- 2) The withdrawal of the revised TOPS Regulations and revised TOPS list, or the withdrawal of the revised Elephant Norms and Standards, will not result in a loss of income for the game farming and hunting sectors. The existing (2007) TOPS Regulations and species list, as well as the existing (2008) Elephant Norms and Standards, are still in operation and, therefore, these sectors are able to continue their normal operations under the existing regulatory framework.
 - a) As indicated in PQ 2055, the draft revised TOPS Regulations and TOPS list will be republished in the *Government Gazette* for public comment for 30 days.
 - b) The extent of comments received will determine the timelines for finalisation and promulgation.

Regards



MS B D CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 20 Feb 2023