



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. 3638 {NW4826E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 41 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 03 November 2023

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

- (1) What (a) number of times has the Ministerial Task Team on voluntary exit for the lion breeding industry, which is due to complete its work in December 2023, met since its inception and (b) number of interviews have been conducted with persons representing the lion breeding industry;
- (2) whether she has found that the task team is on track to make its findings and recommendations public by the end of December 2023; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

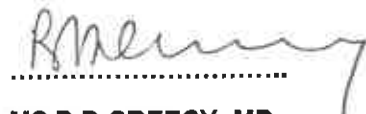
3638. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (1) (a) Up to date, the Ministerial Task Team (MTT) have conducted seventeen (17) Business meetings; two (2) internal MTT workshops; eleven (11) consultation sessions with different groupings and organisations (Provincial Authorities, relevant government departments, public entities and non-government organisations); and four (4) bilateral consultations with four (4) provincial authorities (North West, Free State, Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal).
- (b) The MTT has had discussions with captive lion facility owners, associations representing lion owners, hunters and breeders; as well as facility owners that have contacted the Chairperson of the MTT regarding the voluntary exit process. The process is continuing with the current

roadshow that is being implemented by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.

- (2) The MTT was established with clear Terms of Reference on 7 December 2022 (Government Notice No. 2846, Gazette No. 47666), and its term has been extended to the end of December 2023 (Government Notice No 3536, Gazette No 48783). The MTT has made significant progress with each of the focus areas; and engaged in an extensive consultation process with a number of relevant stakeholders. Many of the recommendations from these discussions were utilised to develop the voluntary exit pathways and options, as well as specific protocols relating to the voluntary exit from the captive lion industry.

Following various consultations, the MTT has since developed a number of pathways and options for voluntary exit from the captive lion industry, and a detailed SWOT analysis was conducted for each of these options. The MTT is in a process of finalising these pathways and options for further consultation with stakeholders. Further to this, the Task Team is also in a process of compiling a final report that will be submitted by end of December 2023.



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

DATE: 13/11/2023