



**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. 1710 {NW2037E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 16 of 2022

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Mrs M R Mohlala (EFF) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) What current international trends for sustainable development has her department adopted to deal with climate change and its damage on the environment;
- (2) whether she has found that the current policy on climate change is effective in dealing with environmental damage; if not, why not; if so, how?

1710. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (1) Some of the current international trends for sustainable development include the mainstreaming of climate change and the just transition to a low carbon and climate resilient development into policies strategies and plans, promoting sustainable consumption and production as well as the circular economy, financial stability and environment and social governance (ESG) in dealing with the risks of climate change.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) has adopted and applied current international trends for sustainable development in addressing climate change and its impact through amongst others developing and mainstreaming climate change into various policies, strategies and plans while promoting the just transition to low carbon climate resilient

development pathways in various sectors such as energy, transport and agriculture. These include the national adaptation strategy, our Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in relation to the Paris agreement, the Low Emission Development Strategy, Carbon Tax Act and National Energy Efficiency Strategy to name but a few.

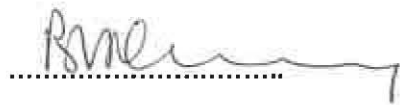
The department has been actively promoting sustainable consumption and production through instruments such as the Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP) and through the National Cleaner Production Centre (NCPC-SA) while also being very active on the continental level in the African Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ARSCP) and globally in the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP) established by the United Nations Conference of Sustainable development.

The department is actively engaged in promoting the circular economy which aims to increase the efficiency of resource use and achieve a better balance and harmony between the economy, environment and society. The department is applying the circular economy approaches in the waste sector, particularly through recycling, reuse and reduction which is contributing to creating jobs, formalising micro waste recovery enterprises, promoting waste to energy, diverting waste from landfills and the environment and improving the overall system of waste management in the country and supporting the low carbon development.

Climate change and in particular the risk it poses to the financial sector is another area where the Department has been contributing. Building a greater understanding of the environmental, social and governance risk exposure and in particular, the risk posed by climate change is of particular importance. Environmental risk management seeks to encourage the reallocation of capital to have a more positive impact and the raising of new and dedicated funds to finance the transition to a less carbon intense economy. The Department has been collaborating with National treasury on greening the economy and facilitating a transition to low carbon and climate resilient development pathway through amongst others a technical paper "Financing a Sustainable Economy Technical Paper 2020-2022" which was released by National Treasury. The paper sets out the research and resultant recommendations of a process to establish minimum practice and standards with regard to climate change and emerging environmental and social risks.

- (2) In 2012 the Department published the National Climate Change Response Policy with the view to coordinate government actions towards addressing the climate change impacts. Furthermore, the cabinet approved the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy which informs adaptation planning in the country. The department further supported the following sectors in developing the sector adaptation plans namely Water, Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Health, Biodiversity and a Climate Change Policy Framework for State Owned Companies and Rural Human Settlements. All nine provinces have developed climate change response plans. All 44 district municipalities and metros have been capacitated to mainstream climate change into Integrated Development Plans (IDPs). In addition, the department also implemented a voluntary carbon budget approach since 2017 where companies are allocated the budget for a five-year period. Companies are also submitting the mitigation plans (pollution prevention plans) since 2016 for approval by DFFE for five-year periods with annual progress reporting. The collective contribution of these policy instruments has to a greater extent lessened the impacts of climate change in the society. Furthermore, the department is working on the Climate Change Bill which will empower the government to ensure compliance with the implementation of various instruments to curb further impacts on climate change.

Regards



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

DATE: 20/5/2022