



environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 2713 {NW3482E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 47 of 2020

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

- (1) What actions will her department take to ensure that lion farms are closed to avoid future pandemics in view of the pathogens found in lions kept on farms (details furnished),
- (2) whether the (a) findings and (b) final report of the high-level panel appointed to review the policies, legislation and practices of breeding, hunting and trading of elephants, lions, leopards and rhinos will be made public; if not, why not; if so, on what date?

2713. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:


- (1). The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment appointed an Advisory Committee to serve as a High-Level Panel (HLP) to review practices, regulatory measures and policy positions on aspects of conservation that are directly and indirectly related to hunting, trade, captive keeping and handling of iconic species which include elephants, rhinoceros, lion and leopards.

Issues related to the management of lions and trade in lion specimens are part of the work of the HLP. Therefore the Panel's recommendations will influence future policy positions on the management of these species. It is important to note that matters of disease control and pathogens are the legal mandate and responsibility of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), residing under their veterinary services.

The HLP in consultation with the relevant authorities, is still investigating and deliberating on these matters. The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF) is therefore not able to indicate its position on whether or not lion farms will be closed until the Panel's work is completed and its recommendations have been received. The HLP has engaged a broad stakeholder group, including the DALRRD.

- (2). (a)(b) The HLP will table its report with recommendations to the Minister by 15 December 2020. Once the report has been received and considered, the Minister will decide on public accessibility to the report.

Regards



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

DATE: 27/11/2020