



**environment, forestry
& fisheries**

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 321 {NW325E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 2 of 2021

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Ms A M M Weber (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) Whether she will furnish Ms A M M Weber with a list of all the SA Revenue Service arrests for possession of rhino horns at the Republic's airports for the past 10 years; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether she will furnish Ms A M M Weber with a report on all rhino horns that were confiscated during the arrests in the past 10 years, including the (i) ZA number and (ii) estimated value of the horns recovered in each arrest; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) (a) what number of the confiscated rhino horns have been checked and found on the Rhino DNA Index System, and (b) to which (i) reserves and (ii) provinces have they been linked?

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

(1) & (2)

The Department is not in possession of information specifically on arrests made by the SA Revenue Service (SARS) for possession of rhino horns at the Republic's airports. In the event where SARS may make an arrest if rhino horns are found in a passenger's luggage, the suspect would then immediately be handed over to the South African Police Service (at the airport this would normally be the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigations (DPCI)). The information

requested is therefore not in the possession of the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries (DEFF). The Honourable Member is advised to pose the question to the SA Revenue Service (SARS).

(3)

(a) and (b)

The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries only assists in relation to some of the rhino investigations where requested to do so by the DPCI. Therefore, the Department is not in a position to provide the requested information. The Honourable Member is advised to pose the question to the South African Police Services (SAPS).

Regards



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

DATE: 4/3/2021