



## environment, forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For oral reply)

QUESTION NO. 336 {NO2346E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 31 of 2020

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**Mr P M P Modise (ANC) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

(a) How has she found that the Covid-19 pandemic affected the development of our oceans economy and (b) what strategic plan has her Department put in place to ensure the recovery and growth of the oceans economy post-Covid-19?

**336. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

a) The COVID-19 pandemic has had a particular impact on the following marine sectors:

- Marine manufacturing: Where under lockdown levels 5 and 4 the boat building and repairs industries could not operate, from level 3, these sub-sectors started operating again at a reduced scale.
- Aquaculture and Fisheries: Access to markets for the Aquaculture and Fisheries Sub-sectors was a major challenge and the abalone sector in particular could not dispose of their products.
- Coastal and Marine Tourism: Coastal and Marine Tourism has been severely affected.

b) The Minister established a platform for regular stakeholder engagements with the Oceans Economy sub-sectors, in particular the marine manufacturing (ship repair, ship repair and boat/ship building), aquaculture and fisheries, where the industry raised challenges in respect of COVID-19 and its impact on their sub-sectors.

The Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, in consultation with the industry stakeholders, have developed interventions to stabilise the Oceans Economy sub-sectors over the next six months and to revive and grow the Sub-sectors over the next 18 months and beyond. The Department has already acted on the implementation of some of the interventions which include:

- Addressing challenges with the ports infrastructure and available equipment for boat/shipbuilding and ship/boat repairs, especially the cranes, caissons and capstans with the Department of Public Enterprises, Transnet and Transnet National Ports Authority.
- Convening a platform with all relevant departments regarding the development of a Government Fleet Recapitalisation Strategy to assist and provide opportunities for the local boat/ship building and ship/boat repair sub-sectors.
- Engaging the Department of Public Enterprises, Transnet and Transnet National Ports Authority on the review of the tariff structures, fees and levies.
- An agreement with the Department of Public Enterprises, Transnet and Transnet National Ports Authority for the review and consideration of longer term leases to ensure return on investments by the private sector.
- Addressing markets, market access, including exploring local markets and the diversification of markets for fish and fish products, both for aquaculture and fisheries, through engagement with the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC).

Regards



MS BD CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 25/8/2020