



**forestry, fisheries  
& the environment**

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Ref: O2/1/5/2

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
(For written reply)**

**QUESTION NO. 4119 {NW5399E}  
INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 48 of 2023**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 01 December 2023**

**Ms T Breedt (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

- (1) Whether her department has been informed of the drinking water shortages for animals in the Molopo Nature Reserve in the North West and the consequential death of game in the specified park; if not, why not; if so, what steps have been taken to assist in resolving the issue;
- (2) Whether the North West Department of Tourism and/or Environmental Affairs contacted her department for assistance in the matter; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) How will her department ensure accountability for the tragedy that occurred in terms of game dying of thirst in the Limpopo Nature Reserve;
- (4) How does her department monitor the functioning and/or infrastructural aspects of nature reserves under the custodianship of provincial departments?

**4119. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

- 1) No. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) was not officially informed of the drinking water shortages for animals and the consequential death of game in the Molopo Nature Reserve in the North-West.

In terms of Schedule 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act No. 108 of 1996), a nature conservation, excluding national parks, national botanical gardens and marine resources, is a functional area of concurrent national and provincial legislative competence. The management of nature reserves declared under the provincial ordinance and recognised by the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003) (NEM:PAA) through the provinces is, therefore, an issue managed under the competence of the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) of the province.

- 2) No. The DFFE was not contacted regarding the specific matter raised.
- 3) The assumption is that the Honourable Member is referring to Molopo Nature Reserve in the North West. The Honourable Member is advised to pose this question to the MEC in the North West Provincial Legislature.
- 4) State-managed nature reserves voluntarily use the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) and reports nationally at the end of each financial year.



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**MS B D CREECY, MP**  
**MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**  
DATE: 14/12/2023