



## **environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Ref:02/1/5/2

**MINISTER**

**QUESTION NO. 169 FOR ORAL REPLY: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

A draft reply to Mr M Khawula (KwaZulu-Natal: IFP) to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**MS NOSIPHO NGCABA  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**DATE:**

**DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED**

**MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP  
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**DATE:**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

(For oral reply)

**QUESTION NO. 169 {CO430E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 27 of 2016**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 18 October 2016**

**Mr M Khawula (KwaZulu-Natal: IFP) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:**

Whether any measures are being considered to intensify rhino protection programmes in the Hluhluwe Game Park in KwaZulu-Natal as there is a noticeable trend of rhino poachers moving away from the Kruger National Park (details furnished); if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

**169. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:**

- (a) The escalation of Rhino crime in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) and in particular Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park, was discussed at the Extended Mission Area Joint Operations Command (MAJOC), meeting which is chaired by South African Police Services (SAPS) and co-chaired by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). The displacement of Rhino crime to KwaZulu-Natal was noted, so was the need to assess and allocate further resources to KwaZulu-Natal. The SAPS Commanders visited KwaZulu-Natal and have identified key strategic law enforcement areas, and extra capacity was deployed as from 01 October 2016.
- b) During 2016 two formal and some more informal cross pollination/training sessions were conducted between SANParks and KZN Ezemvelo law enforcement staff. The Intensive Protection Zone (IPZ) concept for a fragmented park was the main focus. Furthermore, intelligence, technology, boundary/ access control and area protection techniques were covered. Cooperation between the two entities was enhanced and the same criminal networks are active in both areas.
- (c) The following additional measures to intensify rhino protection have been introduced in KwaZulu-Natal, including Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park. These measures will be extended to other parts of the country where rhino poaching is being detected.

- The KZN Provincial Executive Council has resolved to set up a Task Team via the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Joint Crime Prevention Cluster, to investigate possible actions to combat and refocus efforts to tackle the increased poaching of rhino in KZN. This Task Team has a six month mandate to come up with recommendations to the Provincial Executive Council;
- The South African Police Services (SAPS), through Operation Rhino 7, has made extra capacity available and has undertaken the responsibility of patrolling the R618 (Corridor Road);
- The replacement of the Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park boundary fence has commenced, and Smart Fencing Technology will be piloted on certain sections;
- A wildlife product (rhino horn and elephant ivory) detection dog has been deployed into the Zululand area;
- A human resource redeployment and recruitment plan has been developed and submitted for implementation and funding to address operational vacancies; and
- Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife is in the process of dehorning identified, strategic small rhino populations in KZN.
- Observation towers have been built and funding has been allocated via an external project to fund the capacity to carry out the monitoring and surveillance;
- A command and control facility has been initiated at Hluhluwe iMfolozi Park, similar to the one in the Kruger National Park;
- A helicopter has been based at Mpila iMfolozi Game Reserve to ensure rapid response;
- Night operating equipment has been distributed to Hluhluwe iMfolozi operations staff;
- All Hluhluwe iMfolozi gates have monitoring systems in place;

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