



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref:02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 832 FOR WRITTEN REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A draft reply to **Ms J Steenkamp (DA)** to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**MR ALF WILLS
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (ACTING)**

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE:

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 832

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 8 of 2015 {NW980E}

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 20 March 2015

Ms J Steenkamp (DA) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:

Is her department aware of new research into the manufacturing of rhino horns in a laboratory as an alternative to real rhino horns; if not, what does she intend to do with this information; if so, is it her position that the specified research is a viable future consideration? NW980E

832. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

Rhino horn is made up primarily of keratin – a protein found in hair, fingernails, and animal hooves. For members interest, I have attached a 2012 CITES report summarising research in the field of rhino horn composition and its pharmacological effects (see Annex A). However, the Department of Environmental Affairs is not aware of new research on the manufacturing of rhino horns in the laboratory. It will be appreciated if information relating to such research can be provided to the department.

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