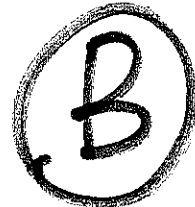


# SOUTH AFRICAN FISHING COMMUNITIES FORUM

## PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & FISHERIES

25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016

PRESENTATION



*"Readiness to participate in the implementation of Small Scale, challenges and proposals for effective support."*

Gerald Cloete: Caretaker of Steenberg's Cove and Sandy Point Fishing Communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you, honourable members.

### INTRODUCTION

*Its the intention of this report to address the honourable members on the issue in question. But more so to ensure that proper and effective action is taken to the successful implementation of the Small Scale Fisheries policy with intended benefits to the real fishers. I am also hopeful that this will enlighten all honourable members to ensure constant support and advice to the minister and the Small Scale directorate.*

### A.OVERCOMING THE LEGACY OF INTERIM RELIEF

In order to address the honourable members it is important to give a holistic view, which includes, where we coming from and where we are hopefully heading .

Whilst the forerunner of SSF has been interim relief and has been coming for the past 14 years. The current numbers that was

registered was more than 550 on average per community and more than 33 communities were part of the registration and verification process.

### **1. Broken communities**

The 2007 judgement of the Equality court paved the way for the an interim period in which the department was given an opportunity to get a small scale policy in place.

However this judgement also mentioned an amount of interim relief permits that were needed to be issued to ensure that whilst the department is busy formulating and finalising a policy, small scale fishers needed to provide for their families. This amount **was 1500** and later increased to **2000**. This number never took into account that this was only a fraction of fishers that were 100% dependent on the sea as their primary income. Unfortunately, the very judgement that was intended to relief hunger pains created animosity amongst fishers in different communities, all in the search of an opportunity to provide for their families.

This than furthermore created fights amongst each other in the same community as there was not enough space to accommodate all fishers. And today whilst we on the brink of shifting to another gear towards the implementation of SS, it is this brokenness that is still haunting our communities as the ghosts of interim relief is threatening to destroy strides to be made for the implementation of SS.

### **2. Hostility towards DAFF**

The practical implementation of the judgement created an hostile environment where DAFF was public enemy #1. The identification of

who the beneficiaries needed to be was problematic as the numbers of the needy far exceeded the availability of permits.

This became an annual dilemma as we came closer to the WCRL season, as hope of being accommodated grew annually.

Furthermore, through a participatory process a list of criteria was created to ensure that fishers needed to be sifted. This very criteria was in many circumstances manipulated to marginalise women, youth and disabled which created further animosity between the communities and DAFF.

The bad ghost of interim relief went as far as destroying relationship between communities and DAFF that officials were threatened annually when a process of verification started and this left a irreconcilable relationship. This breakdown of trust has set out also the platform for the implementation of small scale and unfortunately will probably exist during this course.

### **3. Current situation**

The unfortunate part is that interim relief has created deep scars and the implementation phase has already opened wounds that were almost healed. The provisional list has also left a bad taste and turned the excitement into anger amongst members of the communities.

This muddied the view on what the intentions of small scale was suppose to be. Although there is a general feeling of anticipation amongst fishers it makes it difficult to focus on the positive when the same mistakes that were made during interim relief are being repeated.

## **B. Small Scale - CATALYST to achieve ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY**

### **1. Economic transformation in the fishing industry**

Given all the challenges and hostility, a general feeling excitement is currently existing that SS needs to address the current economic situation existing in the fishing industry.

If the small scale lives up to all expectations we need political will and action to ensure that we get onto a road of radical transformation. In looking to the definition of economic transformation it is imperative that some mechanisms is put into place to address the current long standing lily fishing economy. And in achieving this SS will become the catalyst to ensure growth from the grassroots levels of fishing communities. However, like the minister said on Justice Factor, it is 1 thing to own a farm and another to own a productive farm. The same goes for fishing rights, we can make sure that the small scale basket is economically viable and communities succeed in their business ventures or we can give them a basket with no potential of growth and create more dependency on the state for grants. Furthermore these will be rights to the bone fide fishers and not business men that just wants to sell their right off to the highest bidder, creating paper quotas that inflates our black ownership ratings BUT NO REAL EMPOWERMENT within the fishing industry. With small scale we will achieve true economic redress and that 99% of the beneficiaries will be non white and true EMPOWERMENT in action.

### **2.Creating an new Economy.. Economic Enviroment**

The introduction of small scale with the intended benefits will create a new economic environment.

On the question of readiness, I need to state it categorically, we are ready, ready to get to the promised land of economic freedom. Economic freedom that will ensure a brighter future for ourselves and generations to come. This policy on paper as is will ensure that we create an economy designed by fishers for the benefit of fishers and their communities.

I further wants to urge the minister and all present to ensure that political will and action is the order of the day, to ensure that Small Scale gets 60% of all high value species.

Thank you very much for the opportunity.