



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1664 {NW1905E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 16 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 12 May 2023

Ms H S Winkler (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

What (a) are the reasons that she agreed to withdraw the revised Regulations pertaining to Threatened or Protected Terrestrial and Freshwater Species and the Associated Species List, (b) settlement was reached between her department and game breeders and/or hunters and (c)(i) total costs were her department made to pay and (ii) were the reasons for this?

1664. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (a) Owing to the urgency of an application brought to the High Court of South Africa, Gauteng Division, Pretoria, on 9 March 2023 for an interdict to suspend the coming into effect of the revised TOPS Regulations and revised TOPS list on 1 April 2023, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) required additional time to consider the various issues raised in the court application. For this reason, the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment agreed to withdraw the revised TOPS Regulations and its associated revised TOPS list.

The revised TOPS list will be published for comment for a period of 30 days, which will taken into consideration before a new date of commencement is gazetted.

(b) An out-of-court settlement was reached between the Parties when the Minister agreed to withdraw the revised TOPS Regulations and its associated revised TOPS list, of which the settlement was then made an order of the court on 28 March 2023. In terms of this order, the DFFE was ordered to pay the legal cost of the applicants, to be determined by the Taxing Master of the High Court.

(c) (i)(ii) The DFFE has not yet received an indication of the legal costs of the applicants.



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MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 24/5/2023