



**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. 249 {NW262E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 1 of 2022**

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**Mr M N Paulsen (EFF) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

In light of the fact that, due to ineffective municipal treatment plants and sewage effluent, aquatic weeds have flourished in South African water resources that had so far been rich in nutrients, what steps and/or intervention has her department taken to help eradicate these invasive plants?

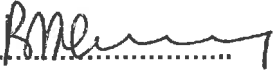
**249. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) implements an integrated approach to manage invasive aquatic weeds utilising chemical, manual and biological control. The strategy that has been adopted is to ensure that all systems are under biological control and to use the EPWP workers to maintain the systems using manual removal of excess growth. The long-term strategy of the DFFE is to ensure the protection of the environment by only using chemical control methods in extreme conditions and protecting the environment and communities around our water systems. The DFFE works closely with local communities, stakeholders and other government departments, such as the Department of Water and Sanitation, and key scientific partners such as Rhodes University.

The DFFE has spent approximately R47 million on the chemical and manual control of aquatic weeds on our water bodies over the 10 years of the programme and employs approximately 387 people annually

from previously disadvantaged communities. The investment of the DFFE in biocontrol research and implementation over the past 10 years amounts to approximately R125 million.

**Regards**

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

**DATE:** 24/2/2022  
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