**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 2591**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER [No 29-2021 SIXTH PARLIAMENT]  
DATE OF PUBLICATION:  26 NOVEMBER 2021**

**2591. Mr N P Masipa (DA) to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development:**

1. What is the (a) extent of the commonage land in the Western Cape and (b) current usage of the commonage land;
2. whether the commonage land has any water rights to allow farming to take place; if not, what steps will her department take to ensure that there are water rights; if so, what are the relevant details;
3. whether there are farming activities taking place on the commonage land; if not, why not; if so, what farming activities are taking place on the pieces of land;

(4) whether she will furnish Mr N P Masipa with the relevant information regarding (a) land that has been invaded and (b) the action(s) that were taken regarding the situation; if not, why not; if so, by what date? **NW3067E**

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LAND REFORM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:**

(1)(a) The extent of the commonage land in the Western Cape is 8 617,0442 hectares.

(b) The current usage of the land is for horticulture, crop, and livestock farming.

(2),(3) Please refer to **Annexure A**.

1. Yes.
   1. The land that has been invaded is Erf 3617 in Citrusdal in Clanwilliam Registration Division measuring 87,4921 hectares and which is under the ownership of Cederberg Municipality.
   2. There is a Notarial Deed registered against the property to be used only for agricultural purposes. The Department had previously supported the famers through the One Household One Hectares Programme.

**ANNEXURE A OF NA-QUES 2591 0F 2021: COMMONAGE PROPERTIES**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Farm/ Project name | Property Description | Hectares Acquired | Commodity | Production Type 1 | Water Rights (including relevant details) Yes or No and what steps to be taken to ensure water rights | Current Situation |
| Vredendal Saamwerk Boerdery | The Remaining Extent of Erf 771 in Vredendal (Matzikama Municipality) in the Vanrhynsdorp registration Division | 21,7302 | Vegetables | Horticulture | Yes, 5ha of water rights is registered | This commonage is not in optimal use as the farmers are not using the full 21.7 ha but is farming on a piece of the adjacent land which is an airstrip. The farmers have formal leases with the Municipality. |
| Petersfield | Erf 3617 in Citrusdal in Clanwilliam Registration Division | 87,4921 | Vegetables | Horticulture | Yes, 10ha of water rights is registered | The property is under ownership of Cederberg Municipality and currently illegally occupied. Absence of formal contracts between Municipality and Farmers. There is a Notarial Deed registered against the property to be used only for agricultural purposes. The Department had previously through the One Household One Hectares Programme supported the famers. |
| Prince Albert Commonage | Portion 1 of the farm Damascus Nr 153, Prince Albert Municipality | 5 580,3060 | Crops and Livestock | Crops and Livestock | No, the land has Schedule 1 water, as it is only suitable for livestock use, therefore no water rights are required to be registered. | Commonage is still under the ownership of the Municipality and leased to farmers. |
| Beaufort West Commonage | Farm Bulskop No.423 | 2 667,0374 | Red Meat | Livestock | No, the land has Schedule 1 water, as it is only suitable for livestock use, therefore no water rights are required to be registered. The Municipality has registered boreholes on the property. | Beaufort West Municipality sold the commonage to a commercial farmer to purchase Hansrivier for water for the town. |
| Bitou Commonage | Remainder of Farm No. 487 | 196,4785 | Vegetables | Horticulture | Yes | Commonage transferred back to the DALRRD. This property forms part of the PLAS projects allocation done and 30 years lease signed. |
| Oudtshoorn Commonage | Remainder of Portion 11 of Welgemeend | 64,0000 | White Meat | Livestock | No, the land has Schedule 1 water, as it is only suitable for livestock use, therefore no water rights are required to be registered. The Municipality has registered boreholes on the property. | The Municipality is currently leasing the land to the Oudtshoorn community farmers farming with pigs on a three years renewal contract. DALLRD Recap branch previously tried to support famers through 1hh1ha unfortunately the program was discontinued. |