



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 288 {NW299E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 2 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 17 February 2023

Mr N Singh (IFP) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment: Whether, given the rapidly deteriorating state of small-scale farming situated along the Umfolozi River due to low-level flooding, resulting in a loss of income and employment at an accelerating rate, with flooded land now reported to cover some 2 500 hectares, an increase of 1 000 hectares since last year, any immediate interventions are being taken to prevent not only an environmental disaster, but also a socio-economic disaster to the residents in the impacted areas; if not, why not; if so, what are the full, relevant details?

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

On the 16th of February 2023 commercial and subsistence farmers requested iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) to facilitate the declaration of a state of disaster on the uMfolozi river. The task team consulted with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs who have agreed to visit the area on the 6th until the 10th of March 2023. The purpose of the visit is to determine whether the situation meets the conditions for declaration as a state of disaster.

MS B D CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 3/3/2023