



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. 2907 {NO3351E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 32 of 2023

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Ms S G N Mbatha (ANC) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

What (a) are the relevant details of the process to empower communities in the forestry industry to ensure the prevention of deforestation and (b) is the state of pilot projects in this regard?

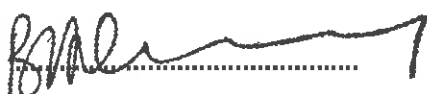
2907. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) is involved in programmes that are aimed at empowering communities in the forestry industry to reduce deforestation through the following:

- (a) The DFFE launched the Forestry Master Plan, which involves all role players in the forestry sector. This plan seeks to ensure transformation of the forestry industry in a manner that involves communities in the economic mainstream of the forestry industry through public/private and community partnerships. As part of this process and to empower local communities, the DFFE developed different models for the transfer of forest plantations. Some of the models include transfers to beneficiary communities and local authorities. Linked to the transfer of the plantations to the communities is a capacity-building plan and post-settlement support programme, embedded within the implementation of the Forestry Master Plan, which will empower beneficiaries to be able to manage the transferred plantations in a profitable and sustainable manner. This plan is also supported by the Community Forest Agreement tool of the National Forest Act, 1998 (Act No. 84 of 1998) (NFA) mentioned

above. The NFA provides details of the technical and financial support to be provided to communities in this arrangement.

- (b) The transfer of the plantations has already been piloted in some areas, especially in the Eastern Cape, namely Lehana and Makoba. The rest of the affected plantations are at different stages in the transferring process, which is informed by the implementation plan driven by the Forestry Branch working with relevant role players within the forestry industry.



MS B D CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 14/9/2023