



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. 357 {NW373E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 2 of 2023

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

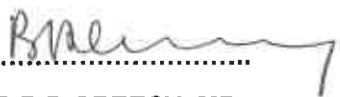
What contingency plans are in place to mitigate the impact of the rising sea levels on the coastal towns and cities along the coast of the Republic?

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

The hazard planning tool created in the National Environmental Management Act: Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 (Act No. 24 of 2008) (ICM Act) provides for the development of coastal management lines (CMLs) (section 25), which are modelled around coastal hazards and risks along the coast. These lines are intended to create a buffer beyond which no new developments can be built. The aim is to protect coastal public property, the coastal protection zone, people, and infrastructure from the dynamics of coastal processes (in other words, sea level rise) in the interest of public safety and to preserve the aesthetic value of the coastal zone.

In all the coastal provinces, the relevant Member of the Executive Council (and by association, the lead agencies responsible for coastal management) is responsible for establishing CMLs within their respective provinces in terms of the ICM Act.

In addition, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) has developed a Coastal Climate Change Vulnerability Spatial Planning tool that is aimed at developing a geospatial index for the vulnerability of South Africa's coasts in terms of climate change impacts. These are primarily the impacts of flooding through storm surges, sea level rise and coastal erosion. The tool is available online and provides an interactive decision support platform that allows the users, primarily government officials at all spheres of government, to view and assess the various aspects of coastal risk and use of the spatially explicit information for spatial planning and climate change adaptation planning. Ongoing training is being rolled out to municipalities to use the tool for effective planning to mitigate climate change impacts.



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

DATE: 24/2/2023