



**forestry, fisheries  
& the environment**

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

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Ref: O2/1/5/2

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**(For written reply)**

**QUESTION NO. 4039 {NW5047E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 44 of 2022**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 4 November 2022**

**Mr D W Bryant (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

(1) Considering that the organised land invasions at the forestry plantations in Grabouw and the inability of her department to prevent this from taking place, has led to the sites no longer being viable for forestry activities and her department having to hand them back to the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, what is the closest estimate of both the (a) direct and (b) indirect jobs that have been lost as a result of the organised land invasions at the specified sites;

(2) whether there are any similar sites in the Grabouw area where her department will be able to replicate the same scale of production and economic opportunity that has been lost on the invaded sites; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) whether her department will provide all relevant information and evidence in their possession to the SA Police Service in terms of their new investigation into the organisers of the land invasions as per case 1/09/2022 registered at the Grabouw Police Station; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

**4039. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

- (1) A total of 1 997,69 hectares have been affected by the land invasions and building of informal structures. In terms of the industry norm, the area translates to 61 direct jobs that were lost. The indirect jobs would relate to many other dependent variables in the value chain such as those who provide transport for workers to and from work, the sawmilling industry that derives fibre from the primary sector, etc.
- (2) There is no other land available in Grabouw, which could compensate for the loss. The total area in Grabouw that was initially earmarked for plantation forestry was 4 305 ha and with 1 997,69 ha destroyed, the estimated remainder is 2 307,04 ha. There is still a possibility to use the remainder of the land in Grabouw for forestry purposes, but the extent of land invasions spreading to other areas makes this undertaking risky.
- (3) The DFFE will provide any information at its disposal that relates to the contravention that happened during the time when the land was under its management. The DFFE will collaborate with law enforcement authorities only to the extent that it has evidence, including in case 1/09/2022.



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

**DATE:** 21/11/2022