



**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. 92 {NW96E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 1 of 2022

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Mrs C Phillips (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) What was the total value in Rand of the contract awarded to a certain company (name furnished) for the five-year Working on Fire (WoF) contract for the period 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2021;
- (2) (a) what number of base stations were financed with the specified amount, (b) where are the base station situated and (c) what number of teams were stationed at each base station;
- (3) (a) what number of vehicles were purchased for WoF with the money and (b) at which base stations were they stationed;
- (4) whether any of the specified vehicles will be available to the provincial fire protection associations after the end of the contract; if not, will they remain the property of the specified company; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (5) whether she will furnish Mrs C Phillips with a list of dates in 2021 when each base station in the North West had fully operational firefighting teams; if not, why not; if so, on what date?

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

- (1) The Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), now the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), entered into a seven-year agreement (from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2021) with FFA Operations (Pty) Ltd (now trading as Working on Fire (Pty) Ltd) to implement the Working on Fire (WoF) Programme to the value of R4 919 627 241,92.

The programme has the following key focus areas to ensure that its goals can be achieved:

- a. Ground operations, including fire prevention, protection, initial attack, extended attack, post-fire rehabilitation, invasive alien plant control (fuel load reduction and ecological restoration) and sustainable forest management interventions;
- b. Dispatch and coordination;
- c. Incident command system;
- d. Aerial support;
- e. Advocacy and awareness; and
- f. Detection was funded by partner entities with a jurisdictional or geographical responsibility/mandate.

The WoF Programme focuses on integrated fire management with a series of actions that include fire awareness and prevention activities; prescribed burning; resource sharing and coordination; fire detection; fire suppression and fire damage rehabilitation at local, provincial and national levels in order to create a sustainable and well-balanced environment, reduce unwanted wildfire damage and promote the beneficial use of fire.

- (2) (a) A total of 258 bases were financed through the allocation in all nine provinces.
- (b) The base locations are listed below per province and a further breakdown is attached as Annexure A.

No.	Province	Number of Bases
1	Eastern Cape	41
2	Western Cape	55
3	Northern Cape	2
4	KwaZulu-Natal	39

5	Free State	26
6	Mpumalanga	32
7	Limpopo	33
8	Gauteng	14
9	North West	16
	Total number of bases	258


- (c) A total of 258 teams and 5 662 participants were placed in these bases. The details of the bases and participants are attached as Annexure A and the placement of teams per province appears in the table below.

No	Province	Number of Bases	Number of Teams per Province
1	Eastern Cape	41	842
2	Western Cape	55	1259
3	Northern Cape	2	50
4	KwaZulu-Natal	39	853
5	Free State	26	629
6	Mpumalanga	32	670
7	Limpopo	33	760
8	Gauteng	14	251
9	North West	16	348

- (3) (a) A total of 345 vehicles were purchased under the WoF contract.
(b) The placement of the operational vehicles is attached as Annexure B.
- (4) According to the Memorandum of Agreement with Working on Fire (Pty) Ltd, all fleet vehicles procured with programme funds remain the property of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and are managed as per the DFFE Supply Chain Management policies on Asset Management. Currently, the entire fleet has been placed with base partners who are members of Fire Protection Associations.

(5) All WoF teams were active for the 2020/2021 financial year. A full list of production activities conducted by the teams from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 is attached as Annexure C.

Regards


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

DATE: 24/2/2022