



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. 2942 {NW4004E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 32 of 2023

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Ms T Breedt (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) (a) What were the objectives of the Operation Trident of her department, (b) which departments and/or organisations took part in the specified operation and (c) how was it funded;
- (2) whether the operation achieved its objectives; if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

2942. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- 1) (a) Operation Trident was an anti-poaching operation that started in 2004 and lasted for approximately twelve months. The objectives of the operation were to address the illegal harvesting of marine living resources through proactive (preventative action) and reactive action (to pursue, arrest, document, charge and conclude the litigation processes).
- b) The South African Police Service and the South African National Defence Force participated in the operation.
- c) The operation was funded by Government departments - each responsible for their own funding. The budget of the Chief Directorate: Monitoring Control and Surveillance, under the Marine Living Resources Fund (MLRF), was utilised for operational expenditure.

- 2) Yes, objectives of Operation Trident were achieved through collaborations between the military and the South African Police Service; and with the establishment of environmental courts that specifically focused on abalone poaching. The period of this operation was also aligned with the listing, by South Africa, of the species of abalone (*Haliotis midae*) on Appendix III of CITES in 2007.



MS B D CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 26/9/2023