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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 4001 { NW5275E }
INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 47 of 2023

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

(a) Why the 30% procurement target for rural and township enterprises was removed from the plans of her department and (b) what are the potential impacts of removing the target on rural and township enterprises?

4001. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

(a) The target was set in 2019 for the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) five-year Strategic Plan when the National Treasury's Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Regulations of 2017 was still in effect. The DFFE revised its policy in line with the new Preferential Procurement Regulations of 2022.

The departments new SCM policy makes use of Specific Goals applicable for preferential procurement. The specific goals in the policy allocate preference points to enterprise/entities from the following categories:

- i. more than 50% (fifty percent) ownership by Black People
- ii. more than 50% (fifty percent) ownership by women; and
- iii. more than 50% (fifty percent) ownership by people with disabilities.

The Department stipulates one or more of these Specific Goals for its Tenders. The department has not set targets in line with specific goals as per their policy.

There is no impact on rural and township enterprises as this area of work is managed and (b) monitored in the 2023/24 Branch Annual Operational Plans. The planned annual targets are reported to the BEE Commission while management continues to monitor the national policy and legislative development in these areas. The Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment Act, 2003 (Act No. 53 of 2003) (B-BBEE Act) and the regulations require the departments to submit annual reports as well as the departmental BEE Certificate for monitoring by the BEE Commission of which the DFFE complies with.

MS B D CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT DATE: 28/1/2023