



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 4009 {NW5284E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 47 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 24 November 2023

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

- (1) Whether her department has been informed of the large number of poachers allegedly using the Hawston Harbour to poach abalone as far as Robben Island and beyond; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether the specified harbour is (a) still a registered harbour and/or slipway and (b) policed by her department; if not, why not, in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each case;
- (3) whether, considering that Hermanus' New Harbour is only five kilometres away, her department has considered closing and requesting the demolishing of Hawston Harbour to curb the extensive poaching network that operates from there; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

4009. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- 1) The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) is aware of alleged illegal activities taking place from the Hawston slipway. The DFFE is continuously conducting operations under Operation Phakisa with other law enforcement agencies to combat illegal activities in Hawston up to Robben Island.

- 2) a) Hawston is not an official slipway as it is not listed on the public launch site, as per the management of public launch sites in the Coastal Zone Regulations, 2014 (Government Notice No. 497 for the Western Cape).
- b) Enforcement efforts in Hawston make use of additional capacity and backup from the South African Police Service (SAPS) and other law enforcement agents who are trained in dealing with the violence. The deployment of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) in the Overberg area has previously served as a deterrence and assisted in enforcement in volatile areas such as Hawston.
- 3) The DFFE does not manage the slipway. The Hawston slipway falls within the jurisdiction of the Overstrand Municipality. Owing to the challenges faced at the Hawston slipway, the DFFE has assigned the new harbour in Hermanus as the landing point for commercial and small-scale landings to curb the illegal harvesting of marine living resources. The DFFE does not have the mandate or authority to demolish the Hawston slipway. Several engagements have taken place between the Overstrand Municipality, the DFFE and the Western Cape Provincial Government regarding the future of the Hawston slipway.



.....
MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
DATE: 29/11/2023