



## **KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### **OFFICE OF THE MEC**

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**The Honourable Ms. N Boyce**  
**Speaker of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature**  
**241 Langalibalele Street**  
**PIETERMARITZBURG**  
**3200**

### **WRITTEN REPLY**

**146/2022 Mr. H U de Boer (DA) to ask the MEC for Economic  
Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs:**

Rhino poaching remains a massive issue within KZN, seriously endangering the population of this endangered species. Information on the fight against poaching remains critical in formulating a Provincial and public response to rhino poaching:

1. What was the total cost of compiling the "Report of Task team into Rhino poaching in KwaZulu-Natal"?
2. How much were the individual authors/investigators of the report paid?
3. How much, if anything, was paid to external media houses/consultancies or persons to help compile or edit the report?
4. How many criminal cases have been opened, or internal investigations launched stemming from the Rhino report?
5. Does the Honourable MEC agree to share the Rhino report with the KZN Conservation Committee – even in an 'in committee' platform?

## **RESPONSE:**

1. **Ad para 1 to 4:** The information requested in questions 1 to 4 is not within the peculiar knowledge of the Honourable MEC, as the investigation was commissioned by the Honourable Premier, and paid for by the Office of the Premier. In the premises it is recommended that the said questions are addressed to the Office of the Premier for a response.

2. **Ad para 5:** Part 1 of the Report has been released, and is accordingly already in the public domain. This notwithstanding, copies of Part 1 of the Report will be provided if requested. However, the introduction of Part 2 of the Report contains the following statement:

*"This Part of the Report is Highly Confidential as it contains information about actual investigations, names of suspects, witnesses, investigators and details of incidents as reported to the Rhino Task Team.*

*It is thus regarded as a Top Secret Document and should only be revealed to persons with Top Secret Security Clearance and restricted to those who have a direct involvement in the drive against Rhino Poaching.*

*It must also be emphasised the incidents are recorded from people interviewed and that the Task Team Members did not have the capacity or legal standing to verify the correctness of what was reported to them."*

As a result of the above, Part 2 of the Report cannot be shared at this stage, as it will jeopardise ongoing investigations and place the lives of identified witnesses and investigators at risk, and Part 1 of the Report in any event contains the primary findings and recommendations of the Task Team.

Notwithstanding the above, the MEC has, under conditions of strict confidentiality, provided copies of Part 2 to the Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee and the newly-appointed Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Ezemvelo Wildlife Board.

The MEC is sympathetic to the legitimate interest of the Portfolio Committee in the report as a whole and will discuss with the Chairperson, options available which will not compromise the risks identified by the authors.



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**MR. R. R. PILLAY, MPL**  
**MEC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,**  
**TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**  
DATE: 25/07/22