



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**DA SPOKESPERSON: FORESTRY, FISHERIES  
AND ENVIRONMENT  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

PO Box 15 Cape Town 8000 Republic of South Africa  
Cell: +27 73 981 9990

e-mail: [adeblocq@parliament.gov.za](mailto:adeblocq@parliament.gov.za)

[www.parliament.gov.za](http://www.parliament.gov.za)

[www.da.org.za](http://www.da.org.za)

**HON ANDREW DE BLOCQ, MP**  
DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE SPOKESPERSON:  
FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENT

18 September 2025

**Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Forestry, Fisheries and Environment**

Honourable Nqabisa Gantscho MP

Dear Chairperson,

Thank you for convening this morning's meeting and for enabling the Portfolio Committee to engage with the NSPCA, the North West Parks and Tourism Board (NWPTB) and the provincial Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism (DEDECT) on the issue of elephant management at Madikwe Game Reserve. This is a sensitive and nationally significant matter that requires our Committee's continued oversight. At our previous meeting with the same entities on 10 June 2025 you, on behalf of the Committee, issued six clear and non-negotiable directives:

1. Inclusion of the NSPCA in the Provincial Elephant Task Team (PETT);
2. Provision to the NSPCA of minutes of all previous PETT meetings, with written confirmation thereof;
3. Submission of the PETT's oversight-visit report to the Committee and the NSPCA;
4. Submission of a proposed management plan or intervention strategy with timelines;
5. Written response to the NSPCA presentation by 13 June;
6. Written responses to Committee questions by 5 July.

A follow-up meeting was scheduled for 16 September 2025 to assess progress on these directives. Although NWPTB and DEDECT submitted presentations on 12 September, it was immediately apparent that they were not prepared to address the brief contained in the Committee's invitation. You accordingly ruled that they return on 18 September fully prepared to respond to the directives.

The revised presentation, resubmitted after 18h00 on 17 September (yesterday) for our 08h00 meeting today, again failed to meet the Committee's requirements. While late notice can sometimes be excused under exceptional circumstances, it should not become the norm for a body subject to parliamentary oversight. More troublingly, as anticipated, the revised presentation still did not address the Committee's clear and repeated instructions.

This unwillingness to comply was confirmed by the remarks of the MEC, the NWPTB Board Chairperson and the Acting CEO. Not a single one of the six directives has been implemented in the three months since their issuance. Their only justification was that the NSPCA had been included in a stakeholder forum outside of the PETT, and the responses to the Committee were submitted two months late; the remaining four directives were not addressed at all.

Such persistent non-compliance can only be interpreted as a direct and wilful disregard for your authority and, by extension, that of the Portfolio Committee and Parliament.

In today's meeting I proposed that the MEC and the NWPTB be reported to the House Chairperson (Honourable Frolick) and, ultimately, to the Speaker of the National Assembly. Although this proposal was not adopted at the time, I request that you urgently consider how to take this matter forward on behalf of the Committee. Continued obstinacy must not go unchallenged or unsanctioned.

I also proposed that the PETT itself be called to brief the Committee once its management proposals—expected by the end of this month—are finalised. This would align naturally with the Deputy Minister's proposal to table the outcomes of the Elephant Indaba, which you indicated you support. I would be grateful if you could consider this suggestion as well. Furthermore, the responses to Members' questions today were wholly inadequate. Key questions left unanswered included:

1. Why Madikwe Game Reserve has resisted implementing non-lethal measures, particularly contraception, despite a signed agreement with an NGO since 2022 to undertake this at no cost;
2. What scientific basis—beyond outdated static carrying-capacity models—supports the claims of overpopulation and degradation, and whether adaptive management indicators have been applied;
3. Why trophy hunting is being promoted as a management tool despite limited offtake and the targeting of older bulls which are not active breeders;
4. Whether the negative impacts of culling or trophy hunting on tourism jobs and community-owned lodges have been considered;
5. Where accountability lies for the current crisis and what disciplinary or consequence-management actions have been taken.

It is incumbent on the Committee to demand full and substantive answers to these questions.

Finally, in the interests of fairness, I must note that MEC Lenkopane's criticism of the NSPCA for providing a verbal rather than written report was disingenuous. She herself chose to speak off the cuff on the Environmental Management Inspectors item instead of submitting the requested written presentation. This double standard typifies the apparent disdain shown by the North West government towards the NSPCA and is reflected in their ongoing efforts to exclude it from the PETT on spurious grounds.

Chairperson, thank you for your continued leadership of our Committee. I remain committed to working with you to ensure the realisation and enforcement of Section 24 of our Constitution.

Yours sincerely

Andrew de Blocq MP



---

DA Spokesperson: Forestry, Fisheries and Environment