



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

EdTM

Enquiries: Mr A Singh / Mr S Arumugam
Telephone: 012 336 7531 / 7027
Reference: 2/1/5/1
21/15/P5

MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES: QUESTION ★107 FOR ORAL REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mr M J Mohapi (Free State: ANC) is attached for your consideration.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 05/05/2017

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

**MRS NP MOKONYANE
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**

DATE: 07.05.17

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO ★107

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 26 APRIL 2017
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 10)

★107. Mr M J Mohapi (Free State: ANC) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:

- (1) Why is her department not managing the dispute management of water boards and the debt owed by municipalities appropriately in a manner that promotes and facilitates intergovernmental relations rather than opting to settle the matter in court (details furnished);
- (2) what action has been taken to address (a) the maintenance backlog of existing water infrastructure, (b) the building of new infrastructure and (c) skills shortages in the sector?

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REPLY:

- (1) My Department is indeed managing the dispute of the water Boards and Municipalities in relation to the debt owed. This is done through invocation of the provisions of the Inter Governmental Relations framework Act, 2005 (Act No. 13 of 2005) by convening meetings within the water boards and municipalities to address payment of the debt. My Department is also working with National Treasury and the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) on debt management strategy.
- (2)(a) My Department is in the process of amending its maintenance planning to be aligned to a new asset management plan which will guide towards municipalities prioritising maintenance projects. In addition, the computerised maintenance management system will be piloted this year to improved routine maintenance management. Furthermore, my Department is also in the process of procuring additional maintenance capacity to address the backlog.
- (2)(b) My Department has a programme for the development of new water resource infrastructure that is guided by the National Water Resource Strategy to ensure equitable and sustainable access and use of water by all South Africans whilst sustaining the country's water resource and assuring water security for the future.

Additional Information:

There are a number of water resource infrastructure projects that have been developed by my Department and are at different phases of implementation. These projects focus primarily on social development and water security. The approach that is being applied by the Department in the development of new water resource infrastructure is that all new infrastructure is developed for multi-purpose use to ensure that poor communities living in the vicinity of our infrastructure can benefit from that infrastructure.

New infrastructure projects that have been initiated by the Department more recently include amongst others:

- The construction of Nwamitwa Dam, which is a new storage dam in the Groot Letaba River, near Tzaneen in the Limpopo Province. This project is currently at tender design phase.
- The construction of Ntabelanga Dam, which is a new storage dam as well as the Lalini Dam and hydroelectric power scheme, in the Mzimvubu River catchment in the Eastern Cape. These projects are currently at tender design phase.

A number of other new water resource infrastructure projects in various provinces are at the feasibility stage of development.

- (c) The Water and Sanitation Sector Skills and Capacity Building is specifically addressed as Chapter 15 of the National Water Resource Strategy (June, 2013). The Strategic Actions in the chapter are being implemented by a Task Team formed under the Water and Sanitation Sector Leadership Group (WSSLG).

My Department continues to play a vital role in offering opportunities to the youth and also closing the critical skills gap in the water and sanitation sector. Since the establishment of the DWS Learning Academy in 2007, the Department has appointed **626** Graduate Trainees of which **178** are permanently employed and a further 218 appointed in OSD candidate contract posts. My Department has also managed to professionalise 36 Scientists, 7 Engineers, 26 Engineering Technicians; and 1 Project Manager.

The Department is implementing the Professional Development Programme for **51** employed municipal officials through the LGSETA, and through EWSETA **97** Department of Water and Sanitation officials are to be qualified as Artisans using Recognition of Prior Learning. My Department also have an international agreement with Cuba which resulted in **35** Cuban Engineers being deployed to the **9** Provinces to work on the Infrastructure projects and Ground Water management in the municipalities.

Additional Information is attached as **Annexure A**.

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Annexure A

Chapter 15: Water Sector Skills and Capacity Building of the revised **National Water Resources Strategy II** of 2013, clearly stipulate the approach and strategies to be adopted by the Department in addressing the skills and capacity constraints affecting the sector. The approach adopted is that of a pipeline (figure 1) which recognizes that skills are produced over many years by an education and training systems (NWRS II, 2013).

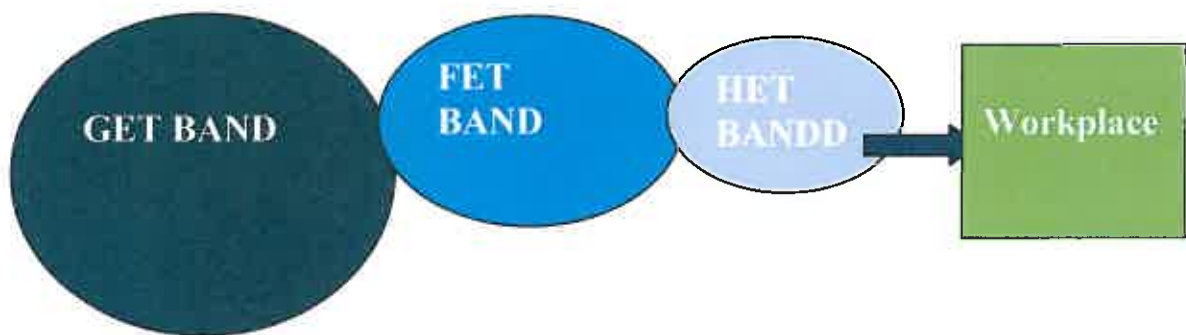


Figure 1: The pipeline approach begins at pre-primary level, through the general education and training (GET), further education and training (FET) as well as higher education and training bands (HET), and covers the workplace sphere. **Source:** DWA NWRS II, 2013. In addition to the above current strategies and plans contained in the NWRS II of 2013, the following skills and capacity building initiatives are currently being implemented:

DWS Learning Academy

Permanent and/ or candidate appointment within Department of Water and Sanitation

POST	Number of GTs appointed in DWS
Candidate Engineer posts	72
Candidate Engineering Technician posts	90
Candidate surveyor and QS posts	21
Candidate Scientist posts	52
Candidate Project Manager posts	1
Permanent Posts (Scientists, Science technicians, surveyors, Environmental Officers, Engineering technicians, Engineers, Chief Development Officers, Assistant Directors, Surveyors, etc.	178
Total	414

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION	NUMBER OF GRADUATE TRAINEES ACHIEVING PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION STATUS
Candidate Engineering technicians	116
Candidate Engineers	81
Candidate Natural Scientists	82
Professional Scientists	36
Professional Engineers	7
Professional Engineer technicians	26
Certified Scientists	41
Surveyor	28
Project manager	1
TOTAL professional registrations	418

War on Leaks Programme

The War on Leaks programme was initiated on 12 January 2015, when the Honourable President Jacob Zuma announced that “Government through the Department of Water and Sanitation will train fifteen thousand artisans and or plumbers who will fix leaking taps in their local communities”. A tripartite agreement was entered into between the Department of Water and Sanitation, Rand Water and Energy Water Sector Education Training Authority (EWSETA). In the agreement Rand Water is the WOL programme implementing agent supported by the EWSETA as the implementing agent responsible for the training and development of the trainees.

Artisans, Plumbers and Water Agents will be trained by the EWSETA at various Technical Vocational Education and Training Institutions (TVETs) and private service providers. A three-phased approach has been identified over a period of five years (2015-2020). This entails the recruitment, training and deployment of the Plumbers, Artisans and Water Agents in the duration. A total number of 10 054 (ten thousand and fifty-four) trainees are currently active on the project for both Phases 1 (one) and 2 (two).

Training of Phase 1 trainees commenced in September 2015 where both Artisans and Water Agents underwent training over a four (4) month period in two skill programmes namely, New Venture Creation, and Water Conservation/Water Demand Management Skills Programmes. The Water Agents and Artisans subsequently underwent Water Agent Skills Programme, and Artisan Development Training Programme respectively from February 2016.

The Phase 2 trainees (Artisans and Water Agents) begun their Water Conservation skills programme in August 2016. Upon completion thereof, the Water Agents and Artisans started their discipline specific training in January 2016 and February 2016 respectively.

Upon completion of the theoretical training the trainees from both phases are required to receive practical workplace training exposure within host companies and municipalities. Securing placement of the trainees in the host companies and municipalities has been a challenge which is currently being closely monitored and mitigated by Rand Water on a continuous basis.

National Treasury Skills Transfer and Capacity Building Plan (ST&CBP)

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) received a letter from National Treasury (NT) dated 28 March 2014 instructing it to develop a "Skills Transfer and Capacity Building Plan" (ST&CBP) for all conditional indirect grants to municipalities. The plan should outline how the skills and capacity of municipalities receiving indirect conditional grants (schedule 6B in the Division of Revenue Act) will be built "so that they can continue to perform the function after the schedule 6B funded project ends". In response to the instruction outlined by the letter, DWS developed Skills Transfer and Capacity Building Plan, which was approved on the 10 June 2015 and duly submitted to National Treasury on the 29 June 2015. Following submission of the plan to National Treasury, DWS as the custodian of the plan has facilitated and coordinated activities that responded to the commitments made in the plan, and outcomes of these activities are outlined in the report.

Water and Sanitation Services Occupations Framework developed as part of the Department of Water and Sanitation Annual Performance Plan Performance Indicator for 2016/17 financial year

In 2011, DWS through the Water Research Commission (WRC), commissioned a research project to develop a method to determine a model of staff per occupation in any public water sector organisation to meet its mandate. The research further developed a method to itemise the skills required per job title and, against this, to measure the skills gap of incumbents in positions.

The DWS further appointed the WRC in 2016 as the implementing agent to continue with the research project and compile the Water and Sanitation Services Occupations Framework (WSSOF). The WSSOF is a comprehensive and living document that include all current occupations/specialisation/alternative titles involved throughout the water value chain, thus from the "resources to tap and from tap to source" which could be registered in the national Framework for Occupations (OFO) code system.

Implementation of Groundwater Monitoring and Training Programme for Borehole Pump Operators in North West, Mpumalanga, Free State and Northern Cape

Groundwater is a significant source and is often the only water resource in many parts of the Country. Many towns and rural areas rely solely on groundwater as their main source of water for their everyday domestic and agricultural water supply needs.

According to the National Water Resource Strategy 2 (NWRS), Groundwater is often not recognised as a valuable resource by land use planners and by municipalities, resulting in poor coordination between groundwater development and the use of land for human settlements and for other purposes. It is against this backdrop that DWS implemented groundwater monitoring and training programme at the following municipalities during the 2016/2017 financial year:

Date	Provinces	Municipalities	No of operators trained
22 September 2016	North West Province	Moretele Local Municipality	27
11 - 13 October 2016	Mpumalanga Province	Bushbuckridge Local Municipality	29
18 October 2016	North West Province	Ngaka Modiri Molema Municipality	28
19 - 20 October 2016 and 02-03 November 2016	Mpumalanga Province	Nkomazi Local Municipality	95
27 October 2016	North West Province	Madibeng Local Municipality	6
31 October	Northern Cape	Joe Morolong Local	60

2016	Province	Municipality	
07 December 2016	Free State Province	Kopanong and Letsemeng LMs	15

DWS will develop certificate of attendance as proof of qualification and issue to all learners.

Recognition of Prior Learning programme for Water and Wastewater process controllers

During 2015/16, the Department conducted training needs assessments of water and waste water process controllers with the aim of identifying training gaps and ultimately assisting the Water Services Authorities (WSAs) to submit the funding proposals to the Local Government Sector Education Training Authority (LGSETA). The initiative was guided by the draft Regulations 17 under the Water Services Act (Act No.108 of 1997) aimed at ensuring that no person will be allowed to operate a drinking water supply system or waste works unless the person holds a valid Process Controller license.

The LGSETA in collaboration with the Department has just started the process of registering learners (process controllers) in preparation for the implementation of the Recognition of Prior Learning programme for employees working in the water and waste water treatment works. The training will be implemented during the 2017/18 financial year in the following 11 WSAs:

- **Eastern Cape:** Alfred Nzo District Municipality and Amathole District Municipality
- **Limpopo:** Capricorn District Municipality and Polokwane Local Municipality.
- **North West:** Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality, Madibeng Local Municipality, Moses Kotane Local Municipality, Moretele Local Municipality, Ventersdorp Local Municipality and Kgetlengrivier Local Municipality and City of Matlosana Local Municipality.

Professional Development Programme Candidacy

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has received funding from LGSETA to implement the learning programme "Professional Development Programme (Candidacy)" for ninety one (9) employees who are legible for registration with various professional bodies as professional technicians, technologist and engineers, from the following selected municipalities based on the assessment conducted as part of the Skills Transfer and Capacity Building Plan developed by the Department

Beneficiary Municipalities selected for the Skills Transfer and Capacity Building Plan

Kwa-Zulu Natal	Eastern Cape	Limpopo Province	North West	Free State
uThukela	Alfred Nzo	Lephalale	Moretele	Kopanong
Zululand	Chris Hani	Capricorn	Madibeng	Mohokare
uMkhanyakude	Amathole		Moses Kotane	Letsemeng
uThungulu	Joe Gqabi		Dr Ruth Mompati	

The Department has appointed the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) as the implementing agent.

EWSETA funded DWS RPL programme

The DWS has received funding from EWSETA to train 97 DWS employees from the Branch: National Water Resource Infrastructure (NWRI) in order to qualify them as Artisans on Recognition of Prior Learning (ARPL). The NWRI has potential employees whom have been working with artisans on various trades within the Branch responsible for operation and maintenance of our national water resources infrastructure. Most of the employees have been working for the Department for a long period of time with limited academic qualifications relevant to the scope of their work. Some have been working as assistant artisan, while some have been working as labourers. In simple terms, such employees have adequate work experience with minimum or no qualifications. The programme will be implemented within 42 months.