

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1157

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 20)

Ms S J Loe (DA) to ask the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:

Whether any function was organised to mark the occasion of the delivery of her budget vote in 2008; if so, (a) what total amount was spent on this function, (b) from which budget was the money allocated, (c) what amount was spent on (i) food and refreshments, (ii) venue, (iii) entertainment, (iv) staff and (v) transport and (d) how many persons were invited to attend this function?

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REPLY

Yes, the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry delivered her Budget Vote Speech on Friday, 23 May 2008. A cocktail function was held shortly after the debate and an exhibition to showcase the work in the sectors, ran throughout the morning. The cost of the function is indicated below:

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|-----------------------------|--|----------|
| (a) | Total cost: | R232 344 |
| (b) | The function was funded from the budget of the Ministry and Chief Directorate: Communication Services. The travel and accommodation cost of the staff members who attended the function was paid from each branch budget respectively. | |
| Breakdown of the total cost | | |
| (c) | (i) Food and refreshments: | R24 811 |
| | (ii) Venue – no costs were incurred for the hiring of the venue as the cocktail lunch was held in the Old Assembly Dining Hall and the exhibition was held in the Old Assembly Courtyard. | |
| | (ii) Entertainment: | R3 000 |
| | (iv) Staff (four members of the organizing committee travel to Cape Town to manage the final preparations of the event. The cost of their accommodation and transport amounted to: | R22 614 |

(v) Transport and accommodation of other staff members who attended the function: R181 919

(d) Two hundred and twenty nine people were invited, which includes all Ministers and Deputy Ministers, the Portfolio Committee and Select Committee. Please note that not all guests invited attended the function.