



water affairs

Department:
Water and Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MINISTRY OF WATER AFFAIRS
AND FORESTRY
15:10
2009 -11- 04
PRIVATE BAG X313
PRETORIA 0001 AN

Enquiries: C Ruiters
Telephone: 012-336-7305
Reference: 6/2/2/6

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 173 FOR ORAL REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mr G R Morgan (DA), is attached for your consideration, please.

[Signature]
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 03/11/09

✓
DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

[Signature]
MS B P SONJICA, MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 2009. 11. 05

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR ORAL REPLY

QUESTION NO 173

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 13 OCTOBER 2009
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 21)

★173. Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

(1) What is the extent of the shortages of (a) civil engineers, (b) mechanical engineers and (c) chemical engineers working in the water sector;

(2) whether she is taking any steps to ensure that there are sufficient engineers working in the water sector to enable existing infrastructure to be maintained; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

NO2072E

---0000---

REPLY:

(1) My Department has no information for the Water Sector however, for My Department the table below indicates the extent of shortage within.

(1)(a) Civil Engineers	(1)(b) Mechanical Engineers
95 (Ninety five) Post are filled 210 (Two hundred and ten) Vacant	11 (Eleven) Post are filled 16 (Sixteen) Vacant
Total Post: 305	Total Post: 27

(1)(c) Chemical Engineers are not recruited by My Department as we only supply bulk raw water (i.e untreated water) to Water Services Providers (WSP) however, these engineers are mainly utilised by municipalities where the water is treated and when designing Water Treatment Plants.

(2) My Department has established a Learning Academy to attract young graduate engineers. The young graduates include five (5) Civil Engineers and seven (7) Mechanical Engineers that are currently being trained through My Department's Learning Academy. In addition bursaries have been awarded, to 10 students studying Mechanical Engineering and 20 studying Civil Engineering. However, these Chemical Engineering skills are required by WSPs when designing Water Treatment Plants. My Department will implement the Occupation Specific Dispensation in order to attract appropriate Engineers, Scientists, Technologists, Artisans and other scarce specialised skills by offering competitive remuneration. My Department also makes use of retired specialist engineers to develop skills of young engineers and technicians. Various other initiatives are also undertaken by other institutions in the Water Sector to attract and retain engineers in various fields required in the Water Sector.

--0000--