



water & forestry

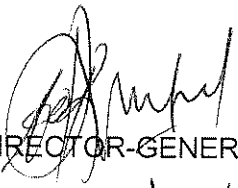
Department:
Water Affairs and Forestry
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: N J Ngele
Telephone: 012-336 8792
Reference: 64455/10/3.

MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 325 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above-mentioned question asked by Mrs A Lovemore (DA), is attached for your consideration, please.

Acting

DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE: 09/07/2009

✓
DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED


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

DATE: 15. 07. 2009

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 325

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 03 JULY 2009
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 5)

325. Mrs A Lovemore (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:

- (1) (a) What are the structure and functioning of her department's learning academy, (b) what qualifications are offered via the learning academy, (c) how is study funded through the academy and (d) what budgetary allocations have been made to the academy since its inception;
- (2) (a) how many trainees have been enrolled with this academy, (b) what training has been completed by these trainees in each year since its inception;
- (3) (a) how many successful trainees have been placed in relevant positions, (b) in which positions were each placed and (c) what is the breakdown of skills shortages that still exist in the water sector?

NW382E

---0000---

REPLY:

(1)(a) Organisational Structure:-

- 1x Programme Manager
- 1x Secretary
- 1x Administration Clerk
- 1x Programme Coordinator
- 50 Learner Interns
- 212 Graduate Trainees

Functions of the Learning Academy:-

- Address critical and scarce technical skills shortage in the department and the sector.
- Planning and development of Human Resources Development Strategies for the medium and long-term needs of the department and the sector.
- Coordination and monitoring of the external bursary scheme.
- Developing and implementation of structured training programmes for forestry, engineering and scientific disciplines.
- Developing and facilitating implementation of mentoring and short term training interventions.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of the training programmes.
- Building and maintaining positive partnership with key stakeholders (Institutions of Higher Learning).

- (1)(b) The Learning Academy does not offer formal qualifications. The Training and Development Programmes offered by the Learning Academy are endorsed and approved by various professional bodies, such as the Engineering Council of South Africa. Training takes the form of on-the job training, class room training and simulation exercises under the supervision of an experienced mentor from the department. The programmes also provide an opportunity for the graduate trainees to achieve professional registration in their respective fields.
- (1)(c) Full time external bursaries are funded through a comprehensive bursary scheme which is coordinated by the Learning Academy. The department has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the following Institutions of Higher Learning:

University of Cape Town
University of the Western Cape
Stellenbosch University
Cape Peninsula University of Technology
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
Water Sisulu University, Durban University of Technology
University of KwaZulu-Natal
Central University of Technology
University of the Free State
University of Pretoria
Tshwane University of Technology
Vaal University of Technology
University of Limpopo

- (1)(d) The following budgetary allocations were made to the Learning Academy since its inception:

2007: R 20 000 000
2008: R 43 000 000
2009: R 31 132 000

- (2)(a) The enrolment for each year:

	2007	2008	2009
Learner Interns	16 (completed)	34 (completed)	27 (active)
Graduate Trainees	37 (active)	63 (active)	71 (active)

- (2)(b) The programme for learner interns provides experiential learning to enable the interns to complete their formal qualifications with various academic institutions. Hence, the strategic objective of the Learning Academy is to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and skills at a practical level. The training programmes are monitored through various assessment methods such as, Logbooks System, compulsory Portfolios of Evidence, and a Moderation Committee System.
- (3)(a) All Graduate Trainees are appointed on the organizational structure of the Learning Academy (see my reply at (1)(a)) and then placed in line functionaries with a mentor and supervisor. Placements are within the National Office in Pretoria, as well as the Department's Regional Offices.

- (3)(b) Graduates Trainees are placed on the Learning Academy structure in the various Functional Directorates of the Department where they receive the necessary practical training exposure, skills development as stipulated. They also partake in the delivery of the various key outputs of the Department.
- (3)(c) The water sector is still experiencing critical skills shortages particularly in engineering, science and technical artisan areas. If the sector does not address this challenge head-on and allocate appropriate resources, these shortages will continue to grow at an accelerated rate and the consequences of which will be felt for years to come.

Examples of skills needed include amongst others: Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineers; Microbiology; Chemistry; Biochemistry; Water Care Technology; Environmental Health; Environmental Management; Hydrology; Geo-hydrology; Disaster managers; Water Conservation and Demand Management; Policy Development; Financial Planning and Management; Infrastructure Development; Reporting and Accountability; Plumbing; Plant and Machine Operation; Fitters; Turners; Draughtsmen; and Laboratory Technology.