



## water affairs

Department:  
Water Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



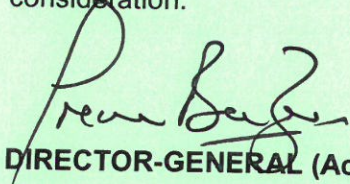
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### MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

#### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 2988 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Mr F A Rodgers (DA) is attached for your consideration.

  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)

DATE: 20/11/2013

  
DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

  
MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP  
MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: 20/11/2013

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO 2988**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 01 NOVEMBER 2013**  
**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 36)**

**2988. Mr F A Rodgers (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs:**

(a) How many water licence applications are currently being considered in each province, (b) when was each application submitted and (c) what is the average turnaround time for a water licence application?

NW3538E

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**REPLY:**

(a) Table 1 below reflects the total number of applications since 2010 to date. The total number of applications in process is 800 as at 27 September 2013.

- Column 1 is the total number of applications received per Region;
- Column 2 is the number of applications finalised; and
- Column 3 is the number of applications still in process.

Table 1

| <b>Province</b> | <b>Number of applications received from 2010 to 2013</b> | <b>Number of applications finalised to date</b> | <b>Number of applications still in process</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|-----------------|--|---|--|--------------|
| Eastern Cape    | 473  | 364   | 109  | 473          |
| Free State      | 129  | 42  | 87   | 129          |
| Gauteng         | 136  | 90  | 46   | 136          |
| KwaZulu-Natal   | 195  | 80  | 115  | 195          |
| Limpopo         | 288  | 181   | 107  | 288          |
| Mpumalanga      | 321  | 274   | 47   | 321          |
| Northern Cape   | 197  | 64  | 136  | 197          |
| North West      | 207  | 171   | 36   | 207          |
| Western Cape    | 308  | 191   | 117  | 308          |
| <b>Totals</b>   | <b>2 254</b>   | <b>1 457</b>                                    | <b>800</b>                                     | <b>2 254</b> |

- (b) The finalised for the 2254 licences applications received since 2010 varies from one application to the other. It should be noted that through the Letsema project that was implemented in order to clear the backlog, the Department of Water Affairs has already finalized 4443 Water Use Licences (WUL) since 2010 to 27 September 2013.
- (c) The average turn around time varies depending on the sector, with mines and industry taking about 300 days, and agriculture and forestry taking up to 120 days.

Currently, the Department is working together with Department of Environmental Affairs and Department of Mineral Resources with the aim of aligning the processes required by the three Departments when applying for authorization. A report with proposed timeframes of 210 to 300 days has been drafted to guide discussions which are still ongoing.

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