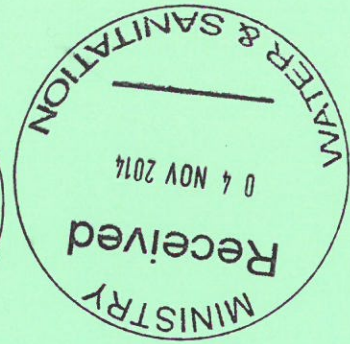




## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EdCM

Enquiries: Mr P. Mlilo  
Telephone: (012) 336-8199  
Reference: 2/1/5/1

### MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

#### NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 1859 FOR WRITTEN REPLY

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

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 3/11/14

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

MRS NP MOKONYANE  
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

DATE: 09.11.14

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

### FOR WRITTEN REPLY

#### QUESTION NO 1859

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 26 SEPTEMBER 2014  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 18)

**1859. Mr L J Basson (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:**

- (1) (a) How many water licenses have been awarded through the Letsema project since 1 January 2010 in the (i) Olifants River, (ii) Nkomati River and (iii) Vaal River and (b) to whom was it awarded;
- (2) (a) How many mines received water licenses to use water from the (i) Olifants River, (ii) Nkomati River and (iii) Vaal River and (b) to whom did the water rights belong before they were awarded to the specified mines;
- (3) Was a public consultation process followed for the awarding of these water licences;
- (4) How many (a) applications for water licences are still outstanding and (b) mines are using water illegally?

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#### **REPLY:**

- 1 The number of licences issued by the Department through the Letsema project from 1 January 2010 to 30 August 2014 in the Olifants, Nkomati and Vaal River Catchments is summarised in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Summary of the Number of Licences issued in the three catchments**

<b>River Catchment</b>	<b>Number of Licences Issued</b>
(i) Olifants River Catchment	143
(ii) Nkomati River Catchment	54
(iii) Vaal River Catchment	186
<b>Total</b>	<b>383</b>

- (1)(b) Refer to **Annexure 1** which contains the names of entities whose licences were issued.
- (2)(a) The number of mines issued with licences to use water from the Olifants, Nkomati and Vaal River Catchment are summarised in Table 2.

Refer to **Annexure 2** for the list of mines that were issued with water use licences in the three catchments.

**Table 2: Summary of the Number of Mines Issued with Licences in the Three Catchments**

<b>River Catchment</b>	<b>Number of Licences Issued</b>
(i) Olifants River Catchment	107
(ii) Nkomati River Catchment	12
(iii) Vaal River Catchment	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>

- 2(b) the water rights of the issued licences to the mines were previously unallocated.
- (3) Yes, public consultations were conducted during the process of issuing these licences.
- (4)(a) The Department receives water use license applications on a continuous basis. As of 30 August 2014 the Department had 1351 licences in process. **Annexure 3** is the list of applications that are still outstanding.
- (4)(b) The mines that are using water illegally from 1 January 2010 in the Olifants, Nkomati and Vaal River Catchments is summarised in Table 3 and the list of outstanding applications of mines using water illegally as **Annexure 4**.

**Table 3: Summary of the Number of Mines Using Water Illegally in the Three Catchments**

<b>River Catchment</b>	<b>Number of Mines Using Water Illegally</b>
(i) Olifants River Catchment	14
(ii) Nkomati River Catchment	2
(iii) Vaal River Catchment	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>

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