



**water & sanitation**

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EdTM

Enquiries: A Singh  
Telephone: 012 336 7531  
Reference: 6/2/2/6

**MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 897 FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

A draft reply to the above mentioned question asked by Ms T E Baker (DA) is attached for your consideration.

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL (Acting)**

DATE: 21/08/2014

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED →

**MRS NP MOKONYANE**  
**MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**

DATE: 28.08.14



**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO 897**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 01 AUGUST 2014**  
**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 7)**

**897. Ms T E Baker (DA) to ask the Minister of Water and Sanitation:**

- (1) How many vacancies are there at the 986 waste water treatment plants that are located in each province;
- (2) has a skills audit been conducted to assess the qualifications of all levels of staff employed at these waste water treatment plants; if not, why not; if so, (a) what were the findings of the audit and (b) what steps have been taken to capacitate the existing staff who do not meet the basic qualification requirements;
- (3)(a) what is the estimated number of process controllers required to effectively operate the micro, small and medium waste water treatment plants in South Africa, (b) how many process controllers are currently employed and (c) what plans are in place to address any shortfall that may exist?

NW987E

---00000---

**REPLY:**

- (1) The 986 Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) located in each province are managed by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) who are in a better position to respond to the number of vacancies within each WWTP.
- (2)(a) The assessment of process controllers and maintenance personnel supporting a WWTW is part of the assessment criteria during the Green Drop (GD) Certification audits. From the previous GD audits, it was apparent that supervisory personnel require a Class V and process controllers are still a challenge whilst maintenance personnel are normally outsourced during process failures.
- (2)(b) The Department and the Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority (LGSETA) implemented a programme to train municipal employees working in water and waste water treatment works between 2010 and 2012. The focus was on process controllers at National Qualification Framework (NQF) level 2 - 4. The overall purpose of the project was to ensure that water and wastewater treatment works are able to meet the regulatory requirements for operational compliance within the medium term.

The table below includes all learners who were enrolled for Water and Waste Water Learnerships, water and waste water skills programme (short course), Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and the assessor and coaching skills programmes (short courses).

Enrolment Figures per Province	
Province	Total enrolment
Gauteng	237
Free State	250
Northern Cape	248
Eastern Cape	252
KZN	146
Limpopo	250
Mpumalanga	270
North West	232
Western cape	239
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2124</b>

**In addition:**

**LGSETA Intervention 2014/15**

The LGSETA has appointed a training provider in March 2014 to implement another phase of the same programme in all (9) provinces targeting a total of 1980 process controllers.

Training has already started in most provinces and the Department of Water and Sanitation is part of the National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) of this particular project.

- (3) The estimated number of process controllers required to effectively operate a waste water treatment plant depends on the size as well as the technology used within the treatment plant as classified in the regulatory requirements. The following are the estimated numbers:
- Class A (Highly Technical) requires 8 process controllers including supervisor who must be available at all times;
  - Class B (Highly technical) requires 7 process controllers including supervisor who must be available at all times;
  - Class C (Moderate Technical) requires 6 process controllers including supervisor who must be available to do weekly inspection;
  - Class D (Moderate Technical) requires 4 process controllers including supervisor who must be available to do weekly inspection;
  - Class E (Lower technology) requires 3 process controllers including supervisor who must be available to do weekly inspection.

Additional information on this matter should be requested from Cogta to address all the 9 Regions.

---00000---