



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



EdTM


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Reference: HRM/09/10/2014

*See draft response*

**MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**

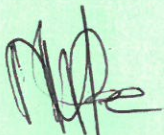
**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: QUESTION 612 FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

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

  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE: 17/03/15

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED



MRS NP MOKONYANE  
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

DATE: 22 03 15

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 612

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 06 MARCH 2015  
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 5)

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

- (1) (a) How many Cuban water engineers have been contracted by her department to work in the country, (b) what is each one's specialisation and (c) where will each one be deployed;
- (2) (a) how long will these engineers be contracted for, (b) what will be the total cost of contracting each engineer and (c) from which of her department's programmes will they be paid;
- (3) did she consult any (a) engineering associations or (b) other stakeholders before the decision was made to contract the Cuban engineers; if not, why not; if so, (i) who did she consult, (ii) when was each consultation done and (iii) what was the outcome of each consultation;
- (4) did her department make any attempt to recruit local engineers before the Cuban engineers were contracted; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details of each attempt;
- (5) whether she is aware that the engineering skills of Cuban engineers are not recognised by the Engineering Council of South Africa as they are not part of the Washington Accord which governs international engineering qualifications; if not, why not; if so, why was no regard given to this fact?

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**REPLY:**

- (1) 35.
- (2) As per the needs that couldn't be satisfied by the locals for reasons unknown to us.
- (3) They are deployed as per the program needs of the Department.
- (4) Yes.
  - Fewer responses and in some no response;
  - Applicants registered as candidates and not technicians;
  - Request for higher remuneration outside of those offered by Department of Public South Africa (DPSA);
  - Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) has been part of the process and formed part of the delegation to Cuba, South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) did do an evaluation of the Cuban specialist.
- (5) The Washington Accord came into being under a hostile relationship between Cuba and the USA, so Cubans would automatically not be covered on the basis of the Accord. However Cuban specialists continue to render their services even in other countries other than South Africa.

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