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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER 1020**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 17 MAY 2021**

**Mr I M Groenewald (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs:**

**QUESTION:**

1. Whether local authorities are legally obligated to have in their employ, qualified registered mechanical, electrical, civil and chemical engineers for each branch; if not, how do local authorities source the skills to comply with applicable building regulations; if so, what are the relevant details;
2. what total number of engineers in each branch are employed in each municipality in each province;
3. what total number of vacancies are there in each municipality for the specified positions;
4. what measures are being taken to fill such vacancies; and
5. whether she will make a statement on the matter? NW1203E

**REPLY:**

1. No. Local authorities are not legally obligated to have in their employ, qualified registered mechanical, electrical, civil and chemical engineers. Each local authority follows a council approved organisational structure to source skills in compliance with applicable building regulations. The organisational structure will have a number of departments necessary for the municipality to perform its functions determined in accordance with the powers and functions allocated to a municipality, its integrated development plan and budget.
2. The total number of engineers and professionally registered engineers per province, as at March 2020, is provided in the table below:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Number of Engineers and Professional Engineers in Municipalities, as at March 2020** | | | | | | | | | |
| **District** | **A:**  **Total Number of Engineers** | **B: Professionally Registered Engineers** | **C:**  **Total Number Technologists** | **D:**  **Professionally Registered Engineering Technologists** | **E:**  **Total Number of Technicians** | **F:**  **Professionally Reigistered Engineering Technicians** | **A+C+E:**  **Total Number of Engineering Personnel** | **B+D+F:**  **Total Number of Professionally Registered Engineering Personnel** | **(B+D+F)/(A+C+E):**  **% of Professionally Registered Engineering Personne** |
| **Limpopo** | 3 | 1 | 72 | 9 | 110 | 6 | 185 | **16** | 9% |
| **North West** | 6 | 0 | 44 | 2 | 54 | 5 | 104 | **7** | 7% |
| **Free State** | 2 | 2 | 11 | 4 | 38 | 2 | 51 | **8** | 16% |
| **Eastern Cape** | 13 | 8 | 108 | 24 | 98 | 18 | 219 | **50** | 23% |
| **Mpumalanga** | 8 | 0 | 73 | 10 | 109 | 4 | 190 | **14** | 7% |
| **Northern Cape** | 3 | 1 | 30 | 5 | 65 | 5 | 98 | **11** | 11% |
| **Western Cape** | 45 | 34 | 108 | 53 | 111 | 60 | 264 | **147** | 56% |
| **Gauteng** | 200 | 65 | 207 | 71 | 456 | 110 | 863 | **246** | 29% |
| **KwaZulu Natal** | 154 | 143 | 229 | 102 | 486 | 106 | 869 | **351** | 40% |
| **Total** | **434** | **254** | **882** | **280** | **1527** | **316** | **2843** | **850** | **30%** |

Information on the total number of engineers and professionally registered engineers per province per municipality (as at March 2020) is provided in the annexure.

Information on the number of engineers and professionally registered engineers per branch (business unit or technical field) is not readily available.

1. The Department monitors the filling of senior manager positions and the table below presents the total number of Technical Director vacancies in municipalities as 53.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Province** | **Technical Services Senior Manager Positions** | |  |
| **Filled** | **Vacant** | **Total Number of Positions** |
| **Eastern Cape** | 36 | 3 | 39 |
| **Free State** | 15 | 5 | 20 |
| **Gauteng** | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| **Kwa Zulu Natal** | 39 | 15 | 54 |
| **Limpopo** | 20 | 7 | 27 |
| **Mpumalanga** | 18 | 2 | 20 |
| **Northern Cape** | 20 | 8 | 28 |
| **North West** | 15 | 6 | 21 |
| **Western Cape** | 15 | 3 | 18 |
| **TOTAL** | **185** | **53** | **238** |

1. For Engineers appointed as managers directly accountable to municipal managers, like other managers in the same capacity, the Local Government: Municipal Systems Amendment Act No. 7 of 2011 prescribes under section 56 (c) that should the position be vacant, the acting person may not act for more than three months unless the MEC extends the acting period for another three months. This measure assists to expedite filling the vacant post. Furthermore, the established District Development Model structures are encouraging and monitoring the filling of vacancies, particularly at senior management level.