**MINISTRY FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS**

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO.: 1036**

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**Mr M Waters (DA) to ask the Minister of Human Settlements:**

(1) (a) How many Breaking New Ground houses are to be built in the uMmncube Zone in Ward 11 of the Umthambeka Section, Johannesburg, (b) who are the beneficiaries of the specified project, (c) when did the project start and (d) when is it expected to be completed;

(2) (a) who are the (i) project managers and (ii) main contractors involved in the building of the specified houses and (b) how many local residents are employed in the specified project;

(3) (a) why has the specified project been stopped and (b) when is the specified project expected to start again;

(4) whether all contractors providing any services to the project have received all of their payments up to the latest specified payment date; if not, in each case, why not? NW1168E

**REPLY:**

(1) (a) The size of the project is 118 Breaking New Ground houses.

(b) The beneficiaries are the residents of Umncube Section in Umthambeka.

(c) The project commenced on 13 August 2015 when the site was handed over to the Contractor. (d) The expected date for the completion of the project is 31 March 2017.

(2) (a) (i) & (ii) The Honourable member would be aware of Parliament’s convention which prohibits any public representatives, be it Members of the Executive or Honourable Members, from publishing names of people/contractors or companies when asking or responding to parliamentary questions. Accordingly, I will not able to provide names of people on the housing list as requested.

(b) There are 24 employees employed from the local residents.

(3) (a) The Contractor did not have the functional and financial capacity to complete the project and subsequently did not adhere to the agreed construction programme. By January 2016, only 19 foundations and 9 wall plates were constructed. The original contract provided for the completion of the project by 28 February 2016. However, due the Contractor’s inability to complete the project, the contract was not renewed and a new Contractor will be appointed to finalise the construction of the houses.

(b) It is anticipated that a new contractor will be appointed early in the financial year after which the project will commence.

(4) The Contractor has been paid on 7 March 2016 for the completion of 19 foundations and 4 wall plates. The Gauteng Department of Human Settlements received an additional claim from the Contractor for the payment of the outstanding 5 wall plates. The Department confirmed that the payment is in progress and will be finalised in due course.