

**MINISTRY**

**PUBLIC WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE**

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER: 1038 [NW2192E]**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO.: 17 of 2019**

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**DATE OF REPLY: 14 OCTOBER 2019**

**1038. Mrs S P Kopane (DA) asked the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure:**

(1) What steps has she taken to strengthen the oversight and regulatory role of the Council for the Built Environment over the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) in line with section 4 of the Council for the Built Environment Act, Act 43 of 2000, particularly relating to the professional registration process of qualified engineers and technologists;

(2) what number of qualified (a) engineers and (b) technologists have registered with the ECSA in each year since its establishment in 2000;

(3) whether all qualified engineers and technologists have to register with the ECSA before they may practice professionally; if not, what (a) is the position in this regard and (b) number of qualified (i) engineers and (ii) technologists who are not registered with ECSA are currently practicing professionally in the Republic;

(4) what number of qualified (a) engineers and (b) technologists are currently employed in state-owned entities? **NW2192E**

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**REPLY:**

**The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure**

1. The Council for the Built Environment (CBE) has the statutory mandate to ensure consistent application of policy by the councils for the build environment professions (CBEP) with regard to, among other things, the registration of different categories of registration (See section 4(k)(ii) of Council for the Built Environment Act, (Act No. 43 of 2000). To this end Policy Frameworks were approved by the Minister and the CBE is monitoring the alignment of CBEP policies with the approved policy frameworks, including the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) registration policy. The CBE furthermore acts as an appeal body for matters referred to it in terms of the legislation regulating the CBEP, including a refusal of registration by ECSA should it happen. A person aggrieved by ECSA’s refusal to register, that person upon application may appeal to the CBE against the decision of ECSA. The CBE has not received an appeal against a decision by ECSA not to register a person in the last four years.
2. The number of qualified engineers and technologists that have registered with the ECSA in each year since ECSA’s establishment in 2000;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Count | Year | Description |
| 383 | 2000 | Professional Engineer |
| 131 | 2000 | Professional Engineering Technologist |
| 377 | 2001 | Professional Engineer |
| 140 | 2001 | Professional Engineering Technologist |
| 283 | 2002 | Professional Engineer |
| 179 | 2002 | Professional Engineering Technologist |
| 313 | 2003 | Professional Engineer |
| 207 | 2003 | Professional Engineering Technologist |
| 370 | 2004 | Professional Engineer |
| 166 | 2004 | Professional Engineering Technologist |
| 324 | 2005 | Professional Engineer |
| 135 | 2005 | Professional Engineering Technologist |
| 324 | 2006 | Professional Engineer |
| 212 | 2006 | Professional Engineering Technologist |
| 342 | 2007 | Professional Engineer |
| 162 | 2007 | Professional Engineering Technologist |
| 422 | 2008 | Professional Engineer |
| 313 | 2008 | Professional Engineering Technologist |
| 416 | 2009 | Professional Engineer |
| 304 | 2009 | Professional Engineering Technologist |
| 473 | 2010 | Professional Engineer |
| 301 | 2010 | Professional Engineering Technologist |
| 529 | 2011 | Professional Engineer |
| 372 | 2011 | Professional Engineering Technologist |
| 662 | 2012 | Professional Engineer |
| 436 | 2012 | Professional Engineering Technologist |
| 775 | 2013 | Professional Engineer |
| 420 | 2013 | Professional Engineering Technologist |
| 548 | 2014 | Professional Engineer |
| 410 | 2014 | Professional Engineering Technologist |
| 516 | 2015 | Professional Engineer |
| 398 | 2015 | Professional Engineering Technologist |
| 932 | 2016 | Professional Engineer |
| 346 | 2016 | Professional Engineering Technologist |
| 466 | 2017 | Professional Engineer |
| 271 | 2017 | Professional Engineering Technologist |
| 882 | 2018 | Professional Engineering Technologist |
| 586 | 2019 | Professional Engineering Technologist |

1. There are no registration requirements for practising as an Engineer. ECSA is only required to keep a record of Registered Persons. Section 18(2) of the Engineering Profession Act, (Act No. 46 of 2000) (the EPA) prohibits by criminal sanction a person from practising in a category without being registered in that category. Section 26 (4) of the EPA allows an unregistered person to “perform identified engineering work in the service of or by order of and under the direction, control, supervision of or in association with a registered person entitled to perform the identified work and who must assume responsibility for any work so performed.’’ The legislation distinguishes between a person practising and a person performing work under the auspices or in association with a registered person. The ideal situation is that all practitioners should be registered to ensure continuous professional development (CPD) and adherence to the code of professional conduct.

(4) Currently we cannot provide figures for State-owned entities. Nevertheless, we can provide figures for the public works sector as outlined below. The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) has established the Professional Services Branch, which is mandated to manage technical capacity building programmes that are regarded as key enablers towards creating a pool of technical skills to build a reliable supply of professionals and skilled workers, which will address the gap that currently in the built environment for the State.

The Branch focuses on the following key objectives:

1. To develop a plan to restore the Skills Pipeline in the Built Environment Sector targeting identified areas of skills shortages within the State;
2. Professionalisation of the Built Environment (including Construction and Property Management);
3. Building State technical capacity focusing on the built environment and infrastructure

The branch has started to operationalize by piloting a programme through the provincial Public Works departments. The intention is to upscale the programme to cover all organs of State responsible for infrastructure delivery. To this end, the Public Works Capacity Building Forum was established to identify the root causes of capacity constraints and develop capacity building strategies customized for the Public Works Family.

The figures for professionals are currently employed in in the Public Works Sector are as follows:

|  |
| --- |
| **PUBLIC WORKS SECTOR BASELINE INFORMATION** |
| **Candidates** | 731 |
| **Professionals** | 563 |
| **Unregistered** | 314 |
| **Total** | **1608** |

Please refer to **Annexure 1** for more details on the technical skills areas which these individuals are qualified in, disaggregated into the various provincial departments where they are employed.