

**MINISTER**

**HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, WATER AND SANITATION**

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO.: 124**

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**Ms L H Arries (EFF) to ask the Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation:**

(1) What (a) number of persons (i) were recruited for the War on Leaks Programme and (ii) are now employed on a permanent basis and (b) training did they receive in each case;

(2) what is the current status of the specified programme? NW143E

**REPLY:**

(1) (a)(i) A total of 10469 learners were recruited for the War on Leaks Programme. It should however be noted that 1445 learners were lost to attrition.

 (ii) A total of 148 water agents and artisans are currently employed on a permanent basis by national government departments and entities, municipalities and private companies.

 (b) The learners were trained as follows:

* Water Agents - 4671
* Artisans and plumbers - 1292

(2) There are still 3117 learners remaining in the system who are expected to complete the programme in 2020.

Attempts were made to attach learners that completed the programme to municipalities but the uptake from the municipalities has been limited. The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) is exploring various opportunities to place learners that have completed the programme as follows:

* Absorption through regional bulk infrastructure projects to facilitate water conservation;
* Absorption through water services infrastructure projects for advocacy, communication and basic leak detection;
* Engagements with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) through the District Development Model;
* Engagements with NEDLAC to assist with job opportunities.