

**MINISTRY**

**MINERAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY**

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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 **Memorandum from the Parliamentary Office**

**National Assembly : 1355**

Please find attached a response to Parliamentary Questionfor **written reply** asked by **Ms P Madokwe (EFF) to the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy:**

**Mr T Maqubela**

**DDG: Mineral and Petroleum Regulation**

**………………/………………/2022**

**Mr J Mbele**

**DDG: Programmes and Projects**

**………………/………………/2022**

Recommended/ Not Recommended

**Ms P Gamede**

**Acting Director General: Department of Mineral Resources and Energy**

**………………/………………/2022**

Approved / Not Approved

**Mr. S.G Mantashe**

**Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy**

**………………/………………/2022**

**1355. Ms P Madokwe (EFF) to ask the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy:**

Following recent complaints from Benoni residents who are petitioning against unlawful mining in their backyards, (a) how far has his department progressed in (i) formalising artisanal mining and (ii) addressing the backlog of mining licences and (b) what steps has his department taken to equip artisanal miners with the necessary mining (i) expertise and (ii) equipment? **NW1643E**

**Reply**

**(a)(i)** The Small Scale Mining (SSM) Framework aimed at formalising artisanal mining is in place (30th March 2022 gazetted Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Policy). However, the support will be provided without compromising environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles and therefore where human settlements are established mining cannot be conducted. The rehabilitation of derelict and ownerless mines is aimed at closing shafts/tunnels used by illegal operators to access areas where no authority to mine can be given. Illegal Mining is prohibited by law and security agencies SAPS is the lead agent dealing with illegal mining in the country including on people’s backyards. Perpetrators of illegal mining activities will be liable for prosecution. **(ii)** the Department is constantly working on eradicating the backlog with the main focus on mining rights.

(b) (i) The DMRE introduced a Women Diggers programme. The Department set aside funds to support women to participate in the small-scale mining. 23 women received theoretical and on-the-job practical training on small-scale mining facilitated by Mintek and Mining companies. The mining companies provided on the job training. The department is now facilitating the permit application and funding for some of the women diggers who have completed training and identified sites for mining. **(ii)** In terms of assisting the small-scale miners with mining equipment’s the framework objective is to ensure that the collaboration between different economic departments (Small Business Development and Trade, Investment and Competition) is enhanced and formalised. Furthermore, the DMRE regional managers continues to provide small-scale miners with relevant information and guidance regarding institutions where they could be equipped with necessary and relevant skills