

**MINISTRY**

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER: 1386 [NW1528E]**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: NO. 18 of 2017**

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**DATE OF REPLY: MAY 2017**

**1386. Mr A P van der Westhuizen (DA) asked the Minister of Public Works:**

(1) Which government department or entity is currently (a) the owner of the land and (b) responsible for the management of the human settlements of former forestry workers in the Jonkershoek Valley outside Stellenbosch;

(2) is there a maintenance plan and budget for the maintenance of the general infrastructure and houses of these settlements; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) what (a) is the total number of houses and (b) amount has been spent on the maintenance and/or replacement of the (i) infrastructure and (ii) houses in the specified area in the past three financial years;

(4) (a) what are his department’s plans regarding the future of these properties and its inhabitants and (b) do these plans include the transfer of ownership to another entity or government department;

(5) what contribution does his department intend to make towards the upgrading of the infrastructure and/or the maintenance of the settlements in the area before such transfers? **NW1528E**

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**Minister of Public Works:**

**REPLY:**

1. (a) The National Department of Public Works is the custodian of the Jonkershoek Forest Reserve Farm 352 and the unregistered portion 4 also known as “Op-die-Bult Jonkershoek”

(b) The National Department of Public Works is currently negotiating with the Stellenbosch Municipality to assume responsibility for the human settlement of former forest workers by means of the disposal of the property to that municipality.

(2) No, currently there are no funds available for the maintenance of the general
 infrastructure and houses of the settlement, hence negotiations with the
 Stellenbosch Municipality to assume responsibility for the settlement.

 (3) (a) 18 formal structures have been confirmed at Op-die-Bult, with 123
 households recorded in the broader Jonkerhoek Mixed Use Precinct. These
 figures are from the time when the property was returned to Department by
 the South African Forestry Company Limited (SAFCOL) acting on behalf of
 the then Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

 (b) (i) No funds have been spent on the infrastructure

 (b) (ii) No funds have been spent on the houses

(4) (a) The Department is currently negotiating with the Stellenbosch municipality
 to take over the properties together with their inhabitants as it is best-placed to
 provide appropriate standards of human settlement

 (b) Yes, it is envisaged that the Department will hand over the properties to the
 Stellenbosch Municipality for management of the human settlement according
 to prescribed standards.

(5) The National Department of Public Works aims to transfer the land to the
 Stellenbosch Municipality. Other relevant Departments e.g. Department of
 Human Settlements, COGTA, Department of Rural Development etc. will then
 be drawn in as an intergovernmental team to assist with housing and
 infrastructure in formalising the settlement in terms of their core function.