

**MINISTER**

**HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, WATER AND SANITATION**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO.: 1477**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 21 MAY 2021**

**Mr I S Seitlholo (DA) to ask the Minister of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation:**

(1) Whether her department has concluded any work exchange and/or employment agreements with any entity of the Republic of Cuba from the 2010-11 financial year up to the 2020-21 financial year; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what (a) total number of Cuban nationals (i) have been employed in each of the specified financial years and/or (ii) are due to be employed in the 2021-23 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period, (b) are the details of the work that each of the specified Cuban nationals was and/or will be employed to perform, (c) are the details of the specific skills sets that each of the specified Cuban nationals possessed and/or will possess that South African nationals did or will not possess and (d) are the details of the total cost of employing each of the specified Cuban nationals in each case;

(2) whether her department took any steps to ensure that the specific skills set of the specified Cuban nationals were and/or will not be available in the Republic amongst South African citizens; if not, in each case, why not; if so, what are the relevant details of the (a) steps taken and (b) outcomes of the steps taken in this regard? **NW1681E**

**REPLY:**

(1) The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) entered into cooperation agreement with the Cuban government in the following periods;

* 2008 to 2010
* 2015 to 2019
* 2020 to 2023

(a)(i-ii) Placements for relevant periods are as indicated in the table below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Period of Agreement** | **No of Cubans Deployed** |
| **2008 – 2010** | **5** (the programme was coordinated through the United Nations, and the Cubans were not directly employed nor paid by the DWS) |
| **2015 – 2019** | **35** |
| **2020 – 2023** | **25** |

(b) The Cuban nationals are responsible for the following functions in the DWS, amongst others:

* Implementation of Restructuring and Development Programme (RDP) of Water and Sanitation projects
* Provide Geo- Hydrologic Scientific assistance
* Assessments and evaluation of designs, research and security of hydrologic infrastructure
* Evaluation and assistance with operations and maintenance of water infrastructure within clusters and area offices in different provinces
* Evaluation of infrastructure assets of the department including dams, bulk water infrastructure, irrigation canals and pump stations
* Evaluation and verification of quality control of maintenance as well as refurbishment of water infrastructure.
* Scoping of waste water treatment systems.
* Project management for grant funded infrastructure projects implemented by municipalities
* Verification and analysis of bulk infrastructure applications and business plans from municipalities to the DWS

(c) The details of the specific skills of the Cubans are as follows:

 **2020 - 2023 Cohort**

| **No.** | **Qualification** | **Area of Specialization** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Mechanical Engineering | Mechanical Engineering |
| 2 | Geophysics Engineer & Master in Science Geophysics | Senior Geophysics Scientist  |
| 3 | Civil Engineer | Structural Design Engineering |
| 4 | Hydraulics Engineer | Hydraulic Engineer |
| 5 | Hydraulics Engineer | Hydraulic Engineer |
| 6 | Hydraulic Engineering | Hydraulic Engineer with Design experience |
| 7 | Hydraulic Engineering, Master of Science | Hydraulic Engineering |
| 8 | Hydraulics Engineering | Water Resource Management  |
| 9 | Civil Engineering | Design, Maintenance and Operation of Water Infrastructure |
| 10 | Mechanical Engineering | Mechanical Engineering |
| 11 | Technologist Engineer | Technologist Engineer in Hydraulics and Water Treatment |
| 12 | Agricultural Mechanization Engineering | Trained as Mechanical Engineer and works as Investment Manager |
| 13 | Engineer Hydrologist | Surface Water Hydrology |
| 14 | Electrical Engineering | Electrical Engineering systems |
| 15 | Irrigation and Drainage Engineering | Irrigation and Drainage Engineer with extensive experience in Planning and Design |
| 16 | Engineering in Automatic Control | Engineering with specialisation in Automatic Control |
| 17 | Hydraulics and Structural Engineering | Civil/ Hydraulic Engineer |
| 18 | Mechanical Engineer | Mechanical Engineering |
| 19 | Hydraulics Engineer | Hydraulic Engineering |
| 20 | Hydraulic/ Civil Engineering | Hydraulic Engineer with experience in Planning and Design |
| 21 | Bachelor of Engineering: Electrical | Electrical Engineering, Physical Planning and Construction |
| 22 | Bachelor of Engineering - Electrical  | Electrical Engineering projects |
| 23 | Electrical Engineering | Electrical Engineering |
| 24 | Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering & Master Mechanical Engineering | Mechanical Engineering, Manufacturing and Technology |
| 25 | Mechanical Engineer | Mechanical Engineering |

 **2015 – 2019 Cohort**

| **No.** | **Qualification** | **Area of Specialization** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Hydraulic Engineer | Hydraulic Engineering: Project and investigation specialist |
| 2 | Mechanical engineer  | Complex hydraulic engineering |
| 3 | Hydraulic Engineer | Senior Specialist: Hydraulic Engineering  |
| 4 | Geo-hydrologist | Geo-hydrologist |
| 5 | Hydrology Engineer | Hydrology Engineering |
| 6 | Civil Engineer | Senior Specialist of Projects and Engineering |
| 7 | Mechanical engineer  | Mechanical engineering |
| 8 | Civil Engineer | Senior Specialist in hydraulic resources management  |
| 9 | Hydro-geologist Engineer | Coordinator of the Regional Hydrographic Water Shared Council |
| 10 | Electrical engineer | Senior Specialist in hydraulic resources management  |
| 11 | Irrigation and Drainage Engineer | Water resources management |
| 12 | Electrical engineer | Electrical engineering  |
| 13 | Irrigation and Drainage Engineer | Water Resources Water Infrastructure |
| 14 | Civil Engineer | Civil Engineering with extensive experience in Planning and Design |
| 15 | Hydraulic Engineer | Specialist of channel designs |
| 16 | Hydraulic Engineer | Specialist in hydraulic resources management  |
| 17 | Geophysics Engineer | Specialist in Projects and Engineering |
| 18 | Agronomist Engineering | Senior Specialist on Hydraulic Projects and Engineering |
| 19 | Geology Engineer | Groundwater Consultant |
| 20 | Hydraulic Engineer | Hydraulic Engineering |
| 21 | Civil Engineer | Senior Specialist in Engineering Projects |
| 22 | Hydraulic Engineer | Specialist in hydraulic resources management  |
| 23 | Civil Engineer | Senior Specialist in Engineering Projects |
| 24 | Hydrologist | Technical Hydrological Officers  |
| 25 | Hydraulic Engineer | Senior Engineer  |
| 26 | Agricultural Engineer | Director: Hydraulic Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance  |
| 27 | Hydraulic Engineer | Equipment Maintenance |
| 28 | Civil Engineer- Hydraulic | Specialist in design and research  |
| 29 | Irrigation and Drainage Engineer | Specialist of Project and Engineering |
| 30 | Hydrology Engineer | Senior Specialist: Hydrology Engineering |
| 31 | Mechanical engineer  | Mechanical Engineering |
| 32 | Hydraulic Engineer | Hydraulic Engineer: Principal Specialist in Projects and Engineering |
| 33 | Electrical engineer | Director Hydro-Energy |
| 34 | Mechanical engineer  | Project specialist: Mechanical Engineering |
| 35 | Hydro Technical Engineer | Specialist: Hydro Technical Engineering |

 **2008 – 2010 COHORT (UN project)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Qualification** | **Area of Specialization** |
| 1 | Hydraulic Engineer | Senior Specialist in Projects and Engineering. |
| 2 |  Irrigation and Drainage Engineer | Specialist of Projects and Engineering |
| 3 | Geo Hydrologist | Specialist of Hydraulic Projects  |
| 4 | Hydraulic Engineer | Principal Specialist in Projects and Engineering. |
| 5 | Geology Engineer | Specialist in Hydraulic Infrastructure Resources Management  |

 (d) All actual and estimated costs for the Cuban programme are indacted in the table below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Period of Agreement** | **Actual Costs** | **Estimated costs** |
| 2008 – 2010 | Funded by the UN | - |
| 2015 - 2019 | R 122 218 188 | - |
| 2020 - 2023 | Actual costs to be determined at the end of each financial year | R 79 225 700 |

 (2)

(2) The DWS continuously advertises vacant funded positions locally. The Department has taken steps to develop technical skills capacity building through the establishment of the Learning Academy which has focused on recruiting young South African graduates in disciplines like Engineering, Scientist and disciplines like Quantity Surveying. The DWS continues to develop artisans to enhance the technical capacity in operations and maintenance in the clusters and area offices where the bulk water infrastructure is located. The Cubans; compliment and support the Departmental officials in the clusters in the operations and maintenance functions.

The capacity building project has yielded good results and in the past 5 years, the Department has succeeded in mentoring more than 100 engineers and scientists who successfully acquired professional registration with professional councils like Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) and South African Council for National Scientific Professions (SACNASP) among others. These technical professionals were absorbed in permanent posts in the Department.