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**Memorandum from the Parliamentary Office**

**Minister**

**National Assembly question for written reply: Question 2658**

DDG: SOE Oversight

**Date:**

**Recommended / Not Recommended**

**Adv. T. Mokoena**

**Director General: Department of Mineral Resources**

………………/………………/2017

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER: 2658 ADVANCE NOTICE NO: NW2965E**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 01 Sept 2017**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NUMBER: 31**

**2658. Mr J R B Lorimer (DA) to ask the Minister of Mineral Resources:**

(1) Whether he has found that the collapse of a pedestrian bridge onto the N3 highway on 9 August 2017, happened at or around the same time as an earth tremor was experienced in the region; if so, (a) was the tremor a result of the previous or current mining activity and (b) was the mining activity that led to the tremor found to be legal or illegal;

(2) Does the Council for Geoscience keep a record of such tremors; if so;

(3) Has the Council reported on any such event; if not, when the report will be made available; if so, what are the relevant details;

(4) Have there been other reports of tremors in the area; if so, how frequent have they been? NW2965E

**Reply**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Question** | **Response** |
| (1) | Whether he has found that the collapse of a pedestrian bridge onto the N3 highway on 9 August 2017, happened at or around the same time as an earth tremor was experienced in the region; if so, (a) was the tremor a result of the previous or current mining activity and (b) was the mining activity that led to the tremor found to be legal or illegal | The Council for Geoscience’s seismic stations indicate that the tremor occurred on the 8th August 2017 at 23:47:23. The tremor was a magnitude 2.3 and occurred within a depth of 3.4km  The Council for Geoscience has not established causality between the stated tremor and either previous or current mining activities. |
| (2) | Does the Council for Geoscience keep a record of such tremors; if so; | The Council for Geoscience keeps records of all tremors. |
| (3) | Has the Council for Geoscience reported on any such event; if not, when will the report be made available; if so, what are the relevant details; | The Council for Geoscience records all tremors. Records on specific tremors can be made available. The relevant details are date, time, magnitude and depth. |
| (4) | Have there been other reports of tremors in the area; if so, how frequent have they been? | Yes, there are tremors that occur in the area and our records indicate a frequency of 1 tremor a week of magnitude 2 and above. |

Approved/Not Approved

**Mr MJ Zwane, MP**

**Minister of Mineral Resources**

**Date Submitted:-**……………/………………/2017