###### National Assembly

###### Question Number: 3546

**3546. Mr H B Groenewald (DA) to ask the Minister of Transport:**

(a) What steps has been taken by his department to ensure that all (i) metered taxis and (ii) e-hailed taxis are operating legally, (b) what number of the specified taxis were found to be operating illegally in the past three financial years and (c) what are the details of sanctions that were imposed on the illegal taxis? NW3974E

**REPLY**

a) On the 19th July 2017 I met with the Minister of Police and the Acting National Commissioner and his team to discuss the state of affairs between the metered taxis and /app-based operators and to propose a more focussed enforcement strategy.

In addition, I met with the MEC for Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport and the MMC’s of the relevant metropolitan municipalities on the 24th July 2017.

Furthermore, I met with the Gauteng Metered Taxi Council, the Concerned Metered Taxi Operators and the app-based operators on the 27th July 2017 in Midrand.

I also arranged a walk-about programme on 11th September 2017 in Sandton to sensitize operators that they must abide by the prescripts of the law which requires them to have a valid operating licence and that there will be no compromise on law enforcement.

b) During the above engagements, the Gauteng Province indicated they have received 6001 applications for e-hailing services as at 15 September 2017. Only 2077 applications were approved and only 1 was rejected. The Gauteng province further indicated that 3923 applications are still pending before the Gauteng Provincial Regulatory Entity (GPRE).

Regarding the metered taxi service, the GPRE received 3326 applications and 1368 of those applications were approved. GPRE also rejected 1958 applications.

During the October month the Province embarked on an outreach program where a total of 1078 applications were received and 162 licences were issued after this program. However, the information changes all the time as the Province is busy processing the licences to assist those who want to comply.

c) The National Land Transport Act, 05 of 2009 creates an offence to anyone who provides a public transport service without the necessary operating licence. If found to be providing public transport services without the licence, the relevant vehicle must be impounded and a determined fine must be paid before the vehicle is released by law enforcement. The fine varies from Province to Province since this power rests with the MECs and it goes up on a second and third offence.