

**MINISTRY**

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Department of Public Works l Central Government Offices l 256 Madiba Street l Pretoria l Contact: +27 (0)12 406 2034 l +27 (0)12 406 1224

Private Bag X9155 l CAPE TOWN, 8001 l RSA 4th Floor Parliament Building l 120 Plain Street l CAPE TOWN l Tel: +27 21 468 6900 Fax: +27 21 462 4592

 [www.publicworks.gov.za](http://www.publicworks.gov.za)

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NUMBER: 358 [NO.** **NW364E]**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO.: 02**

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**DATE OF REPLY: FEBRUARY 2021**

**358. Mrs M O Clarke (DA) asked the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure:**

1. What total number of police stations in the Republic have outstanding service accounts in terms of (i) water and (ii) electricity usages;
2. in which provinces are the specified stations located; and
3. what are the relevant details of the outstanding amounts with regard to each of the stations? **NW364E**

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**REPLY:**

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) is responsible for paying municipal services (electricity, water, refuse and sanitation) on behalf of client departments, including the South African Police Services (SAPS). The municipal accounts that DPWI has with various municipalities across the country are in the name of DPWI. On a monthly basis, DPWI receives the municipal accounts, verifies the accuracy of the property listed, confirms if it was not paid before, after which the invoices are processed. At the end of the month, a report is drawn from the system for all payments made on behalf of client department and invoices are issued against client departments, such as SAPS, to pay DPWI within 30 days. It takes an average of over 90 days for client departments to settle their invoices with DPWI as part of recovery on payments made on behalf of clients departments.

a) & b) I have been informed by the Department that the total number of police stations in the Republic that have outstanding current service accounts in terms of water and electricity usage and the provinces that they are located are captured in the table below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Regional Office** | **Province** | **Number of Police Stations**  | **Outstanding Water Service Accounts**  | **Outstanding Electricity Service Accounts** |
| Polokwane | Limpopo | 109 |  R 170 791.32  |  R 1 818 618.59  |
| Bloemfontein | Free State | 49 |  R 716 341.79  |  R 5 406 809.17  |
| Cape Town | Western Cape  | 315 |  R 985 000.00  |  R 755 545.00  |
| Kimberley | Northern Cape | 116 |  R 272 708.55  |  R 1 640 572.88  |
| Mmabatho | North West | 118 |  R 471 522.39  |  R 3 848 218.12  |
| Nelspruit | Mpumalanga | 87 |  R -  |  R -  |
| Umtata | Eastern Cape | 70 |  R 799 411.66  |  R 1 185 471.82  |
| Durban | Kwa-Zulu Natal | 23 |  R 12 878.44  |  R 534 412.98  |
| Johannesburg | Gauteng | 139 |  R 638 451.11  |  R 1 043 972.70  |
| Pretoria | Gauteng | 40 |  R 1 936 990.52 |  R 1 828 873.53 |
| Port Elizabeth | Eastern Cape | 18 |  R 187 370.34  |  R 189 966.47  |
| **Grand Total** | **1086** |  **R 6 191 466.12**  |  **R 18 252 461.26**  |

1. There are other services being rendered by DPWI such as refuse, sanitation and property rates that are being serviced and paid on a monthly basis by the department. Payments of invoices to suppliers and service providers including municipalities on services rendered remains key deliverables for DPWI and the Ministry.

In some instances, the outstanding accounts include certain charges where some municipalities have levied interest on certain accounts as a result of, what they believed, were overdue accounts while in actual fact payments were made and not timeously allocated by municipalities.

DPWI continues to have regular sessions (including remote sessions) about timeous allocations of monies paid and corrections of incorrect billed services with municipalities. The persistent challenge experienced by the department is where some municipalities do not have adequate ICT infrastructure to remotely connect and be able to address some queries raised by the department related to incorrect statements and/or outstanding amounts.

DPWI’s commitment to ensure that all valid invoices are settled within 30 days on receipt of statements and invoices, or the agreed period with stakeholders, remains unwavering, hence the improved trajectory over the past couple of months of settling invoices within 30 days.