

**MINISTRY**

**MINERAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY**

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**Memorandum from the Parliamentary Office**

**National Assembly: 3776**

Please find attached a response to Parliamentary Questionfor **written reply** asked by **Mr M K Montwedi (EFF) to the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy:**

**Mr. Mthokozisi Mpofu**

**Acting Deputy Director-General: Programmes and Projects**

**………………/………………/2022**

**Mr. Tseliso Maqubela**

**Deputy Director-General: Mineral and Petroleum Regulation**

**………………/………………/2022**

Recommended/ Not Recommended

**Mr. Jacob Mbele**

**Director-General: Department of Mineral Resources and Energy**

**………………/………………/2022**

Approved / Not Approved

**Mr. S.G Mantashe**

**Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy**

**………………/………………/2022**

**3776.** **Mr M K Montwedi (EFF) to ask the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy:**

What steps has he taken to (a) address the issue of illegal mining and (b) transform illegal miners into small-scale miners in Witrankie Village in the Moses Kotane Local Municipality? **NW4664E**

**Reply:**

1. Illegal mining of chrome in Witrankie is one of the Department’s priority areas. In order to address illegal mining in the village, intelligence led operations were conducted with members of the SAPS and the Hawks. As a result of those operations, cases were opened, and arrests made. There are continuous disruptive operations conducted by the Department and SAPS given the extent of illegal mining in the area.

(b) The profile of illegal mining in South Africa is such that it is dominated by illegal immigrants. Illegal miners cannot be transformed into small scale miners. The Department through its Small-scale division only assists potential miners who intend operating within the boundaries of the law.