**National Assembly**

**Question Number: 683**

**683. Mr M S F de Freitas (DA) to ask the Minister of Transport:**

With reference to the National Public Transport Regulator applications for tourism transport operating licenses, what (a) total number of tourism-related (i) applications have been received and (ii) licenses have been issued in each month in the (aa) past three years and (bb) since 1 January 2019, (b) are the reasons for the delays in the issuing of licenses, (c) is being done to speed up the issuing of licenses and (d) how is the issuing of licenses being measured and/or monitored? NW1725E

 **REPLY**

1. (i) A total of 5774 applications have been received from the 29 July 2016 to 31 August 2019.

(ii) (aa) 2780 operating licences were issued from 29 July 2016 to 31 August 2019. The variance between the applications received and operating licences issued is attributed to applications that were withdrawn or cancelled by operators and refused by the National Public Transport Regulator.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2016/2017** | **2017/2018** | **2018/2019** | **2019/2020** |
| APRIL | -- | 14 | 64 | 78 |
| MAY | -- | 11 | 90 | 61 |
| JUNE | -- | 53 | 64 | 66 |
| JULY | -- | 40 | 152 | 107 |
| AUGUST | 02 | 97 | 110 | 78 |
| SEPTEMBER | 06 | 114 | 148 |  |
| OCTOBER | 07 | 75 | 125 |  |
| NOVEMBER | 33 | 113 | 101 |  |
| DECEMBER  | 22 | 68 | 132 |  |
| JANUARY | 110 | 97 | 29 |  |
| FEBRUARY | 83 | 131 | 84 |  |
| MARCH | 42 | 119 | 54 |  |
| **Total** | **305** | **932** | **1153** | **390** |

 (bb) A total of 557 operating licenses have been issued from 1 January 2019 to 31 August 2019.

1. The cause for the delays in the issuing of operating licenses is related to capacity constraints, IT challenges and the submission of incomplete applications by operators.
2. The Department has appointed additional staff, currently redesigning the National Land Transport Information System (NLTIS) and has organized workshops with operators in partnership with the Department of Tourism to raise awareness on the requirements and the processes of the NPTR.
3. The issuing of operating licences is monitored monthly through the National Land Transport Information System, by submitting quarterly and annual reports together with portfolio of evidence.