



**MINISTRY
PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER:	1484 [NO. NW1690E]
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1484. Mr G G McGluwa (DA) asked the Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure:

- (1) Whether her department has concluded any work exchange and/or employment agreements with any entity of the Republic of Cuba from the 2010-11 financial year up to the 2020-21 financial year; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what (a) total number of Cuban nationals (i) have been employed in each of the specified financial years and/or (ii) are due to be employed in the 2021-23 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period, (b) are the details of the work that each of the specified Cuban nationals was and/or will be employed to perform, (c) are the details of the specific skills sets that each of the specified Cuban nationals possessed and/or will possess that South African nationals did or will not possess and (d) are the details of the total cost of employing each of the specified Cuban nationals in each case;
- (2) whether her department took any steps to ensure that the specific skills set of the specified Cuban nationals were and/or will not be available in the Republic amongst South African citizens; if not, in each case, why not; if so, what are the relevant details of the (a) steps taken and (b) outcomes of the steps taken in this regard?

NW1690E

REPLY:

The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure:

(1) I have been informed by the Department that the DPWI employed Cuban Technical Advisors under the Cuban Technical Advisory Programme which emanated from relations in the Bilateral Cooperation, as expressed in the joint declaration of the third session of the Joint Bilateral Commission on Economic, Scientific, Technical and Business Cooperation between the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Cuba signed in September 2005.

(a)

(i) Thirty three (33) Cuban Technical Advisors were employed during 2010-2011, and 31 were employed in November 2016. Currently, 24 are still participating in the programme.

(ii) There is no plan to employ new Cuban Technical Advisors for 2021-23 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework period. The current cohort employment contract will end in November 2021.

(b) Cuban Technical Advisors are executing Engineering Works (Civil Structural, Geologist, Mechanical and Electrical), Facilities Conditions Assessments Works and Construction Project Management Works.

(c) Technical skills that the Cuban Technical Advisors possess are Structural, Geologist, Mechanical, Electrical, Construction Project Management and Facilities Management specialising in State and Social Infrastructure.

(d) The details of total costs for employing the Cuban Technical Advisors which include compensation and logistical arrangements, are as follows:

FINANCIAL YEAR	AMOUNT
2010	R496 839
2011	R506 839
2016/17	R399, 791
2017/18	R1,088,556
2018/19	R1,137,409
2019/20	R1,197,393
2020/21	R1,125,725

(2) (a,b) Challenges in these critical technical areas are mainly attributed to an inability to attract and retain skills in these technical fields, where the Department has been facing challenges in terms of filling vacancies in these areas.

The recruited skills are aligned to the Department of High Education and Training's (DHET) List of Occupations in High Demand 2015 gazetted on 19 January 2016.