



Question 345 (96) for written reply (NCOP)

**MINISTRY OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES (NCOP)

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO.: 345 (96)

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Ms B S Masango (Gauteng: DA) to ask the Minister of Human Settlements:

With reference to her department's Breaking New Ground programme, what measures are in place to ensure that new sites are properly developed before communities are moved to these new locations to prevent risks associated with deep trenches being dug for water and electricity pipes? **CO236E**

REPLY

New residential townships are developed in a systematic manner. This commences with the township layout and general plan approval after which the municipal engineering services are designed. These include, Feasibility Studies and Master Plans, Site/Civil Development, Storm water Management, Local Transportation, Wastewater Collections, Water Distribution. Tenders are then called for the installation of these services. The installation and finalisation of the engineering services contract must be approved by the municipality before the required services compliance certificate is issued that precedes township establishment processes. Once the certificate is issued the construction of the houses commence and by this time the services trenches are closed and sealed.

However, it must be borne in mind that most often the residential developments are of large scale and the projects are divided into manageable phases. It might thus occur that houses in a particular phase are ready for occupation while the services are put in place for the construction of Phase 2. The appointed civil engineering construction professional and the contractors are responsible for the safety within the development sites and a safety officer, as prescribed by the Department of Labour, must be appointed on

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a full time basis for the duration of the construction project to oversee compliance with health and safety prescripts.