**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINI PLENARIES (HYBRID)**

**TUESDAY, 23 MAY
14:00 – 16:00**

1. **DEBATE ON VOTE 28, 24 & 21: POLICE (INCLUDING INDEPENDENT POLICE INVESTIGATE DIRECTORATE & CIVILIAN SECRETARIAT FOR THE POLICE SERVICE (M46)**

**HON. Z MAJOZI MP**

 Hon. Speaker,

As the IFP, we are concerned with the state of the finances of the Department of Polices.

The recent SAPS Annual Report 2021/22 states, “Confirmed fruitless and wasteful expenditure for the reporting period was R621 439.41.” According to the Auditor-General, the situation is much worse, with “fruitless and wasteful expenditure of R1,8 billion … still under assessment.”

Further, “effective and appropriate steps were not taken to prevent irregular expenditure of R152 million” and “consequence management was not effected against officials who incurred and permitted irregular expenditure in the previous periods”.

We therefore call on the SAPS:

* to get their house in order;
* to supply accurate and complete financial records – on time; and
* to abide by and implement all recommendations of the Auditor-General.

As the IFP, we want to remind this House that the revised Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) identifies five fundamental goals for the period 2019 to 2024, which include that “violent crime will be halved.”

Sadly, the SAPS do not appear to be on track.

From 2020/21 to 2021/22, murder increased by 26.6%, rape by 15.2% and carjacking by 24.7%. The list goes on and on. We do not hold much hope for the future, considering that the most recent Crime Statistics, shared by Minister Cele in February 2023, recorded 7 555 murders for the period - a 10% increase, year-on-year. South Africa currently has a police to population ratio of 1:430.

Last year, we were relieved to hear that thousands of new recruits would increase ‘feet on the street’, but according to the SAPS 2021/22 Annual Report, “of 12 000 entry-level members … 10 000 will replace personnel losses … and 2 000 will result in increases to the establishment”. With 1 158 police stations across the country, 2 000 new recruits won’t go far.

Add to this that only **ONE PERCENT** of police stations are considered to be in an “excellent” condition. 69% are “fair”, with another 15% considered “very poor”.

How are our men and women in blue expected to perform their duties in such conditions?

We would also like to query the state of the “54 994 [SAPS] transport assets” – at what stage is a police vehicle retired? Thousands of these vans are visibly dilapidated.

Instead of squandering hundreds of millions in irregular and fruitless expenditure, consider rather investing in proper police vehicles.

And there is money for resources: SAPS spent almost R325 million on contractors in 2021/22, almost double the R188 million of the 2020/21 Financial Year.

This is unacceptably high – where are the in-house skills?

The IFP also remains concerned about issues relating to illegal firearms.

While we welcome the Department “transitioning of the firearm license application process from a tedious manual process, to an on-line process”, we again plead with the SAPS to work on improving the rate at which it processes applications relating to firearms.

Almost 50 000 applications were not attended to in the 2021/22 Financial Year, and this means that through no fault of their own, citizens find themselves walking around with an illegal firearm.

The IFP also notes the work that has been done to reduce the DNA testing backlog. We call on the SAPS to maintain a high turnover rate and ensure testing is done regularly so that the backlog stays as close to zero as possible.

While we commend IPID for its work, and high rate of cases being investigated and finalised, we call on them to aim for 100% resolution of cases, so that no person is denied justice. It is essential to restore public confidence in the police. Much work is to be done to keep South Africa’s people safe.

The IFP supports the Budget.

I thank you.

**HON. Z MAJOZI MP**