

FF Plus: Dr. Groenewald

23 May 2023

Debate on Vote 28, 24, 21: Police

What happened in Graskop symbolizes the crime situation in SA. What happened in Graskop, a bunch, and I call them a bunch of criminals of about 13 or 14, came into the town with AK47, R4 rifles - and by the way you can only get these from the SANDF - with explosives. They then took over the town, blew up shops and they just took the loot and they leave. The community said enough is enough, they went to the police station, locked it up and said they must get rid of the police station commander. But then they started to arrest the community for doing that. This symbolizes what is going on in crime in SA. Because the communities must protect themselves. If you look for instance at crime statistics you will see that mob justice, murders - for the last financial year in three quarters - 1536 murders took place by means of mob justice.

And honourable chair I want to say that if we look at crime statistics we know that it is not hundred percent accurate. In fact, I think it is much higher.

But it gives us an indication of the crime situation in SA. Let's take the last financial year; I believe we're going to receive the fourth quarter results next Wednesday. If we look at the three quarters of the last financial year, we will see that for instance that for the second quarter all 17 categories of crimes have increased. In the third quarter, all the contact crimes, all of them have increased. There is no stopping the violent crimes in SA. If we look at women and children, if you look at those 3 quarters, you will find that 2 945 women and 877 children had been killed. And yes we hear about the backlog of forensics that was completed and that there is no backlog, but still you must read in the newspapers of rape cases where the victims are still waiting for results for more than two years for the DNA tests. You cannot blame the community if they came to a situation where they said we must protect ourselves.

And I want to say, and I always say it, I salute those hardworking, true members of the SAPS who really would be able to put their own lives on the front line to protect us. But honourable Chair we must get to a point in SA where we say 'What are we going to do about crime in SA'. And Honourable Minister, whether you like it or not, the buck stops with you because this is parliament, this is politics. It stops with you and the people of SA want to hear from you as the minister, what you are going to do to stop these increases. There are about 28 000 investigators in SA, it's impossible for them to investigate all the crime that is taking place

Ek wil vir die agbare minister ook sê ons moet ons nie laat mislei deur die stabilisering van plaasmoorde en die aantal boere wat vermoor word en ook baie van hulle werkers nie. Die rede daarvoor is omdat die gemeenskappe hulle eie veiligheid in hulle hande neem. Ek was by NAMPO, by NAMPO is daar elke jaar meer en meer sekuriteitsmaatskappye wat hulle toerusting uitstal vir beskerming van die boere. Hulle steel die voorbeeld om hulle self te beskerm. But unfortunately Honourable minister, you owe the people of SA an answer. I thank you.