

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR ORAL REPLYQUESTION 607

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 40-2023)

607. Rev K R J Meshoe (ACDP) to ask the Minister of Police:

Whether, given that the SA Police Service is operating with at least 8 000 fewer detectives in 2023 as compared to 2017, he has found that an increase in police visibility on the ground will result in a reduction of the crime rate; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, how will (a) this alone help to reduce crime and (b) those suspected of a crime be successfully convicted in light of the few detectives available to investigate cases?

NO4562E

REPLY:

Yes, an increase in police visibility on the ground, will contribute positively to a reduction in the crime rate. The objective of the South African Police Service (SAPS) is to prevent, combat and investigate crime; maintain public order; protect and secure the inhabitants of South Africa and their property; and uphold and enforce the law. However, this cannot be done in isolation of key stakeholders in the fight against crime, particularly at ground level, where an active citizenry, supported by effective Community Police Forums and constructive contributions from all sectors of society, will further contribute to the reduction in levels of crime.

- (a) The prevention of crime is not solely the responsibility of the SAPS and Government. Cabinet adopted the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy (ICVPS) in March 2022, which represents a "whole of government" and "whole of society" approach, to addressing crime and violence.

Increased police visibility is a key component of the Increased Crime Prevention and Combating Action Plan (ICPCAP) developed under the leadership of the Minister of Police. The ICPCAP was included in the SAPS National Policing Strategy Annual Operational Plan and forms the basis for the weekly high-density Operation Shanela, which involves the informed deployment of police officers, in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies and government departments.

Police visibility is part of the SAPS proactive policing or crime prevention focus and is intended to deter criminals, to ensure that the police are accessible and responsive to community needs and to build confidence in the SAPS and improve feelings of safety in communities. As such, it is also an important aspect in mobilising communities to work with and support the SAPS.

- (b) The Detective Service Recovery Plan was compiled during the first Quarter of the 2023/24 financial year, and is currently subject to consultation with the relevant internal and external stakeholders. The Division: Detective and Forensic Services has also commenced with the re-enlistment of experienced Detectives and bringing back members that have migrated to other environments within the organisation, in an attempt to further strengthen the Detective capacity. Furthermore, there is a continued emphasis on the training detectives, to improve the quality of investigations, thereby promoting successful convictions.

The ICPCAP also focuses on the tracking and arrest of wanted suspects, as part of Operation Shanela, particularly those who have been identified as having been involved in violent crimes.

Reply to oral question 607 recommended/~~not recommended~~


GENERAL
NATIONAL COMMISSIONER: SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE
SF MASEKOLA (SOEG)

Date: 2023/11/06

Reply to oral question 607 approved/~~not approved~~


MINISTER OF POLICE
GENERAL BHABE, MP

Date: 07/11/2023