

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**FOR ORAL REPLY****QUESTION 619**

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 40-2023)

619. Mr A M Seabi (ANC) to ask the Minister of Police:

- (1) What progress has been made by the Inter-Ministerial Committee to address violent crimes, including the killing of councillors and traditional leaders;
- (2) what has he found has been the level of cooperation between the SA Police Service and communities to address violent crimes?

NO4745E

REPLY:

- (1) The President of the Republic of South Africa established an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) in response to the escalation of politically-linked incidents in KwaZulu-Natal, in 2018. The IMC is composed of the Ministries of State Security, Defence, Police, and Justice and Correctional Services. The committee, which is led by the Police Minister, is in charge of seeing to it that those responsible for crimes connected to politics are prosecuted. The IMC promotes unity, social cohesion, and nation-building in rural communities.

The IMC established a Multi-Disciplinary National Task Team, in July 2018, to develop and implement the strategy for investigating and prosecuting politically-related cases in KwaZulu-Natal. This team comprises the State Security Agency (SSA), the Department of Justice and Correctional Services (DJ&CS), the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), and the South African Police Services (SAPS).

A total number of 325 dockets, based on the approved criteria for politically-related crime incidents, was assigned to the National Task Team. These cases span the years, 2011 to the present, and include attacks on sitting council members as well as attacks on former and candidate council members, office

bearers for other political parties, and municipal officials who end up as victims or as deceased.

The categories of cases include

- Murder.
- Attempted murder.
- Intimidation.
- Conspiracy to commit murder.
- Extortion.
- Assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm (GBH).
- Other cases related to political incidents.

A total number of 355 individuals have been arrested and charged thus far, and 65 of those apprehended have been found guilty. The National Task Team is expanding its investigation into political-related cases, including murders of council members, to other provinces where similar incidents are prevalent.

The Task Team implements the Traditional Policing Concept with the focus to address crimes affecting rural communities, create awareness and educate rural communities about violent crimes, including Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) amongst others, and to bring police services closer to rural areas. The engagement with communities through Community Police Forums (CPFes) is also key in the addressing of violent crimes in the communities.

- (2) The SAPS has a good working relationship with communities in most policing areas. All police stations have active CPF structures, with the exception of three stations, which have been exempted from establishing CPFes, due to the transitory nature of the communities which they serve. These police stations are Boetsup, Mokopong and Kubusiedrift. CPF structures are also in place at district, provincial and national levels. Where challenges arise, CPF structures work with SAPS management to reduce conflict. These relationships are not static but provide mechanisms to work together or address challenges as they arise.

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The SAPS, in consultation with the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service (CSPS) has prioritised the enhancing of the function of Community Police Forums (CPFs), so as to improve liaison between the SAPS and the communities it serves. The finalisation of new CPF elections at all levels, in compliance with the President's 2023 State of the Nation Address (SoNA) requirement, has been completed and newly-elected CPFs and Board members are being capacitated through specific training interventions. Financial support to the value of R70 million was allocated to CPFs, by the SAPS, in 2023/24.

The cooperation between the SAPS and communities includes the following categories of partnerships:

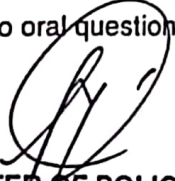
- Business partnerships.
- Community-based partnerships.
- International partnerships.
- Faith-based organisations.
- Traditional leaders.
- Non-governmental organisations.

Reply to oral question 619 recommended/~~not~~ recommended


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

Date: 2023 -11- 06

Reply to oral question 619 approved/~~not~~ approved


MINISTER OF POLICE
GENERAL BH CELE MP

Date: 07/11/2023