

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY**QUESTION 1062**

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 18 MARCH 2022
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 11-2022)

1062. Mr H A Shembeni (EFF) to ask the Minister of Police:

What (a) is the current state of the backlogs at the SA Police Service Forensic Science Laboratory and (b) intervention has he made to ensure a faster turnaround time at the laboratory?

NW1310E

REPLY:

- (a) The current state of backlogs at the South African Police Service (SAPS) Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), as at 18 March 2022, was 310 022. The breakdown, per Section and the number of days, are reflected in the table below.

Backlog, per Sections, as at 18 March 2022					
Section	Routine >35 calendar days	Intelligence >90 calendar days	Non- Routine >113 calendar days	Unassigned >35 calendar days	Total
Ballistics	2 151	13	4	18 453	20 621
Biology	17 021	87 606	28	58 504	163 159
Chemistry	80 833	0	322	44 024	125 179
Scientific Analysis Unit (SAU)	454	0	317	124	895
Questioned Documents Unit (QDU)	18	0	18	108	144
Victim Identification Centre (VIC)	0	0	0	24	24
Total	100 477	87 619	689	121 237	310 022

- (b) The following interventions have been made to ensure a faster turnaround time at the SAPS FSL:

Ballistics:

- o Daily allocation of cases.

- Classification of cases based on different levels of complexity and prioritisation according to court dates.
- Daily monitoring of registered and finalised entries.
- Allocation of overtime to personnel.
- Servicing and calibration of equipment for drug analysis and availability of consumables.
- Daily checks and monitoring to ensure the functionality and suitability of instruments.

Biology:

- Daily allocation of cases.
- Classification of cases based on different levels, e.g. age analysis.
- Prioritisation of cases based on court dates.
- Daily monitoring of registered and finalised entries.
- Allocation of overtime to personnel.
- Availability of consumables for the processing of exhibit material.
- Awarding of contracts for maintenance and servicing of equipment and consumables, the maintenance of equipment and availability of consumables.
- Daily checks and monitoring to ensure the functionality and suitability of instruments.

Chemistry:

- The production norm was increased, from 70 to 100 points, per analyst, per month, for drug analysis casework, as from 7 March 2022.
- Allocation of overtime to personnel.
- Servicing and calibration of equipment for drug analysis and availability of consumables.
- Daily checks and monitoring to ensure the functionality and suitability of instruments.
- KwaZulu-Natal Laboratory cases are processed by analysts from KwaZulu-Natal, at the Western Cape Laboratory, due to environmental and infrastructure challenges at the KwaZulu-Natal Laboratory.

Reply to question 1062 recommended/~~not recommended~~



**NATIONAL COMMISSIONER: SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE
SF MASEKELA**

GENERAL

**NATIONAL COMMISSIONER: SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE
SF MASEKELA**

Date: 2022-04-06

Reply to question 1062 approved/~~not approved~~



**MINISTER OF POLICE
GENERAL BH CELE, MP**

Date: 11/04/2022