

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**FOR WRITTEN REPLY****QUESTION 117**

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 1-2022)

117. M. Gen O S Terblanche (DA) to ask the Minister of Police:

What measures have been put in place to stop the disturbing trend of the theft of and/or missing police firearms as approximately 26 025 police firearms were either stolen and/or could not be accounted for between 2005 and 2017 and 3 405 official police firearms were stolen and/or went missing in the past five financial years and (b) what has he found to be the reasons that he and his department fail to get the situation under control?

NW121E

REPLY:

- (a) The following measures were put in place to combat the theft and loss of state-owned firearms and ammunition:
- All the South African Police Service (SAPS) firearms have been marked by means of the dot peen (bar coding), as well as the unique SAPS emblem.
 - All the SAPS firearms have been tested on the Integrated Ballistic Information System (IBIS), to ensure that profiles are available for every SAPS firearm.
 - All the SAPS cartridges (ammunition) are marked with a unique letter "P" for Police.
 - Every SAPS member, who is in possession of a SAPS firearm, which has been issued on his/her personal inventory (SAPS 108) is provided with an official safe for the safekeeping of the SAPS firearm.
 - The possession of the prescribed safe is a prerequisite for the issuing of a SAPS firearm, on the personal inventory of a member.
 - SAPS members are screened before approving and issuing their SAPS 108 firearms.
 - Pistol retention cords are issued to SAPS members, to curb the theft/loss of SAPS firearms.
 - During firearm training and annual shooting practices, emphasis is placed on the handling and safeguarding of SAPS firearms.

- SAPS members are paraded and inspected before booking on and off duty. Parade commanders complete a Duty Sheet (SAPS 15), which includes the inspection and verification of the SAPS firearm and number of rounds of ammunition.
 - Regular inspections and certification of all SAPS firearms are conducted.
 - All SAPS firearms and ammunition that are not under the direct and physical control of a member are stored in a safe or strong room that conforms to prescripts of SABS standard 953-1 and 953-2, as prescribed by the SAPS Regulations.
 - If any SAPS member is involved in criminal activities, involving a SAPS firearm, criminal and departmental disciplinary actions are taken against such a member.
 - The Enhanced Firearms Control System (EFRS) and the Provisioning Administration System (PAS) have been integrated, to ensure effective internal controls.
- (b) The reasons for failing to get the situation under control, are as follows:
- Screening/vetting of members, in order to reduce the criminally inclined within the SAPS, takes time to finalise.
 - Negligence by SAPS members.
 - Increased housebreakings and armed robberies at police stations.
 - Police killings.
 - Corruption.

Reply to question 117 recommended/~~not recommended~~



**GENERAL
NATIONAL COMMISSIONER: SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE
KJ SITOLE (SOEG)**

Date: 2022-02-28

Reply to question 117 approved/~~not approved~~



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

Date: 01/03/2022