

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY**QUESTION 1318**

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 13-2022)

1318. Mr A G Whitfield (DA) to ask the Minister of Police:

- (1) What (a) are the details of challenges experienced with the current Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) in the (i) 2019-20, (ii) 2020-21 and (iii) 2021-22 financial years and (b) is the current backlog attributed to the challenges with AFIS for (i) police clearance certificates and (ii) firearms licence applications;
- (2) whether a replacement system is being considered; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, by what date will it be implemented?

NW1579E

REPLY:

The current Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), was implemented, on 24 January 2022, at 60 sites, nationally. The new AFIS contract bid, with reference number RFQ 2712/1565/2019, dated 31 January 2020, was awarded to Datacentrix Pty Ltd, on 16 September 2020.

- (1)(a)(i)(ii) The challenges experienced in 2019/2020 and 2020/2021, were as follows:
- The maintenance and support contract for the old AFIS system was on an annual basis, which expired on 30 November 2021.
 - The challenges experienced during this period relate to instability, due to old technological infrastructure.
 - Compatibility issues between Windows 7 and 10, due to old technology and infrastructure, led to continuous failure of the system and hardware breakdown.
 - Instability of the system was experienced towards the end of April and the beginning of May 2021. The central site was unavailable for 21 days, during this period.

- Although the system was outdated and had reached its lifespan, it could still provide the service required and there was no backlog experienced during the said period.

(1)(a)(iii) The challenges experienced in 2021/2022, were as follows:

- In order to implement the new system, the old system had to be shut down, to allow for the replacement of new technology, including hardware. The shutdown was scheduled from 17 January 2022 to 24 January 2022, however, some sites only restarted in February 2022, due to technical malfunctioning.
- The service was further interrupted in Pretoria, where police clearance and firearm licence applications are processed, due to the disconnection of electricity to the building (Tshwane Ya Tima Campaign), from 10 to 14 February 2022.
- The Criminal Record and Crime Scene Management offices in Pretoria were locked by the building landlord, due to a lease dispute and unpaid rentals between the Bothongo Property Group and the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, from 8 to 15 March 2022.
- The closure of the building for decontamination purposes when COVID-19 cases were reported, further contributed to the backlog.

(1)(b)(i)(ii) There has been a sudden increase in the number of fingerprint searches for firearm licensing and police clearance, which exceeds the capacity to process the applications, within the set performance measurement. The table below reflects the statistics, from January to March 2022:

Service required	Total received	Finalised	Outstanding
Police Clearance	75 440	32 045	43 395
Firearm Applications	90 384	45 859	44 525

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Reply to question 1318 recommended/~~not recommended~~



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

GENERAL

Date: 2022-04-27

Reply to question 1318 approved/not approved



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

Date: 02/05/2022