

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY**QUESTION 1684**

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 16-2022)

1684. Ms H Ismail (DA) to ask the Minister of Police:

- (1) What (a) total number of (i) doctors, (ii) paramedics and (iii) nurses have been reported to the SA Police Service (SAPS) as victims of a violent and/or non-violent crime in the workplace and (b) is the breakdown of the total in each province;
- (2) what (a) plans have been put in place by the SAPS to improve the safety of medical staff on duty and (b) has he found to be the highest and lowest risk areas in the Republic in this regard?

NW2008E

REPLY:

(1)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(b)

The South African Police Service (SAPS) is not in a position to respond to this part of the question. It is not currently a requirement that victims of crime, when reporting crime to the SAPS, must reveal their profession. This information is, therefore, not captured on the SAPS' information systems. Conducting a manual search would be unreasonable, in terms of time and person hours and may not render the required information, as the profession of a complainant may not be cited when they report a crime.

(2)(a) The SAPS was approached by the Department of Health, in 2019, due to concerns regarding the impact of crime in hospitals, including hospital staff and patients. As a result, a team including SAPS personnel worked with the National and Provincial Health departments and assessed the security measures at health facilities in the country. The objective of the team was to assess security at hospitals and advise the Department of Health how to:

- Deploy private security officers at the hospitals; and
- Monitor the security officers at hospitals.

The SAPS was not involved in the implementation of the recommendations.

The National and Provincial Health Departments are involved in the Joint Operational and Intelligence Structures (JOINTS) of the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster, at national and provincial levels, where concerns in respect of policing and security may be raised and addressed. This allows measures to be put in place to address identified security threats, e.g. providing SAPS escorts in areas where ambulances and emergency medical personnel are targeted by criminals.

At police station level, station intelligence profiles are compiled, which include the identification of infrastructure that may be vulnerable to crime and criminality, as well as the analysis of crime patterns and trends, including geographical crime analysis. This allows police stations to plan the deployment of resources and crime operations. Police stations may, for example, increase visibility near such facilities to deter criminals. Police stations also engage with their community police forums to address crime concerns in a particular community, which provides a further platform for hospitals and other health facilities to raise their concerns.

- (2)(b) The SAPS does not play a role in respect of security inside health facilities, where access control and other security measures are the responsibility of the management of the respective facilities. The SAPS may, however, when detainees receive medical treatment in a health facility, deploy SAPS members as guards for the duration of the stay of such detainees. The SAPS may also provide an escort for emergency medical personnel, based on the circumstances and needs identified.

Reply to question 1684 recommended/~~not recommended~~




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

GENERAL

Date: 2022-03-25

Reply to question 1684 approved/~~not approved~~



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

Date: 27/05/2022