

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY****QUESTION 227**

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 1-2022)**

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

What measures are currently in place to curb the (a) attack and robberies of police stations and (b) killing of police officers across the Republic?

NW231E

**REPLY:**

(a) The Police Safety Strategy and Implementation Plan was approved by the National Commissioner of the South African Police Service (SAPS), on 23 March 2021. It aims to intensify and accelerate efforts to address attacks and unnatural deaths of SAPS members. The Police Safety Strategy, includes the following implementation pillars:

- **Pillar 1:** Governance, to implement National Instructions/Directives.
- **Pillar 2:** Proactive interventions to ensure operational readiness.
- **Pillar 3:** Safety of police stations, buildings and infrastructure: To assess, review and enhance the safety requirements of existing police stations, building and premises, including new structures.
- **Pillar 4:** Reactive interventions to prioritise the investigation of cases of attacks on the police through a dedicated investigation capability, to restore confidence in the criminal justice system and to serve as a deterrent.
- **Pillar 5:** Redress and support intervention, to ensure employee support and assistance.
- **Pillar 6:** Monitoring and evaluation, to improve the governance framework.

The six pillars represent the fundamental issues that must be addressed in order to minimise the incidents of attacks and the unnatural deaths of SAPS members, including reservists, while they are on duty and in order to ensure police safety, in particular.

Several directives addressing aspects of safety, such as situational awareness when responding to complaints or crime scenes, compulsory wearing of bullet resistant vests, general safety hints and utilisation of safety equipment and implementation of security measures, were drafted and distributed to commanders, to support and provide guidance to members in respect of their safety, when deployed operationally.

A Police Safety Pocket Guide was developed and distributed to all operational members, including operational commanders, which covers the use of basic safety principles in the day-to-day operational tasks performed by members.

The principles cover the following fields:

- Operational readiness and alertness.
- Safety procedures when approaching, searching or arresting suspects.
- Ensuring the correct and effective use of appropriate equipment.
- The use of tactical communication to avoid the need for using physical force.
- Always working as a team and never working in isolation.
- Using the appropriate tactics and techniques when approaching a situation.
- Maintaining high levels of mental and physical fitness.

In terms of Standing Order (G) 256 the equipment of SAPS members are checked during on-duty parades by the commanders, before members are deployed on operational duties, to ensure that all the equipment is serviceable and that it may be used efficiently and effectively.

In addition, safety awareness is enhanced internally and externally through the Community Police Forums, as acknowledged community structures.

- (b) Pillar 3, the Safety of police stations, buildings and infrastructure, is intended to address and improve safety and security related-matters with primary focus on conducting regular security assessments that inform the development of safety plans, contingency plans and risk plans for police stations, buildings and infrastructure.

Identification and analysis of risks were undertaken and a subsequent Risk Mitigation Plan was drafted. The reduction of attacks, robberies of police stations and killing of SAPS members, on and off duty, was included in the National Risk Register of the SAPS.

An Information Management Framework was developed, which requires all incidents where police members are killed or attacked and where police stations are attacked to be reported, within 12 hours after the incident. This information is captured on a national database and is analysed to inform the development of proactive and preventative measures.

Internal guidelines to sensitise and create awareness amongst members on safety at police stations, are distributed on a regular basis.

Reply to question 227 recommend/~~not recommended~~



**NATIONAL COMMISSIONER, SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE  
K. S. MOLE (SOEG)**

**GENERAL**

**NATIONAL COMMISSIONER, SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE  
K. S. MOLE (SOEG)**

Date: 2022-02-28

Reply to question 227 approved/~~not approved~~



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

Date: 01/03/2022