

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY****QUESTION 230**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 23 FEBRUARY 2024**  
**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 4-2024)**

**230. Mr V Gericke (EFF) to ask the Minister of Police: [★22] [Question submitted for oral reply now placed for written reply because it is more than quota (Rule 137(8))]**

In light of the gross concern by the public regarding the proliferation of private neighbourhood watch bodies that masquerade as farm- and neighbourhood watch and/or community policing forums who often abuse power to do access control in public areas through harassment of ordinary citizens and violating their rights, how does his department intend to stop the private companies from exercising the functions of the SA Police Service?

NW253E

**REPLY:**

The objectives of Community Police Forums (CPFs) and Boards are outlined in Chapter 7 of the SAPS Act, 1995, (Act No 68 of 1995). CPFs at police stations, Community Police Boards at district and provincial levels and the National Community Police Consultative Forum, provide inclusive platforms for the SAPS and community partners to promote sound cooperation between the SAPS, the community and private or civil society structures.


Neighbourhood watches are voluntary structures that are established by the community to protect themselves against criminality. There is no legal framework that compels neighbourhood watches to work with CPFs. Neighbourhood watches are localised, and there is no single coordinating structure that governs them. In addition, the SAPS has no legal basis to compel neighbourhood watches to be integrated into CPFs.

Specific provisions are, however, contained in the South African Police Service Amendment Bill, to enhance community participation in policing matters. These provisions augment the development of community policing services, which focus on community partnerships and cooperative government action and to find solutions

which are responsive to the needs of the community. As part of these initiatives, the Bill provides, *inter alia*, for the establishment and maintenance of police stations, crime reaction units and patrolling services, including neighbourhood patrols and neighbourhood watches.

The SAPS, however, continuously intervenes when complaints in relation to the abuse of power by any entity, which may constitute a criminal act or acts, are received.

Reply to question 230 recommended/~~not recommended~~

  
GENERAL  
NATIONAL COMMISSIONER: SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE  
SF MASEMOLA (SOEG)

Date: 2024-04-05

Reply to question 230 approved/~~not approved~~

  
GENERAL BH CELE, MP  
MINISTER OF POLICE

Date: 07/04/2024