

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY**QUESTION 245**

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 4-2024)

- 245. M. Gen O S Terblanche (DA) to ask the Minister of Police: [★44] [Question submitted for oral reply now placed for written reply because it is more than quota (Rule 137(8))]**

Whether he has found that the SA Police Service has the capacity to maintain law and order in the Republic, in light of the unprecedented crime wave that the Republic is currently experiencing, where an average of 75 murders and 115 cases of rape are reported daily; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

NW276E

REPLY:

The reported incidence of contact crime in South Africa remains at high levels whether read as the total number of incidents or as a number of incidents, per 100 000 of the population. The South African Police Service (SAPS) does not agree with the wording that the current levels of crime represent an 'unprecedented crime wave' in that decreases have been recorded in (7/17) of the 17 community reported crimes that are reported on, during the quarterly and annual crime statistics releases. Contact or violent crime, however, remain a cause for concern, in that it remains high and affects the safety and quality of life in most South African communities.

The SAPS has an extensive service footprint comprising 1 163 police stations that serve all of South Africa and are complemented by specialised police units and support structures, in all municipal districts and provinces.

In addition to increasing the number of police stations and mobile contact points, utilising technology to enhance police service delivery, and enhancing collaboration between SAPS and other departments in the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster, the private sector, and civil society, the SAPS has also embarked on

a multi-year programme to strengthen its human resource capacity, with support from the National Treasury.

It is important to note that crime and violent crime in particular, is influenced by a range of complex factors, including socio-economic conditions, inequality, social ills like drug abuse, community dynamics and more. Addressing these underlying causes of crime requires long-term economic, social and developmental interventions that extend beyond the scope of immediate police responses. Police responses primarily focus on dealing with the symptoms of the problem by enforcing the law, apprehending offenders and maintaining public order. While these efforts are necessary, they are not sufficient to comprehensively address the root causes of crime.

Putting an end to violent crimes and violence prevention, are not solely the responsibility of the SAPS and Government, as society also has a responsibilities to ensure that it collaborates with all governmental and non-governmental organisations that are focused on crime and violence prevention. Cabinet adopted the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy (ICVPS) in March 2022, which represents a whole of government and whole of society approach to address crime and violence. The ICVPS was informed by, *inter alia*, the 2016 White Papers on Policing and Safety and Security and the National Development Plan: Vision 2030, which also informs the SAPS National Policing Strategy of 2022.

The National Policing Strategy (NPS), adopted by the SAPS seeks to give effect to the SAPS' commitments towards addressing crime and violence, and also provide the basis for Operation Shanela, the crime combatting operation launched nationally in May 2023. The NPS also focuses on community mobilisation, including the revival of the Community Police Forums (CPFs), in 2023, which will ensure reinvigorated efforts to involve the community in the fight against crime.

The SAPS has also developed and is currently implementing the Gender Based Violence and Sexual Offences Action Plan (GBVSO), which supports the National Strategic Plan on Gender Based Violence and Femicide. A key Focus Area of the SAPS GBVSO Action Plan is continued preventative, active partnerships with civil

society organisations that impact on strengthening the norms and values of communities (such as the faith-based fraternity and traditional authorities).

The SAPS will continue to ensure collective efforts to address crime and violence in the country as envisaged in the ICVPS. The SAPS acknowledges that effective measures are needed to address the underlying factors that give rise to the commission of crime and violence, and all other stakeholders are required to play their part.

The SAPS will also continue to strengthen the SAPS' partnerships with the key departments in the JCPS Cluster, other departments within government, key role-players in the private sector and most importantly, by conducting constructive engagements with individual communities that are affected by crime, to find realistic solutions for the violent crimes that they face.

Reply to question 245 recommended/~~not recommended~~



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

Date: 2024-02-25

Reply to question 245 approved/~~not approved~~



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

Date:

26/02/2024