

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**FOR WRITTEN REPLY****QUESTION 2482**

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 26 AUGUST 2022
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 27-2022)

2482. Dr P J Groenewald (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Police:

- (1) In view of the violence against women and children, and crimes of a sexual nature in particular, what (a) is the minimum number of rape kits that must be available at a police station and (b) is the period before the kits' functioning expire;
- (2) what (a) number of offices of the SA Police Service (SAPS) do not comply with the specified requirement and (b) are the names of SAPS offices that do not meet the requirements;
- (3) whether all members of the SAPS received training in the appropriate handling of the kits; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) what measures have been put in place to ensure that a member of the SAPS who is properly trained in the use of the rape kits is available when a rape victim comes to the office to lay a charge;
- (5) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

NW2928E

REPLY**Introduction**

The term "rape kits" is used in the public domain and refers to the forensic evidence collection kits, which are used to collect evidence from victims of sexual assault and rape. However, the South African Police Service (SAPS), makes use of 16 different types of crime kits to collect various samples at crime scenes. These include the two types of evidence collection kits, namely; the Adult Sexual Assault Collection Kit (D1) and the Paediatric Sexual Assault Collection Kit (D7), which are used to collect evidence from victims of sexual assault and rape. The deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) Reference Buccal Sample Kits (DB), are used to take buccal samples from persons, who are arrested and charged, for schedule eight offences (this includes serial murderers and serial rapists), as required by the DNA Act.

(1)(a) There is no minimum requirement for the number of evidence collection kits that must be available at police stations. The number of rape cases varies from one police station to another and also varies from one time of the year to another, depending on a variety of factors. These include, *inter alia*, the population size of communities, the frequency of rape cases experienced, seasonal trends (e.g. more rapes occur around the festive season than in most other periods). Station commanders monitor stock levels at the station and make requisitions for the replenishing thereof, in order to ensure that sufficient evidence collection kits are available at all times. Provincial Commissioners monitor the availability of evidence collection kits at police stations and provide monthly returns to the National Commissioner, to certify the availability thereof.

(1)(b) The expiry date differs from supplier to supplier but on average, the expiry date of evidence collection kits, is four years.

(2)(a) None, the availability of collection kits, per province, as at 2 September 2022, is reflected in the table below.

Province	D1: Kit, Collection, Adult, Sexual Assault	D7: Kit, Collection, Paediatric, Sexual Assault	DB: Kit, Collection, Swab Reference System
Eastern Cape	3 443	3 616	6 160
Free State	2 329	3 002	3 846
Gauteng	11 618	12 711	20 403
KwaZulu-Natal	19 127	12 422	55 647
Limpopo	3 311	3 374	3 448
Mpumalanga	5 710	5 652	11 360
North West	3 728	3 297	6 724
Northern Cape	1 902	1 098	6 899
Western Cape	16 664	12 305	3 632
Total	67 832	57 477	118 119

(2)(b) Not applicable.

- (3) and (4) No formal training is required as the evidence collection kits are handled by detectives the same as any other exhibit. When a kit (D1 for adults and D7 for paediatric) is required, the detective signs for the respective kit and hands it over to the doctor and/or nurse who does the sampling. The evidence collection kits are opened and sealed again by the doctor/nurse and handed back to the detective. The detective books the sealed evidence collection kit in as evidence at SAPS 13 store, where it is kept until it is booked out and taken to the respective Forensic Science Laboratory.
- (5) The Minister of Police will decide whether he would like to make a statement, in this regard.

Reply to question 2482 recommended/~~not recommended~~




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

GENERAL

Date: 2022 -10- 0 5

Reply to question 2482 approved/~~not approved~~



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

Date: 10/10/2022