

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 2524

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 27-2022)

2524. Ms Z Majazi (IFP) to ask the Minister of Police:

- (1) In view of the gang rape of eight women in Krugersdorp, what preventative measures have since been put in place to address rape endemic scourge of rape in the Republic;
- (2) besides the identification of the perpetrators, what (a) progress has been made on the investigation to date and (b) steps has the police in the area taken to protect the survivors against victimisation;
- (3) how has the specified incident affected the approach of the SA Police Service to the prevention of sexual crimes in the Republic?

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REPLY:

- (1) The South African Police Service (SAPS) continues to implement the Departmental Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Offences (GBV&SO) Action Plan, in line with the National Strategic Plan on GBV and Femicide. Focus Area 4 of the GBV&SO Action Plan places emphasis on the prevention of GBV and sexual offences, such as rape, sexual assault, etc. The preventative measures and key activities include the following:
 - The conducting of crime threat and crime pattern analyses, in order to identify causative and contributory factors, to mobilise assistance from those bodies and entities that can address the root causes of GBV, including rape. This leads to a multi-sectoral crime prevention effort in which various disciplines apply their expertise in addressing the contributory factors to rape.
 - Implementation of GBV and sexual offences prevention and awareness raising programmes, to encourage potential offenders to behave in a manner that shows respect for others, especially women and girls.
 - Engagement of Community Policing Forums (CPFs) to promote community involvement and support, in addressing GBV and sexual offences.

- Identification and closure of illegal liquor outlets that may contribute in preventing the behaviour that harms others.
- Intensified police visibility and patrols at hot spots in public spaces.
- Regular crime prevention operations.
- Targeted tracing of wanted suspects.

The enhancement of the investigation of GBV and sexual offences has also been prioritised. Repeat offending is addressed through specialised investigation by the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences (FCS) Unit through:

- Detection that identifies and locates the perpetrators.
- Finalising court-ready dockets that form the basis of prosecution, to ensure that offenders are brought to trial. This contributes to increased conviction rates.

The implementation of the abovementioned preventive measures and the continued efforts of the FCS Unit, have led to a reduction in the number of contact crimes and sexual offences reported in the first quarter of 2022/23.

- (2)(a) A total number of 14 suspects were arrested, charged and brought before court. The cases were remanded to 28 September 2022.
- (2)(b) Victims were taken to various places of safety, whilst others are safe with family members.
- (3) The incident reinforces the need to intensify the preventative approach indicated above to address predisposing and precipitating factors of crime, through multisectoral actions.

Effective crime prevention requires a multidisciplinary approach and is not the sole responsibility of the SAPS. Primary preventative interventions address causative factors and focus on the reinforcement of positive values, which contributes to positive behaviour by those social institutions that can impact on

positive behaviour. This should include schools-based interventions and positive early childhood development crime prevention interventions. Secondary preventative interventions will focus on changing behaviour and preventing repeat offending.


The specified incident also reinforces the need for the SAPS to work together with departments and entities that can address some of the precipitating and causative factors to that incident, e.g. the implementation of crime prevention through environmental design, by engaging departments and municipalities who can assist in addressing the security of abandoned and isolated mines. The abandoned mines pose a threat to the safety of communities and exposes them to criminal activities. The SAPS will intensify community engagement on the matter, safety within institutions of learning and work with other role players, to contribute towards the prevention of sexual crimes in the country.

Reply to question 2524 recommended/~~not recommended~~


NATIONAL COMMISSIONER: SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE
SF MASEMOLA

Date: 2022-09-19

Reply to question 2524 approved/~~not approved~~


MINISTER OF POLICE
GENERAL BH CELE, MP

Date: 21/09/2022