

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY**QUESTION 378**

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 4-2023)

378. Ms S Patrein (ANC) to ask the Minister of Police: [9]

[Question submitted for oral reply now placed for written reply because it is in excess of quota (Rule 137(8))]:

- (1) What impact has he found does load shedding have on crime and safety and security concerns, especially in areas plagued by criminality;
- (2) whether his department conducted any docket analysis to determine the impact of load shedding on crime countrywide; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

NW388E

REPLY:

- (1) No, the South African Police Service (SAPS) has not conducted nor commissioned any specific study, to assess the impact that load shedding has on crime and safety and security concerns, in and around areas plagued by criminality. However, during load shedding, the recording of crime is not affected, since police stations utilise specific registers in the Community Service Centre (CSC), to record crime manually, when required. These registers include the SAPS 297 (Backup for Complaints) and SAPS 441 [Backup for Crime Administration System (CAS)], to record and register the number of complaints received and the crime that is reported to the SAPS. These incidents would then be registered on the CAS, once the electricity supply has been restored.
- (2) No, the SAPS has not done a case docket analysis to establish the impact that load shedding has on crime, because the load shedding schedules vary from one province and policing precinct, to another. Furthermore, the geographical areas in which load shedding is applied, are not necessarily aligned to specific policing precincts but to localities that are predetermined by either Eskom or by specific municipalities. Load shedding schedules are, therefore not applied uniformly across all provinces and police precincts. In addition, load shedding schedules

may change at very short notice, as is the case in instances when load shedding stages are autonomously changed, from one stage to another.

Load shedding is not a variable that is always taken into consideration when crime is recorded. Some police officers will note that the crime has happened during load shedding, while others will not record this fact. The SAPS' CAS, which is used to register reported crimes, does not make provision for the recording of the fact that crime may have taken place during load shedding.

The determination of the impact that load shedding has on the reported incidence of crime will require a thorough analysis of all of the above-mentioned variables and the application of a carefully constructed research and sampling methodology.

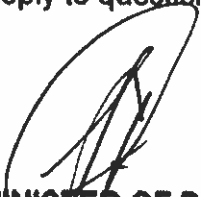
Reply to question 378 recommended/~~not recommended~~



**LIEUTENANT GENERAL
ACTING NATIONAL COMMISSIONER: SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE
TC MOSIKILI**

Date: 2023-03-01

Reply to question 378 approved/~~not approved~~



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

Date: 02/03/2023