

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY**QUESTION 450****DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 26 FEBRUARY 2021**
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 4-2021)**450. Dr P J Groenewald (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Police:**

- (1) In light of the violence against women and children, especially sexual offences, (a) in what total number of cases in each of the forensic laboratories of the SA Police Service are the results of DNA tests still outstanding and (b) for how long in each case;
- (2) what is the (a) scope of the shortage of reagens chemicals in each specified forensic laboratory and (b) reason for the specified shortage;
- (3) whether there has been any delays, with regard to the transport of forensic documentary evidence for DNA analysis; if so, (a) at which forensic laboratories and (b) what are the reasons for this;
- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

NW506E

REPLY:

- (1)(a) The total number of cases of DNA tests results, in each of the South African Police Service (SAPS) forensic laboratories, which were outstanding, on 25 February 2021, is reflected in the table below:

Category	Biology Eastern Cape	Biology KwaZulu-Natal	Biology Head Office (Pretoria)	Biology Western Cape	Total
Unclassified > 35 days	3 155	4 458	24 948	12 443	45 004
Routine > 35 days	189	79	2 472	2 087	4827
DNA Intelligence > 90 days	0	0	23 853	12 002	35 855
Non routine > 113 days	0	0	16	14	30
RI Intelligence > 90 days	0	0	56 970	30 101	87 071
Total	3 344	4 537	108 259	56 647	172 787

(1)(b) The DNA cases are outstanding for between 36 and 1 027 calendar days.

Category	Biology Eastern Cape	Biology KwaZulu-Natal	Biology Head Office	Biology Western Cape
Oldest case	28 November 2019	10 February 2020	11 January 2019	5 April 2019

(2)(a) The shortage in consumables is mostly within the DNA analysis processing environment. The consumables to do DNA analysis and specific consumables related to the kits are not available. In the Western Cape, shortages are experienced, with regard to Quantification kits, Amplification kits, as well as Direct Amplification kits for the DNA analysis of bucal samples. In Pretoria, shortages are experienced, with regard to Quantification kits, as well as Direct Amplification kits for the DNA analysis of bucal samples. Challenges are also experienced in the procurement of certain Personal Protective Equipment (PPE's), e.g. gloves, due to price changes and longer lead times.

(2)(b) Specific contracts, with regard to consumables and the service, maintenance and calibration of equipment, are outstanding. The following contracts still need to be awarded for consumables and service, as well as the maintenance and repair of equipment:

- o Contract for maintenance, service and repair of the Crime Index System 19/1/9/1/15 TP (20).
- o Contract for the procurement of consumables utilised in the semi-automated forensic DNA processing system (RI and CI) including validation and training (DNA extraction kits – semen and non-semen), DNA quantification kits, PCR amplification kits, etc.) 19/1/9/1/79 TD (19).
- o Contract for the maintenance, service, repair and calibration of laboratory instruments for FSL Biology (pipettes, biological safety cabinets, laminar flows, fume hood, tecan liquid handler, fridges/freezers, 3130XL and 3500XL genetic analysers, 7500 QPCR detection system, 9700 PCR thermocycler and the automated express extraction system 19/1/9/1/82 TP (19).

(3)(a)(b) There is no delay experienced in the transport of documentary evidence for DNA analysis. As soon as a Forensic DNA match report is finalised,

the report is immediately published electronically and is made available to investigating officers, from the Forensic Science Laboratory Administration System to the electronic case diary of the Investigation Case Docket Management System (ICDMS).

- (4) The Minister of Police will decide if he will make a statement, in this regard.

Reply to question 450 recommended/~~not recommended~~




**NATIONAL COMMISSIONER SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICES
KJ SITOLE (SOEG)**

GENERAL

Date: 2021-03-24

Reply to question 450 approved/~~not approved~~



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

Date: 06/04/2024