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| **PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA****NATIONAL ASSEMBLY** |

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**PARLIAMENT QUESTION NO.: 539**

**DATE OF SUBMISSION: 04 MARCH 2016**

**DATE OF REPLY: 18 MARCH 2016**

**QUESTION NO: 539**

**Mr J Selfe (DA) to ask the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services:**

(1) Whether the Boksburg Correctional Centre has experienced high levels of gang violence in the last six months; if so, what gangs are involved;

(2) whether (a) inmates and/or (b) officials (i) died and/or (ii) were injured due to the high levels of gang violence during the specified period; if so, what are the relevant details in each case;

(3) what steps have been taken to (a) contain the situation and (b) to eradicate gangs in the facility, if any? NW645E

**REPLY:**

1. Yes, gang related incidents were experienced during the last six (6) months at Correctional Centres A, B and C at Boksburg Management Area. Prevalent gangs involved in gang incidents include the RAF 3, Big 5, 26 and 28 Gangs.

(2)(a)(i) One (1) inmate died in November 2015 in Boksburg Medium A following an assault of an “inmate on inmate” with a sharpened object.

1. (a)(ii) – Yes, see table below.

(2)(b)(i) No officials died due to the violence.

(2)(b)(ii) – No officials were injured due to the violence.

| **(2) date of incident and centre** | **(2)****Description** | **Number of inmates involved** | **2(a)(ii) number of inmates injured** | **(1) gangs involved** |
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| 2015.10.10 Centre A | Inmate assaulted two (2) other inmates. Both victims sustained laceration injuries. | 3 | 2 | 26 and 28 gang |
| 2015.10.13 Centre A | Two (2) inmates assaulted one (1) inmate by hitting him with padlocks on his head. | 3 | 1 | 26 and 28 gang |
| 2015.10.15 Centre A | Two (2) inmates were stabbed by two (2) inmates with sharpened objects. | 4 | 2 | 26 gang |
| 2015.11.09 Centre C | Five (5) inmates assaulted one (1) inmate. | 6 | 1 | 26 gang |
| 2015.11.12 Centre A | Three (3) inmates fought amongst themselves with self-made knives.  | 3 | 3 | RAF 3 |
| 2015.11.14 Centre B | Four (4) inmates stabbed two (2) inmates. | 6 | 2 | 26 and 28 gang |
| 2015.11.16 Centre A | Two (2) inmates assaulted one (1) inmate with a sharpened object and one (1) of the perpetrators was also injured. | 3 | 2 | 28 gang and Big 5 |
| 2015.11.16 Centre B | Three (3) inmates assaulted one (1) inmate with a sharpen objet. | 4 | 1 | 28 and 26 gang |
| 2015.12.25 Centre C | Three (3) inmates assaulted each other | 3 | 3 | 26 and 28 gang |
| 2016.02.18 Centre A | Two (2) inmates stabbed one (1) inmate. | 3 | 1 | RAF 4 and Big 5 |
| 2016.02.29 Centre C | Ten (10) inmates assaulted each other. | 10 | 10 | 1. and 28 gang
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(3)(a) There is ongoing gang profiling in order to ensure improved management of gang dynamics in the correctional centre. The awareness of officials is raised on a regular basis to ensure constant vigilance and emphasis is placed on the effective management of offender complaints and requests. The utilisation of the gang management tools – especially the gang management checklist for utilisation at correctional centre level – is encouraged.

(3)(b) All inmates are made aware of the negative consequences of gangs in a correctional setting as part of the induction process and through ongoing engagement at unit level. As a matter of standard procedure all acts of violence (including those that arise due to gang activities) are investigated internally and this results in the guilty parties having their privileges reviewed. Offenders who pose a risk to the safety of other inmates are placed in single cells for closer monitoring.

It is also normal procedure that where there are injuries the cases of attempted assault, assault, assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm and attempted murder or murder are reported to the South African Police Service (SAPS) for investigation and pursuit of criminal charges. In many instances, however, most victims refuse to press criminal charges. Offenders who are found guilty of criminal offences will have their sentences prolonged or parole and release dates reviewed accordingly.

The Department is also working hard at ensuring that gang activities in correctional centres are dealt with in terms of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act (where possible and in liaison with the SAPS) as has been the case in regions like the Western Cape. The Department will also explore how the provisions of the Dangerous Weapons Act 15 of 2013 can be applied to gangs in correctional centres.