

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLYQUESTION 656

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 10-2024)

656. Mr M K Montwedi (EFF) to ask the Minister of Police:

What are the relevant details of the reasons that he has not decentralised drug testing kits to various police stations to make it easier and quicker to conduct drug tests on offenders who are arrested and in possession of drugs?

NW797E

REPLY:

Drug testing kits were tested by the South African Police Service's (SAPS) Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) and it was discovered that they provided a significant number of "false positives", which could potentially lead to wrongful arrests and subsequent civil litigation against the SAPS. During 2010, hand held drug testing devices were decentralised/distributed to 13 ports of entry, in South Africa, and were meant for screening and/or presumptive testing purposes, as the devices can only indicate the presence of a particular drug.

The Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI) also received one of the devices, due to their investigation of serious drug-related offences. The national FSL also has five of these devices, which are being used for drug-related investigations, in cooperation with either the DPCI, or the Organised Crime capability, within the Division: Detective and Forensic Services.

Drug-related case exhibits are still submitted to the FSL for confirmatory testing/analysis, due to the use of the devices having been found to lead to presumptive testing, in certain cases.

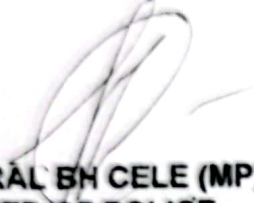
Reply to question 656 recommended/~~not recommended~~



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

Date: 2024/04/18

Reply to question 656 approved/~~not approved~~.



**GENERAL BH CELE (MP)
MINISTER OF POLICE**

Date: 26/04/2024