

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 820

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 8-2023)

820. Ms Z Majozl (IFP) to ask the Minister of Police:

In light of the fact that the latest quarterly crime statistics indicated that of the 7 555 persons murdered in the Republic in the final three months of 2022, a total of 3 144 were murdered with firearms, and considering the free flow of illegal firearms, (a) how often are firearms at police stations audited and (b) what were the outcomes of the audits for all provinces in 2022?

NW920E

REPLY:

- (a) The auditing of firearms entails the validation of the physical location of firearms and the processes that are related to the management of the storage of and movement of firearms by members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) and within facilities that are managed by the SAPS. The regulated auditing of firearms at police station level is conducted on a weekly basis by the Visible Policing Commander or the Visible Policing Support Commander. Monthly audits are conducted by the Station Commander. The District Commissioner, Provincial Commissioner and National Head Office monitor the storage and movement of firearms, by means of established clearance committees and reporting mechanisms. Various directives and procedures, for example National Instruction 8 of 2017 and the Standard Operational Procedure (SOP), both of which relate to Property and Exhibit Management, have been issued, to direct the storage and movement of firearms and to address the attendant risks.
- (b) An audit of firearms in the SAPS' exhibit management stores (SAPS 13 stores) was conducted in 2022. A national project on the auditing of SAPS 13 firearms, directed by the Division: Visible Policing and Operations, was implemented from 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022. The audit process involved the reconciliation of the number of firearms that are recorded on a manual system, with the physical inspection of the firearms at police stations, by teams led by

the Division: Visible Policing and Operations and the Provincial Commissioners' offices. Administrative and procedural irregularities were identified for rectification and where necessary, corrective steps were instituted. All SAPS 13 firearms, at selected Districts, which included those firearms that were at the Forensic Science Laboratories (FSLs) for testing, were accounted for, during the above-mentioned process.

The details of phase 1 of the national project on the auditing of SAPS 13 firearms, are reflected in the table below:

| Province | District | Number of Stations | Number of Firearms Audited |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Eastern Cape | Nelson Mandela Bay | 39 | 6 060 |
| | OR Tambo | | |
| Gauteng | All Districts | 144 | 67 138 |
| KwaZulu-Natal | eThekwin | 44 | 14 763 |
| Western Cape | City of Cape Town | 65 | 26 825 |
| Total | | 292 | 114 786 |

Phase 2 of the project will involve the roll-out of the firearms audit in the remaining provinces.

Reply to question 820 recommended/not recommended 


GENERAL
NATIONAL COMMISSIONER: SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE
SF MASEMOLA (SOEG)

Date: 2023-03-22

Reply to question 820 approved/not approved


MINISTER OF POLICE
GENERAL BH CELE, MP

Date: 28/03/2023