

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

FOR ORAL REPLY**QUESTION 17**

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 40-2023)

Question transferred from written to oral reply in terms of Rule 231:

17. Mr G Michalakakis (Free State: DA) to ask the Minister of Police: [Written question No 636]

- (1) (a) How many cases of cable theft and sabotage to water infrastructure were reported and concluded (i) in the (aa) 2019/20, (bb) 2020/21, (cc) 2021/22 and (dd) 2022/23 financial years and (ii) from 1 April 2023 up to the latest specified date for which information is available, (b) what was the outcome of each case, (c) what was the nature of each conviction and (d) what are the reasons for the withdrawal of charges and/or unsuccessful conviction in each case;
- (2) (a) what partnerships have been formed with civil society in this regard and (b) what preventative measures are in place to combat the occurrence of cable theft and sabotage to water infrastructure?

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REPLY:

- (1)(a) A total number of 19 919 copper cable theft cases¹ were reported from 2019/2020 to the end of the first quarter of 2023/2024. A breakdown of the reported cases, per financial year, is reflected in the table below:

Reported Copper Cable Theft						
Province	(i)(aa) 2019/2020	(i)(bb) 2020/2021	(i)(cc) 2021/2022	(i)(dd) 2022/2023	(ii) 2023/2024 1st Quarter	Total
EC	195	166	230	211	67	869
FS	614	433	638	603	164	2 452
GP	1 464	1 133	1 435	1 501	381	5 914
KZN	665	505	585	504	123	2 382
LIM	377	330	437	396	132	1 672
MP	644	387	336	276	54	1 697
NW	623	367	426	436	126	1 978
NC	142	61	92	119	19	433
WC	686	456	662	594	124	2 522
Total	5 410	3 838	4 841	4 640	1 190	19 919

¹ SAPS systems currently utilise one Crime Code for offences related to Essential Infrastructure. An extract cannot be made for instances where water supply was the intended target. To obtain such information, a docket analysis will have to be requested which is labour-intensive and time-consuming.

(1)(b)(c)(d) This information is not readily available. An *ad hoc* request has been made to extract the information from the Case Administration System (CAS)/Investigation Case Docket Management System (ICDMS), which takes at least five days and will, therefore, be provided, when available.

(2)(a) Non-Ferrous Metals Crime Combating Committees (NFMCCC) were established at National and Provincial levels to address non-ferrous metal and essential infrastructure-related crimes. The NFMCCC comprises all relevant internal and external stakeholders within the non-ferrous metal and essential infrastructure-related environments. External stakeholders include State Owned Entities (SOE's) such as Eskom, Telkom, Transnet and PRASA, as well as other government departments such as the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) and the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC). Private stakeholders are represented by Business Against Crime South Africa (BACSA), the South African Revenue Protection Association (SARPA), the Agricultural Federation of South Africa (AGRISA), as well as the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), to name but a few.

The SAPS also established a Second-Hand Goods Dealers' Forums (NSDF) at national, provincial and station levels, to ensure better communication between the SAPS, registered Second-Hand Goods Dealers as well as Accredited Second-Hand Goods Dealers' Associations. The NSDF is utilised as a platform to exchange information and to address industry- and policing-related challenges, within the second-hand goods environment.

There is a good working relationship between all the role players and constant monitoring of all strategies and action plans guarantees that the operational focus is maintained and is yielding success.

36/1/4/1(202300319)

- (2)(b) In addition to the abovementioned platforms, the SAPS has established 20 Economic Infrastructure Task Teams (EITT's) in all the provinces of which 18 are based at District level and two at Provincial level. The focus areas of these EITT's include the combating of essential infrastructure, critical infrastructure, illegal mining and extortion-related crime.

Monthly National Crime Combating Forum (NCCF) instructed operations are executed in all the provinces with regard to the prevention and addressing of non-ferrous metals and essential infrastructure-related crimes, e.g. copper cable theft.

Reply to question 17 recommended/not recommended


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

Date: 2023-10-24

Reply to question 17 approved/~~not approved~~


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

Date:

31/10/2023