

## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

### FOR WRITTEN REPLY

#### QUESTION 1742

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**(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 10-2026)**

#### **1742. Mr I Cameron (DA) to ask the Acting Minister of Police:**

- (1) Given that there is a significant number of firearms used by gangs that were never registered on the Central Firearms Registry, what total number of (a) firearms recovered in the Republic with legible serial numbers were found not to be recorded on the Central Firearms Registry and (b) unregistered firearms were recovered in the Western Cape in the 2025-26 financial year;
- (2) what (a) specific investigative measures have been implemented to trace the chain of custody from the original manufacturer to the point of recovery of the specified unregistered firearms and (b) total number of the specified firearms have had their full chain of custody successfully established;
- (3) with reference to all firearms seized by and/or handed over to the SA Police Service (SAPS) in the last specified reporting period, what number has been positively identified as originally belonging to the (a) SAPS, (b) SA National Defence Force and (c) private security companies?

#### **REPLY:**

- (1)(a) All legal firearms in South Africa are recorded/registered on the Enhanced Firearm Registration Systems (EFRS). Records of recovered firearms with legible serial numbers that are not on the EFRS are not available.
- (1)(b) 6 unregistered firearms were recovered in the Western Cape, from 01 April 2025 to 31 December 2026.
- (2)(a) The South African Police Service (SAPS) has developed a tracing protocol, and this protocol is based on seven points that include:
  - Physical identification.
  - Establishing the status of ownership and responsibility for control.
  - Determining the origin of a firearm through tracing details of its manufacture, dealing and previous ownership.
  - Identifying dysfunctions that relate to the loss of ownership or control.
  - Determining the chain of possession since the loss of ownership or control.

- Determining possible criminal use before and after the loss of control.
- Reassessing the evidential value of the firearm as an exhibit in criminal processes or proceedings.

The SAPS also makes use of the INTERPOL Illicit Arms Record and Record Management System (iARMS) firearm tracing program, to trace firearms internationally. Firearm investigators are trained during the SAPS Firearm Investigation Learning Program to utilise the tracing protocol with detailed practical and theoretical exercises.

- (2)(b) No statistics have been gathered to complete a national picture of all traces that have been conducted during investigations.
- (3)(a) 154 recovered firearms have been positively identified as belonging to the SAPS, from 01 April 2025 to 31 December 2026.
- (3)(b) No firearms belonging to the South African National Defence Force have been recovered, from 01 April 2025 to 31 December 2026.
- (3)(c) 205 firearms belonging to the private security companies have been recovered, from 01 April 2025 to 31 December 2026.