



GAUTENG PROVINCE

COMMUNITY SAFETY
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ms. WM Mosupyoe, MPL

Speaker of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature

Private Bag X52

Johannesburg

2000

Dear Madam Speaker,

**RESPONSE TO QUESTION 5.PS034 TABLED BY MEMBER I CILLIERS
OF THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE, DUE ON 29 JUNE 2026**

**5. PS034. WITH REGARD TO GANSTERISM, COULD THE MEC
PLEASE:**

- i. What how many murders, attempted murders and assaults in Gauteng have been linked to gang-related violence from 2022 to date;

Reply:

PERIOD	NUMBER OF MURDERS	NUMBER OF ATTEMPTED MURDERS	NUMBER OF ASSAULTS
2022/2023	63	133	7
2023/2024	83	165	4
2024/2025	62	69	1
2025/2026	50	41	0

- ii. Which age groups are most affected or recruited into gangs in Gauteng;

Reply:

Teenage boys from the age of 14 years and onwards are most affected.

- iii. Has the department identified any organised gangs operating across multiple municipalities in Gauteng;

Reply:

Yes, the following gangs have been identified:

- **Varador Cortet**
- **Fast Guns**
- **Vatos Locos**
- **Sour Boys**
- **Terribles**
- **One Umbrella Gang**

- iv. What support is provided to families and communities affected by gang violence;

Reply:

Through the Department of Community Safety, counselling is arranged for the affected families and communities. The Provincial Head: Visible Policing personally visits the affected parties to extend emotional support, and to determine if there are any other means in which they can be assisted. Witnesses are taken into witness protection if required.

- v. How many schools in Gauteng have reported incidents linked to gangsterism or gang recruitment;

Reply:

Twelve (12) schools have reported such incidents.

- vi. What measures are in place to protect witnesses and whistleblowers who report gang-related crimes;

Reply:

The identities of witnesses are protected through appropriate safeguarding measures. Where necessary, witnesses may be admitted to a witness protection programme or relocated to family members residing outside the province to ensure their safety and security.

- vii. Has the department conducted any research or assessments on the causes of gangsterism in Gauteng communities;

Reply:

SAPS has conducted assessments and identified several factors contributing to gangsterism and gang-related violence within Gauteng communities. Key drivers include competition over drug distribution territories, retaliatory violence, peer pressure, and a range of social, psychological, and environmental influences. These factors are often compounded by a desire for belonging, protection, status, and financial gain.

Research further indicates that children and young people who experience social isolation, weak family support structures, or limited community integration are particularly vulnerable to gang recruitment. Gangs frequently provide a perceived sense of family, identity, and acceptance. Additional contributing factors include exposure to violence in the home, parental substance abuse, neglect, inadequate supervision, poverty, and socioeconomic challenges, all of which increase the likelihood of individuals becoming involved in gang-related activities.

- viii. What budget has been allocated towards anti-gang interventions and community safety programmes in Gauteng;

Reply:

The budget allocation for the 2026/2027 financial year is currently being finalised. During the 2025/2026 financial year, an amount of R3 822 800.00 was allocated to the Anti-Gang Unit within the Visible Policing environment in Gauteng. This allocation was specifically intended to support the operational activities of the Visible Policing component of the Anti-Gang Unit. The investigative component arising from anti-gang operations falls under the mandate and budget of the Organised Crime Investigation environment within the province. Consequently, no separate budget allocation is currently provided specifically for anti-gang investigations.

- ix. What challenges are faced by law enforcement agencies in tackling gangsterism in Gauteng; and

Reply:

SAPS Gauteng faces several challenges in combating gangsterism, including the complex and evolving nature of gang networks involved in drug trafficking, extortion, illegal mining, and violent territorial disputes. Community reluctance to cooperate with law enforcement due to fear of intimidation and reprisals limits intelligence gathering and witness participation.

Additional challenges include low conviction rates and the absence of specialised courts dedicated to gang-related matters. Socio-economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, school dropout rates, family dysfunction, and inadequate parental supervision continue to make young people vulnerable to gang recruitment. The availability of illegal firearms, gang influence within correctional

facilities, and the re-offending of individuals following release from custody further contribute to the persistence of gang-related crime.

- x. What additional interventions are planned by the department to reduce gangsterism and improve safety in affected communities?

Reply:

SAPS will continue to strengthen anti-gang interventions through intelligence-driven operations, the expansion of specialised law enforcement capabilities, and the deployment of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) in support of SAPS in identified hotspot areas.

Additional interventions include ongoing community engagements and imbizos to strengthen partnerships with residents and improve the flow of information to law enforcement agencies. Collaboration with key stakeholders, including the Department of Correctional Services and other government departments, will be enhanced to address gang-related activities through a coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach. These interventions are aimed at disrupting criminal networks, reducing gang-related violence, and improving safety and stability within affected communities.

Regards,



Mr. Andrek Panyaza Lesufi, MPL

Premier of the Gauteng Provincial Government

Executive Authority of Gauteng Department of Community Safety

Date: 23/06/20