



## **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.PS036 TABLED BY MEMBER I CILLIERS  
OF THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE, DUE ON 29 JUNE 2026**

**5. PS036. WITH REGARD TO ILLEGAL MINING, COULD THE MEC  
PLEASE:**

- i. How (i) how many illegal mining operations have been identified in Gauteng from 2022 to date;

**Reply:**

| <b>Financial Year</b> | <b>Total Operations</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>2022-2023</b>      | <b>379</b>              |
| <b>2023-2024</b>      | <b>619</b>              |
| <b>2024-2025</b>      | <b>724</b>              |
| <b>2025-2026</b>      | <b>811</b>              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>2 533</b>            |

- ii. Which areas and municipalities in Gauteng are most affected by illegal mining activities;

**Reply:**

| <b>Ekurhuleni<br/>(9)</b> | <b>Johannesburg<br/>(6)</b> | <b>S e d i b e n g<br/>(2)</b> | <b>West Rand<br/>(8)</b> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Actonville</b>         | <b>Cleveland</b>            | <b>De Deur</b>                 | <b>Bekkersdal</b>        |
| <b>Benoni</b>             | <b>Doornkop</b>             | <b>Heidelberg</b>              | <b>Kagiso</b>            |
| <b>Boksburg</b>           | <b>Florida</b>              |                                | <b>Krugersdorp</b>       |
| <b>Boksburg<br/>North</b> | <b>Langlaagte</b>           |                                | <b>Magaliesburg</b>      |
| <b>Brakpan</b>            | <b>Mondeor</b>              |                                | <b>Mohlakeng</b>         |
| <b>Crystal Park</b>       | <b>Roodepoor</b>            |                                | <b>Randfontein</b>       |
| <b>Germiston</b>          |                             |                                | <b>Westonaria</b>        |
| <b>Primrose</b>           |                             |                                |                          |

- iii. How many arrests linked to illegal mining have been made in Gauteng during this period;

**Reply:**

| <b>Crime Type</b>                     | <b>Total</b> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Undocumented persons                  | 1 144        |
| Illegal dealing in liquor             | 10           |
| Drug Related Crime                    | 40           |
| Possession of firearms and ammunition | 9            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                          | <b>1 203</b> |

- iv. How many illegal firearms, explosives and mining equipment have been confiscated during operations against illegal miners;

**Reply:**

- **Commercial Explosives – 197**
- **Heavy Duty Machinery – 23**
- **Phenduka Stands – 107**

- Phendukas - 3 369
- Plastic Washing Basin – 267
- Stampers – 578
- Steel Pot Crushers - 1 973

v. What role do organised crime syndicates play in illegal mining activities in Gauteng;

**Reply:**

**The role of organised crime syndicates in illegal mining is viewed as the following:**

- **Create unlawful business system.**
- **Undermine the legal economic system, e.g. Tax evasion, Bank Act contravention.**
- **Contribute to environmental degrading.**
- **Indirectly contributes to the escalation of other crimes, for example, corruption, murders, human trafficking/smuggling, Immigration Act, rapes.**
- **Financially support illegal mining operations.**

vi. How many abandoned or disused mines in Gauteng are currently being used for illegal mining activities;

**Reply:**

| <b>Ekurhuleni</b> | <b>Johannesburg</b> | <b>Sedibeng</b> | <b>West Rand</b> |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>317</b>        | <b>149</b>          | <b>01</b>       | <b>147</b>       |

vii. What measures has the department implemented to combat illegal mining in Gauteng communities;



**Reply:**

**Interventions to address illegal mining and associated crimes are continuously implemented by means of a multi-faceted joint approach inclusive of internal as well as external stakeholders on different organisational levels as follows:**

**At Station Level - Intensified high visibility operations and targeted deployment of operational resources at identified illegal mining hot spots.**

**At District Level - District operations in support of identified priority stations conducted on a weekly basis in accordance with a planned matrix by means of an integrated multi-disciplinary approach comprising various stakeholders, inclusive of applicable Government Departments.**

**At Provincial level, continued functioning of the PROVJOINTS Priority Committee for the planning and evaluation of all Provincial Illegal Mining operations as per internal directives.**

**At National level, deployment of SAPS specialised units to support "Operation Karabo" includes the following role players, the National Intervention Unit, Mobile Operations Unit, Special Task Force, Tactical Response Teams, SAPS Drone Unit, SAPS Air Wing, Public Order Policing & Crime Intelligence in the four Districts where illegal mining is prevalent.**

- viii. How is the department working with SAPS, municipalities and national government to address illegal mining;

**Reply:**

**All crime prevention and crime-combatting operations aimed at addressing illegal mining are coordinated through the Gauteng Provincial Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure**

**(PROVJOINTS). Through this platform, relevant government departments, municipalities, and Metropolitan Police Departments collaborate to identify challenges, coordinate interventions, and implement integrated responses to illegal mining activities.**

**In addition, the national initiative, Operation Karabo, is implemented to strengthen the integrated approach to combating illegal mining. The operation facilitates coordinated action among law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders to disrupt illegal mining operations, address associated criminal activities, and enhance the safety and security of affected communities.**

- ix. **What impact has illegal mining had on nearby communities, infrastructure and the environment in Gauteng; and**

**Reply:**

**The South African Police Service is not in a position to comment on the impact of illegal mining on infrastructure or the environment, as these matters fall within the mandates of other relevant government departments and authorities. However, from a policing perspective, illegal mining has a significant impact on the safety and security of nearby communities.**

**Illegal mining activities are frequently associated with violent crime, gang-related conflicts, armed confrontations, robberies, extortion, human trafficking, prostitution and substance abuse. Communities situated near affected mining areas often experience heightened levels of fear and insecurity due to the presence of organised criminal groups involved in illegal mining operations. The activities of these groups contribute to instability within communities and place additional demands on law enforcement resources to prevent and combat crime.**

- x. What interventions are planned to prevent illegal mining and secure abandoned mine shafts in Gauteng?

**Reply:**

**The South African Police Service in Gauteng continues to work closely with the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources, MINTED and other relevant stakeholders to identify, monitor and secure abandoned mine shafts. Interventions include the identification and closure of accessible mine entrances, coordinated law enforcement operations targeting illegal mining activities, and ongoing multi-disciplinary engagements through established interdepartmental structures. These efforts are aimed at preventing unauthorised access to abandoned mines, disrupting illegal mining operations and enhancing the safety and security of affected communities.**

Regards,



**Mr. Andrek Panyaza Lesufi, MPL**

**Premier of the Gauteng Provincial Government**

**Executive Authority of Gauteng Department of Community Safety**

**Date:** 17/06/21