

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION 3717

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 23-2026)

3717. Mr B B Nodada (DA) to ask the Acting Minister of Police:

- (1) What is the current backlog of untested DNA samples and/or exhibits submitted for testing at the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) of the SA Police Service in each province;
- (2) what total number of the specified samples relate specifically to (a) rape, (b) murder and (c) sexual offences against children;
- (3) (a) how long has each untested sample been with the FSL for testing, (b) on what date was the oldest untested sample submitted and (c) what total number of the exhibits and/or samples have been received by the FSL but not yet registered on its system as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

NW3949E

REPLY:

- (1) The Forensic Science Laboratory manages DNA analysis through a nationally integrated system. As at the latest reporting date, the Biology Section has a total of **298 710** DNA exhibit entries on hand. Of these:
 - **251 427** entries are Reference Index samples, which are intelligence-related and not required for court purposes; and
 - **47 283** entries are Crime Index samples.

Within the Crime Index samples, **27 057** entries are already in process.

While there are no delays in the provision of forensic reports required for court proceedings, **228 017** entries currently exceed internal prescribed processing timelines. Of these:

- **194 339** are Reference Index samples, and
- **33 678** are Crime Index samples, of which **22 730** are already allocated to analysts for processing.

- (2)(a)-(c) In respect of gender-based violence-related offences, which include rape, murder and sexual offences against children, the position is as follows:

A total of **62 975** such case entries are currently on hand, comprising:

- **30 966** Reference Index samples, and
- **32 009** Crime Index samples, of which **19 043** are already in process.

During the 2025/2026 financial year, 88 306 such entries were finalised, resulting in 25 016 forensic reports. In the current 2026/2027 financial year (April to 24 June 2026), a further 19 804 entries have been finalised, with 4 958 forensic reports issued.

- (3)(a) The Laboratory processes exhibits on a First-In-First-Out basis, with the current average age of entries on hand estimated at approximately 800 calendar days.
- (3)(b) The oldest entry on hand is 1 273 calendar days. This delay is attributed to administrative errors that required correction by the Investigating Officer before processing could proceed.
- (3)(c) The Laboratory receives exhibit material in real time and conducts continuous system audits to ensure that all entries are properly registered and processed.