

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY**QUESTION 2622**

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 1 SEPTEMBER 2023
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 27-2023)

2622. Ms P Madokwe (EFF) to ask the Minister of Police:

- (1) What steps of intervention has the SA Police Service taken to stop extortion gangs targeting informal businesses and township homes across the Western Cape;
- (2) whether he has found that while the syndicates are not being investigated and arrested by the police they will become emboldened to expand to other parts of the Republic the longer they are allowed to operate?

NW3006E

REPLY:

- (1) The South African Police Service (SAPS) Western Cape has an established multidisciplinary Extortion Priority Committee, which comprises internal and external stakeholders and addresses various manifestations of extortion in the Province, including *inter alia*, extortion affecting the construction and business sectors (both formal and informal). A toll free extortion hotline with number: 0800 31 44 44 is utilised to encourage people to report cases to the SAPS.

The focus of the Extortion Priority Committee, through its integrated Extortion Task Team, includes prevention initiatives (e.g. awareness campaigns), which encourage reporting on the hotline; and focused investigations with a dedicated National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) capacity.

Informal businesses such as spaza shops, as well township homes, are addressed through integrated interventions and operations between the SAPS and various stakeholders, via the Extortion Priority Committee.

Detailed information that is made public, with regard to the integrated interventions and SAPS operational deployment, or with respect to any area of operational strategy and tactics, may pose a threat to the safety and security of

36/1/4/1(202300264)

SAPS personnel, as well as to the operational strategy and, therefore, further details cannot be provided.

- (2) Focused investigations on syndicates, with arrests, are conducted through the established integrated Extortion Task Team mentioned above, which mitigates the threat of expansion to other parts of the Republic.

Reply to question 2622 recommended/~~not recommended~~

112
AC NATIONAL COMMISSIONER: SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE
 SF MASEMOLA (SOEG) *IC M/POIKIWI* *lt. GENERAL*

Date: 2023-09-18

Reply to question 2622 approved/~~not approved~~

[Signature]
 MINISTER OF POLICE
 GENERAL BH CELE, MP

Date: 20/09/2023