

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLYQUESTION 1930

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 32-2020)

1930. Mr A G Whitfield (DA) to ask the Minister of Police:

Whether the SA Police Service will reclassify (a) farm attacks and (b) murders as a priority crime; if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

NW2445E

REPLY:

- (a) No, reference to farm attacks usually refer to incidents that are classified as aggravated robbery of a farm or dwellings on a farm and is often associated with violence perpetrated against the victims, which may range from common assault, assault with the intent to do grievous bodily harm, attempted murder, rape and murder.

The South African Police Service (SAPS) reports on 17 crimes, which are reported by the community and four crimes, which are dependent on police action for detection, in its annual release of crime statistics. The most serious of these crimes are grouped into the category, referred to as contact crimes and include murder, attempted murder, sexual offences, assault with the intent to do grievous bodily harm, common assault and aggravated robbery.

The crimes associated with farm attacks are, therefore, included in the most serious category of crime that the SAPS reports on.

- (b) The SAPS National Rural Safety Strategy was adopted in response to the threat that crime in rural areas, including murders and attacks on farms, pose to the rural economy, agriculture, food security and the peace and stability of South Africa. It recognises the need for a national response to address crime in rural areas and the need to work with stakeholders in and outside government in this regard.

All serious and violent crimes are focus areas, in the reviewed National Rural Safety Strategy that was implemented, on 1 March 2020. The implementation of the Strategy will take place over a period of five years and will end, on 31 March 2025. All incidents in rural areas, including farms and smallholdings, are analysed weekly and provinces/police stations are tasked to address identified hot spots. Rural Safety Coordinators have been appointed, to coordinate all activities within the rural policing area, to strengthen implementation of the National Rural Safety Strategy, at police station level.

Rural safety is a priority for the SAPS and the Joint Intelligence and Operational Structure (JOINTS) established Rural Safety Priority Committees, on all levels of government. These committees support the implementation of the reviewed Rural Safety Strategy and are functioning at national, provincial, cluster/district and police station level. All role players in the rural and farming community, relevant government departments and civil society are involved in these committees. The Rural Safety Priority Committees meet monthly and quarterly (depending on the tier of government) to monitor incidents of violence on farms and smallholdings, to establish trends and new developments and plan preventative interventions and operations to ensure personal, as well as food security.

Reply to question 1930 recommend/~~not recommended~~



**GENERAL
NATIONAL COMMISSIONER: SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE
KJ SITOLE (SOEG)**

Date: 2020-09-10

Reply to question 1930 approved/~~not approved~~



**GENERAL BH CELE (MP)
MINISTER OF POLICE**

Date: 18/09/2020