

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLYQUESTION 2349

DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 5 NOVEMBER 2021
(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 23-2021)

2349. Ms Z Majozi (IFP) to ask the Minister of Police:

- (1) What are the details of the findings of the joint working group fighting cable theft constituted of the SA Police Service, Telkom, Eskom, the Passenger Rail Agency and Transnet;
- (2) whether the specified joint initiative is achieving optimal results given that cable theft continues to cost the economy billions of Rands and recently affected some voting stations including Ward 81 in East Johannesburg; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the further relevant details?

NW2672E

REPLY:

- (1) A multidisciplinary Task Team was established, in May 2020, to address cable theft at the Electricity Supply Commission (Eskom). The following South African Police Service (SAPS) roleplayers are part of the team: the Division Detective and Forensic Services, the Division: Crime Intelligence, the Division Visible Policing and Operations, the Component: Corporate Communication and Liaison, the Component: Strategic Management and the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI). The external roleplayers are Eskom and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA).

An Eskom Action Plan was drafted and the intention of this Action Plan is to address non-ferrous metal and essential infrastructure-related crimes, with regard to Eskom infrastructure and commodities, such as cables, batteries, transformers, substations, coal and other expensive equipment, which is utilised in the process of ensuring the provision of electricity.

The Action Plan focuses on two types of perpetrators, namely:

- Organised/Syndicate criminals- Sophisticated, well-structured and resourced. These types of perpetrators target commodities and quantities that will ensure the most capital gains.

- Opportunistic criminals- This group is considered unorganised and erratic in their behaviour and is also referred to as "bread-and-butter" thieves. This type of perpetrator targets smaller commodities, in smaller quantities, for the purpose of satisfying their immediate needs, e.g. food or drugs.

The objectives of the Eskom Action Plan, are to:

- Prevent, combat and investigate national priority offences.
- Ensure that reliable and validated crime information is available, through controlled practices.
- Ensure the effective and efficient investigating of crime.
- Ensure effective support to the investigation of crime.
- Provide a specialised response capability, to complement other initiatives.

To achieve the above mentioned objectives the operational approach was implemented, by means of a six pillar approach:

- Pillar 1: Intelligence Gathering, Analysis and Coordination- Division: Crime Intelligence.
- Pillar 2: Proactive approach- Division: Visible Policing and Operations.
- Pillar 3: Combating approach- Division: Visible Policing and Operations.
- Pillar 4: Reactive through detection approach- Division: Detective and Forensic Services.
- Pillar 5: Communication and Liaison: Component: Corporate Communication and Liaison.
- Pillar 6: Information Management, Accountability and Coordination- Component: Strategic Management

The above initiative was rolled out in all nine the provinces. Provincial investigative teams were established in all nine the provinces. Where organised crime groupings are identified, cases are centralised and addressed though an organised crime approach.

(2) Since the inception of the above teams, the following successes were achieved.

Arrests: 28 suspects were arrested, in 15 cases.

Convictions: Criminal Matters Amendment Act, 2015 (Act No. 18 of 2015)

Two accused found were guilty and both sentenced to three years imprisonment, on the first count and one year imprisonment, on the second count.

One accused was found guilty and sentenced to 12 years direct imprisonment and declared unfit to possess a firearm.

Reply to question 2349 recommended/~~not recommended~~



NATIONAL COMMISSIONER: SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE
KJ SIOLE (SOEG)

GENERAL

NATIONAL COMMISSIONER: SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE
KJ SIOLE (SOEG)

Date: 2021-12-24

Reply to question 2349 approved/~~not approved~~



MINISTER OF POLICE
GENERAL BH CELE, MP

Date: 30/12/2021