

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION 544.**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION OF INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 21/02/2025**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER: 03/2025**

**544. Ms C Jordaan (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

(1) With reference to the briefing of the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education on 4 February 2025, where questions were asked about the activities around school safety and her department's plans to engage with the SA Police Service (SAPS) to explore new and collaborative strategies for improving school safety, (a) what are the 10 high-incident districts, (b) what criteria were used to identify the specified districts in Gauteng, Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape and (c) how will the operational plan for the SAPS support in the specified districts be structured;

(2) (a) by what date does she envisage the finalisation of the updated Partnership Protocol between her department and the SAPS, (b) what key changes will be introduced compared to the previous Adopt-a-Cop model (c) what is the estimated time frame for implementation?

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#### Response

The demarcation of education districts differs from municipal boundaries. For this purpose, the Department of Basic Education (DBE) considered police stations that service multiple education districts in some instances. These police stations were identified based on consistent crime patterns affecting schools in their respective policing areas.

RSA Position	Prov Position	Station	Province	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	Count Diff	(%) Change
1	1	Mfuleni	Western Cape	2 603	2 735	2 561	2 812	3 123	3 276	2 815	3 249	3 835	4 335	500	13,0%
2	1	JHB Central	Gauteng	4 881	4 886	5 301	5 253	5 414	4 828	3 150	3 855	4 200	4 229	29	0,7%
3	2	Nyanga	Western Cape	4 037	4 824	4 959	4 784	4 260	3 522	3 622	3 466	4 065	4 055	-10	-0,2%
4	3	Delft	Western Cape	2 484	2 446	2 633	3 181	3 491	3 603	3 146	3 464	3 308	3 769	461	13,9%
5	4	Mitchells Plain	Western Cape	5 199	5 232	4 728	4 362	4 302	4 231	2 713	2 839	3 414	3 649	235	6,9%
6	2	Tembisa	Gauteng	2 545	2 594	2 220	2 712	2 744	3 577	3 075	3 347	3 659	3 599	-60	-1,6%
7	5	Harare	Western Cape	3 074	3 104	2 875	2 521	2 449	2 511	2 300	3 000	3 235	3 520	285	8,8%
8	1	Durban Central	KwaZulu-Natal	2 425	2 552	2 634	2 592	2 850	2 746	2 054	2 721	3 538	3 479	-59	-1,7%
9	2	Plessislaer	KwaZulu-Natal	2 467	2 712	2 636	2 813	2 919	3 035	3 047	3 419	3 432	3 414	-18	-0,5%
10	3	Inanda	KwaZulu-Natal	2 961	3 131	3 082	3 194	3 060	3 295	2 834	3 161	3 192	3 405	213	6,7%

The DBE considered the SAPS quarterly report and crime statistics for Quarter 2 of the 2024/25 financial year. The top 10 crime hot-spot police stations were identified based on criminal activities occurring in schools within their policing areas. This data was a key determinant for prioritising focus areas for intervention by the DBE and SAPS.

The DBE and SAPS have:

- Reviewed the Collaborative Partnership Protocol to strengthen school safety initiatives;
- Developed a national work plan for implementation across all provinces; and
- Established regular quarterly standing meetings between the DBE and SAPS to monitor and update progress on the implementation of the work plan.

The updated Partnership Protocol is expected to be signed by the end of March 2025.

The key changes that will be introduced compared to the previous Adopt-a-Cop model are as follows:

- Strengthening the functionality of school safety committees;
- Ensuring consistent support and engagement from School Safety Officers at local police stations; and
- A joint DBE-SAPS work plan to ensure structured collaboration and progress tracking, with quarterly reporting mechanisms.

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The protocol will have an open-ended timeframe, and the work plan will be continuously adapted to address emerging safety concerns in collaboration with all key role players.

For further information, the Honourable Member is advised to engage with the respective Provincial Education Departments for district-specific implementation details.