

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**ORAL REPLY**

**QUESTION 398**

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**398. Ms A M van Zyl (DA) to ask the Minister of Basic Education: to ask the Minister of Basic Education:**

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Whether, with reference to the 19 murders and 67 cases of rape that have occurred on school premises in the period 1 April 2023 to 30 June 2023 as reported in the crime statistics of the SA Police Service, her department has taken any steps to address the scourge of aggravated contact crimes on school premises; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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##### Response

The Department developed the National School Safety Framework (NSSF), which is the anchor of safety programmes in schools. It's primary objective is to manage and prevent violence. Subsequently all schools were trained in implementing the NSSF as well as mandating schools to:

- Link the school with local police stations – expressed in the signed **Collaborative Protocol on the Prevention of Crime and Violence in Schools with the SAPS**
- Establish a school safety committees
- Appoint school safety officers
- Conduct safety audits and learner safety surveys; and
- Ensure that access to the schools is controlled.

The SAPS identifies hot-spot schools (based on crime intelligence assessment), as well as priority schools in each district every year. Special intervention programmes are developed to support and assist schools in managing and preventing crime and violence in schools. Some of the actions being taken are:

- Metal detectors are procured for schools in hot-spot areas
- Random searches and seizures intensified
- Implementation of crime prevention programmes with stakeholders
- Anti-violence campaigns are conducted in hot spot areas to promote a safe school environment.