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Department:
Community Safety and Transport Management
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



OFFICE OF THE MEC

Tirelo Building, Albert Luthuli Drive,
Mafikeng, 2745
P/Bag X 19 Mmabatho 2735
Tel: +27 (18) 200

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, 05 MARCH 2025

JOINT MEDIA BRIEFING BY MEC WM MORWENG AND MAJOR GENERAL PATRICK ASANENG 2024/2025 THIRD QUARTER CRIME STATISTICS

Stilfontein Police Station – 12:00

Chairperson of Portfolio Committee Honourable Freddy Sonakile

Executive Mayor for Matlosana Local Municipality Cllr Fikile Mahlophe

Acting Provincial Commissioner, General Asaneng

Councillors from both district and local municipalities here present

Chief Director for Provincial Secretariat for Police Services, Mme Mpho Rantona

Officials from the Department, local and district municipalities and senior SAPS officers here present

Members of the Media

Good afternoon

We are gathered here this afternoon to release the 2024/2025 Third Quarter Crime Statistics. As you will see when the figures are released, there are areas where as a Province we did very well in fighting crime. The statistics we are releasing today are from October to December 2024. It is worth mentioning that this period includes the festive period which added more pressure on the officers. This period is inclusive of the beginning of the holidays, closing of the schools and the factories and the start of the festivities and traveling both in and out of the country.

During this period, there is an increased crime incidents which include robberies, burglaries, accidents, muggings and therefore calls for intensified policing.

“Let's Grow North West Together”



However, for the period under review, as a Province we had a general decrease in crime. We recorded a total of twenty-six thousand, nine hundred and ninety-nine (26 999) cases which are over one thousand one hundred (1 100) cases less than for the corresponding period the previous year. This translates into three-point nine (3.9%) percent decrease. In total the Province had a six-point six (6.6%) contribution to the national total.

However, there are areas where we need to intensify our operations. Not surprisingly one of these is in the area of illegal mining. As had been emphasised before, illegal mining is costing the economy of the country well over 70 billion Rand annually in gold mining alone. Added to this, illegal mining has other causal ramifications with sinkholes the common immediate detriment.

We are grateful for the successful operation in Stilfontein where though, the problem is not completely over, it had been significantly stemmed. Just as we were heaving a collective sigh of relief on the back of the Stilfontein operation success, another similar challenge reared its head elsewhere in the Province. The Vala Umgothi operation had recently arraigned 22 illegal mining suspects in the Bojanala District.

Of particular interest is that the nationalities of the arrested are no longer just from Africa but from Asia as well. Of those arrested previously, nationalities varied from Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi. Now added to those nationalities we have some from Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and Pakistan.

For the reporting period we had a 2.5% decrease on the contact crimes, 10.5% decrease on property related crimes and a 2.2% on other serious crimes category. Even though there was a general decrease in crime, contact related crimes increased by 2.3%. Malicious damage to property contributed most cases which is one thousand nine hundred and sixty-nine (1 969) cases. This is 48 more cases compared to the previous year, which is a 2.5% increase.

Despite the reduction in crime generally, certain crime patterns were more prevalent in some areas. Bojanala continued to lead particularly with serious and violent crimes with Rustenburg appearing in the top 12 stations in the country. Dr Kenneth Kaunda District is a provincial hotspot for illegal mining, sexual offences and all assaults. The district has both operational and non-operational gold mines which contributes to the problem of illegal mining and associated crimes.

This district also has a challenge of gangs, which are often involved in crimes such as rape, robberies, murder, assaults and drugs particularly in the Matlosana Local Municipality. Ikageng in Potchefstroom continuously report assaults cases and appears in the National top 30 Stations for this crime.

Reported crimes in Ngaka Modiri Molema include assault and murder and stock theft. This is the similar pattern in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati which also recorded sexual offences.

For the total figure twenty-six thousand, nine hundred and ninety-nine (26 999) cases reported in the Province, 11 958 were in Bojanala, 6 580 in Dr KK, 5530 in Ngaka Modiri Molema and 2931 in Dr RSM district.

Although murder cases went down by 48,14% compared to the previous year, it is worth noting that Boitekong in Rustenburg, Mmabatho in Mahikeng and Kanana in Orkney had reported more cases. There had been ten multiple murder cases resulting in 24 deaths. Ngaka Modiri Molema recorded an increase in the number of murder cases.

The Province has recorded 146 rape cases less than the previous reporting period which is a decrease of 14.3%. Despite this decrease, Mmabatho has recorded more rape cases than the previous year for the same period. Dr Kenneth Kaunda however still remains the Provincial hotspot for rape cases. There had been 679 cases less in property related crimes which 10.5% decrease. Stock theft remains a problem in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District with most reported in Taung, Pudumong and Ganyesa. In majority of the cases livestock stolen in the Province is sold in Gauteng.

As we have indicated before, we are intentional in fighting gender-based violence and sexual offences. And I would like to express a sincerest gratitude to General Asaneng and the team for recent successful convictions as a result good investigative work. We have recently secured several successful persecutions that included long term and life sentences.

We are all well aware that crime fighting though primarily is the mandate of the police. However, successful crime fighting requires us all to work together. The North West Department of Community Safety and Transport Management, through the Chief Directorate Provincial Secretariat of the Police Service is committed to support SAPS in this endeavour.

The Department will continue to promote relations between the police and the communities, by providing support to community structures in ensuring their participation in crime prevention initiatives. Community Police Forums and all community-based structures will be supported through monitoring, capacity building and funding of initiatives. This will include appointment of community safety patrollers in all the Districts in priority areas, targeting youth, women and vulnerable groups.

The Department will further embark on engagements with key stakeholders to fight the stock theft in the province which as we will see in the figures, is one of our headaches. In addressing the challenge of Gender Based Violence, the Department will also monitor the implementation of the Domestic Violence Act to ensure that there is compliance in servicing victims and survivors.

We will also intensify community engagements commonly known as Imbizos, dialogues, media campaigns, awareness programmes and partnership with Community based structures. This will be done especially in identified areas as per SAPS trends and patterns.

In conclusion, the Department is working towards full implementation of the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy. This strategy recognises that socio-economic contributors to the risks associated with crime and violence go far beyond the scope of the mandate of the police. This includes a multiplicity of risk factors, which must be addressed collaboratively by all stakeholders.

Furthermore, the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy seeks to promote the implementation in an integrated, developmental, collaborative, knowledge and evidence-based approach to the prevention of crime and violence in the country. Therefore, the commitment of all stakeholders, including communities, civil society organisations, traditional leaders, business community, and public institutions in all spheres of government is needed to effectively implement this strategy.

The District Development Model (DDM) spearheaded by the Department of Cooperative Governance remains crucial for the effective implementation of the strategy. This is to ensure an integrated, multi sectoral and coordinated approach to the implementation of the strategy across the three spheres of government. The strategy emphasises the importance of integrating planning and budgeting, and mobilising capacity and resources of government and civil society to effectively prevent crime and violence.

I will now hand over to General Patrick Asaneng to lead the presentation of the statistics for various crime patterns.

ENDS!!

**ISSUED JOINTLY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND TRANSPORT
MANAGEMENT AND THE OFFICE OF THE SAPS PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER, NW**

For enquiries and interviews:

Media Liaison Officer, Mr Charles Matlou

Cell: +27 72 444 3093

CharlesMatlou@nwpg.gov.za

For more information, contact Brigadier SB Mokgwabone

Provincial Head: Corporate Communication and Liaison (North West Province)

Telephone: 018 299 7032

Cell No.: 082 496 9642

Email: MokgwaboneS@saps.gov.za

Communication Services Director, Mr Oshebeng Alpheus Koonyaditse

Cell: +27 82 095 9015

Email: oshebeng@nwpg.gov.za

Departmental Email: nwcosatma@nwpg.gov.za

Facebook Page: Department of Community Safety and Transport Management

X: @nwpgCommSafety

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