

Oral Reply

10. Ms A P Bans to ask Ms A J D Marais, Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety:

In respect of violent crimes in and around Philippi and its spiralling effect on education in the areas:

What programmes is her department implementing to ensure the safety of educators, learners and the broader society in Philippi?

THE MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY TO REPLY:

- 10.** The Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety does not directly manage school safety programs. However, it plays a crucial role in enhancing community-based safety structures, which indirectly contribute to creating safer school environments and public spaces.

Philippi is one of 18 priority areas identified by the Department due to consistently high levels of crime and violence. These areas are targeted for intensified community-based safety interventions under the Area-Based Team (ABT) approach. This approach brings together local government, civil society, the South African Police Service (SAPS), and community stakeholders to coordinate safety and social development initiatives.

While the Department does not intervene directly within schools, its support for local safety structures helps create safer environments for educators, learners, and residents. These efforts address the root causes of violence, foster community resilience, and improve local safety governance.

10.1 Key Safety Initiatives in Philippi East policing precinct

10.1.1 Community Policing Forum (CPF) Funding and Support

- In the 2024/25 financial year, the Philippi East CPF received R25,000 in departmental funding to implement a drug awareness campaign in partnership with an accredited Neighbourhood Watch (NHW). The campaign aimed to increase public awareness about substance abuse and its connection to violent crime.

10.1.2. Neighbourhood Watch Accreditation and Capacity Building

- The Department supports accredited NHWs by providing training, funding, and operational oversight. NHWs play a crucial role in enhancing public safety through visible patrolling, crime reporting, and collaboration with the South African Police Service (SAPS), contributing to safer spaces, particularly around schools.
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10.1.3 Strengthening Community-Police Collaboration

- Through ongoing engagement and oversight, the Department empowers CPFs to take a proactive role in local safety planning. These forums also received Community Safety Planning and Implementation training in the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial year to respond to area-specific challenges.

10.1.4 Monitoring and Accountability

- All funded projects are subject to financial oversight, with mandatory submission of expenditure records and feedback reports. This ensures that public funds are used effectively to enhance safety and deliver measurable outcomes.

In alignment with the Department's strategic focus on "**Strengthening Community-Based Safety through Community-Owned Safety Initiatives**," these efforts, though not directly implemented in schools, contribute meaningfully to safer learning environments and improved public safety in high-risk communities such as Philippi.

10.2 LEAP deployment in Philippi East policing precinct

Furthermore, the Department in collaboration with the CoCT deploys LEAP officers in support of the SAPS in the affected police station precincts. The deployment is as follows:

- Hanover Park in Philippi – LEAP Reaction Unit contingent of 40 Learner Law Enforcement Officers (LLEO's)
- Philippi East station precinct – 172 LLEO's

It should be noted that above deployment account for 24% of the overall available LLEO "boots on the ground" compliment. Both deployments operate on shifts and offer a 24/7 service to these affected areas.
