

## WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

No 21 - 2025 Second Session, Seventh Parliament

FRIDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2025

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

### 15. Mr P Johnson to ask Mr D J Maynier, Minister of Education:

- (1) (a) What total budget has his Department allocated to school safety and security for the 2025/26 festive season and (b) how will it be spent;
- (2) (a) which areas have been identified as hotspots for crime, vandalism or theft at schools, (b) what were the (i) total number and (ii) type of incidents reported from term 1 to term 3 of 2025 in these areas and (c) what has been the total cost to his Department for repairs, replacements and security interventions in these areas;
- (3) (a) what lessons learnt from previous holiday periods and festive seasons are being applied to improve school safety in the 2025/26 festive season and (b) what is his Department's focus for the 2025/26 festive season;
- (4) whether there are partnerships with law enforcement agencies, community organisations or private security providers to enhance school safety; if so, (a) what are the roles of each partner and (b) how will these partnerships be coordinated during the 2025/26 festive season?

Reply:

### 15. My department has informed me of the following:

- (1) (a) Total Budget for the 2025/26 festive season = R5 223 934.  
(b) The allocation is for Holiday Security.
- (2) (a-b) Top 20 Areas reporting crime, vandalism or theft at schools:

Area	Total no. of Cases
Mitchells Plain	171
Paarl	83
Manenberg	82
Bonteheuwel	55
Khayelitsha	44
Worcester	37

Area	Total no. of Cases
Gugulethu	36
Bridgetown	35
Delft	33
Kensington	32
Hanover Park	29
Heideveld	28
Lavender Hill	28
Retreat	27
Athlone	26
Lotus River	25
Valhalla Park	25
Pelican Park	24
George	21

(c) The total estimated costs for repairs/replacements due to burglary and vandalism for the whole province: R5 178 909.

(3) (a) Key lessons from past holiday/festive seasons:

- School burglaries, vandalism and theft spike during holidays.
- Keeping learners busy with structured programmes reduces risk.
- Multi-layered safety works best, i.e. physical security, partnerships and community involvement.
- High-visibility, data-driven policing during festive periods improves safety around schools.

(b) Focus for 2025/26 festive season:

- 24-hour security at extremely high-risk schools.
- Reallocating resources based on recent incidents.
- Whole-of-government and community coordination with local law enforcement and other community partners, aligning safety operations.
- Increased policing around hotspots with synchronised festive-season patrols near vulnerable schools and within the Area Based Teams geographical locations.
- Data-driven planning – using incident data for targeted prevention and rapid reporting/escalation.
- Environmental and asset security – recommendation to schools to ensure secure storage and better asset management.
- Community communication – campaigns encouraging vigilance, reporting and support for school safety.

(4) (a-b) Key partners and their roles:

1. South African Police Service (SAPS):

- SAPS is a central partner in the WCED Safe Schools “whole-of-Government” (WOGA) strategy.
- During holiday/festive periods, SAPS is involved in Safe Schools holiday programmes.
- Random patrols, visible policing, and search and seizures.

2. City of Cape Town: Law Enforcement:

- They provide School Resource Officers (SROs): these are stationed in high-risk schools to handle crime and safety related issues directly in schools.
- They also conduct random school searches (e.g., for weapons or drugs) supporting safer school premises.
- In some high-risk areas, the WCED leverages the Cape Town City (Law Enforcement Advancement Plan (LEAP) officers to stabilize situations in the vicinity of some schools for safer teaching and learning, especially when gang activity is high.

3. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Community Organisations:

- Safe Schools holiday programmes are run together with NGOs and community organisations.
- Community Policing Forums and Neighbourhood Watches also assist with community mobilisation, crime reporting and facilitating safe-space youth development.

4. WCED Safe Schools Call Centre:

- While not “external”, the Call Centre functions as a coordination hub. It receives reports (from learners, parents and educators) on crime, violence, vandalism, abuse, etc.
- The Call Centre makes referrals to the correct agencies: Emergency Services, SAPS, counselling services, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and community-based organisations.

(b) Partnerships coordination in the 2025/26 festive season:

i. SAPS-led Safer Festive Season operational plan

- The Western Cape provincial government (via Community Safety and Police Oversight) has confirmed a Safer Festive Season Operational Plan involving SAPS, metro police, private security, LEAP, neighbourhood watches and other law-enforcement partners.
  - This plan will integrate school safety concerns into the broader crime prevention strategy for the festive period: increased visibility, patrolling and rapid response in “hotspot” areas which includes areas around schools.
- ii. Whole-of-Government and Whole-of-Society model:
- The Safe Schools Programme is built on a whole-of-government approach, linking WCED with SAPS, the Department of Community Safety, the Department of Social Development and the City's Law Enforcement.
  - During the festive season, these agencies coordinate through existing systems: safety planning, resource deployment and joint operations to protect vulnerable schools.
  - The Whole-of-Society element means community groups, NGOs and Community Policing Forums (CPFs) are already integrated into Safe Schools' platform.
- iii. Safe Schools Call Centre as a Coordination Hub:
- The Safe Schools Call Centre (0800 45 46 47) remains a central node for reporting incidents, especially during holidays.
  - During the festive season, the Call Centre can triage calls, escalate to Emergency Medical Services (EMS), law enforcement (SAPS and municipal police) and refer to NGO or community-based organisations for counselling or youth development support. This ensures a fast and coordinated response.
- iv. Deployment of School Resource Officers (SROs):
- WCED funds 82 SROs in partnership with the City of Cape Town in high-risk schools and areas. These officers also patrol during the festive season.
  - Because SROs are funded/co-funded by WCED and are linked to priority schools, coordination with SAPS and other law enforcement for holiday safety operations is smoother.
- v. Holiday/Youth Programmes in partnership:

- Safe Schools runs holiday programmes (life skills, leadership, conflict management). A few districts will host programmes as there are public holidays shortly after schools close.
  - These programmes create a structured and supervised presence in communities during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of school closures, which helps deter crime and ensures that young people remain engaged and connected with safety partners.
- vi. Community Policing Forums and Neighbourhood Watches:
- The Department of Community Safety supports accredited neighbourhood watch structures, which are mobilised especially in high-risk communities.
  - These community actors (CPFs, Neighbourhood Watches) will work with SAPS, LEAP and local law enforcement to monitor schools, report suspicious activity and act as local safety eyes during the festive season.
- vii. Law Enforcement Advancement Project (LEAP)
- LEAP is part of operations in high-risk communities, helping to “stabilize situations” around schools.
  - For the festive season, LEAP officers are explicitly mentioned in the Safer Festive Season Operation Plan, supporting SAPS and community safety efforts around schools.
  - Their role may involve targeted patrols, intelligence-led deployments and working with community structures to prevent crime in the areas around schools.
- viii. Regular planning and engagement mechanisms:
- Safe Schools as part of the Whole-of-Government structure have been part of meetings before festive periods, involving WCED, SAPS, Community Safety, municipal Law Enforcement and Provincial Disaster Management to align on resource allocation, risk areas and response protocols.
  - There has been engagement with communities (CPFs, parent groups) to encourage local reporting, vigilance and cooperation during the break. The public call from WCED to community members to watch over schools during holidays supports this.