

24. Ms B M van Minnen to ask Ms A J D Marais, Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety

With regard to the Peace Officer Programme:

- (1) (a) Which municipalities are currently participating in this programme, (b) how many peace officers have been supported through this programme by her Department in each participating municipality, (c) what is the total number of individuals currently employed through this programme, (d) what was the total budget allocated by her Department to support this Programme in the (i) 2023/24, (ii) 2024/25 and (iii) 2025/26 financial years, (e) what specific (i) roles and (ii) responsibilities do the peace officers perform in relation to facilities or programmes falling under her Department and (f) what training and capacity-building programmes are provided to peace officers participating in this programme;
- (2) whether her Department has conducted any assessment of the impact of this programme on community safety and the creation of employment; if so, what were the key findings?

THE MINISTER OF POLICE OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY TO REPLY:

24. (1)(a) The Department formalised agreements on the training and deployment of Trainee Peace Officers within the below B-municipalities. Peace Officers were trained and are currently deployed in Trainee Officer EPWP Internship positions within the respective Law Enforcement Departments in the B-municipalities mentioned below.

Table 1: List of B-Municipalities

No	Municipality	District Municipality
1.	Drakenstein	Cape Winelands
2.	Stellenbosch	
3.	Hessequa	Garden Route
4.	Oudtshoorn	
5.	George	
6.	Bergrivier	West Coast
7.	Cederberg	
8.	Matzikama	
9.	Laingsburg	Central Karoo
10.	Beaufort West	

Three (3) additional B-municipalities will commence their Second-Generation Peace Officer Training from 08 April to 21 May 2026. These municipalities are Cape Agulhas, Breede Valley and Swellendam.

(b) All 24 category B-municipalities in the Western Cape has been supported from 2022/2023 to 2025/2026 with the rollout of the first-generation Trainee Peace Officers Programme. During 2025/2026 the department started its second-generation rollout of the Peace Officer Training Programme to continue to strengthen the law enforcement departments across the province. Therefore, identified B-municipalities, since 2025/2026 received a second generation of Peace Officers Training that are earmarked to reach all 24 rural B-municipalities over the MTEF.

Table 2: Number of Peace Officers supported per B-municipality: 2022/23-2025/26

District Municipality	No	Municipality	PERIOD				Total Peace Officers Trained per Municipality to date
			2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	
Cape Winelands	1	Drakenstein		18		22	40
	2	Stellenbosch	15			26	41
	3	Witzenberg	7				7
	4	Breede Valley			11		11
	5	Langeberg			19		19
Garden Route	6	George		10		21	31
	7	Hessequa		17		20	37
	8	Knysna		20			20
	9	Bitou		20			20
	10	Mossel Bay		13			13
	11	Kannaland			19		19
	12	Oudtshoorn				20	20
Overberg	13	Overstrand	15				15
	14	Swellendam		19			19
	15	Theewaterskloof		18			18
	16	Cape Agulhas		20			20
West Coast	17	Bergrivier	16			21	37
	18	Matzikama			15	13	28
	19	Swartland	18				18
	20	Saldanha			19		19
	21	Cederberg				20	20

District Municipality	No	Municipality	PERIOD				Total Peace Officers Trained per Municipality to date
			2022/23	2022/23	2022/23	2022/23	
Central Karoo	22	Beaufort West				24	24
	23	Prince Albert			19		19
	24	Laingsburg				13	13
Total Peace Officers Trained per municipality and per year			71	155	91	211	528

(c) The Department funds Peace Officers for the first 12 months on the POCS EPWP Peace Officer Internship programme. Thereafter, the law enforcement departments of the various B-municipalities are requested to provide further career pathing and support to the peace officers subject to budget availability. The total trainee peace officers currently in employment amount to 307 officers at various B-municipalities and other institutions.

(d) The total annual budget is as outlined below. The budget below amount excludes the POCS EPWP internship costs.

Table 3: Annual budget per financial year: 2023/24-2025/26

Financial year	Total Annual Budget	Percentage
(i) 2023/2024	R4 866 000,00	38,4%
(ii) 2024/2025	R5 400 000,00	42,6%
(iii) 2025/2026	R2 400 000,00	18,9%
Overall Total	R12 666 000,00	100,0%

(e) (i) The Trainee Peace officers are provided with accredited SASSETA training and upon successful completion are deployed in Trainee Peace Officer EPWP Internship positions within their respective Law Enforcement Departments in B-municipalities. Their Trainee internship positions allow for further on the job training under the supervision of law enforcement officers and supervisors.

(ii) The operational functions of Trainee Peace Officers at B-municipalities include:

- Assisting with specific activities associated with public safety, monitoring the Municipal Area and act on situations / behavior which are non-compliant with legislation in a trainee role,
- Assisting with enforcement of all municipal by-laws under supervision of Law Enforcement officers,

- Conducting regular patrols under supervision of Law Enforcement officers
- Doing access control duties as and when required,
- Doing control room duties as and when required,
- Supporting LEO's with complaints on non-compliance to municipal by-laws and report to superior
- Completing specific reports, statutory documentation and registers under supervision.
- Patrolling and observing streets and identifying non-compliance practices under supervision;
- Ensuring that inconvenience and/or risks to safety are minimized other basic safety duties as requested from time to time by LEO Supervisors.

(f) The Department in Partnership with the Public Safety Training Academy (City of Cape Town) provides the accredited SAQA (South African Qualifications Authority) training modules which comprises of the following modules and curriculum outcomes:

Table 4: Accredited Curriculum of the Peace Officers Programme

	SAQA Standard	Training Modules
a)	SAQA ID 377224	• Law Enforcement and the Constitution;
		• The Constitution of South Africa 108 of 1995;
		• Principles of criminal law and rules of interpretation of law;
		• Outline of the law of criminal procedure;
		• Legislation and the National Road Traffic Act pertaining to traffic wardens;
		• Schedule 1 and 3 offences;
		• Law of Evidence and Criminal courts;
		• Practical: 56 & 341 administrative notices;
b)	SAQA ID 120746	• Adherence to professional conduct; and • Organizational ethics

(2) The programme was only established in 2022/2023 and improved in its current format to build the capacity of rural B-Municipality Law enforcement Departments. The department has started with monitoring and evaluation with the municipalities. An Impact assessment of the programme is envisaged to be conducted during the MTEF period subject to budget availability.