

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO 1847

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(INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 32/2008)

Date reply submitted: 12 December 2008

Mr G R Morgan (DA) to ask the Minister of Safety and Security:

- (1) Whether the Independent Complaints Directorate are investigating the incident that occurred on 17 September 2008 at a certain school (name furnished) where members of the SA Police Service (SAPS) are alleged to have administered corporal punishment to learners; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) Whether action will be taken against any SAPS members who have been found to have administered corporal punishment to the learners; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) Whether action will be taken against the station commissioner under whom the above SAPS members serve; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) Whether he will publicly condemn the actions of the SAPS members; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

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REPLY

- (1) The ICD conducted investigations into the alleged assault of pupils on 17 September 2008 at Xholobeni Junior Secondary School. The investigation confirmed that the principal summoned the help of the police stationed at Mpisi Police Station after the pupils were allegedly unruly and had howled at him when he banned the charging of mobile phones using the school's solar powered energy. It is alleged that three members of the aforesaid station proceeded to the school where they conducted a search on the pupils. The search yielded mobile phones and chargers. It is further alleged that the three members ordered the pupils to line along the wall with their hands high against the wall. It was during this time that corporal punishment was allegedly administered.
- (2) The ICD has made recommendations to the Senior Public Prosecutor to take action against members involved on charges of assault and at the same time made recommendations to SAPS management for disciplinary action against the said members.

- (3) Nothing implicates the involvement of the station commissioner in the alleged incident.
- (4) The investigation on the matter has not yet been concluded.

Reply to question 1847 approved by Minister.

MINISTER'S INFORMATION

ICD is however concerned that the station commissioner was ignorant of an incident even though the report of the telephonic complaint lodged by the principal was recorded in the occurrence book (OB) and those members were dispatched to attend to it.