



## **EFF STATEMENT ON RECENT QUARTERLY CRIME STATISTICS**

Friday, 30 August 2024.

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) notes the recent quarterly crime statistics released by the Minister of Police, which paint a harrowing picture of the continued and escalating violence that plagues our society.

These statistics reveal a disturbing increase in crimes against women between April and June 2024, with rape cases climbing from 9,252 to 9,309—an increase that highlights the ongoing war against women in South Africa. The report additionally revealed that in the same period, a staggering 11,566 sexual assault offences were recorded across the country—averaging 3,855 per month, or roughly 129 brutal incidents every single day. This country has become a death trap for women, where they are not even safe within the confines of a police station, as assaults are even perpetrated by the very people meant to protect them.

The overall crime statistics are equally alarming, with nearly 6,200 people murdered in just three months, and contact crimes increasing by 2.6% compared to the previous year. Furthermore, a shocking 35,098 robberies with aggravating circumstances were recorded between April and June 2024, averaging 390 per day or a staggering 16 per hour. South Africa is evidently now an open-air prison, where criminals roam free, emboldened by a lenient sentencing system and a sluggish justice process that fails to instil any sense of fear or consequence.

It is unsurprising that under the watch of the African National Congress (ANC), crime continues to spiral out of control. The ANC has shown time and again that it lacks the political will to curb the high rates of crime, and the situation is set to worsen under the ANC-DA coalition, as the Democratic Alliance (DA) has proven equally inept in addressing crime, particularly in the Western Cape. This province, home to the police stations with the highest reports of murder, is a grim testament to the DA's failure to protect its citizens, we can therefore not expect them to do anything for crime in the entire nation.

The EFF has consistently advocated for a complete overhaul of South Africa's crime prevention and law enforcement strategies. Recognising that the current criminal intelligence service has deteriorated under the ANC's leadership, with law enforcement in South Africa becoming deeply entrenched in corruption, effectively operating as a crime syndicate. The rot within the South African Police Service (SAPS) is evident in how firearms, meant to be confiscated from crime scenes, find their way back onto the streets, fuelling violence and crime.

This highlights the need for an urgent and comprehensive cleansing of the police force, rooting out corrupt elements within the SAPS to restore the integrity of law enforcement and ensure that those tasked with upholding the law are not the very ones undermining it. Without addressing this deep-seated corruption, crime will continue to thrive unchecked in our communities.

Additionally, the current state of the SAPS reveals a lack of resources where they are desperately needed, particularly in communities plagued by rampant crime. There are skewed priorities in the Ministry of Police's budget allocation, where millions are spent on VIP protection while essential units like the sexual offenses unit remain underfunded. A reallocation of resources needs to occur, particularly to capacitate detectives, ensuring they have the resources and support necessary to investigate and solve crimes.

During the recent budget votes in the National Assembly recently, the EFF also highlighted the need for a crime prevention strategy driven by intelligence, technology and data, which can effectively prevent and respond to criminal activities before they escalate. These quarterly crime statistics should not be mere pronouncements but must serve as the blueprint, as they provide all the data necessary in order to know where crime happens, when, and with what frequency. It is therefore crucial to apply this data in creating effective crime prevention strategies.

**ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS**

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