



Province of the  
**EASTERN CAPE**  
SAFETY & LIAISON

**OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**

Arches Building, 7 Taylor Street, King William's Town, 5600, Eastern Cape  
Private Bag X0057, Bhisho, 5605, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA  
Website; [www.ecprov.gov.za](http://www.ecprov.gov.za)

---

Ireferensi

**Ref. No. : Response to questions**  
Verwysings Nr.

Imbuzo

**Enquiries: N. Mjuza**  
Navrae

Ifoni

**Telephone: 043 – 605 6209**  
Telefoon

Ifaxi

**Facsimile:**  
Fasimilee

**Email: [nomalungelo.mjuza@safetyec.gov.za](mailto:nomalungelo.mjuza@safetyec.gov.za)**

---

The Member of the Executive Council  
Transport, Safety and Liaison  
7 Taylor Street  
**King William's Town**  
5605

**Dear Hon MEC**

**RESPONSE TO IQP 22 QUESTION 527, 528 WRITTEN REPLY**

Attached herewith are responses to written parliamentary questions 527, 528 to be submitted to the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature.

This serves as a formal submission of said responses.

Kind regards

---

**Mr V. W. Mapolisa**  
**Head of the Department**  
**Date: 20 August 2020**

**527. Mr R S Stevenson to ask the MEC responsible for Safety and Liaison:**

*With regard to the Facebook Amber Alert feature:*

- (1) Whether she has been informed of the new Amber Alert feature that was made available on Facebook; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, can she kindly provide the relevant details in this regard;

**RESPONSE TO QUESTION 1:**

The National Amber Alert was launched on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2020 by the National Commissioner of the South African Police Service and Head of Trust and Safety, Facebook. The launch was for the whole country.

- (2) how her Department anticipates the feature will (a) be monitored and (b) process requests for the Amber Alert feature;

**RESPONSE TO QUESTION 2:**

- (a) Amber Alert is monitored by Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences (FCS) Unit which is dealing with the investigation of missing children, kidnapping and abduction cases.
- (b) When a case of a missing child, kidnapping and abduction is reported an application will be made to National Head Office which is coordinating the Amber Alert. A copy will be made by the requesting unit and sent to Provincial Head FCS.

- (3) whether her Department has a team that will solely focus on Amber Alerts and the processing and monitoring thereof; if not, (a) why and (b) in what other manner her Department anticipates this feature will be managed;

**RESPONSE TO QUESTION 3:**

Yes the Office of the Provincial Head FCS has a team that monitors Amber Alert.

(b) The Unit investigating the case requests the National Head Office for assistance and also informs the Provincial Office Team that is monitoring.

- (4) when was this feature officially launched in the province and can she kindly provide the relevant details in this regard;

**RESPONSE TO QUESTION 4:**

The feature was launched by National Head Office and all Provinces were informed to utilise it.

- (5) whether her Department has informed the general public of this feature; if so, what specific areas has her Department informed in this regard; if not, why;

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 5:

The feature was launched at National Head Office and was in the media. A media statement was issued which was on Facebook and twitter.

- (6) how many Amber Alerts have been made to-date and can she kindly provide the relevant details in this regard;

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 6:

None so far

- (7) from what geographical location was the alert made/focused and can she kindly provide the relevant details in this regard;

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 7:

Not applicable

- (8) how does the public utilize this feature in reporting a missing child and informing the feature of important information and can she kindly provide the relevant details in this regard;

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 8:

The public report the missing child to the police and the police in turn activate the Amber Alert feature. The public will then share the alert on facebook.

- (9) whether any children were found via the use of this new feature on Facebook; if so, (a) how many children were found, (b) where were they found and (c) what steps has her Department followed to make it known that the child has been found;

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 9:

No children have been found yet using this feature.

- (10) whether her Department has made any successful prosecutions in relation to the Amber Alerts; if so, how many and can she kindly provide the relevant details in this regard;

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 10:

Not applicable

- (11) what are all the estimated costs involved in running this alert on Facebook and can she kindly provide the relevant details in this regard;

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 11:

There are no costs involved in utilising the Facebook Amber Alert.

- (12) whether her Department considers this feature to be useful in finding missing children and potentially the abductor as well; if not, why; if so, why and can she kindly provide the relevant details in this regard?

RESPONSE TO QUESTION 12:

Any investigation aid is useful. The functionality of the Facebook Amber Alert is to provide support to the Investigating Officer which may assist in finding the missing child through community activation.

Amber Alert provides the functionality to publish the details of the missing child within a 160km radius of where the missing child was last seen to all Facebook users within the area.