

864. Mr M von Buchenroder to ask the MEC responsible for Transport:

With reference to Ground Up article titled “Eastern Cape train services grind to a halt yet again” dated Tuesday, 20 September 2022:

- (1) Why there have allegedly been no train services in the province;

RESPONSE

Currently Metrorail Eastern Cape is not running any train services

- (2) (a) when were the services halted and (b) why;

RESPONSE

Train services were suspended on the 15th August 2022 for East London and on the 22nd August 2022 for Gqeberha

- (3) whether his Department is in consultation with stakeholders regarding a policing unit to deal with the threat of cable theft and vandalism; if not, why; if so, can he kindly provide the relevant details in this regard;

RESPONSE

The rail infrastructure belongs to Transnet Freight Rail, however, regional Protection Services is working with Railway South African Police Services and Transnet Security to curb the issue of vandalism of rail infrastructure and there is dedicated armed response team to deal with infrastructure protection

- (4) how much has his Department budgeted to purchase new locomotives;

RESPONSE

That is a strategic focus for Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa Head Office, it is not handled by the region

- (5) how much of the budget in (4) above has already been spent on locomotives;

RESPONSE

That is a strategic focus for Passenger Rail Agency for South Africa Head Office, it is not handled by the region and response was not received by the Region when these question were put to the Region by Eastern Cape Department of Transport.

- (6) whether his Department has put any plans in place with a view to prevent the new locomotives from being vandalized; if not, why; if so, can he kindly provide the relevant details in this regard;

RESPONSE

The region has an existing Integrated Security Plan and Asset protection plan in place, the region is also busy with a Depot fencing project which includes walling and fitting latest technology which will assist in asset

- (7) whether his Department has placed any security measures at the various railway stations with a view to prevent further vandalism and cable theft; if not, why; if so, can he kindly provide the relevant details in this regard?

RESPONSE

No the department does not place security on Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa or Transnet properties as is the responsibility of the above mentioned State Owned Enterprises.

865. Mr M von Buchenroder to ask the MEC responsible for Transport:

With reference to a Herald Live article titled “Traffic officer gunned down at KwaDwesi roadblock” dated Wednesday, 21 September 2022: