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THE Akasia police station in Pretoria, ranked among the top 40 stations with high serious crime rates, operates without a holding cell.

This information came to light through Gauteng Premier Panyaza Lesufi's written responses to parliamentary questions by Crezane Bosch, the DA's Gauteng shadow MEC for Community Safety.

Bosch posed questions to inquire about the state of police sta-

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tions in Gauteng, specifically asking about vacancies and plans to fill the posts.

The 2024/2025 police crime statistics report shows that the Akasia police station is among the 40 stations with high rates of community-reported serious crimes, including sexual offences and attempted murder.

Bosch said a DA-led Gauteng provincial government would work within the legal framework to facilitate the upgrading and construction of holding cells through intergovernmental cooperation.

She noted that 24 of the 145 police stations in Gauteng lack holding cells, hindering their ability to effectively combat serious and

violent crimes.

"The shortage leads to delays in detaining and processing suspects, which hampers investigations and allows criminal activity to persist.

"The deficiency also hinders police effectiveness, leaving our people vulnerable to crime," she said.

Lesufi's responses indicated that the maintenance of police stations, includ-

ing the provision of holding cells, falls under the responsibility of the national Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

He disclosed that other police stations, including Mohlakeng and Cleveland, which are also among the top 40 in Gauteng for serious crimes, lack functional holding cells.

Lesufi's responses to questions about vacant positions revealed that there are openings for detective service commanders following promotions of previous incumbents.