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Governance, Public Safety and Justice 2021/22 Release

Statistics South Africa today released the Governance, Public Safety and Justice report extracted from the Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS). The report focused on individuals' perception of the Constitution, human rights and experiences of discrimination and disputes. According to the report, an estimated 21% of the population aged 16 years and older experienced one or more disputes/problems during the past two years. Poor service from government and business was the most experienced dispute in the past two years.

The report further shows almost 4% of individuals experienced disputes or problems related to conflict with neighbours and 2,9% experienced disputes or problems related to corruption, bribes, or nepotism. The top 10 disputes are the same for males and females, except for 'corruption or bribery or nepotism by government officials' which is in the top ten of disputes experienced by females and not in males, while 'unpaid debt by family or relatives' is in the top ten disputes experienced by males but not in the top ten for females. Ranking is different, however, both females and males ranked poor service by government as the top recent dispute experienced.

Individuals mostly (29%) sought help from family and friends to assist with resolving their most recent dispute. There is an 8,1 percentage point increase in the proportion of those who sort help from community organisations from 2018/19 to 2021/22. Most common reasons for not seeking help from any source was "it would only waste time, or it would be useless anyway" followed by "did not know what to do or where to go" to seek help with a dispute /problem. There is an increase in proportions of those who did not seek help due to being afraid that it would result in violence, or it would create problems for their family. About 54% of those aged 16 years and older experienced stress, ill-health, or injury due to disputes, while 23% experienced financial loss due to disputes.

Racial discrimination was the most experienced type of discrimination by those aged 16 years and older followed by poverty or wealth status in the 2021/22 period. An estimated 4,8% of the population experienced racial discrimination in the past 12 months. About 12,5% of the white population group indicated they experienced discrimination based on race. Those living in Western Cape (8,1%) experienced racial discrimination more than those in other provinces.

The GPSJ report also shows an estimated 2,7% of those aged 16 years and older experienced discrimination based on poverty or wealth status. About 2,9% of males experienced this type of discrimination compared to 2,5% for females. Those aged 65 years and older had the highest proportion of those who experienced discrimination based on poverty or wealth status (3,2%),

followed by those aged 15 to 34 years (3,0%). Those living in non-metros (2,9%) have a higher proportion than those living in metro areas (2,4%), and those residing in rural areas (3,8%) have a higher proportion of individuals who experienced discrimination or harassment based on poverty or wealth status than those living in urban areas (2,2%).

About 82,6% of the population aged 16 and older have heard about the Constitution, while 70,7% of the population think the Constitution protects their rights. Less than half the population (48%) think the Constitution protects the rights of others more than theirs.

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