

2023/24

OFFICIAL GUIDE TO SOUTH AFRICA



The Presidency

The Presidency is mandated to ensure that the president can execute his constitutional responsibilities in leading and galvanising government and society to implement the electoral mandate. The department provides support to the president and deputy president in the execution of their responsibilities as outlined in chapter 5 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996.

As such, over the period ahead, the department will focus on enhancing leadership and partnerships through stakeholder engagements to promote the country's social transformation agenda; strengthening governance, state capacity and service delivery through leadership and coordination; and coordinating government policies, legislation and programmes.

Enhancing leadership and partnerships

In partnership with the South African National AIDS Council, the office of the deputy president has continued to lead nationwide initiatives targeted at improving South Africa's health results, particularly reducing the spread of HIV and AIDS, TB and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The department oversees the implementation of the 2023-2028 National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs.

The department continues to promote national unity and accelerate social transformation through the commemoration of national days and days of significance such as Freedom Day, Day of Reconciliation and Human Rights Day.

Strengthening governance, state capacity and service delivery

The department continues to provide support to the National Prosecuting Authority's investigating directorate, the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) and its special tribunal, the anti-corruption task team's fusion centre and all state entities involved in fighting corruption. This includes the department's oversight of other departments' implementation of referrals by the SIU and recommendations of the state capture commission.

The District Development Model (DDM) is a department initiative aimed at improving service delivery by enhancing coherence and integrated planning in South Africa's 44 districts and eight metros. To enhance coordination between the spheres of government, the department will continue to provide leadership and play a coordinating role through its oversight of the model and, through the presidential imbizo, oversee its implementation. The department planned to produce two reports per year on annual oversight visits by the President.

Coordinating government policies, legislation and programmes

To improve legislative and executive accountability, and to ensure that government business is dealt with and synchronised properly, the deputy president is responsible for managing the

affairs of the executive in Parliament, setting the agenda for parliamentary business initiated by the executive within the timeframe allocated, and performing any function provided for by the joint rules or resolutions adopted in the National Assembly or the National Council of Provinces. Over the medium term, the department will continue to support the Deputy President in monitoring the implementation of the annual legislative and Cabinet programme.

This entails prioritising legislation in Parliament, including bills with Constitutional Court deadlines. Part of the department's coordination imperative also entails ensuring executive accountability to Parliament, building relations between the executive and leaders of opposition parties, and enhancing the electorate's participation in policy and law-making processes.

Operation Vulindlela (OV)

OV is a joint initiative of The Presidency and National Treasury to accelerate the implementation of structural reforms and support economic recovery. OV aims to modernise and transform network industries, including electricity, water, transport and digital communications. These network industries are the bedrock of economic growth, and are essential to creating a globally competitive economy. In addition, reforms to the visa regime are being prioritised to attract skills and promote growth in tourism.

A total of 19 priority reforms have been identified in these focus areas, which together represent a bold and ambitious reform agenda to fundamentally change South Africa's economic trajectory. OV is not a new plan, but aims to ensure effective implementation of plans that already exist.

Infrastructure and Investment Office (IIO)

The IIO was established by The President of South Africa to coordinate and align the work of various structures responsible for economic and social infrastructure development. As the demand for infrastructure in Africa continues to grow, the government will need to leverage public and private funds to marshal investments to bridge the infrastructure divide.

New approaches to delivering infrastructure are needed, and so is innovative technology and effective collaboration between policymakers, sector agencies, financiers, and investors to fund and deliver projects to yield financial and nonfinancial returns for all stakeholders.

A further key role of the IIO is its mandate to solve regulatory and other bottlenecks which are prohibitive to investment, as well as play a leading role in accelerating decision-making in order for high priority investments to be speedily and efficiently implemented.

Minister in The Presidency

The Minister is responsible for the:

- Statistics South Africa (Stats SA);
- Government Communication and Information System (GCIS)
- State Security Agency (SSA);
- Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA); and
- Brand South Africa (Brand SA).

Statistics South Africa

Stats SA is a national department accountable to the Minister in The Presidency. The department's activities are regulated by the Statistics Act of 1999, which mandates it to advance the production, dissemination, use and coordination of official and other statistics to help organs of state, businesses, other organisations and the public in planning, monitoring, policy development and decision-making.

The Act also requires that the department coordinates statistical production among organs of state in line with the purpose of official statistics and statistical principles. Over the medium term, the department aimed to continue focusing on modernising its operating model, conducting the continuous population survey and implementing statistical reform.

Modernising the operating model

To deliver better, faster and cost effective statistical products and services, the department will continue to modernise its operating model. This includes the implementation of the digital business transformation strategy and roadmap, which entails the rollout of cloud infrastructure and tools that enable self-enumeration, the establishment of secure data-sharing platforms, and research on the adoption of innovative technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning.

Self-enumeration through web-based technology is intended to allow respondents to capture survey information on an online platform. The initiative will reduce fieldworker interaction in areas that are difficult to access. The establishment of secure data-sharing platforms is expected to make data easily accessible on various platforms to relevant stakeholders. This is intended to reduce duplication, and will facilitate the country's responses to national, continental and global reporting requirements on economic, social and developmental issues.

In response to the increasing demand for data and statistics, the department also plans to establish an interconnected statistical system over the medium term that facilitates data acquisition, integration, analysis and visualisation.

Conducting the continuous population survey

The continuous population survey is being re-conceptualised to integrate several existing household surveys within the department's survey programme to produce frequent lower-level data. The department plans to create a geospatial multimodal framework as a sampling frame, as well as testing methods and processes for the survey in 2024/25, and to collect data from the first survey module in 2025/26.

The department has collected insightful data on household income and expenditure patterns, and therefore living conditions, through its income and expenditure survey. The results of the survey are scheduled to be released in 2024/25. Thereafter, the survey, along with the living conditions survey and general household survey, will be integrated into the continuous population survey.

Strengthening statistical reform

The Statistics Amendment Bill was drafted in 2019/20 to drive statistical reform and was approved by the Portfolio Committee on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation in December 2023. It is expected to be enacted in 2024/25. The Bill makes provision for developing and implementing a national statistics system and strategy for the development of statistics, and for enhancing coordination and collaboration among producers of statistics, among other things. It also stipulates that the population census must be conducted every 10 years.

Government Communication and Information System

The mandate of the GCIS is derived from section 195(g) of the Constitution, which stipulates that the public should be provided with information that is timely, accurate and accessible. This is in support of the constitutional principles of freedom of expression, and transparent and open governance. The department is responsible for providing strategic leadership and coordinating government communication to ensure that members of the public are informed and have access to government programmes and policies that benefit them.

Over the period ahead, the department will focus on providing and facilitating strategic government communication, coordinating communication across government, and facilitating active citizen participation.

Providing and facilitating strategic government communication

The GCIS aims to meet citizens' information needs through advertising government programmes, communicating government priorities and providing civic education. This will be achieved through using various media platforms, including community radio stations, social media, television, newspapers, and leaflets and flyers. Key messages and information to be disseminated on these platforms include: the 2024 Presidential Inauguration, government's

Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan, anti-corruption initiatives, awareness of gender-based violence (GBV) and civic education.

Although the *Vuk'uzenzele* newspaper has been an effective means of communicating and providing citizens with information on government's key priorities, as media consumption patterns have shifted towards digital platforms, from 2024/25, the newspaper will be produced and distributed only digitally (22 editions per year). However, 13 200 Braille copies will still be produced at a projected cost of R1.6 million per year over the medium term.

Digital distribution is expected not only to reduce costs, but also increase reach, with an emphasis on photography and audio-visual content creation. In addition, the department plans to repurpose R14 million of *Vuk'uzenzele*'s budget over the MTEF period to fund an over-the-top streaming service, which is expected to contain content previously disseminated through the newspaper, as well as other government content.

The department's social media platforms will be updated regularly to ensure that they effectively share government content. The intention is to create awareness about the challenges facing the country, provide information on how government plans to mitigate them, and suggest ways in which citizens can play a part in resolving them.

Coordinating communication across government

Over the next three years, the GCIS will focus on ensuring effective and coordinated communication between government departments. As such, it will provide support to all government departments in conceptualising campaigns, developing communication strategies and content, and facilitating the dissemination of information and stakeholder engagement. Support for the DDM, which aims to improve coherence among all spheres of government, as well as the 44 districts and 8 metros across the country, will be reinforced in an effort to enhance service delivery.

The department's footprint at the provincial and municipal levels ensures the alignment and coherence of intergovernmental communication systems, processes and messages. This is driven through the coordination of communication forums across government to harmonise the planning of communication campaigns, the alignment of government communication norms and standards, the sharing of best practices, the coherence of messaging, and engagement with domestic and international media.

Facilitating active citizen participation

To encourage citizen participation, the GCIS will initiate outreach programmes such as localised community dialogues, community radio talk shows, and campaign activations in taxi ranks, shopping centres and commuter trains. A targeted 26 engagement sessions at the national

level are planned with senior journalists and two engagements with government heads of communication, as well as forum meetings such as the Government Communicators' Forum. Through media engagements, briefings and infographics, the department intends to keep citizens updated on energy-generation initiatives to overcome the energy crisis.

Media Development and Diversity Agency

Over the medium term, the agency will continue to provide financial and non-financial support to community and small commercial media, with an emphasis on promoting indigenous languages and contributing to community development. The agency also plans to intensify its focus on ensuring the sustainability of media projects in communities that are underserved by mainstream media.

As such, most of the agency's budget over the period ahead is directed at grant funding for 66 community broadcast projects, to help initiate new projects and strengthen existing ones; and 18 community and small commercial media print and digital projects.

In line with the agency's plans to ensure the sustainability of community media, over the medium term, it plans to provide training in areas such as governance and social media to 120 community media projects through partnerships with stakeholders and training providers. The training will be supported by 16 media literacy initiatives that will be held across the country in areas with a strong community media presence.

Brand SA

Brand SA was established in 2002 to manage South Africa's nation brand with the aim of improving the country's global reputation and competitiveness. The entity's primary objective is to develop and implement proactive and coordinated reputation management, communications and marketing strategies for South Africa to attract investment, trade and tourism.

Globally, countries are facing unprecedented economic conditions characterised by high cost of living and inflation, energy crises and unemployment, among other things. This makes protecting South Africa's reputation even more pressing. Over the medium term, the entity will focus on implementing activities that contribute positively to shaping South Africa's image and reputation. This will be done through interventions such as assuring investors and profiling the country as an attractive and stable destination.

A nation brand encompasses all the attributes, strengths and innovations that a nation has to offer in all spheres of activity (business, arts, tourism, science and innovation, infrastructure, manufacturing and governance), and depends on much more than government activity, policy or leadership.

State Security Agency

The mandate of the SSA is to provide government with intelligence on domestic and foreign threats or potential threats to national stability, the constitutional order, and the safety and well-being of the people. Examples of such threats are terrorism, sabotage and subversion. This allows government to implement policies to deal with potential threats and to better understand existing threats and thus improve their policies.

Among the areas of focus of the SSA are the following matters of national interest:

- Terrorism, which refers to deliberate and premeditated attempts to create terror through symbolic acts involving the use or threats of lethal force for creating psychological effects that will influence a target group or individual and translate it into political or material results.
- Sabotage, which refers to activities or purposeful omissions conducted or planned for purposes of endangering the safety, security or defence of vital public or private property, such as installations, structures, equipment or systems.
- Subversion, which includes activities directed towards undermining by covert unlawful acts or directed towards, or intended ultimately to lead to the destruction or overthrow by violence of the constitutionally established systems of government in South Africa.
- Espionage, which refers to unlawful or unauthorised activities conducted for acquiring information or assets relating to sensitive social, political, economic, scientific or military matters of South Africa or for their unauthorised communication to a foreign state.
- Organised Crime, which includes analysis of the origins and reasons behind organised crime, the identification of key role players, the nature and extent, as well as the modus operandi of organised crime syndicates.

Minister in The Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Minister is responsible for the:

- Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

The DPME is mandated to:

- support the National Planning Commission (NPC);
- facilitate the implementation of the NDP through the development of sector-specific and outcome-specific medium-term plans and delivery agreements, and monitor and evaluate their implementation;
- ensure the alignment of departmental strategic and annual plans and budget allocations with government's Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP);
- monitor the performance of individual national and provincial government departments and municipalities, and facilitate targeted intervention programmes;

- monitor frontline service delivery and manage the Presidential Hotline;
- develop and implement the annual national evaluations plan, and support the national evaluations system; and
- promote good planning, monitoring and evaluation practices in government.

Over the medium term, the department will focus on strengthening its planning, monitoring, research and evaluation programmes to support the implementation and achievement of government priorities. This will be achieved through supporting the implementation of the NDP, coordinating and strengthening the national planning system, and monitoring and evaluating the implementation and achievement of government programmes and priorities.

Supporting the implementation of the NDP

The DPME is tasked with facilitating the implementation of the NDP. This is carried out by the NPC and its secretariat, which is mandated to provide an independent and critical view of the country's developmental trajectory, monitor its implementation, and provide feedback and guidance.

Over the medium-term period, the commission planned to participate in and initiate three research projects in support of the NDP's implementation while engaging all social partners and forging new partnerships. It also planned to facilitate one strategic engagement and partnership in each year over the medium term to develop cross-cutting views on specific issues to find sustainable and innovative solutions to obstacles that hinder the NDP's implementation.

Coordinating and strengthening the national planning system

The implementation of the NDP and improving the country's development outcomes will be supported by the 2024-2029 MTDP, which translates the NDP's objectives into strategic priorities, interventions and targets for the five-year period. To this end, in 2024/25, the department plans to produce the 2024-2029 MTDP, which entails research and consultation with government and nongovernmental organisations.

In improving and strengthening integrated planning across government, the department convenes various planning forums that provide strategic leadership and enhance coherence across the spheres of government. Key among these forums is the national steering committee on integrated planning, which is a platform for engagements, consultations and communication between the department, other national departments and provincial departments.

Over the period ahead, the department plans to improve the systematic spatialisation of the planning system to ensure sustained spatial transformation in the country. As such, the department will support other departments in all spheres of government in analysing

spatial trends and dynamics during their planning processes to ensure targeted government interventions and investment. The department also plans to integrate the priorities of the national spatial development framework into the 2024-2029 MTDP and develop guidelines for the specialisation of strategic plans and annual performance plans.

Monitoring and evaluating the implementation and achievement of government programmes and priorities

The DPME is tasked with monitoring frontline services to improve the overall quality of government services. Over the period ahead, this entails managing the presidential hotline and producing two reports on frontline service delivery per year. Over the period ahead, the department will support the performance management of heads of departments and political principals. These measures are complemented with the implementation of capacity development measures to improve planning, monitoring and evaluation within departments.

The department will continue to develop the centralised data management system, which is expected to provide users – including government departments, members of the public and academics – with an improved interface for accessing, retrieving, analysing and reporting on government performance information. The system is envisaged to act as a knowledge hub to enable a greater understanding of the effectiveness of government interventions and their impact on society.

Minister in The Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

The Minister is responsible for the:

- Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (DWYPD); and
- National Youth Development Agency (NYDA).

Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

The mandate of the DWYPD is to lead in socioeconomic transformation for the empowerment and participation of women, youth and people with disabilities through mainstreaming, advocacy, monitoring and evaluation. Over the medium-term period, the department aimed to continue focusing on strengthening the coordination of the national response to GBV; promoting responsive planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation in government; protecting the rights of people with disabilities; and supporting the participation of young people in the economy.

Addressing GBVF and supporting empowerment

The President assented to the National Council on GBVF Act of 2024 in May 2024 and the operation of the Act commenced on 15 November 2024, just days before the commencement of the annual 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children Campaign (on 25 November 2024; which is also the International Day of No Violence against Women).

The National Council was conceptualised as a national multi-sectoral structure mandated by the declaration made at the First Presidential Summit on GBVF in 2018 – which in turn was intended to, amongst other things, identify key interventions to address GBVF, as well as wider challenges negatively affecting the rights and freedoms of women and children. The department will also conduct public awareness and advocacy events, and support and monitor the implementation of the economic empowerment of women.

Promoting gender responsive planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation

Over the period ahead, the department aimed to continue coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the gender-responsive planning, budgeting, monitoring, evaluation and auditing framework; and conduct research, monitoring and evaluation to inform policy planning and decision-making across government.

The department will also continue to assess the strategic and annual performance plans of other departments to ensure that they are responsive to policy priorities relating to women, young people and people with disabilities, and promote compliance with international commitments in support of these core constituents.

Promoting the rights of people with disabilities and supporting the empowerment of young people

The department will continue to advocate for and support policy reviews, work towards the finalisation of the Disability Rights Bill and frameworks to guide government in mainstreaming the inclusion of people with disabilities, strengthen the direct involvement of the disability sector, and enhance awareness programmes. Part of this includes hosting awareness events.

To advance the socio-economic empowerment of young people, the department will continue to develop and review policies, legislation and frameworks to guide government and other stakeholders.

National Youth Development Agency

The founding legislation of the NYDA is the NYDA Act of 2008. The agency's role is to initiate, implement, facilitate and monitor youth development interventions aimed at promoting the empowerment of young people and their participation in economic activities. As such, over the medium-term period, the agency aimed to continue focusing on implementing interventions to support skills development, entrepreneurship and the creation of employment for young people.

These include providing financial and non-financial enterprise support, and placing young people into jobs. Financial support will be provided through grants to youth-owned enterprises, while non-financial support will include the provision of business support services, market access

and relevant skills needed to ensure that young people gain the most effective entrepreneurial applications within and across economic value chains.

Over the medium-term period, the agency planned to provide financial support and business development interventions to 9 000 enterprises owned by young people to benefit more than 90 000 young people through creating job opportunities.

Commission for Gender Equality

The CGE is an independent statutory body established in terms of Section 181 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996 to promote respect for gender equality, and the protection, development and attainment of gender equality. Its legislative mandate is laid out in section 187 of the Constitution and further prescribed in the amended CGE Act of 1996.

Over the medium term, the commission aimed to focus on promoting and attaining gender equality through activities that advance legislation, policies, investigations, monitoring and advocacy. It plans to do this by influencing legislation and policies through written submissions to Parliament and relevant stakeholders, conducting high-quality research and monitoring and evaluation, investigating complaints, sanctioning and endorsing appropriate remedies on issues that undermine the attainment of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The commission will continue to conduct advocacy and education initiatives through stakeholder engagements and outreach programmes to raise awareness on gender equality towards a society free from unlawful discrimination and harassment.

Minister of Electricity and Energy in The Presidency

The Minister is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the electricity crisis response, including the work of the National Energy Crisis Committee. This will provide a single point of command for government's efforts to close the shortfall in electricity supply.

The Minister works full-time with the Eskom Board and management to end load-shedding and ensure the implementation of the Energy Action Plan. Among other things, the Minister of Electricity and Energy has the powers to direct the procurement of new generation capacity and ensure security of supply.

