SOUTH AFRICA
YEARBOOK
2024/25

Police, Defence and Military Veterans

Department of Police

The National Development Plan (NDP): Vision 2030 envisions a South Africa where people feel safe and enjoy a community life free of crime. Achieving this requires a well-functioning Criminal Justice System (CJS), in which the police, the judiciary and correctional services work together to ensure that suspects are caught, prosecuted, convicted if guilty and securely incarcerated and rehabilitated.

The South African Police Service (SAPS) commitment within this framework is to provide "a safe and secure environment that is conducive for social and economic stability, supporting a better life for all" (NDP, 2030).

The 2024 – 2029 Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) aligns with the goals and objectives of the NDP and the minimum programme of priorities of the Government of National Unity. The NDP remains South Africa's long-term plan towards 2030 and is aligned with its international commitments. The MTDP is the medium-term plan towards the achievement of the NDP, replacing the Medium-Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) by aligning with international naming conventions and emphasising development outcomes. Government has set five goals for the next five years, which are:

- A dynamic, growing economy.
- A more equal society, where no person lives in poverty.
- A capable state delivering basic services to all citizens.
- A safe and secure environment.
- A cohesive and united nation.

To achieve these goals, the MTDP (2024-2029) identifies three strategic priorities, which will be implemented across the state:

- Strategic Priority 1: Drive inclusive growth and job creation.
- Strategic Priority 2: Reduce poverty and tackle the high cost of living.
- Strategic Priority 3: Build a capable, ethical and developmental state.

Achieving the first two Strategic Priorities will require a capable state that can deliver on the country's developmental objectives. Several interventions that build the capability of the state are outlined in Chapter 5.

Effective policymaking requires a clear vision and priorities, institutions of decision-making that are robust and adaptable to ensure policy coherence and make choices when trade-offs occur and the capacity to implement these consistently and effectively. Following the first democratic elections in 1994, significant progress was made in restructuring and transforming the public service, along with the rapid expansion of service delivery to pursue the new developmental agenda of the state.

At the same time, some challenges have proved difficult to address. These include a growing emphasis on compliance at the expense of delivery, fragmented structures, weak technical capacity, a focus on process rather than on outcomes and a failure to promote and reward innovation and success.

Strategic Priority 3 aims to build a capable, ethical and developmental state, which is critical for the success of the other two Strategic Priorities. The rights of women, youth and persons with disabilities must be mainstreamed across all three priorities. The SAPS plays various leading and supporting roles towards the following outcomes:

- Reformed, integrated and modernised Criminal Justice System.
- Effective Border Security.
- Secured Cyber Space.
- Increased feelings of safety of women and children and in communities.
- Reduced number of priority offences.
- Enhanced peace and security in Africa.

South African Police Service

Chapter 12 of the NDP outlines a vision to build safer communities through demilitarising and professionalising the police service and adopting an integrated and holistic approach to safety and security in South Africa. The SAPS's work is in alignment with Priority 3 of the MTDP, which expresses the vision of "Building a capable, ethical and developmental state." The primary focus is on the provision of safety and security, which is the primary contributor in addressing the triple challenge of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

The SAPS, South Africa's principal law-enforcement body, derives its powers and functions from Section 205 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, and from the SAPS Act, 1995 (Act 68 of 1995). This legislation regulates the SAPS in terms of its core functions, which are to prevent, investigate and combat crime; maintain public order; protect and secure the inhabitants of South Africa and their property; and uphold and enforce the law. The vision of the SAPS is to create a safe and secure environment for all people in South Africa.

The mission of the SAPS is to:

- prevent and combat crime that may threaten the safety and security of any community;
- investigate any crimes threatening the safety and security of any community;
- ensure that offenders are brought to justice; and
- participate in efforts to address the causes of crime.

The National Commissioner is the Accounting Officer of the SAPS. Deputy National Commissioners and Provincial Commissioners report to the National Commissioner. District Commissioners and Police Station Commanders report to the Provincial Commissioners.

Key expenditure focus areas

Building capacity in the SAPS

To improve police visibility, enhance community responsiveness and build public confidence in the police service, the department planned to recruit additional members over the medium term. Modernisation initiatives include upgrading Information Communication Technology infrastructure, improving connectivity, deploying mobile technologies and using automatic number plate recognition units and digital fingerprint enrolment devices to support visible and specialised policing capabilities. These plans will be implemented through the Administration Programme, which has an allocation of R68.8 billion over the next three years and the Visible Policing Programme, which has an allocation of R189.7 billion over the same period.

Reducing violent crime, gender-based violence and femicide

To reduce the levels of violent crime and gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), while adapting to resource constraints, the Department will emphasise community mobilisation for increased police visibility through strategic partnerships. Initiatives include community engagement, awareness campaigns and the revitalisation of community police boards and forums.

To achieve these objectives, the department has adopted the whole-of-government and whole-of-society framework, as guided by the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy. This approach promotes the implementation of an integrated, developmental, collaborative, knowledge-based and evidence-based approach to the prevention of crime and violence in South Africa. In line with this framework, the SAPS will implement the Increased Crime Prevention and Combating Action Plan, which targets violent crime, including GBVF, through a data-driven approach and high-density operations in priority station precincts. As a result of implementing the plan, the percentage of contact crimes reported is expected to decrease by 14,5% over the medium-term. Similarly, over the next three years, the detection rate for contact crimes against women is set to improve to more than 71% and the detection rate for contact crimes against children to more than 65%. These initiatives will mainly be implemented through the Detective Services Programme, which has an allocation of R71.3 billion over the medium-term.

Reducing crimes that have a direct impact on economic activity

Economic infrastructure task teams, supported by the organised crime investigation capability, aim to combat crimes affecting the economy, such as illegal mining, infrastructure-related crimes such as vandalism and theft and extortion in the construction sector. The Department further aims to enhance crime detection, focusing on contact crimes, corruption, commercial crimes and cybercrime. To achieve this, specialised capabilities, including the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI), Forensic Services and Crime Intelligence, will look to collaborate with internal and external stakeholders. Efforts will continue to address organised crime, money laundering and terror financing in line with recommendations from the Financial Action Task Force. These initiatives will be implemented through the Detective Services Programme and the Crime Intelligence Programme, which have budgets of R71.3 billion and R15.1 billion over the medium-term.

In the State of the Nation Address by President Cyril Ramaphosa, on 6 February 2025, the following priorities were highlighted:

- Dismantling organised crime syndicates and combating financial crimes through serious organised crime project investigations and ensuring trial-ready cases for serious commercial crime.
- Addressing crime in priority provinces and municipalities through the implementation of evidence-based policing.
- Intensifying Operation Shanela to reduce the reported incidence of crime.
- Reducing gun-related crime and violence by recovering illegal firearms in circulation.
- Expanding personnel within the Detective Service environment.
- Adopting surveillance, analytics and smart policing solutions for modern law enforcement.

Strategic focus over the short- to medium-term period

Aligned with the SAPS Impact Statement “a safe and secure environment that is conducive for social and economic stability and supporting a better life for all”, central to this is the enabling of the strategic direction by ensuring rigorous financial governance, robust risk management and the effective allocation of resources necessary to respond to the ever-evolving threat landscapes.

The 7th Administration has identified nine focused policing priorities to steer the SAPS. These priorities encompass reducing the murder rate, illegal firearms, drug networks, GBVF, illegal immigration, organised crime, gang activity, illegal mining and internal corruption. Threats of violent contact crime and threats against infrastructure, economic crime and public trust are to be continuously assessed. Our financial planning must remain agile, ensuring annual and multi-year budgets reflect shifting priorities such as crime hotspots, GBVF-focused interventions, critical infrastructure protection and anti-money laundering efforts.

To ensure that resource alignment to outputs and performance indicators in the Annual Performance Plan are consistent with the Strategic Plan and the MTDP, ensuring outputs along the “Pathway of Change” are adequately funded.

To ensure that these strategic priorities are met, the SAPS has identified critical enablers: advanced technology for detection and rapid response; enhanced crime intelligence capabilities; capacity-building for detectives; improved forensic services; better fleet management; upgraded infrastructure; and strengthened working and living conditions for officers.

The G20 Summit will be secured with a sum of R219.2 million; the Local Government Elections in 2026 will be funded with R400 million; and R150 million was redirected to the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI) over a two-year period to support anti-corruption efforts. More than R1.6 billion will be invested in GBVF response, with R1.5 billion being allocated to Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences units, R40 million being allocated for awareness campaigns and R50 million being allocated to strengthen provincial responses. An amount of R85 million is targeted at the top 35 crime-heavy police precincts across Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, the Western Cape and the Eastern Cape; R28 million for CPFs; and R8,5 million for community engagement initiatives such as *izimbizos*. Infrastructural investments include R670 million for building/upgrading stations, R20 million for mobile Community Service Centres (CSCs) and R45 million for maintenance. Technological modernisation features prominently, with plans to deploy drones, body worn cameras, dashboard cameras and integrated digital tools for enhanced situational awareness.

The SAPS is also expanding partnerships with Business Against Crime South Africa, to pilot automated police stations, enhance forensic laboratories and integrate data systems with private-sector technologies.

Efforts to professionalise human resources include recruiting 5 500 new trainees, re-enlisting 200 former detectives and launching an online recruitment system. The DPCI will also expand with 300 internal promotions, hiring 250 specialised trainees and approximately 260 new posts to bolster its capacity in anti-corruption and cybercrime.

Ensure that supply chain processes align with institutional procurement plans and actual needs. Address gaps in capacity, timelines and implementation, especially in immovable asset management and police infrastructure. Given constraints in compensation and infrastructure budgets, promote a leaner, frontline-focused structure, channel funds toward investigative and visible policing and manage capital resources like stations, vehicles and forensic tools through a structured Integrated Resource Strategy. Strengthen linkages between financial and operational intelligence tools, ensuring assets amongst others vehicle fleet, Information Communication Technology (ICT) and forensic infrastructure support data-driven policing strategies. Embed a strong culture of financial accountability including lifestyle audits, consequence management and anti-corruption oversight aligned with broader national strategies to combat corruption and organised crime.

Legislation

The Minister of Police is responsible for determining national policing policies and the overall execution of the department's mandate, in relation to the following key pieces of legislation:

- Civilian Secretariat for Police Service Act, 2011 (Act No 2 of 2011).
- Control of Access to Public Premises and Vehicles Act, 1985 (Act No 53 of 1985).
- Critical Infrastructure Protection Act, 2019 (Act No 8 of 2019).
- Dangerous Weapons Act, 2013 (Act No 15 of 2013).
- Explosives Act, 1956 (Act No 26 of 1956), to be replaced by Explosives Act, 2003 (Act No 15 of 2003).
- Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act No 60 of 2000).
- Game Theft Act, 1991 (Act No 105 of 1991).
- Intimidation Act, 1982 (Act No 72 of 1982).
- Independent Police Investigative Directorate Act, 2011 (Act No 1 of 2011).
- National Key Points Act, 1980 (Act No 102 of 1980).
- Private Security Industry Regulation Act, 2001 (Act No 56 of 2001).
- Protection of Constitutional Democracy Against Terrorist and Related Activities Act, 2004 (Act No 33 of 2004).
- Regulation of Gatherings Act, 1993 (Act No 205 of 1993).
- Second-Hand Goods Act, 2009 (Act No 6 of 2009).
- South African Police Service Act, 1995 (Act No 68 of 1995).
- Stock Theft Act, 1959 (Act No 57 of 1959).
- Tear-Gas Act, 1964 (Act No 16 of 1964).

In addition to the above, the SAPS derives its powers and functions mainly from the following key legislation:

- Child Justice Act, 2008 (Act 75 of 2008).
- Children's Act, 2005 (Act 38 of 2005).
- Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007 (Act 32 of 2007).
- Criminal Matters Amendment Act, 2015 (Act 18 of 2015).
- Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act 51 of 1977).
- Counterfeit Goods Act, 1997 (Act 37 of 1997).
- Customary Initiation Act, 2021 (Act 2 of 2021).
- Customs and Excise Act, 1966 (Act 91 of 1966).
- Cybercrimes Act, 2020 (Act 19 of 2020).
- Diamonds Act, 1986 (Act 56 of 1986).
- Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act 57 of 2002).
- Domestic Violence Act, 1998 (Act 116 of 1998).
- Drugs and Drug Trafficking Act, 1992 (Act 140 of 1992).
- Exchange Control Regulations, 1961.
- Films and Publications Act, 1996 (Act 65 of 1996).
- Financial Intelligence Centre Act, 2001 (Act 38 of 2001).
- Immigration Act, 2002 (Act 13 of 2002).
- Inquest Act, 1959 (Act 58 of 1959).
- Implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court Act, 2002 (Act 27 of 2002).
- International Cooperation in Criminal Matters Act, 1996 (Act 75 of 1996).
- Liquor Act, 2003 (Act 59 of 2003).
- Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act 18 of 1998).
- Mental Healthcare Act, 2002 (Act 17 of 2002).
- National Conventional Arms Control Act, 2002 (Act 41 of 2002).
- National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act 107 of 1998).
- National Road Traffic Act, 1996 (Act 93 of 1996).
- National Strategic Intelligence Act, 1994 (Act 39 of 1994).
- Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction Act, 1993 (Act 87 of 1993).
- Older Persons Act, 2006 (Act 13 of 2006).
- Precious Metals Act, 2005 (Act 37 of 2005).
- Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act, 2004 (Act 12 of 2004).
- Prevention and Combating of Torture of Persons Act, 2013 (Act 13 of 2013).
- Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act, 2013 (Act 7 of 2013).
- Protection from Harassment Act, 2011 (Act 17 of 2011).
- Prevention of Organised Crime Act, 1998 (Act 121 of 1998).
- Regulation of Interception of Communication and Provision of Communication-Related Information Act, 2002 (Act 70 of 2002).
- Safety at Sports and Recreational Events Act, 2010 (Act 2 of 2010).
- Sexual Offences Act, 1957 (Act 23 of 1957).
- State of Emergency Act, 1997 (Act 64 of 1997).

Code of Conduct

Employees of the SAPS are bound by the prescripts contained in Section 205 (3) of the Constitution to prevent, combat and investigate crime, to maintain public order, to protect and secure the inhabitants of the country and their property and to uphold and enforce the law. Employees are also bound to uphold and abide by the prescripts contained in the SAPS Act of 1995 and other legislation, the SAPS Employment Regulations, 2018 and National Instruction 18 of 2019 (Integrity Management in the SAPS), to adhere to the SAPS Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct serves as a guideline for SAPS

members to know and understand their responsibilities and obligations towards the general public. Each member of the SAPS is obliged to give a written undertaking to adhere to the principles of the Code of Conduct, to ensure a safe and secure environment for all people of South Africa and to protect the life and property of the citizens of South Africa and all its inhabitants, including foreigners.

This ensures that all members are faithful to South Africa, honour the Constitution and abide by it in the performance of their duties and their daily tasks. Posters of the Code of Conduct and information about ethical behaviour in the SAPS are displayed at all police stations and units. Over and above the members of the DPCI shall continue to observe the Oath of Office in terms of Section 17E(1)(b) of the SAPS Act, 1995 (Act 68 of 1995).

Budget

In 2024/25, the SAPS was allocated a budget R113,6 billion, compared with R105,4 billion, in 2023/24.

Resources

It is essential that the Department manage its human resources to ensure the effective, economical and equitable distribution and use of all human resources so that the SAPS can achieve its primary goals. To ensure that objectives are met by the end of the financial year, an enlistment plan is compiled annually in accordance with the allocated budget and the established targets and priorities, which are detailed in the Estimates of National Expenditure (ENE).

At the end of March 2025, the Department's personnel establishment stood at 187 681, showing an overall upward trend in staffing over the past five years. This reflects a strategic effort to strengthen human resources, particularly in operational capacities. The five-year trajectory indicates a gradual recovery from a low of 182 126 in 2020 to the current level (187 681), nearing the ENE target of 187 878, demonstrating significant progress towards optimal staffing levels. The enlistment of 20 035 new entry-level trainees between 2023/24 and 2024/25 contributed to this growth.

In 2024/25, the SAPS experienced a turnover rate of 3,2%. The Department's turnover rate has remained relatively consistent over the past four years, with a rate of 3,3% in 2020/21; 3,1%, in 2021/22; and 3,3%, in 2022/23. The highest number of losses experienced by the SAPS were attributed to retirements, which were followed by resignations.

The Employment Equity Act, 1998 (Act 55 of 1998) provides the foundation for sustainable and transformative progress on gender equity in the workforce and the employment of people with disabilities. A breakdown of personnel by management level and gender reveals ongoing initiatives to promote gender equality, particularly at senior management levels. By March 2025, there were 26 top management officials (13 males and 13 females), reflecting full gender equality at the top tier (50/50). At senior management level (levels 13 to 16), 775 positions were occupied, 469 males and 306 females, indicating that women comprised 39,48% of senior managers. While this is still short of the Department's goal of 50% gender representation at these levels, it represents a notable effort toward equity, with continued scope for targeted development and empowerment of female leadership.

Disability representation also received attention in line with national transformation goals. By March 2025, the Department had 3 174 employees with disabilities, a modest increase from 3 075 in March 2020. Although this remains below the 2% target of the total workforce (currently about 1,7%), it reflects consistent efforts toward inclusion. Recognising the physical demands of frontline policing, the Department strategically deploys employees with disabilities in administrative and support roles, where they can still make meaningful contributions. Additionally, 5% of vacant support posts are ring-fenced for persons with disabilities during recruitment processes, providing further opportunities for inclusive employment.

The SAPS is currently at a police-to-citizen ratio per capita of 1:406 and it has the same meaning when converted and expressed as the police density per 100 000 citizens (406/100 000).

The Department of Public Service and Administration has selected the SAPS to participate in a Graduate Recruitment Scheme Pilot Project. The Graduate Recruitment Scheme of the SAPS is viewed as a turnaround strategy for youth development, in terms of facilitating the provision of work experience to unemployed youth, based on their qualifications. In 2024/25, 805 interns were provided with internship and workplace integrated learning opportunities.

The National Commissioner allocates funds, annually, for the development of skills and attainment of pertinent qualifications within the SAPS. During the 2024 academic year, a total of 571 employees were awarded bursaries. This includes 367 continuing bursary holders and 204 new bursary applicants. These bursaries form part of the SAPS's commitment to promoting continuous professional development and upskilling of its workforce.

Police safety

Attacks and murders of SAPS employees, both on and off duty, threaten the country's stability. These incidents undermine public confidence in the SAPS's ability to fulfil its constitutional mandate to prevent, combat and investigate crime, maintain public order, and uphold the law. They also create the perception that criminals can act with impunity, disregarding law enforcement while furthering their criminal activities.

A police safety committee, derived from the Police Safety Strategy, is in place as a tool to coordinate all activities, in support of enhancing the safety of all SAPS members. These include the implementation of employee health and wellness programmes, the enhancement of tactical training, analysis of attack incidents to develop proactive preventative measures, and safety awareness campaigns, both within the SAPS and among the public.

Despite these efforts, attacks on police remain a serious concern. The 2024/25 financial year saw a total of 27 members killed in the line of duty. In total, 74 members were murdered, on and off duty, representing a 33,33% decrease from 111 members in 2023/24.

PROGRAMMES

Administration

The programme's focus areas for 2024/25 were aligned with the strategic priority of enhancing safety, security and

organisational performance within the SAPS.

Safety and infrastructure initiatives include: monitoring SAPS-owned firearms to minimise losses and improve management; establishing new police stations through the Infrastructure Development Programme; implementing CCTV systems at prioritised sites; and upgrading National Network Communication Infrastructure to improve operational connectivity and responsiveness.

Capacity building strengthens SAPS through: annual enlistment and training of entry-level police officers; and assessment and certification of learners in operational areas, specialised capabilities, and Leadership and Management Development Programmes.

Ethical conduct and compliance are promoted through: planned ethics and integrity advocacy and awareness programmes; finalisation of cases referred by the Independent Police Investigative Directorate; and completion of audits, forensic investigations and inspections at police stations across the country.

Achievements towards outcomes

Firearm management: Stolen or lost SAPS firearms often end up in criminal hands, eroding public confidence. Every firearm loss is thoroughly investigated to identify causes and implement corrective measures. Despite numerous preventative measures, the issue persists.

Infrastructure expansion: Three new police stations were completed during the reporting period: Phaudi (Limpopo), Dwarsberg and Kanana (North West). Six additional prioritised stations were fast-tracked through Pre-Manufactured Collapsible Units, an alternative construction method that reduces delivery time. Fifteen chassis cab trucks were converted into mobile contact points, providing flexible policing services in areas where permanent facilities are unavailable or require additional support.

Enhanced security: CCTV systems were substantially expanded across SAPS premises in 2024/25, improving safety for members, the public and visitors while deterring potential attacks and reassuring communities.

Recruitment and capacity: More than 10 000 new SAPS Act recruits were enlisted, enhancing capacity, visibility, strategic deployment and public confidence while strengthening crime reduction operations.

Specialised training: Members received training in prioritised areas including gender-based violence, crimes against vulnerable groups, crowd management, forensic science, crime prevention, cybercrime and investigations, strengthening overall capability and professionalism.

Visible Policing

The programme's focus areas address critical threats to public safety, economic stability and community trust through intelligence-led, evidence-based policing.

Economic crime prevention: Extortion and violent crime in the construction sector are targeted by monitoring reported cases and arrests at specified sites. Critical economic infrastructure is protected through tracking infrastructure-related crimes and related arrests. Firearm regulation is strengthened through recovery of illegal and SAPS-owned firearms and finalisation of new firearm applications.

Contact crime reduction: Priority interventions include reducing reported incidents, minimising escapes from police custody, recovering stolen or hijacked vehicles, conducting national and provincial Izimbizos and community engagements, and overseeing the 10111 Command Centre Reform Project. A data-driven approach targets the Top 30 High Contact Crime Stations.

Victim support and community partnerships: Victim-friendly services are provided to crime victims, including those affected by Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. Community Police Forums are maintained at police stations to strengthen partnerships. Public disorder and crowd management operations are conducted constitutionally, stabilising unrest and ensuring peaceful outcomes.

Specialised operations and border security: High-risk and medium- to high-risk security incidents are managed through specialised interventions. Border security is reinforced through proactive responses to wanted person alerts and stolen vehicle hits, as well as profiling and searching vehicles, containers and cargo at land borders, seaports and airports.

Crime statistics

The South African Government is committed to ensuring that all people are and feel safe, as outlined in the Delivery Agreement. High-density operations are implemented in all nine provinces, guided by national crime threat analysis.

Crime remains a critical challenge. According to global crime indices from Statista and Numbeo, South Africa ranks fifth globally and first in Africa, with a crime index score of 74.7 in early 2025. Crime instills fear across all communities, inhibiting citizens from communicating freely, engaging in economic activities, and preventing entrepreneurs and investors from seizing opportunities the country offers. Every crime threatens the rights and freedoms secured by the Constitution.

Government has prioritised crime prevention. In July 2024, the Minister of Police described South Africa's crime levels as "too high and intolerable", committing to tough measures to tackle rising contact crimes such as murder, rape, hijacking and kidnappings while modernising policing and rooting out corruption. This priority extends beyond security and justice departments to all national departments capable of contributing to crime reduction.

Understanding crime metrics: Reported contact crime is not a direct or reliable indicator of police performance alone. Crime rates are influenced by complex socio-economic factors including inequality, education levels, drug abuse and community dynamics. Addressing root causes requires long-term economic, social and developmental interventions beyond immediate police responses. Police enforcement – apprehending offenders and maintaining public order – addresses symptoms but cannot completely resolve underlying causes.

Medium-term trends: Between 2019/20 and 2024/25, the 17 community-reported serious crimes showed a general decrease, while contact crimes increased until a marginal decrease in 2024/25. This suggests a concerning shift from property-related crimes toward more violent offenses against persons, including murder, assault and robbery.

Crimes against women and children

South Africa has strengthened its legal framework to enhance protection for women, children and survivors of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF). Between 2023 and 2024, President Cyril Ramaphosa signed three key GBVF bills into law, reinforcing constitutional rights to equality, dignity and freedom from violence, maltreatment, abuse and exploitation. These legislative advancements ensure greater access to justice for survivors, addressing systemic gaps that previously hindered effective responses. The SAPS has prioritised combating and preventing GBVF as a critical focus area, recognising the devastating impact on individuals and communities. Through specialised units, improved training, victim-friendly services and multi-sectoral collaboration, the SAPS upholds survivors' rights and contributes to the national goal of ending GBVF.

Achievements towards outcomes

Firearm regulation has improved through increased recovery of illegal firearms, strengthening regulation and reducing weapons in circulation. However, ongoing theft, loss and untraceable firearms remain concerns despite enforcement efforts. Finalising firearm applications within prescribed time frames has further enhanced regulation, promoted responsible ownership and increased public confidence in the SAPS.

Economic Infrastructure Task Teams (EITTs) conducted investigations resulting in asset recovery, disruption of criminal activities, enhanced infrastructure security measures and arrests. Illicit trade enforcement through closing illegal liquor outlets and conducting compliance assessments at registered second-hand goods dealers reduced illicit trade, improved public safety and protected legitimate businesses.

Comprehensive law enforcement through arrests, seizures, roadblocks, re-arrest of escapees and vehicle recoveries disrupted criminal networks and reinforced law enforcement authority, though crime levels remain high. Community policing was strengthened through victim-friendly services at all police stations and functional Community Police Forums at nearly every station, enhancing responsiveness to Gender-Based Violence and community participation in crime prevention, particularly supporting GBVF survivors.

Public order management maintained constitutionally grounded stability through successful policing of peaceful gatherings and stabilization of unrest incidents, upholding the rule of law. Border security was strengthened through Enhanced Movement Control System detection of wanted persons and stolen vehicles, combined with optimized profiling and searching of vehicles and cargo at ports of entry, maintaining trade flow while enhancing security.

Detective Services

The programme's focus areas strengthened investigative capacity to address serious and priority crimes.

Contact crime investigation monitors detection rates, with particular emphasis on the 30 High Contact Crime Stations. Crimes against women and children are prioritized through improved detection rates for contact crimes affecting these vulnerable groups. Targeted interventions address extortion and violent crime in the construction sector at specified sites, while Organised Crime Investigations tackle infrastructure-related crimes.

Organised crime disruption focuses on reducing drug syndicates through neutralization of identified operations and arrest of key perpetrators, supporting implementation of the Drug Master Plan. Similarly, neutralizing and arresting members of organized criminal groups and gangs linked to prioritized crime threats forms a core component of disrupting organized crime networks.

Forensic capacity is enhanced through compliance with legislative requirements for taking buccal samples from Schedule 8 arrested offenders and comprehensive use of forensic investigative leads. Fingerprint processing and criminal record maintenance are strengthened by generating original previous conviction reports and updating trial results for guilty verdicts. Forensic evidence processing addresses both routine and non-routine exhibits, manages and reduces backlogs including DNA case exhibits, and optimises use of ballistic intelligence and biology DNA intelligence in investigations.

Serious crime investigation reduces corruption in public and private sectors through preparation of trial-ready cases. Serious organized crime project investigations are closed, serious commercial crime investigations deliver trial-ready cases, and cybercrime support case files are successfully investigated.

Crime Detection

Contact crime detection rates have improved significantly, particularly at the 30 High Contact Crime Stations which serve as focal points for intensified policing and resource allocation. Crimes against women and children receive special focus, with improved detection rates reflecting strengthened investigative protocols, specialised training and victim-friendly approaches that encourage reporting and cooperation. These gains facilitate justice for survivors and prevent further victimisation.

The upward trend in detection rates and targeted focus on priority stations have positively impacted investigation and management of contact crimes. These achievements underscore the importance of sustained support, capacity building and community engagement in reducing the incidence and impact of contact crimes across South Africa.

Organised crime disruption has increased through neutralization of identified drug syndicates and organized criminal groups, with arrests disrupting networks linked to priority threats. Forensic capabilities have been enhanced through increased compliance with taking buccal samples from arrested offenders and comprehensive use of forensic investigative leads. The National Forensic DNA Database contained 1,305,692 forensic DNA profiles by the end of 2024/25.

Successful prosecutions demonstrate investigative effectiveness. In 2024/25, the General Crime Investigation Service secured 308 life sentences for 159 individuals. Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences secured 604 years of life imprisonment for 438 defendants in 505 cases.

Forensic Science

Fingerprint processing and criminal record maintenance have directly improved investigative outcomes. More original previous conviction reports are being generated, and trial

results are updated more frequently with guilty verdicts, strengthening the evidentiary foundation for prosecutions.

Forensic case exhibit processing has increased for both routine and non-routine cases, enhancing investigative support. Integration of criminal records and forensic evidence has proven pivotal in building stronger cases, improving conviction likelihood and contributing to effective crime investigation and disruption across South Africa.

National priority offences

The Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI/ Hawks), established under Section 17C of the SAPS Act 1995 (Act 68 of 1995), is mandated to investigate national priority offences as provided for in Section 17D. The Directorate focuses on serious corruption, serious organised crime and serious commercial crime.

Trial-ready case preparation increased significantly in 2024/25 across all three focus areas. Serious corruption cases in the public sector progressed to prosecution more efficiently, strengthening accountability and deterring corrupt practices. This improved case readiness has enhanced confidence in the justice system's ability to hold offenders accountable and address systemic corruption effectively.

Serious organised crime project investigations closed at higher rates, enabling disruption and dismantling of organised criminal networks and reducing their operational capacity. This progress reflects enhanced investigative coordination and strategic prioritisation within SAPS. Serious commercial crime cases similarly advanced to trial readiness, demonstrating the critical role of meticulous case preparation and project management in combating these priority offences.

Effective response to cybercrime

Cybercrime encompasses internet-related fraud and contraventions under the Electronic Communications and Transactions Act, 2002 (Act No 25 of 2002), and continues to threaten South Africa and the globe. Priority Crime Specialised Investigation facilitates international cooperation against national priority crimes and provides investigative support for serious cyber-related crimes to DPCI operational components through specialised online investigations, social media investigations, open source intelligence and investigation of unauthorised network access.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution brings significant technological advancement but also substantial risk. The threat to South Africa's economy and population posed by malicious criminal targeting of cyberspace requires coordinated legislative, policy, strategic and operational responses through collaborative, preventive effort from all sectors.

The DPCI's Cybercrime unit achieved notable successes in 2024/25 through enhanced capacity, adaptation to the cyber forensic investigative support environment and more effective stakeholder collaboration. This resulted in a higher proportion of case files being successfully investigated.

The Cybercrimes Act of 2020 provides the overarching legal authority for regulation, investigation and criminalisation of cybercrimes. The Act criminalises offences including unlawful access to computers or data storage devices, illegal acquisition or interception of data, unlawful acquisition, receipt or possession of passwords, online forgery, extortion, fraud and theft of incorporeal property. It further criminalises three types of data messages: those inciting damage to property or violence, those threatening people with damage to property or violence, and those unlawfully containing intimate images.

Crime Intelligence

The programme's focus areas strengthened intelligence capabilities to support proactive crime prevention and law enforcement operations.

Network operations infiltrate criminal groupings and syndicates to collect intelligence on priority threats. These operations terminate activities linked to prioritised crime threats, disrupting organised criminal networks.

Security risk and vetting assessments safeguard the integrity of SAPS personnel, systems and facilities through security clearance finalisation, ICT security assessments and overt mandatory physical security assessments of critical infrastructure and sensitive operations.

Intelligence reports are generated and operationalised at district, provincial and national levels, ensuring actionable intelligence informs operational planning, enhances situational awareness and supports targeted interventions against identified threats.

Intelligence-led policing

Network operations have improved significantly, with increased successful termination of operations infiltrating and dismantling criminal groupings and syndicates. These achievements have enabled law enforcement to proactively disrupt prioritised crime threats before they escalate, enhancing public safety and operational efficiency.

Security risk and vetting assessments have been strengthened through finalisation of critical security clearances, ICT security evaluations and overt mandatory physical security assessments. These measures have bolstered personnel and infrastructure integrity, reducing vulnerabilities and safeguarding sensitive operations.

Intelligence report operationalisation has improved across district, provincial and national levels. Proactive reports facilitate anticipatory responses to emerging threats, enabling strategic resource deployment to mitigate crime risks effectively. Reactive reports support rapid, informed responses to incidents as they occur, enhancing investigative outcomes and operational coordination.

These advancements in operational execution, security management and intelligence dissemination have substantially improved SAPS's capacity to combat crime through informed, targeted and timely interventions.

Protection and Security Services

The programme's focus areas ensured safety and security of protected persons, venues and strategic sites.

In-transit and static protection services are provided to designated individuals and identified government interests, along with physical protection and venue security. These protective measures maintain operations free from security breaches and are implemented according to established security protocols, safeguarding national leadership, government interests and critical events.

Physical security is maintained at identified government buildings and strategic installations through systematic

auditing and evaluation of National Key Points. These measures ensure compliance with security standards, enhance resilience against potential threats and support safeguarding of critical state assets.

Identified dignitaries and government interests protected

In-transit and static protection services, along with physical and venue security, operated without security breaches in 2024/25, ensuring safety of high-profile individuals and critical events. This reinforced public confidence in the state's ability to safeguard leadership, institutions and strategic assets whilst deterring threats and maintaining stability in high-risk environments.

Auditing of strategic installations and evaluation of all National Key Points strengthened national security readiness by identifying and addressing vulnerabilities, ensuring compliance with legislative and security standards, and protecting critical infrastructure against sabotage, disruption or other security risks. These outcomes protect vital state interests and demonstrate the capacity of security services to uphold the rule of law.

SAPS Commemoration Day

National Police Commemoration Day takes place on the first Sunday in September to honour police officers who died in the line of duty in the preceding 12 months. A total of 39 officers (three females and 36 males) were commemorated during the National Commemoration Day held at the Union Buildings on 1 September 2024. The event was led by Acting President of the Republic, Deputy President Paul Mashatile. On Commemoration Day, the SAPS inscribes and preserves fallen members' names on the Wall of Remembrance, ensuring they are remembered by current and future generations. Family, friends and colleagues of the 39 members who died in the line of duty between April 2024 and March 2025 attended, along with ministers from various government departments.

The Deputy President laid a wreath at the remembrance wall on behalf of the Republic of South Africa, the Minister of Police laid a wreath on behalf of the Department of Police, and the National Commissioner of the SAPS laid a wreath on behalf of the Service.

Through the SAPS Employee Health and Wellness component, the organisation continues to provide psychological and spiritual support to families, friends and colleagues of deceased members.

Military Veterans

The Department of Military Veterans derives its mandate from the Military Veterans Act 18 of 2011, which requires it to provide national policy and standards on socio-economic support to military veterans and their dependants, including benefits to help realise a dignified, unified, empowered and self-sufficient community of military veterans.

Acknowledging military veterans' contribution towards the fulfilment of a free and democratic South Africa has the potential to deepen social cohesion and national unity while redressing the inequities of the past. It is with this in mind that the department focuses on providing qualifying military veterans and their dependants with access to key benefits such as basic and higher education support, military veterans' pension, housing subsidies and mortgage settlement, healthcare and wellness, business empowerment and skills development programmes as stipulated in the Military Veterans Act, 2011.

The department's total budget for the 2025/26 financial year is R878 million. In terms of the overall budget, the department plans to intensify the rollout of military veterans pensions with the aim of reaching 9 600 deserving military veterans or their dependants by 2027/28. In accordance with section 3(1)(c) of the Military Veterans Act, 2011, the means test will be applied to ensure this benefit is directed towards the most deserving. During the 2025/26 MTEF period, 63% of the total allocated budget is earmarked for the disbursement of military veterans' benefits.

The first Chairperson of the Presidential Task Team (PTT), the late Deputy President DD Mabuza, was invaluable in ensuring the pension benefit for military veterans was disbursed since November 2023. With the support of the Presidential Task Team on Military Veterans led by the Deputy President of the Republic, 4 378 military veterans have been supported at a cost of R217,5 million.

The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans intends to establish a transversal team to assist the department in unlocking the challenges it currently faces. This team will be made up of multidisciplinary agencies, individuals and government bodies tasked with turning the departmental mandate into actionable objectives. During this financial year, the Database Verification, Cleansing and Enhancement workstream of the PTT is verifying military veterans across the country in a continued effort to ensure that military veterans are able to register on the South African National Military Veterans Database, the gateway to all the benefits facilitated by the department. Parallel to the verification process, cleansing and digitising of the database are equally key priorities in ensuring the database's integrity.

Working hand-in-hand with other government departments, such as the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, and the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, among others, the Department of Military Veterans intends to repatriate fallen heroes and heroines who lost their lives during the struggle for our nation's freedom. This repatriation effort seeks to bring back their remains from countries outside the Republic. Between September 2024 and September 2025, 35 mortal remains have been repatriated and reburied while further work is under way. The countries that have been earmarked for this project are Lesotho, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Angola.

The department's Education Support Benefit has over the past three financial years provided learners and students with bursaries to study at various institutions of basic and higher learning. During the 2021/22 financial year, 3 711 learners and students received support at a cost of R88 million. In the 2022/23 financial year, 4 114 learners and students received support at a cost of R126 million. In the 2023/24, 3 690 learners and students cost the department R135 million in education support. For the 2024/25 financial year, 2 738 learners and students were provided with education support to continue with their studies. To date, at least 100 higher education learners have graduated.