SOUTH AFRICA
YEARBOOK
2024/25

The Presidency

The Presidency is mandated with ensuring 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.

The department's total budget over the medium term is R1.9 billion, of which 87,1% (R1.7 billion) is in the Administration programme to provide technical and administrative support to the President, Deputy President and management. Compensation of employees accounts for an estimated 63,7% (R1.2 billion) of the department's budget over the period ahead.

The Presidency comprises eight political principals:

- President, who is the Head of State and Government;
- Deputy President, who is the Leader of Government Business (in Parliament);
- Minister in The Presidency;
- Minister in The Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities;
- Deputy Minister in The Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities;
- Deputy Ministers in The Presidency; and
- Deputy Minister in The Presidency Responsible for State Security.

The President, as the Head of State, leads the Cabinet. He or she is elected by the National Assembly (NA) from among its members and leads the country in the interest of national unity, in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 and the law. The President appoints the Deputy President from among members of the NA. The Deputy President assists the President in executing government functions.

Chapter 1 of the National Development Plan (NDP) sets out a vision for increased government integration towards developing policy in a complex domestic and international environment. Priority 6 (a capable, ethical and developmental state) and Priority 7 (a better Africa and world) of government's 2019-2024 MTSF, with which the work of The Presidency is closely aligned, support this vision.

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/AIDS, TB and sexually transmitted infections.

In March 2023, the Deputy President presented the 2023 - 2028 National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and Sexually Transmitted Infections. The department will oversee the implementation of the plan. Funding for these activities is within the Support Services to the Deputy President subprogramme's allocation of R183.8 million over the MTEF period.

The department will continue promoting 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. To achieve this, R285.1 million is allocated over the MTEF period in the Support Services to the President subprogramme in the Administration programme. Spending in the subprogramme is set to increase at an average annual rate of 5,6%, from R84.4 million in 2023/24 to R99.4 million in 2026/27.

Strengthening governance, state capacity and service delivery

The department will continue to provide support to the National Prosecuting Authority's investigating directorate, the Special Investigating Unit 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 Special Investigating Unit and recommendations of the state capture commission.

To carry out these activities, R1.2 billion is allocated over the period ahead in the Management subprogramme in the Administration programme. Spending in the subprogramme is expected to decrease at an average annual rate of 2,1%, from R445.6 million in 2023/24 to R418.5 million in 2026/27, due to a one-off additional allocation in 2023/24 for the appointment of a new Minister.

The District Development Model 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 plans to produce two reports per year on annual oversight visits by the President. These activities are funded through the Support Services to the President subprogramme, which has a budget of R285.1 million over the period ahead.

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. These activities are carried out in the Support Services to the Deputy President subprogramme.

Bucket eradication

A number of Acts further expand the specific roles and functions of The Presidency and inform its approach to the implementation of its constitutional mandate. They include the:

- Independent Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers Act, 1997 (Act 92 of 1997);
- Remuneration of Public Office Bearers Act, 1998 (Act 20 of 1998), as amended, which provides a framework for determining the salaries, benefits and allowances of public office bearers, and the secretariat to the Independent Commission located within The Presidency;
- Executive Members' Ethics Act, 1998 (Act 82 of 1998), including the Executive Ethics Code; and
- Intergovernmental Relations Framework Act, 2005 (Act 13 of 2005), which establishes a framework for national, provincial and local governments to promote and facilitate intergovernmental relations, and to provide for mechanisms and procedures to facilitate the settlement of intergovernmental disputes. The Act further seeks to promote cooperative governance as espoused by Chapter 3 of the Constitution, and has informed the formation of the President's Coordinating Council, the Cabinet Cluster System, the Forum of South African Directors-Generals and the formation of inter-ministerial committees.

Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

The mandate of the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (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 MTEF period, the department aimed to continue focusing on strengthening the coordination of the national response to gender-based violence; 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.

An estimated 76,4% (R1.9 billion) of the department's budget over the medium term is earmarked for transfers and subsidies to the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE). Total expenditure is expected to decrease at an average rate of 6,6%, from R1 billion in 2023/24 to R821.7 million in 2026/27. This is mainly because of Cabinet-approved reductions to the department's budget amounting to R212.7 million over the MTEF period.

To accommodate the reductions, the department plans to moderate spending on consultants and travel and subsistence while the NYDA is expected to improve its efficiencies. The agency is set to receive an additional allocation of R250 million in 2024/25 for the continuation of the presidential youth employment initiative's national youth service programme.

Addressing GBVF and supporting empowerment

The National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Bill is under consideration by the National Council of Provinces. Until the legal framework is finalised, an interim gender-based violence and femicide secretariat will continue to coordinate and oversee the national response.

The department will also conduct public awareness and advocacy events, and support and monitor the implementation of the economic empowerment of women. To achieve these targets, R25.1 million is allocated over the next three years in the Economic Empowerment of Women subprogramme in the Advocacy and Mainstreaming for the Rights of Women programme.

Promoting gender responsive planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation

Over the period ahead, the department will continue to coordinate and monitor 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.

Accordingly, R23.9 million is allocated over the next three years in the Research and Knowledge Management subprogramme in the Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Coordination programme. The department plans to conduct 12 public participation initiatives and four community mobilisation events over the period ahead to raise awareness and advocate against issues that continue to hinder equality and the these initiatives is budgeted for within an allocation of R59 million over the medium term in the International Relations, Stakeholder Management and Capacity Building subprogramme in the Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Coordination programme. Promoting the rights of people with disabilities and supporting the empowerment of young people.

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.

Expenditure for these initiatives is budgeted for within an allocation of R44.4 million over the MTEF period in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities programme. To advance the socioeconomic empowerment of young people, the department will continue to develop and review policies, legislation and frameworks to guide government and other stakeholders. Spending on these initiatives is within an allocation of R31.7 million over the medium term in the Rights of Youth programme.

ENTITIES
Commission for Gender Equality (CGE)

CGE is an independent statutory body established in terms of Section 181 of the Constitution 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 will 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. Human capital is crucial in the commission's work. As such, spending on compensation of employees accounts for an estimated 78,3% (R233.2 million) of its budget over the medium term, increasing at an average annual rate of 4,7%, from R70.8 million in 2023/24 to R81.2 million in 2026/27. The commission derives all of its revenue through transfers from the department, which amount to R292.8 million over the MTEF period.

National Youth Development Agency

The founding legislation of the National Youth Development Agency is the National Youth Development Agency 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 MTEF period, the agency will continue to focus 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 MTEF period, the agency plans 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. An amount of R1 billion is allocated to carry out this intervention, accounting for an estimated 58,4% of the agency's total projected expenditure over the period ahead. An additional R179.2 million is allocated to provide more than 120 000 young people with skills to enter the job market and find decent and sustainable employment opportunities.

The National Youth Service Programme is allocated R309.6 million over the MTEF period for the implementation of the Presidential Youth Employment initiative. This includes an additional allocation of R250 million in 2024/25. The agency expects to derive 85,9% (R1.7 billion) of its revenue over the Medium-term through transfers from the department and the remainder through funds sourced from other public and private sector organisations. Revenue is expected to decrease from R831.3 million in 2023/24 to R591.3 million in 2026/27. This is due to Cabinet-approved budget reductions to the agency's budget amounting to R158.4 million over the period ahead, and allocations from the presidential youth employment initiative coming to an end in 2024/25.

PROGRAMMES

Social Transformation and Economic Empowerment Programme

The purpose of the programme is to manage policies that mainstream women's social transformation and economic empowerment. The objective of the programme, over the medium term, is to advance the socio-economic empowerment of women by:

- **promoting** their social empowerment and participation through national dialogues on violence against women and children, and social upliftment programmes;
- **proposing** and developing interventions for their socio-economic empowerment and participation; and
- **developing** interventions to advance gender equality and establishing a just and safe society.

Stakeholder Coordination and Knowledge Management

The purpose of the programme is to ensure policy and stakeholder coordination and knowledge management for the social transformation of women in South Africa.

The programme's objectives over the medium term include:

- **informing** decision-making, policy development and the implementation of socio-economic empowerment initiatives for women, in line with national, regional, continental and global development goals;
- **ensuring** that government departments improve their contribution to the socio-economic empowerment of women by improving the mainstreaming of gender equality within government's planning, monitoring and evaluation systems;
- **improving** gender-sensitive planning, monitoring and evaluation systems by analysing other departments' plans and performance against priority indicators and targets for gender development, facilitating the evaluation of key gender policies and programmes and making recommendations for improvement;
- **positioning** the department as an effective information and knowledge hub on the socio-economic empowerment of women and gender equality by developing a central national gender information system to enable stakeholders to contribute and access relevant information;
- **enabling** effective participation in international multilateral forums on women empowerment and gender equality by instituting timely reporting and convening consultative workshops with relevant stakeholders.

Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The purpose of the programme is to oversee the implementation of initiatives pertaining to the rights of persons with disabilities. Its objective, over the medium term, is to support and monitor the implementation of policies, and coordinate government's implementation of the 2015 White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

National Youth Development

The purpose of the programme is to oversee the implementation of national youth development initiatives. Its objective, over the medium term, is to promote the development and empowerment of young people by reviewing the legislative framework and other interventions to advance youth rights.

16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children

The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children is a UN campaign, which takes place annually from 25 November (International Day of No Violence against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day). While the internationally determined time frame of the annual campaign is 16 days until 10 December, the time frame of 365 days was chosen by the South African Government to ensure a programmatic approach to the management of violence against women and children. The 2021 campaign was hosted under the theme "The Year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke – 16 Days of Activism – Moving from Awareness to Accountability."

National Strategic Plan (NSP) on GBVF

In March 2020, Cabinet approved the NSP on GBVF. The plan aims to provide a multi-sectoral, coherent strategic policy and programming framework to strengthen a coordinated national response to the GBVF crisis by government and the country as a whole. The plan outlines interventions to provide support to survivors and their families and broaden access to justice, drive societal change through awareness-raising and prevention campaigns, strengthen existing programmes to fight GBVF, and broaden access to economic opportunities for women.

As part of institutionalising the implementation of the NSP, a number of processes have been employed by Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (DWYPD) to enforce accountability, provide leadership and coordinate implementation.

The plan is supported by the following pillars:

- Accountability, leadership and coordination;
- Prevention and restoration of social fabric;
- Protection, safety and justice;
- Response, care, support and healing;
- Economic empowerment; and
- Research and information systems.

Government has allocated nearly R21 billion over the medium term to support these pillars. South Africa is in the

process of ratifying the International Labour Organisation ILO Convention 190, which establishes a global standard for the protection of women in the world of work. The aim is to ensure safe workplaces that are free of violence against women. This work also aims to seek support for gender equality and address GBVF in the workplace at the highest levels of decision-making.

GBVF Response Fund

The fund is aimed at supporting the implementation of the NSP on GBVF and the wider response in the country. The fund is a fulfilment of a resolution of the GBVF Declaration, which followed the GBVF Summit held in 2018.

Through the fund, stakeholders are expected to:

- Spearhead private sector contributions;
- Acquire resources for the implementation of the National Strategic Plan on GBVF;
- Provide necessary programming and financial infrastructure;
- Ensure accountability and governance for private sector funds;
- Facilitate operational and strategic cohesion between donors and government; and
- Provide technical support for efficient and effective delivery of the plan.

During his 2024 State of the Nation Address, President Cyril Ramaphosa reiterated that GBVF persists as a major challenge, characterising it as a second pandemic and a pervasive social ill necessitating intensified comprehensive action. Although political will and private sector initiatives, such as the establishment of the GBVF Response Fund, are evident, the persistent systemic and structural effects of GBVF continue to undermine our progress.

The President's call to intensify collective efforts is an opportunity to turn pragmatic actions into measurable steps, thereby achieving noticeable and impactful reductions in GBVF rates.

International Women's Day (IWD)

Every year, South Africa joins the rest of the world in commemorating IWD. The 2022 event was held under the theme: "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow". This is a global event celebrating social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Marked annually on 8 March, IWD is one of the most important days of the year to:

- celebrate women's achievements;
- raise awareness about women's equality;
- lobby for accelerated gender parity; and
- fundraise for female-focused charities.

IWD has been observed since the early 1900s, with the first gathering held in 1911.

Disability Rights Awareness Month

Disability Rights Awareness Month is commemorated annually from 3 November to 3 December – the National Day of Persons with Disabilities. The 2021 DRAM was held under the theme; "The Year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke – Create and Realise an Inclusive Society Upholding Rights of Persons with Disabilities''.

Disability is one of the seven focus areas identified by the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) to promote, protect, and monitor the realisation of human rights. DWYPD works with a number of membership-based organisations, often referred to as disabled people organisations that are run and managed by persons with disabilities.

These organisations constitute the representative voice of persons with disabilities and are based on the respective membership demographics. They support the development of persons with disabilities by providing them with a common platform to exchange and share experiences and provide information on existing services, as well as facilitate and provide such services.

Government Communication

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) was officially launched in May 1998. It was established in terms of Section 7 (Subsection 2 and 3) of the Public Service Act, 1994 (Act 103 of 1994), as amended. It was transferred from the then Department of Communications to The Presidency with effect from 1 April 2020. The mandate of the GCIS is derived from Section 195(g) of the Constitution, which stipulates that South African citizens should be provided with information that is timely, accurate and accessible. This is in support of the constitutional principles of freedom of expression, transparency and openness of government.

The GCIS is responsible for providing strategic leadership and coordinating government communication to ensure that the people of South Africa are informed and have access to government programmes and policies that benefit them. It facilitates the involvement of South Africans in governance, reconstruction and development, nation building and reconciliation.

The NDP emphasises the need to unite all South Africans around a common goal, ensure citizens are active in their own development, and build a capable and developmental state. This is given expression by Priority 6 (building a capable, ethical and developmental state) of government's 2019-2024 MTSF, with which the work of the GCIS is aligned.

The GCIS:

- provides professional services;
- sets and influences adherence to standards for an effective government communication system;
- drives coherent government messaging; and
- proactively communicates with the public about government policies, plans, programmes and achievements.

The Director-General (DG) of the GCIS is also the official Spokesperson for government. He/she chairs the GCIS Executive Committee – a strategising body that integrates, coordinates and rationalises the work of the department and government communication. To expand its reach to more

South Africans, the GCIS aims to harness and coordinate various communication structures across the government communication system over the medium term.

Essential to doing this economically is joint planning, the sharing of resources and the integration of efforts among government departments. *Vuk'uzenzele* newspaper, which is distributed digitally countrywide, is the only national publication focused on government's key priorities, with an emphasis on service delivery programmes and opportunities created by government.

Over the period ahead, the department will focus on providing and facilitating strategic government communication, coordinating communication across government, and facilitating active citizen participation. The department has a total budget of R2.3 billion, increasing at an average annual rate of 2,6%, from R743.5 million in 2023/24 to R802.8 million in 2026/27. As the department's work is mostly dependent on personnel, spending on compensation of employees accounts for an estimated 39,5% (R925.2 million) of its budget over the MTEF period, while transfers to entities account for an estimated 32,3% (R735.1 million).

Providing and facilitating strategic government communication

The department 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, 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 GBVF, and civic education.

These activities have an allocation of R73.2 million over the medium term in the Content Processing and Dissemination programme. 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. This expenditure is also in the Content Processing and Dissemination programme.

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. This will be carried out at an estimated cost of R2.9 million per year over the MTEF period in the Products and Platforms subprogramme in the Content Processing and Dissemination Branch.

Coordinating communication across government

Over the next three years, the department aims to 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 eight metros across the country, will be reinforced in an effort to enhance service delivery.

The department's footprint at 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. These activities are funded through the Intergovernmental Coordination and Stakeholder Management Branch, which is allocated R417.1 million over the medium term.

Facilitating active citizen participation

To encourage citizen participation, the GCIS aims to 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. This will be carried out through the Media Engagement subprogramme, spending in which accounts for an estimated 12,7% (R53.4 million) of budget in the Intergovernmental Coordination and Stakeholder Management Branch over the medium term.

ENTITIES

Brand South Africa

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. Over the MTEF period, the entity plans to work on developing a central idea to encapsulate the country's identity and, with that, its unique selling proposition.

This entails developing messaging that shapes a positive narrative that resonates with citizens and how they see themselves. Some of these costs for this initiative will be contained using the entity's existing Play Your Part government messaging platform, through which ambassadors will be mobilised to positively influence the nation brand by sharing their inspiring stories on the entity's website.

To carry out these activities, expenditure is set to increase at an average annual rate of 0,9%, from R219.4 million in 2023/24 to R225.6 million in 2026/27. The slow growth is due to Cabinet-approved reductions amounting to R105.8 million over the medium term. Although the entity plans to contain the impact of these reductions by collaborating with institutions with similar mandates, some performance targets, such as the number of activities that promote pride, active citizenry and social cohesion, will be revised. The entity is set to receive 97,2% (R613.9 million) of its revenue over the medium term through transfers from the department. Revenue is expected to increase in line with expenditure.

Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA)

Over the medium term, the MDDA aims to continue providing 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. Funding for these projects is set to amount to R166 million over the MTEF period.

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. Related activities, including eight research projects on key developments that affect the community media sector, are expected to cost R14 million over the medium term.

Total expenditure is expected to amount to R321.5 million over the period ahead, decreasing at an average annual rate of 8,3%, from R137.8 million in 2023/24 to R106.1 million in 2026/27. This takes into account an anticipated decrease in revenue generated from contributions from traditional media funders whose businesses have been affected by the growth in digital media.

The agency is set to derive 56,6% (R181.8 million) of its revenue over the period ahead through the mainstream broadcast sector as donations deductible from the Universal Service and Access Fund levy, and 37,6% (R121 million) through transfers from the department.

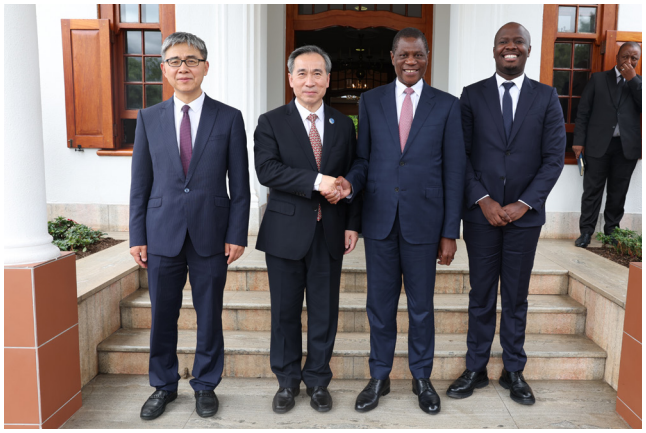
Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

The Department of Planning Monitoring Evaluation (DPME) is mandated to:

- support the National Planning Commission;
- facilitate the implementation of policies, legislation and regulation related to the NDP with the aim of optimising the national planning system, coordinating national medium-term plans and delivery agreements, and monitoring and evaluating their implementation;
- ensure the alignment of departmental strategic and annual plans with budget allocations and government's medium-term development plan;
- 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 evaluation plan, and support the national evaluation 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. The department mainly relies on its personnel to drive its mandate.

Accordingly, spending on compensation of employees accounts for an estimated 72,7% (R1.1 billion) of its total budget over the period ahead.



Supporting the implementation of the NDP

The department is tasked with facilitating the implementation of the NDP. This is carried out by the National Planning Commission 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 MTEF period, the commission plans 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 plans to facilitate 1 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.

This work will be facilitated through allocations to the National Planning Commission Secretariat subprogramme, which accounts for 51,5% (R119.4 million) of spending in the National Planning Coordination programme.

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 Medium-Term Development Plan (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 medium-term development plan, 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 medium-term development plan and develop guidelines for the spatialisation of strategic plans and annual performance plans.

These activities will be facilitated through the National Planning Coordination subprogramme which accounts for a projected 45,4% (R107.6 million) of spending in the programme over the MTEF period.

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

The department 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. These activities are carried out through the Outcomes Monitoring and Support subprogramme which accounts for an estimated 84,8% (R178.3 million) of spending in the Sector Monitoring Service programme over the MTEF period.

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. Spending on these activities is in the Public Service Monitoring and Capacity Development subprogramme, which accounts for 95,3% (R239.9 million) of the Public Sector Monitoring and Capacity Development programme's allocation over the MTEF period.

In line with the NDP's vision to build a capable, ethical and developmental state, over the medium term, the department aims to produce 12 evaluation reports, which are intended to support evidence-based planning, monitoring and evaluation across government. This work will be done through the Evaluation, Research, Knowledge and Data Systems subprogramme, which accounts for 93,1% (R108.5 million) of the Evidence, Knowledge System programme's allocation over the period ahead.

The department will continue to develop the Centralised Data Management System at a cost of R3.2 million over the MTEF period in the Evaluation, Research, Knowledge and Data Systems subprogramme. The system 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.