

South Africa
Yearbook
2020/21

The Presidency



The Presidency

As the executive manager of government, The Presidency is at the apex of South Africa's government system. It is situated in the Union Buildings in Pretoria, and has a subsidiary office in Tuynhuys, Cape Town. The mandate of The Presidency is to ensure that the presidents of South Africa can execute their constitutional responsibilities in leading and galvanising government and society to implement the electoral mandate. Broadly, The Presidency oversees the implementation of the electoral mandate, the National Development Plan (NDP) and government's medium-term strategic frameworks.

The Presidency's key role in the executive management and coordination of government lies in its responsibility to organise governance. In this regard, a key aim is the facilitation of an integrated and coordinated approach to governance. This is being achieved through creative, cross-sectoral thinking on policy issues and the enhancement of the alignment of sectoral priorities with the National Strategic Policy Framework and other government priorities. Its purpose is to facilitate a common programme towards the achievement of the electoral mandate and the enhanced integrity of the State through considered planning, coordination, oversight, mobilisation and support.

The Presidency comprises eight political principals:

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

The Presidency has three structures that support governance operations directly. They are:

- Cabinet Office, which provides administrative support to Cabinet. It implements administrative systems and processes to ensure the overall optimal functioning of the Cabinet and its committees. It also facilitates the management of decision-making processes of the Cabinet and its committees.
- Policy Coordination Advisory Services comprises a Deputy Director-General and five chief directorates, which support policy processes developed by respective clusters of Director-Generals (DGs).
- Legal and Executive Services provides legal advice to the President, Deputy President, the Minister and The Presidency

as a whole, and is responsible for all litigation involving the political principals.

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.

The mandate of The Presidency is to ensure that the President is able to execute his constitutional responsibilities in leading and galvanising the whole of government and society to implement the electoral mandate. Chapter 1 of the 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 Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF), with which the work of The Presidency is closely aligned, support this vision.

Over the medium term, The Presidency will focus on providing leadership and support on the implementation of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan (ERRP); and advancing South Africa's regional and global interests.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused severe damage to global economies, affecting trade, investment, international travel and global supply chains. In South Africa alone, it has created myriad socio-economic challenges and threatened millions of jobs and livelihoods, especially those of the most vulnerable. In response, government in consultation with social partners, labour, businesses and community organisations has developed an ERRP to restore and grow the economy.

In guiding the implementation of the plan, The Presidency will focus on coordinating and facilitating various priorities and interventions. These include stimulus packages to create jobs and support livelihoods; support the reindustrialisation of the economy with a focus on advancing the development of small enterprises in townships and rural areas; and accelerate economic reforms aimed at unlocking investment and growing the economy. This work will be carried out in the Support Services to the President subprogramme. Spending in the subprogramme is expected to account for 15% (R228.2 million) of the department's budget over the medium term.

In 2020/21, South Africa assumed Chairship of the African Union (AU) and the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change. It also chairs the Presidential

Infrastructure Championship Initiative and the African Peer Review Mechanism. These are strategic positions to consolidate the African Agenda and speed up the implementation of flagship programmes. The Presidency will, therefore, support the President and Deputy President in advancing South Africa's national interest and foreign policy through strategic bilateral and multilateral meetings, state visits and other international obligations.

These engagements will be funded through allocations of R228.2 million and R176 million over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period in the Support Services to the President and Support Services to the Deputy President subprogrammes respectively, both of which are in the Administration programme. Expenditure in the programme is set to increase at an average annual rate of 2.9%, from R481 million in 2020/21 to R524 million in 2023/24.

Promoting an integrated approach to governance and service delivery

The Presidency seeks to promote good governance by ensuring greater policy coordination across government. To improve this function, over the medium term, the department plans to build capacity in the Policy and Research Services programme. Activities in this new programme, which will be responsible for providing content and technical support to political principals in The Presidency and Cabinet, include ensuring the effectiveness of government policy and the accuracy of submissions on the approach and strategy of government policy; and advising the President, Deputy President and Cabinet on interventions necessary to ensure more efficient and effective service delivery across government. To carry out these activities, the Economy, Trade and Investment subprogramme is allocated R44.7 million over the medium term.

Activities in the Socio-economic Impact Assessment System subprogramme involve ensuring that government policies and legislation are evidence-based and coherent, and that associated costs and risks are proactively managed to ensure the implementation of the seven priorities of government's 2019 – 2024 MTSF. Spending on these activities is expected to amount to R26.2 million over the medium term. Total expenditure in the Policy and Research Services programme is expected to amount to R70.9 million, accounting for an estimated R2.0 billion of the department's total budget over the MTEF period.

Promoting nation-building and social cohesion

The Presidency plans to continue supporting nation-building and social cohesion, mainly through the President leading initiatives on national days, national orders and special events. The Deputy President is expected to continue facilitating engagements between The Presidency and social partners – to strengthen the Moral Regeneration Movement, a civil society organisation mandated to promote collective activism on issues of moral renewal and nation-building.

In addition, to promote social cohesion, the Deputy President will attend to government business in the NA, chair the South African National AIDS Council, and lead government's anti-poverty programme and its efforts to fast-track land reform. Activities related to these initiatives are carried out in the Support Services to the President and Support Services to the Deputy President subprogrammes. Allocations to these subprogrammes amount to R431.2 million over the MTEF period.

Advancing South Africa's interests

The Presidency's fundamental role in the international arena is to assist the President and Deputy President in advancing South Africa's interests in the global community. Accordingly, over the medium term, the department plans to provide strategic and administrative support to state visits, unilateral, bilateral and multilateral meetings and summits. The department also plans to assist South Africa in fulfilling its obligations to the United Nations (UN), the Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) group of countries, the Group of Twenty, the Southern African Development Community, and peacekeeping missions.

The Presidency also supports the President in his role as the AU Chairperson. Through its focus on strengthening South Africa's political and economic relations internationally, the department plans to create an enabling environment for trade and investment. To support these activities, R57.1 million is allocated over the medium term in the Support Services to the President and Support Services to the Deputy President subprogrammes.

Legislative mandates

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);
- the Remuneration of Public Office-bearers Act, 1998 (Act 20 of 1998), as amended, 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;
- the Executive Members Ethics Act, 1998 (Act 82 of 1998), including the Executive Ethics Code; and
- the 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 DGs and the formation of inter-ministerial committees.

Budget

Budget

For the 2020/21 financial year, The Presidency was allocated R599 863 million.

Expenditure is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 1.7%, from R580.6 million in 2020/21 to R610.5 million in 2023/24. Compensation of employees accounts for an estimated 63% (R1.1 billion) of the department's expenditure over the MTEF period. To remain within government's ceiling for compensation of employees, spending on this item decreases at an average annual rate of 1%, from R385.2 million in 2020/21 to R376.4 million in 2023/24. This decrease will be effected by only filling critical posts as they become vacant.

Programmes

Executive Support

The purpose of the programme is to provide strategic and administrative support to enable Cabinet to foster accountability and policy coherence through integrated planning, policy coordination, and the implementation of the strategic agenda of government. Its objectives, over the medium term, are to:

- provide policy advisory support to political principals

to ensure policy coherence by implementing Cabinet programmes; and

- strengthen technical support provided to the President and other political principals in the department by participating in Cabinet structures on an ongoing basis, and implementing the recommendations of the evaluation of coordinating structures to improve systems of governance and compliance for Cabinet and the forum of South African DGs.

Policy and Research Service

The purpose of the programme is to provide policy and research support to the President and Deputy President in exercising their constitutional mandate within the context of government priorities.

Its objective, over the medium term, is to enhance governance, state capacity and service delivery defined in the 2020 – 2025 Programme of Action by:

- producing quarterly progress reports on content support provided by the programme to the structures chaired by the President and Deputy President;
- producing quarterly progress reports on intergovernmental mechanisms to unblock issues impeding service delivery in priority areas;
- reporting on the biannual socio-economic impact assessments conducted over the medium term.

Its subprogrammes include:

- Economy, Trade and Investment, which promotes coherence between economic, trade and investment policies and programmes; oversees the work of the Infrastructure Fund, which is intended to pool government's infrastructure budget.
- Security and International Relations, which facilitates and promotes policy coherence in the security and international relations sector.
- Infrastructure and Budget Support, which promotes policy coherence and budget support in government's strategic infrastructure programme.
- Social Protection and Human Capital Development, which promotes policy coherence in the social protection and human capital development sectors by identifying critical social transformation policies and programmes, such as the national health and education systems, social cohesion, and comprehensive social security.
- Intervention and Rapid Response, which provides support

to government interventions in areas experiencing crisis and distress, such as service delivery protests.

- Governance and Institutional Development, which promotes policy coherence within governance and institutional development by facilitating the strengthening of institutions responsible for service delivery.
- Socio-economic Impact Assessment System, which provides support on policy initiatives, legislation and regulations. The subprogramme conducts socio-economic impact assessments and facilitates the strengthening of the assessment system.

Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities

The Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities derives its mandate from Section 9 (3) of the Constitution. The department is required to champion socio-economic transformation and the empowerment and participation of women, youth and people with disabilities through mainstreaming, advocacy, and monitoring and evaluation.

The NDP envisages economic participation, education and skills development for women and other vulnerable groups, and the elimination of violence against women and children. This vision is given expression by Priority 1 (economic transformation and job creation), Priority 5 (social cohesion and safe communities) and Priority 6 (a capable, ethical and developmental state) of government's 2019 – 2024 MTSF.

The work of the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities is directly aligned with these priorities through facilitating the planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, and auditing processes responsive to gender, youth and disability rights across the State.

Over the medium term, the department will continue to focus on reducing the incidence of gender-based violence (GBV) and strengthening the national response to it; and promoting the inclusion of women, youth and people with disabilities in the economy and society as a whole.

Addressing GBV and supporting empowerment

In its efforts to mitigate and prevent violence against women and children, the department was expected to launch the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) in 2021 – to lead and guide the national response. The

council's work would complement programmes undertaken by the department, the Commission for Gender Equality, and the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME).

To set up, oversee and coordinate this structure, R15 million is allocated in the Governance Transformation, Justice and Security subprogramme to support and monitor the development of frameworks and programmes that further the empowerment and participation. While the national crime statistics for the second quarter of 2020/21 showed a decrease of 16.8% in sexual offences, more than 8 000 rape cases were reported to the police in those three months.

Promoting gender-responsive planning, budgeting, and monitoring and evaluation across government

The Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities will continue to advocate and assess the gender-responsiveness of government programmes by analysing other departments' plans and performance against priority indicators and targets for gender development. In each year of the MTEF period, the department plans to conduct 12 public participation initiatives and four community mobilisation events to assist government identify gaps in gender policy, and advise on how best to respond to citizen concerns, and contribute to the realisation of equal and entrenched rights for women, young people and people with disabilities.

Expenditure for these initiatives and events is within an allocation of R59.8, million over the medium term, in the Stakeholder Coordination and Outreach subprogramme, accounting for 47.1% of total estimated expenditure in the Policy, Stakeholder Coordination and Knowledge Management programme.

Since the adoption of the Framework on Gender-responsive Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Auditing, the department has been providing guidance to other departments and coordinating the implementation of the framework. To continue to increase awareness about and build capacity for the implementation of this framework, R36.9 million has been allocated in the Research, Policy Analysis and Knowledge Management and Policy Coordination and Knowledge Management subprogrammes.

Government is committed to focus on women's economic empowerment initiatives – to ensure that they fully assume their rightful place in the economy and society. This include

earmarking 40% preferential procurement to women-owned businesses nationally. A central coordinating mechanism has been curated, with a national procurement task team coordinated by The Presidency, to ensure that key actions are taken to achieve this target. Initiatives aimed at fast tracking the empowerment of women-owned businesses to better take up opportunities within the implementation of the 40% preferential public procurement started in December 2020. Women will be capacitated in business registration and compliance, procurement and regulatory provisions, financial literacy, marketing tools, and access to markets, finance and opportunities.

Promoting the rights of people with disabilities

Over the MTEF period, the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities intends to develop the National Disability Rights Bill, and finalise frameworks for awareness campaigns on disability rights, the self-representation of people with disabilities, the professionalisation and coordination of disability rights in the Public Sector, universal access, and reasonable accommodation support. These initiatives are in line with the recommendations of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities, and are expected to result in expenditure of R53.4 million over the medium term in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities programme.

Supporting the empowerment of young people

To advance the socio-economic empowerment of young people, the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities will continue to develop and review policies, legislation and frameworks to guide government and other stakeholders. The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), through transfers amounting to R1.4 billion over the MTEF period, will continue to prioritise interventions that support skills development and employment through cross-sectoral collaboration.

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women, youth and persons with disabilities

The COVID-19 pandemic and government's response to it has placed additional demands on the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, particularly in relation to forming an integral component of the development of government's overall response and interventions to mitigate the negative

impacts of the pandemic on women, youth and persons with disabilities. The pandemic has prevented and constrained certain activities, including the provision of services that are vital in the ongoing empowerment and promotion of the rights of women, youth and persons with disabilities.

The pandemic has, on the other hand, provided potential new vantage points and opened up opportunities for innovative approaches in the way the department operates. The pandemic resulted in many women losing jobs during the lockdown period, and those in informal businesses facing increasing poverty and hunger. Temporary increases in child support and disability grants, and the creation of the Special Relief of Distress Grant had an enormous impact on the lives of mainly poor and unemployed women, youth and persons with disabilities.

The distribution of food parcels also helped in reducing the growing hunger and food scarcity in households. There was also the issue of the lack of access to free sanitary products for poor and indigent women, and girls during this period, which was, to a limited extent, addressed through adding the products into food parcels.

Domestic workers, who are mainly women, either lost their jobs or their monthly incomes. The challenge was that some of them were not registered with the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF). To help this group, government created the UIF-Temporary Employer-Employee Relief Scheme (TERS) to assist registered domestic workers but a High Court ruling ensured that all domestic workers who were facing lack of income were assisted through the UIF-TERS.

GBV, and in particular the issue of femicide, was exacerbated by the lockdown. While the South African Police reported a decrease in cases during this period, reports across society decried increased incidences of GBV. In addition, there were reports of women not being able to access services as victims and survivors of such violence. This was as a consequence of limited transportation; victims being confined in close proximity with abusive partners and spouses or family members and not being able to access police stations because of curfews, among others.

During this period, GBV was declared a second pandemic in South Africa. The country launched a strategic plan to address the issue and there were efforts to put in place GBVF referral pathways and safety plans; inclusion of GBV prevention, response, treatment and care as a permitted essential service in the lockdown regulations; and increased awareness-raising measures.

However, as the lockdown eased to Alert Level 3, the brutal murders of women by partners came to the fore in the country. This resulted in more concerted efforts towards raising awareness, particularly addressing men and boys, and the fast-tracking of three pieces of legislation into Parliament – aimed at putting in place greater measures to address the scourge.

In February 2021, government, in partnership with the private sector, launched the GBVF Response Fund. The country is also embarking on drawing up legislation that will pave way for the establishment of a national council of GBVF in the near future.

There were some positive efforts in ensuring the accommodation of people with disabilities when creating regulations during this period. There was a concerted effort in ensuring that all media briefings by government included sign language interpretation.

Given the global nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were efforts by international partners such as the UN and the AU to bring women together through virtual forums to engage on issues around the pandemic and those affecting women, youth and persons with disabilities, and how to mitigate, as much as possible, the detrimental impacts being felt by these sectors. There were several dialogues on how to ensure that livelihoods of women and persons with disabilities can be brought into the COVID-19 response and post-COVID recovery and economic measures. In addition, international donor partners provided financial aid and technical assistance on issues of GBV and women's economic empowerment.

The department, donor partners and other government departments undertook comprehensive research studies on the impact of COVID-19 on women, youth and persons with disabilities. This is expected to provide a body of evidence that will be used to assess, not only the impact of COVID-19, but also assist in future pandemics and other humanitarian situations, especially on the lives and livelihoods of women, youth and persons with disabilities.

The studies found that persons with disabilities experienced various barriers, including accessing basic protection measures, such as washing hands and maintaining physical distancing. These barriers were exacerbated for those living in informal settlements. Access to disability grants and online education for children with disabilities were also highlighted as key challenges.

Recommendations included the fact that reasonable accommodation and universal design are the central pillars for

meaningful access and participation. The reports recommended that disability inclusion would result in a COVID-19 response and recovery plan that better served everyone.

Budget

The Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities was allocated R778.5 million for the 2020/21 financial year.

Total expenditure is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 8%, from R621 million in 2020/21 to R781.9 million in 2023/24, with an estimated 73.4% (R1.7 billion) of the department's budget, over the medium term, allocated to transfers and subsidies to the Commission for Gender Equality and the NYDA.

Entities

Commission for Gender Equality

The Commission for Gender Equality was established in terms of Section 181 of the Constitution. It is mandated to strengthen and deepen constitutional democracy, with a focus on attaining gender equality. Its powers and functions are prescribed further in the Commission for Gender Equality Act, 1996 (Act 39 of 1996), as amended, which requires the commission to promote the protection, development and attainment of gender equality, and respect for it.

Over the medium term, the commission will continue to advance legislation, policies and advocacy initiatives that contribute to the eradication of gender inequality. This is expected to be achieved by influencing laws and government policies through written submissions to Parliament; and monitoring the country's response to addressing and combating GBV and inequality. The commission will also seek to conduct outreach and advocacy interventions to increase education and awareness, and provide legal clinics to resolve disputes in gender-related cases.

The commission's work is largely driven by research. As such, spending on compensation of employees is expected to account for 78% (R216.6 million) of its budget over the medium term. The commission derives all its revenue through transfers from the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, which are set to amount to R279.3 million over the MTEF period. The commission's projected expenditure for 2020/21 was R89.9 million.

National Youth Development Agency

The NYDA's role is to initiate, implement, facilitate and monitor development interventions aimed at facilitating the participation of young people in the economy, empowering them, and promoting social cohesion. Over the MTEF period, the agency will focus on providing comprehensive interventions to support decent employment, skills development and entrepreneurship for young people. This will include partnering with different sectors to provide training in technical and vocational skills through sector education and training authorities, providing grants to young people for enterprise development, and coordinating national youth service programmes.

Over the medium term, R762 million is allocated to enhance participation of young people in the economy; R230 million to ensure that young people serve their communities – to build the spirit of patriotism, solidarity, social cohesion and unity in diversity; and R207 million to help young people find employment through jobs programmes. The agency will provide support services to enable them to gain direct access to markets and relevant entrepreneurial skills, and provide financial and non-financial support.

Expenditure is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 14.5%, from R367.4 million in 2020/21 to R551.6 million in 2023/24, with spending on compensation of employees accounting for an estimated 40.6% (R598.5 million) of the agency's total expenditure over this period. The agency is set to derive 89% (R1.4 billion) of its revenue over the MTEF period through transfers from the department.

Programmes

Social Transformation and Economic Empowerment

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 objective, 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 2020 campaign was hosted under the theme; "Women's Economic Justice for a Non-violent and Non-sexist South Africa".

National Strategic Plan on GBVF

In March 2020, Cabinet approved the National Strategic Plan 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 National Strategic Plan, a number of processes have been employed by the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities 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, 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 National Strategic Plan 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 the launch, various donations were made, including R30 million from Anglo American, R20 million from ABSA Bank, and R20 million from the Ford Foundation.

National Women's Month

South Africa commemorates Women's Month in August. National Women's Day is marked on 9 August annually. It marks the anniversary of the great women's march of 1956. On 9 August 1956, about 20 000 women marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest against legislation aimed at tightening the apartheid government's control over the movement of black women in urban areas. The women were led by Lilian Ngoyi – a trade unionist and political activist, Helen Joseph, Albertina Sisulu, and Sophia Williams-De Bruyn.

The 2020 Women Month was celebrated under the theme; "Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights for an Equal Future". The concept of generation equality is a global campaign and links South Africa to global efforts to achieve gender equality by 2030.

International Women's Day (IWD)

Every year, South Africa joins the rest of world in commemorating IWD. The 2021 event was held under the theme; "Choose to Challenge". 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 2020 Disability Rights Awareness Month was held under the theme; "Together Building Communities Inclusive of Disability Rights". 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.

A report by the SAHRC has revealed that persons with disabilities account for 5.1% of the population aged five years and older. The report states that persons with disabilities continue to experience lack of access to adequate health and basic education, with no prospect of securing employment.

They are also particularly vulnerable to the compounded effects of discrimination and abuse. This is attributed to the entrenched negative beliefs and attitudes about the causes of disability; the capabilities of persons with disabilities; and the need to protect persons with disabilities through segregated programmes.

The Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities 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 Communications

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.

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 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.

Over the medium term, the GCIS will continue to focus on providing and facilitating strategic government communication, and encouraging active citizen participation. It will support all government departments in conceptualising cohesive campaigns, developing communications strategies and content, disseminating information, and engaging stakeholders. The GCIS will enhance its delivery of these core services by harnessing various communications structures, such as social media, to reach and provide information to more South Africans.

Expenditure for these activities is within the medium-term allocations to the Content Processing and Dissemination programme (R1.3 billion) and Intergovernmental Coordination and Stakeholder Management programme (R375.4 million), which together account for 75.6% of the department's budget over the medium term. Transfers to the department's entities account for 34.6% (R751.9 million) of its total budget over the medium term.

The GCIS will keep communities and stakeholders abreast of government's progress with the implementation of the District Development Model (DDM), which aims to improve the coherence and impact of development in 44 districts and eight metropolitan municipalities across the country. To this end, the department will hold 1 140 community and stakeholder liaison visits and 1 140 development communication projects per year over the MTEF period. Spending for these activities is largely driven by goods and services items, which account for 16.9% (R62.4 million) of the total budget in the Intergovernmental Coordination and Stakeholder Management programme.

The GCIS's outreach programme makes use of talk shows on community radio and television stations, activations at taxi ranks and malls, commuter train blitzes, *izimbizo*, and door-to-door campaigns. These activities allow the department to interact with communities, and often provide an early warning for any societal issues or discontent. The outreach programme is allocated R6.3 million in each year of the medium term in the Provincial and Local Liaison subprogramme in the Intergovernmental Coordination and Stakeholder Management programme. An amount of R50 million is further allocated to the Products and Platforms subprogramme in the Content Processing and Dissemination programme for the COVID-19 Vaccine roll-out campaign in 2021/22.

To make the public aware of opportunities created by government, in line with its key priorities, the department plans to publish 15.3 million copies of *Vuk'uzenzele* newspaper per year over the medium term, at an estimated cost of R75 million in the Products and Platforms subprogramme.

Communication during the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated the need for the GCIS to be technologically well-resourced to operate virtually in order to fulfil its communication mandate. In adapting to the 'new normal' after COVID-19, the department will continue using technology to make it easy and convenient for media and the public to access information remotely. The lockdowns, aimed at slowing the spread of the pandemic, created significant shifts in the way government communications reached – and reached out to – different constituencies and communities.

Restrictions on the movement of people other than essential workers presented huge challenges in terms of how government would replace physical interaction with citizens, with alternative means of communications that would comply with COVID-19

health protocols. Large public gatherings, including *izimbizo*, distribution of pamphlets, face-to-face interaction with media and visits by members of the public to Thusong Service Centres were among the communication modes that came under pressure or became almost impossible to undertake during the most severe lockdown conditions.

However, the GCIS responded to these unprecedented conditions rapidly by adopting technological platforms such as Zoom, Skype and Microsoft Teams to enable remote meetings. The department also upscaled online publishing of traditionally print products, including *Vuk'uzenzele* newspaper.

The adoption of new technologies was particularly crucial in the support that the GCIS provided to President Cyril Ramaphosa who, in March 2020, had a 12-month term as Chairperson of the AU. As the pandemic progressed, so did South Africa's – and especially the President's – prominence on platforms of the World Health Organisation, the broader UN, BRICS, and other international bodies, which considered South Africa a strategic partner in the global management of the pandemic.

The growth in new communication channels and greater consumer use of social platforms enabled dissemination of public health and other relevant information that could assist vulnerable individuals and groups to survive the devastating economic impact of the pandemic.

The growth of online media, however, also presented peddlers of misinformation and disinformation with the easily accessible and cost-effective means of communication to undermine scientific and official messages. As a global phenomenon, fake news did not leave South Africa unscathed and in this event, the GCIS had to implement human and technological mechanisms to combat distortion, lies and contestation around various dimensions of the pandemic.

Budget

For the 2020/21 financial year, the GCIS was allocated R720.5 million. The 2020 Special Adjustment Budget resulted in an additional allocation of R60 million for the GCIS. This enabled the department to drive the COVID-19 Communication Strategy in a more meaningful and effective manner. Using the centralised coordinating structure, a coherent message to educate and raise awareness on the COVID-19 virus became effective. An above and below line advertising campaign was done, supported by direct mass mobilisation at district level and weekly media briefings.

Compensation of employees comprises, on average, 38% and transfer payments in respect of the appropriation to two public entities – Brand South Africa (Brand SA) and the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) – comprises 35% of the budget over the medium term.

A total of 75% of the department's allocation, over the medium term, is jointly spent in the core branches – Content Processing and Dissemination, and Intergovernmental Coordination and Stakeholder Management. The remaining 25% of the total departmental appropriation is allocated to Administration.

Entities

Brand South Africa

Brand SA works to improve South Africa's global competitiveness index ranking, boost business confidence in the country, and improve the country's reputation in the region and the world.

Over the MTEF period, the entity will intensify its efforts to promote South Africa as an investment destination of choice by showcasing opportunities on offer. The entity aims to conduct four marketing campaigns per year, over the medium term, to show domestic audiences the attractiveness of investing in the nation brand. Investments in international media partnerships are expected to ensure the dissemination of this message through the Global Market Programme, which will be implemented in key African and global strategic markets at an estimated cost of R20 million per year, over the medium term, in the Brand Marketing And Reputation Management programme.

To provide stakeholders with a better understanding of the nation brand, the entity will continue to commission and subscribe to key research indexes. These provide insights on both domestic and global investor perceptions, and are expected to cost R8 million over the medium term in the brand marketing and reputation management programme.

Total expenditure is expected to increase from R217.1 million in 2020/21 to R231 million in 2023/24, at an average annual rate of 2.1%. The entity is funded primarily through transfers from the GCIS, which are expected to increase at an average annual rate of 6.9%, from R179.5 million in 2020/21 to R219.5 million in 2023/24.

Media Development and Diversity Agency

The MDDA provides financial and non-financial support to community broadcast and small commercial media projects, with an emphasis on promoting indigenous languages and

contributing to community development and the alleviation of poverty and inequality. Over the medium term, the agency will intensify its focus on serving communities that are typically sidelined by the mainstream media, and addressing pressing societal issues.

An estimated 39.7% (R111.7 million) of the agency's budget over the medium term is earmarked for grant funding to be distributed to 60 community broadcast projects. An additional R6 million in grant funding is earmarked for 18 community and small commercial media projects. To ensure the sustainability of community media, the agency will invest in initiatives that support skills development and social upliftment. To support this aim, R2.9 million is budgeted to impart skills in key foundational areas such as governance – to a targeted 120 projects over the MTEF period.

The agency will also invest in three research projects per year over the medium term to develop a sustainability model for community and small commercial media projects. This will result in an expenditure of approximately R8.6 million on contractors who will carry out the studies. Total expenditure over the MTEF period is expected to be R281.9 million.

The agency is set to derive 35.7% (R100.9 million) of its projected revenue through transfers from the GCIS and 60% (R168.8 million) from the mainstream community broadcast sector as donations deductible from the Universal Service and Access Fund.

Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

The purpose of the DPME is to improve government service delivery through integrated planning, monitoring and evaluation. The mandate of the DPME is derived from Section 85(2) (b-c) of the Constitution, which states that the President exercises executive authority, together with the other members of the Cabinet by developing and implementing national policy and coordinating the functions of state departments and administrations.

It is mandated to:

- support the National Planning Commission;
- facilitate the implementation of the NDP through the development of sector- and outcome-specific medium-term plans and delivery agreements, and monitor and evaluate the implementation of these plans;
- ensure the alignment of departmental strategic and annual plans and budget allocations with government's MTSF;

- monitor the performance of individual national and provincial government departments and municipalities, and facilitate targeted intervention programmes;
- monitor frontline service delivery and manage the presidential hotline;
- develop and implement the annual national evaluations plan and support the national evaluations system; and
- promote good planning, monitoring and evaluation practices in government.

Chapter 13 of the NDP sets out a vision for building a capable and developmental state, which is expressed in terms of Priority 6 (a capable, ethical and developmental state) of government's 2019 – 2024 MTSF. The work of the DPME is directly aligned with this priority.

Over the medium term, the DPME will focus on strengthening its planning and budgeting functions to support government priorities, and on strengthening the production of evidence-based reports to create robust planning, monitoring and evaluation systems. Evidence-based planning, monitoring and evaluation is integral to the department's efforts to facilitate the achievement of government's plans and priorities.

Towards this end, the department will develop and monitor the implementation of a national evaluation plan, and conduct evaluations and research to support planning and monitoring activities. These activities will be carried out in the Evaluation, Research, Knowledge and Data Systems subprogramme, spending in which accounts for 94.2% (R119.1 million) of the total allocation in the Evidence and Knowledge Systems programme over the medium term.

The department will continue to monitor the implementation of government's 2019 – 2024 MTSF and other key priorities set in the ERRP. This will entail the production of two reports to monitor the implementation of the MTSF and two reports to monitor frontline service delivery and citizen engagement. Expenditure for the production of these documents is within the Sector Monitoring Services programme's allocation of R196.6 million and the Public Sector Monitoring and Capacity Development programme's allocation of R251.3 million over the MTEF period. Expenditure for the production of three budget prioritisation framework documents is within the National Planning Coordination programme's allocation of R247.3 million over the medium term.

Reviewing the NDP

The NDP was adopted as a guide to achieving South Africa's goals, broadly in terms of socio-economic development, and specifically in terms of eliminating poverty, creating jobs and reducing inequality by 2030. The National Planning Commission was tasked with reviewing some aspects of the NDP to address certain implementation challenges.

Over the medium term, this review is expected to assess the capacity and capability of the State in measuring the implementation of the NDP. Related activities are set to be carried out in the Management: National Planning Coordination subprogramme. Allocations in the subprogramme amount to R157.7 million over the MTEF period.

Improving and strengthening government planning and coordination

The DPME is mandated to improve and strengthen government's planning and coordination. This involves ensuring the implementation of the MTSF, which is implemented in five-year cycles to allow for revisions, and serves as a roadmap for achieving goals linked to NDP outcomes; and conducting assessments of national departments' draft strategic and annual performance plans (APPs) to ensure alignment with the MTSF and the NDP.

In this regard, in each year over the medium term, the DPME expects to produce 47 assessment reports. Based on the outcomes of these assessments, the DPME will, in consultation with National Treasury, identify delivery priorities for the funding of national departments. Related activities are carried out in the Planning Coordination programme. Allocations to the subprogramme amount to R101.8 million over the medium term.

Supporting implementation of short-term and medium-term goals

Tracking the performance of the short-term and medium-term goals of government's 2019 – 2024 MTSF is a core function of the DPME. Accordingly, over the MTEF period, the department will engage national and provincial departments, government agencies and key state-owned entities (SOEs) to assess their implementation of the priorities and indicators of the framework, and identify performance gaps and interventions to address underperformance. In this regard, the DPME plans to produce two reports per year over the, medium term, for submission to Cabinet.

These activities are budgeted for in the Outcomes Monitoring and Support, and Intervention Support subprogrammes, which together account for 94.9% (R246.8 million) of allocations to the Sector Monitoring Services programme over the medium term.

Developing intervention programmes to support service delivery

The DPME plans to produce two reports per year over the MTEF period to monitor the impact of policy priorities in relation to actual service delivery through various frontline monitoring programmes, including targeted site visits, citizen-based monitoring and the Presidential Hotline. To enhance capacity over the medium term, the DPME plans to assess the performance of government departments, agencies, SOEs and local government.

This will include the development of a new monitoring model to replace the Management Performance Assessment Tool, and support the annual development and assessment of performance agreements of heads of departments. These activities will be carried out in the Public Service Monitoring and Capacity Development subprogramme. Allocations in the subprogramme amount to R266.2 million over the MTEF period.

Conducting research and evaluations

The DPME's ongoing focus is on maximising the use of its evaluations and research capabilities to generate rapid and relevant evidence that will inform planning and monitoring, and appropriate interventions. As such, over the medium term, the department plans to work towards improving research and knowledge, and maintain evidence-based policy development, planning, implementation and monitoring by providing support for data management.

This will be achieved by developing and monitoring the implementation of a national evaluation plan, and conducting evaluations and research to support the planning and monitoring activities of the National Planning Coordination and Sector Monitoring Services programmes.

Accordingly, in each year over the medium term, the DPME plans to produce 10 evidence reports on indicators related to evaluations, and research and development. These activities will be carried out in the Evaluation, Research, Knowledge and Data Systems subprogramme, which accounts for R156.4 million of the total budget.

The impact of COVID-19 on MTSF 2019 – 2024

Government's swift response to the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the reprioritisation of programmes and resources towards tackling the pandemic. To this end, National Treasury presented a supplementary budget in June 2020 – providing fiscal measures to address the socio-economic impact of the pandemic.

The resultant effect was that some commitments outlined in the MTSF 2019 – 2024, tabled strategic plans and APPs for provincial and national departments, and municipalities were impacted negatively. Some departments had to revise their strategic plans and APPs for 2020. In addition, government revised the MTSF. The revised MTSF will account for measures being put in place to deal with the pandemic, the impact of revised interventions and targets, and the need to support recovery efforts.

Priority focus areas include:

- defeating the COVID-19 pandemic;
- accelerating economic recovery;
- implementing required economic reforms; and
- fighting corruption and strengthening the State.

The Revised MTSF

The MTSF 2019 – 2024 was revised to account for the impact of COVID-19 and the budget reprioritisation. The Revised MTSF considered policy and planning instruments that were not yet complete in 2019. These include the review reports of the NDP, the Strategic Implementation Plan on the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the DDM and the ERRP. The revised framework will guide government's focus over the remaining three years of the Sixth Administration. The 2021/22 financial year will also have a special focus on commitments outlined in the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) 2021, which are included in the revised framework. Supporting planning instruments for the revised framework, such as the MTSF institutionalisation guidelines, the Budget Prioritisation Framework, the analysis of APPs and geospatial referencing will account for this focus.

The revised framework will also be supported by an integrated MTSF monitoring and reporting system. The National Evaluation System will support the impact and outcome evaluations of the Revised MTSF to ensure that government achieves its desired developmental goals. A new national evaluation plan that proposes an evaluation of the DDM is underway. The plan will establish an observatory that will serve as an evidence center to continuously

inform policy and planning decisions around the DDM.

Localisation of the revised framework should take place, inter alia, through the submission by national and provincial departments, of details on the geospatial location of their projects and interventions. This will be phased in over the MTSF period, and will build on existing systems, in particular the Infrastructure Delivery Management System and related instruments. The DDM will help fast-track infrastructure and general socio-economic development. Additionally, the DPME will pilot the geospatial referencing of government projects with three provincial departments. This will enable the collection and collation of disaggregated, geospatially referenced data at the provincial sphere and, where possible, correlate to the SoNA priorities, including the ERRP and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Budget

The DPME was allocated R509 million for the 2020/21 financial year. Expenditure on compensation of employees accounts for an estimated 68.1% (912.6 million) of the department's total budget over the medium term, followed by goods and services, which constitutes 30.5% (R442.4 million).