

SOUTH AFRICA  
Yearbook  
2021/22

# The Presidency

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## 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 (MTSFs).

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:

- 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 three structures in The Presidency 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 MTSF, with which the work of The Presidency is closely aligned, support this vision.

Over the medium term, The Presidency will continue to provide support to the President and Deputy President of South Africa in the execution of their responsibilities as outlined in Chapter 5 of the Constitution. Accordingly, over the MTEF period, the department will focus on leading and supporting the implementation of the South African economic reconstruction and recovery plan, coordinating the National Coronavirus Command Council, and operationalising the e-Cabinet system.

### Leading South Africa's economic reconstruction and recovery

The Presidency sees creating employment and retaining jobs as paramount to rebuilding and growing South Africa's economy. To advance government's efforts in this regard, the department will support other government departments in developing programmes that provide young people especially with management, mentoring and business skills, and access to market and network opportunities.

To this end, a key focus over the medium term will be on coordinating and facilitating the implementation of the second phase of the presidential employment initiative. This work will be carried out in the Support Services to the President subprogramme in the Administration programme. Spending in the subprogramme comprises an estimated 15.3% (R243.7 million) of the Administration programme's budget over the medium term.

### Coordinating government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

The National Coronavirus Command Council has been at the centre of decision-making in government's efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19 and limit the impact of the pandemic. Over the medium term, the department will continue to ensure the coordination of government's responses to curb the spread of the virus.

In addition, the department will support the Deputy President of South Africa as chair of the COVID-19 interministerial committee, which facilitates the rollout of government's vaccination programme, to ensure that the country's vision of saving lives is realised and that any challenges encountered during implementation are addressed.

This work will be funded through allocations of R243.7 million over the MTEF period in the Support Services to the President subprogramme and R179.4 million in the Support Services to the Deputy President subprogramme, both in the Administration programme.

### Operationalising the e-Cabinet system

To ensure greater coordination between national departments, the department plans to continue to implement the e-Cabinet system – a collaborative platform for members of the executive, heads of department and executive support staff to share, manage and store information securely. Over the medium term, the department will ensure that the system is in full use.

This will be done by ensuring that training is provided to all users, including the executives and limited support staff managing, capturing and distributing classified information for the overall optimal functioning of Cabinet and its committees. An allocation of R83.9 million over the MTEF period is provided for the software licensing, training, security and

maintenance of the system in the Cabinet Services subprogramme in the Executive Support programme. Expenditure in the subprogramme increases at an average annual rate of 2.1%, from R53 million in 2021/22 to R56.3 million in 2024/25.

### 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);
- 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;
- 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 DGs and the formation of inter-ministerial committees.

### Budget

For the 2021/22 financial year, The Presidency was allocated R612.1 million. Expenditure is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 1.4%, from R612.1 million in 2021/22 to R637.9 million in 2024/25. Compensation of employees' accounts for an estimated 61.8% (R1.1 billion) of the department's total allocation over the medium term. An estimated 85.8% (R1.6 billion) of the department's total allocations within the Administration programme, which provides technical and administrative support to the President, Deputy President of South Africa, and management.

### 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 (DWYPD) derives its mandate from Section 9(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996. The department is required to further the participation of women, youth and people with disabilities in interventions that enable their empowerment and socioeconomic upliftment.

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 DWYPD 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 MTEF period, the department will continue to focus on strengthening the coordination of the national response to gender-based violence; promoting more responsive planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation in government; protecting the rights of people with disabilities; and supporting the participation of young people in the mainstream economy. The budget structure of the department has been amended from five to four programmes, to align better with the department's mandate.

### Addressing GBV and supporting empowerment

In its efforts to mitigate and prevent violence against women and children, the department plans to launch the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) in 2022 – to lead and guide the national response. The council will be launched at a projected cost of R15 million over the medium term in the Social Empowerment of Women subprogramme in the Mainstreaming Women's Rights and Advocacy programme.

With support from this advisory forum, the department will facilitate public awareness and advocacy events, and support and monitor the implementation of frameworks such as the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on GBVF. A further R15.2 million over the medium term is allocated for related activities in the Economic Empowerment of Women subprogramme in the Mainstreaming Women's Rights and Advocacy programme.

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

The department will continue to coordinate and monitor the implementation of responsive planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms across government on issues pertaining to gender, young people and people with disabilities.

This will entail assessing other departments' strategic and annual performance plans, and guiding responses to policy priorities pertaining to the department's core constituents. An allocation of R23.2 million over the MTEF period is made available for these activities in the Research and Knowledge Management subprogramme in the Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Coordination programme.

To realise equal and entrenched rights for women, young people and people with disabilities, the department will actively seek to identify gaps in government's gender policy and advise on how best to respond to citizens' concerns. As such, it plans to conduct 12 meetings with members of the public and four community mobilisation events in each year over the MTEF period. Expenditure for these activities is within an allocation of R60.7 million over the MTEF period in the International Relations, Stakeholder Management and Capacity Building subprogramme in the Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Coordination programme.

### Protecting the rights of people with disabilities

As part of its advocacy role for the rights of people with disabilities, the department has developed frameworks that serve as guidelines on how

departments can best advance the inclusion of people with disabilities in all government processes and programmes. Over the MTEF period, in partnership with the South African Law Reform Commission, the department aims to develop disability rights legislation and policies in areas such as self-advocacy for people with disabilities; and develop a matrix and monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the 2015 *White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* in order to guide departments on implementation priorities. These initiatives are expected to result in expenditure of R49.3 million over the medium term in the Advocacy and Mainstreaming for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities subprogramme in the Mainstreaming Youth and Persons with Disabilities Rights and Advocacy programme.

### Supporting the empowerment of young people

To advance the socio-economic empowerment of young people, the department will review policies such as the national youth policy and legislation such as the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) Amendment Bill, and report on their implementation. The NYDA will continue to prioritise interventions that support skills development and create employment.

These include the provision of support for young entrepreneurs, learnership programmes facilitated in collaboration with other entities and technical service providers, and the implementation of the national youth service programme, which is part of the presidential employment initiative. An additional allocation of R450 million has been made to extend the national youth service for another two years, enabling approximately 35 000 job opportunities per year. Transfers to the agency amount to an estimated R1.9 billion over the MTEF period.

### 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 DWYPD, 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 DWYPD was allocated R1.2 billion for the 2021/22 financial year. Total expenditure is expected to decrease at an average annual rate of 11.9%, from R1.2 billion in 2021/22 to R817 million in 2024/25, mainly as a result of additional allocations amounting to R450 million for the NYDA to extend the national youth service programme coming to an end in 2023/24. An estimated 79.5% (R2.2 billion) of the department's budget over the medium term is earmarked for transfers and subsidies to the agency and the Commission for Gender Equality.

### Entities

#### Commission for Gender Equality (CGE)

The CGE 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 CGE 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 that contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women. It plans to do this by: influencing government laws and policies through written submissions to Parliament; producing research, and monitoring and evaluation reports; investigating issues that undermine the attainment of gender equality and the empowerment of women; increasing education and awareness through outreach and stakeholder engagements; and handling gender-related complaints.

As research comprises the bulk of the commission's work, spending on compensation of employees accounts for an estimated 68.3% (R198.8 million) of its budget over the medium term. The commission derives all its revenue through transfers from the department, which are set to amount to R293.2 million over the MTEF period.

#### 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. These interventions will take the form of financial and non-financial support to enable young people to access skills and jobs, establish and sustain enterprises, and gain access to markets. Financial support is provided through grants to township and rural enterprises run by young people, whereas non-financial support includes accounting, website development, business plan writing and marketing.

Over the MTEF period, R789.5 million is allocated for developing entrepreneurial skills among young people through business

management training and mentorships, and R286.7 million is allocated for helping them find employment through jobs programmes. The national youth service programme is part of the presidential employment initiative, which seeks to provide social assistance through public employment. The programme has an allocation of R498.5 million over the medium term to ensure that young people stay engaged in service to their communities and build the spirit of patriotism, solidarity, social cohesion and unity in diversity. This funding will also provide for stipends for young people participating in the programme, as well as project management costs and some training.

Spending on goods and services accounts for an estimated 48% (R992.7 million) of the agency's total expenditure over the MTEF period. This includes grant and voucher disbursements, and payments for training services providers, consultants, communications and sponsorships. Revenue is expected to decrease at an annual average of 18.9%, from R1 billion in 2021/22 to R543.5 million in 2024/25, as a result of additional allocations for the presidential employment initiative coming to an end in 2023/24.

### 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 2021 campaign was hosted under the theme; "The Year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke – 16 Days of Activism – moving from awareness to accountability".

### 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 the 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, 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 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 2021 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 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 Disability Rights Awareness Month 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. The 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 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. 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 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 and physically countrywide, is the only national publication that is focused on government's key priorities, with an emphasis on service delivery programmes and opportunities created by government. Over the medium term, the GCIS plans to produce 30.6 million copies of *Vuk'uzenzele* newspaper at an estimated cost of R75 million – R50.4 million per year for printing in the Products and Platforms subprogramme and R24.6 million per year for distribution in the Communication Service Agency subprogramme, both in the Content Processing and Dissemination programme.

The department also engages with the public through campaigns and outreach programmes. These include community radio talk shows, activations at taxi ranks and malls, information blitzes on commuter trains, and social media campaigns. It plans to hold 1 140 community and stakeholder engagements per year over the medium term in the form of dialogues, meetings, webinars and community radio talk shows with sector departments, civil society, youth formations, faith-based organisations and business forums.

In addition to these initiatives, the department plans to conduct 1 140 development communication projects over the period ahead to enhance service delivery and keep citizens informed and empowered on government's progress and projects. Expenditure for these activities is within the Intergovernmental Coordination and Stakeholder Management programme, which has a budget of R392.7 million over the MTEF period.

### 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 2021/22 financial year, the GCIS was allocated R757.430 million. Compensation of the department's 2020/21: 541 employees – March 2022: 532 is its largest expenditure item, comprising an estimated 38.3% (R844.9 million) of the total budget over the MTEF period. Transfer payments to entities account for an estimated 34.9% (R779.6 million) of total expenditure.

### 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 medium term, the entity will focus on making the South African brand more attractive, and thereby more competitive, both domestically and internationally. The implementation of such nation brand projects typically relies on expenditure on goods and services, which accounts for an estimated 64% (R448.6 million) of total expenditure over the medium term.

In its efforts to promote the South African brand domestically over the MTEF period, the entity will conduct 4 research studies per year to get a better idea of domestic perceptions, conduct 27 campaigns aimed at promoting active citizenship, and 30 campaigns aimed at promoting constitutional awareness. As a result, expenditure towards these activities is expected to increase from R12 million in 2022/23 to R14 million in 2024/25.

In its efforts to promote the South African brand internationally, the entity will focus on promoting South Africa as an investment destination of choice. Specific activities in this regard include deploying brand envoys, who, for example, are commissioned to write opinion pieces in reputable publications; and conducting marketing campaigns that illustrate South Africa's attractiveness to international audiences.

As a result, expenditure on international branding is expected to increase from R25 million in 2022/23 to R30 million in 2024/25. The entity is set to receive 96.1% (R667 million) of its revenue over the medium term through transfers from the department and the remainder through other avenues such as grant funding.

#### 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, it plans to intensify its focus on communities – such as people with disabilities – who are underserved by mainstream media, and on issues associated with gender and young people. Underscoring the agency's commitment to this, an estimated 50% (R152.9 million) of its budget over the period ahead will be directed towards grant funding for 60 community broadcast projects, and 18 community and small commercial media print and digital projects. Community broadcast grants assist with the initiation of new projects and the strengthening of existing projects, and account for an estimated 33% (R100.9 million) of the agency's total budget over the MTEF period.

The agency plans to ensure the sustainability of the community media sector over the medium term by investing in initiatives that support skills development. A targeted 24 projects will receive training in areas such as governance at a total projected cost of R4.3 million per year over the MTEF period, of which 58% (R2.5 million) is allocated to community media training. However, overall expenditure on community and small commercial print and digital projects and community broadcast projects is expected to decrease from R5.8 million in 2021/22 to R4.3 million in 2022/23 due to a decrease in funding from mainstream print media.

As part of the agency's emphasis on research and capacity development innovation, it plans to launch and implement the community media sustainability model and conduct research at a projected cost of R2.6 million over the medium term to ensure the sector becomes more sustainable.

The agency is set to derive 36.8% (R112.6 million) of its revenue over the medium term through transfers from the department, and 55.5% (R169.7 million) through the mainstream community broadcast sector as donations deductible from the Universal Service and Access Fund levy.

### Department of 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 department will continue to focus on contributing to improved development outcomes for the country through the coordination and institutionalisation of an integrated government planning system; monitoring government's progress on its achievement of the goals set out in the NDP; providing appropriate support for the implementation of the MTSF; and advancing evidence-based planning, monitoring and evaluation.

As this work relies largely on human capital, compensation of employees accounts for an estimated 66.8% (R952 million) of the department's total budget over the medium term. The department will address the country's development priorities through the coordination and institutionalisation of an integrated government planning system.

To this end, over the period ahead, the department will support the development of a government strategy for alleviating poverty, unemployment and inequality, and assist in facilitating a conversation among key stakeholders to lead a social compact on issues of development.

To complement this work, the department expects to finalise the Integrated Planning Framework Bill in 2022/23, which is intended to act as founding legislation for the department and lead to the establishment of an institutional framework for predictable planning across all spheres of government. These activities will be carried out within an allocation of R119.7 million over the MTEF period in the Planning Coordination subprogramme in the National Planning Coordination programme.

To monitor government's progress on the realisation of the NDP's vision, the department plans to conduct integrated reviews to monitor the implementation of the MTSF. Over the period ahead, 2 reports per year on the implementation of MTSF priorities will be produced and submitted to Cabinet. Funding for these activities is within an allocation of R176.2 million over the medium term in the Outcomes Monitoring and Support subprogramme in the Sector Monitoring Services programme.

The department plans to provide support for the implementation of the MTSF by conducting training in collaboration with the National School of Government; and producing mid-year and annual public service performance and capability monitoring reports that indicate corrective action to be implemented by national and provincial departments, and state-owned entities.

Funding for these activities is within an allocation of R243.8 million over the period ahead in the Public Sector Monitoring and Capacity Development subprogramme in the Public Sector Monitoring and Capacity Development programme. In its efforts to advance evidence-based planning, monitoring and evaluation over the medium term, the department plans to compile reports on all its research projects.

Emphasis will be placed on GBVF, the national youth policy, and the 16 Days of Activism campaign. Funding for this reporting and research is within an allocation of R122.5 million over the MTEF period in the Evaluation, Research, Knowledge and Data Systems subprogramme in the Evidence and Knowledge Systems programme.

## 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 MTSF 2019-2024 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 also had 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.

