



SOUTH AFRICA YEARBOOK

2023/24

Police, Defence and
Military Veterans

Police, Defence and Military Veterans

The National Development Plan (NDP): Vision 2030 envisions a South Africa where people feel safe and enjoy a community life free of crime. Achieving this requires a well-functioning Criminal Justice System (CJS), in which the police, the judiciary and correctional services work together to ensure that suspects are caught, prosecuted, convicted if guilty, and securely incarcerated and rehabilitated. “A safe and secure environment that is conducive for social and economic stability, supporting a better life for all” is the commitment that the South African Police Service (SAPS) are promising the people of South Africa, as set out in the NDP: Vision 2030.

Department of Police

Chapter 12 of the NDP outlines a vision to build safer communities through demilitarising and professionalising the police service and adopting an integrated and holistic approach to safety and security in South Africa. The SAPS – South Africa’s principal law-enforcement body – derives its powers and functions from Section 205 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, and from the SAPS Act, 1995 (Act 68 of 1995). This legislation regulates the SAPS, in terms of its core functions, which are to prevent, investigate and combat crime; maintain public order; protect and secure the inhabitants of South Africa and their property; and uphold and enforce the law. The vision of the SAPS is to create a safe and secure environment for all people in South Africa.

The mission of the SAPS is to:

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

The National Commissioner is the Accounting Officer of the SAPS. Deputy national commissioners and provincial commissioners report to the National Commissioner. District Commissioners and police Station Commanders report to the Provincial Commissioners.

Key expenditure focus areas

Improving community safety

The National Policing Strategy was approved in 2022/23 to ensure a coordinated response to the building of safer communities. In accordance with the Strategy, the Department will focus on stabilising crime in the Top 30 high-contact crime areas, which collectively account for approximately 50% of reported contact crimes in the country.

This involves the prevention of crime by addressing the various factors that contribute to it, including illegal mining, illegal firearms,

liquor, drugs and undocumented foreign nationals. The Department will ensure that the stations in the Top 30 high-contact crime areas have adequate operational equipment and optimal human resources to support this work. The Visible Policing Programme, which is allocated R168.1 billion over the medium-term, provides funds for these activities. The Detective Services Programme has a total allocation of R66.3 billion for the upcoming period.

In line with the strategy, over the period ahead, the SAPS will focus on stabilising crime in the top 30 high-contact crime areas that collectively contribute about 50% of reported contact crimes across the country. This includes combating the various contributors to crime, such as illegal firearms, illegal liquor outlets, drugs, illicit mining and illegal foreign nationals. In support of this, the SAPS will ensure that the police stations in the top 30 high-crime areas have optimal human resources and sufficient operational equipment. The SAPS also plans to develop and implement a detective service recovery plan over the medium-term.

Cabinet also adopted the Integrated Crime and Violence Prevention Strategy (ICVPS), in March 2022 that was developed by the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service, which represents a “whole of government” and “whole of society” approach to addressing crime and violence. The ICVPS was informed by, among others, the 2016 White Paper on Policing and Safety and Security and the NDP: Vision 2030, which have been integrated into the National Policing Strategy.

The SAPS’s top management, under the auspices of the Minister of Police, developed the Increased Crime Prevention and Combating Action Plan (ICPCAP), an implementation plan based on Focus Area 3 of the SAPS’s National Policing Strategy, titled “Prevention and investigation of crime that threatens the economy of the Republic of South Africa.” This was done in order to ensure the operationalisation of the ICVPS. Furthermore, Operation Shanela was initiated in May 2023 as part of the ICPCAP and requires the SAPS to work with other law-enforcement agencies, key departments in the JCPS Cluster and civil society partners, to fight crime, using the five-pillar approach, which is included in the National Policing Strategy.

Operation Shanela extends the successful “Operation O’ Kae Malao” methodology to all provinces and prioritised station areas. This includes weekly intelligence-led disruptive operations, tracking and tracing wanted suspects and removing illegal firearms. This approach is being intensified over weekends, as directed by crime trends and the recording, thereof.

Numerous arrests have been recorded since the operation’s inception, including suspects sought for a variety of violent, serious and other crimes. Seizures encompass a wide range of items, such as contraband, vehicles, tobacco products, firearms and other dangerous weapons, currency, cell phones and copper cables, among others.

Gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF)

Over the medium-term, the department’s Visible Policing and Detective Services Programmes will implement interventions that are in line with the National Policing Strategy. These interventions aim to combat GBVF, as well as improve the support provided to victims. Interventions include: establishing GBV desks in all police stations and providing in-service training to designated employees working at these desks; developing, implementing and monitoring action plans on GBV and sexual offences at stations in the Top 30 GBV hotspots; and the continued implementation of measures to eradicate the Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) tracing and verification backlog linked to crime scenes, as this is critical as supporting evidence in investigations, as well as for updating the DNA database.

The department will also ensure that each police station has a Victim-Friendly Room (VFR) that is dedicated to victims of GBV, including sexual assault. The Administration Programme has allocated a total of R107.3 million for this activity over the next two years.

The SAPS’s GBV and Sexual Offences Action Plan is used to implementing the relevant initiatives from the GBVF National Strategic Plan. It continues to promote and protect the rights of women, children and vulnerable groups and particular attention is paid to the violence and abuse, which is perpetrated against them. The functioning and resourcing of various specialised units, such as the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Units, have been enhanced, to address crimes against women and children.

The implementation of the GBV Strategy also assists to intensify and accelerate efforts to prevent the crime, by creating multisectoral and long-term strategic interventions. The SAPS also acknowledges the rights of people with disabilities and will continue to protect and ensure their full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedom.

Addressing serious organised crime

The Detective Services Programme’s activities over the medium-term aim to address the increase in crimes targeting critical infrastructure, such as during local construction projects, in accordance with the interventions identified in the National Policing Strategy to prevent and investigate crime that threatens the economy. In order to address this issue, 20 Economic Infrastructure Task Teams (EITTs) have been established in identified locations. The multidisciplinary teams consist of detective service, criminal intelligence and visible policing.

To ensure a coordinated approach to combat corruption in both the public and private sectors over the period ahead, the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI) will maintain its close collaboration with government stakeholders and agencies, including the National Priority Crime Operational Committee, the national Anti-Corruption Advisory Council and the multidisciplinary Fusion Centre, which focusses on priority financial crimes. This includes the implementation

of the State Capture Commission's recommendations.

In accordance with Section 26 of the Cybercrime Act of 2000, the committee has developed a strategy and standard operating procedures for police investigations. In the medium-term, the committee will collaborate with other national and international law enforcement agencies to enhance investigations by establishing cyber-investigation disciplines, which include online, open source, social media, digital forensic, intrusion and unauthorised access investigations.

It is anticipated that these interventions will enable the department to successfully finalise registered serious organised crime-related project investigations within the next three years.

Preventing, combating and investigating money laundering and terror financing

The DPCI aims to intensify its focus on combating money laundering and terror financing, as well as investigations relating to serious corruption and other high-risk areas, such as narcotics, tax evasion, fraud and corruption and other matters referred by the Special Investigating Unit.

These priorities are in line with the findings outlined in the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) evaluation report of South African, including the need for law enforcement agencies to address risks, threats and vulnerability relating to money laundering and terror financing, implementing proactive identification and investigation methods for money laundering networks and professional enablers; address internal capacity and skills gaps; and strengthen the use of financial intelligence in money laundering and terror financing investigations.

The Directorate will aim to increase the number of requests to the Financial Intelligence Centre regarding money laundering and terror financing over the medium-term. Additional posts are anticipated to be filled in 2024/25, in order to implement the FATF standards and enhance the Directorate's strategic competencies. The Directorate also plans to leverage on existing financial intelligence and capacity by adopting a proactive approach to identify and pursue high-level, complex and serious cases of money laundering.

The 2024 State of the Nation Address by the State President, on 8 February 2024, emphasised the following issues:

- "Tackling crime and insecurity is a key priority. South Africans deserve to be safe and to feel safe, to walk freely and without fear in their neighbourhoods and public spaces".
- "During this administration, we have focused on equipping our law enforcement agencies, which had been systematically weakened, to do their work effectively. We have strengthened the ranks of the police through the recruitment of 20 000 police officers over the last two years and another 10 000 in the years to come. An additional 5 000 police officers have been deployed to Public Order Policing (POP)".

- "The EITTs that are operational in all provinces have had important successes in combatting cable theft, damage to critical infrastructure and illegal mining".
- "Through close collaboration with the private sector, we have seen a reduction in security incidents on the rail network".
- "Together with civil society, we developed the National Strategic Plan on GBVF, as a wide response to this pandemic".

Strategic focus over the short to medium-term period

To ensure that the SAPS build safer communities as per the constitutional mandate and the NDP: 2030, the department is to focus on the following priorities for the 2024/25 financial year:

To enhance police visibility, improve community responsiveness, the detection rate, crime intelligence capability and to build public confidence in the police service, over the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period, the Department plans to recruit additional personnel. For the 2024/25 financial year 10 000 police trainees are to be recruited, covering personnel losses through natural attrition and facilitating workforce growth.

This strategic expansion is crucial for addressing the continuous growing demands of our communities and ensuring that the SAPS can effectively combat crime across the country. The Department plans to conduct modernisation initiatives, including the upgrading of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure, improving connectivity and deploying mobile technologies.

The SAPS will enhance safety protocols and measures to safeguard police officials in the line of duty, which is vital for ensuring the well-being and operational effectiveness of police officials. The implementation of a comprehensive training programme, providing advanced protective equipment, as well as establishing clear operational guidelines, can significantly reduce risks faced by officers during the execution of their duties. Increased focus on mental health support and regular safety assessments will further contribute to a safer working environment.

The Department is to strengthen specialised crime detection capabilities for effectively addressing cybercrime, organised crime, commercial crime and corruption. The Department is to capacitate specialised units, enhance training and advance investigative tools to address complex and high-impact criminal activities. One of the many priorities is to reduce violent crime and GBVF.

The SAPS will place a greater emphasis on community mobilisation to increase police visibility through strategic partnerships. To achieve these objectives, the SAPS will adopt a whole-of-government and whole-of-society framework, guided by the ICVPS. Through the implementation of the ICPCAP, the SAPS aims to reduce prioritised crime over the medium-term.

The EITTs will be capacitated with the necessary resources, supported by organised crime investigation capabilities, to combat crimes such as illegal mining, infrastructure-related crimes and

extortion in the business sector, with a particular emphasis on the construction sector. Specialised capabilities, including the DPCI, Forensic Services and Crime Intelligence, will collaborate with both internal and external stakeholders to address, among others, prioritised crimes. The Department will address organised crime, money laundering and terror financing, in line with recommendations from the FATF.

The SAPS will increase its efforts to identify and neutralise gangs and criminal groups that are involved in drug-related crime, in order to restore safety and order in the communities that have been impacted. Enhanced intelligence gathering, dedicated task forces and collaborative operations with other law enforcement agencies will strengthen the SAPS's ability to combat organised crime, effectively.

Endeavours will continue to enhance the capacity and capabilities of the Department, modernise our operations and work collaboratively with communities and stakeholders to combat crime and ensure the safety and security of all South Africans.

Legislation

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

- Civilian Secretariat for Police Service Act, 2011 (Act 2 of 2011);
- Control of Access to Public Premises and Vehicles Act, 1985 (Act 53 of 1985);
- Critical Infrastructure Protection Act, 2019 (Act 8 of 2019);
- Dangerous Weapons Act, 2013 (Act 15 of 2013);
- Explosives Act, 1956 (Act 26 of 1956);
- Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act 60 of 2000);
- Game Theft Act, 1991 (Act 105 of 1991);
- Intimidation Act, 1982 (Act 72 of 1982);
- Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) Act, 2011 (Act 1 of 2011);
- National Key Points (NKP) Act, 1980 (Act 102 of 1980);
- Private Security Industry Regulation Act, 2001 (Act 56 of 2001);
- Protection of Constitutional Democracy against Terrorist and Related Activities Act, 2004 (Act 33 of 2004);
- Regulation of Gatherings Act, 1993 (Act 205 of 1993);
- Second-Hand Goods Act, 2009 (Act 6 of 2009);
- SAPS Act of 1995;
- Stock Theft Act, 1959 (Act 57 of 1959);
- Stock Theft Act, 1959 (Act 57 of 1959);
- Tear Gas Act, 1964 (Act 16 of 1964).

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

- Child Justice Act, 2008 (Act 75 of 2008);
- Children's Act, 2005 (Act 38 of 2005);
- Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment

Act, 2007 (Act 32 of 2007);

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

Code of Conduct

Employees of the SAPS are bound by the prescripts contained in Section 205 (3) of the Constitution to prevent, combat and investigate

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

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

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

Budget

In 2023/24, the SAPS was allocated a budget R105.4 billion, compared with R102.5 billion in 2022/23.

Resources

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

The estimated establishment target, in accordance with the ENE was 183 708. The Department was able to maintain a staff complement of 100,2% or 184 106, as opposed to the target of 183 708. The SAPS has an ideal post requirement that significantly exceeds the wage bill provided. Consequently, the SAPS's ideal post requirement should be reduced to align with the compensation budget, taking into account the priority environments and ensuring that the Department fulfils its constitutional mandate.

In 2023/24, the SAPS experienced a turnover rate of 3,2%. The Department's turnover rate has remained relatively consistent over the past four years, with a rate of 3,3% in 2020/21; 3,1%, in 2021/22; and 3,3%, in 2022/23. The highest number of losses experienced by the SAPS were attributed to retirements, which were followed by

resignations.

The Employment Equity Act, 1998 (Act 55 of 1998) provides the foundation for sustainable and transformative progress on gender equity in the workforce and the employment of people with disabilities. The current overall gender representation in the SAPS is at 60,78% (111 897) male and 39,22% (72 209) females, against the target of 54,34% males and 45,06% females. During 2022/23, the SAPS had set a target of 60,89% males to 45,66% females, while striving towards the achievement of the 50/50 target by 2030.

The current representation of people with disability in the SAPS is 1,70% (3 131 of the total workforce of 184 106). The target set by government is a minimum of 2% of the workforce. As a result of the inherent requirement of functional policing, the SAPS finds it difficult to achieve the 2% target.

The constitutional mandate, which informs the existence of the SAPS, requires that one must be physically and mentally fit to be a police officer, which is a barrier for people with disability to be recruited for the operational environment of the SAPS, which constitutes 70% of the workforce.

The SAPS has, however, resolved that 5% of the entry level intake for Public Service Act of 1994 vacant posts, will be ring-fenced for persons with disability. Functional personnel that become disabled while still employed by the SAPS, will be retrained to be redeployed to support environments, where the skill and knowledge on functional experience is required. The SAPS has developed and refined a model to calculate the human resource need of each police station. This formula takes into consideration the minimum number of police officers needed to render an effective police service and considers the population density of the policing area of each police station.

The formula, for instance, also respects the dynamics of each police station, in respect of its geography, level of urbanisation and infrastructure and industries. The SAPS is currently at a police-to-citizen ratio per capita of 1:412 and it has the same meaning when converted and expressed as the police density per 100 000 citizens (412/100 000).

Research is currently underway to benchmark police to population calculation practices. Another factor to be considered in calculating the police to citizen ratio, is the distinction that needs to be made between those Police Service Act of 1995 members performing operational functions, those performing operational support functions and those performing generic support functions.

The Department of Public Service and Administration has selected the SAPS as one of 12 government departments to participate in a Graduate Recruitment Scheme Pilot Project. The Graduate Recruitment Scheme of the SAPS is viewed as a turnaround strategy for youth development, in terms of facilitating the provision of work experience to unemployed youth, based on their qualifications. The target was to undertake 800 internships, in 2023/24.

The National Commissioner allocates funds, annually, for the development of skills and attainment of pertinent qualifications within the SAPS. During the academic year of 2023, a total budget of R10 million was allocated for financing members who qualified for the SAPS bursary scheme.

Police safety

Attacks and unnatural deaths of employees of the SAPS, both on and off duty, are regarded as a threat to the stability of the country.

Attacks and murder of police employees have a potential to create a negative perception among the citizens of the country, as to whether the SAPS is able to fulfil its constitutional mandate to prevent, combat and investigate crime, maintain public order, uphold and enforce the law. It further creates the perception that criminals are willing and able to act with impunity by disregarding the law and negating the impact of the SAPS in furthering their criminal activities.

A police safety committee, derived from the Police Safety Strategy, is in place as a tool to coordinate all activities, in support of enhancing the safety of all SAPS members, including the implementation of employee health and wellness programmes, the enhancement of tactical training programmes, the analysis of incidents which informed the development of proactive measures to reduce the number of police attacks and killing of police members, as well as enhanced safety awareness, internally and externally.

The 2023/24 financial year saw a total of 39 members killed in the line of duty. A total number of 111 members were murdered, on and off duty, a 20,65% increase compared with the 92 members murdered, in 2022/23.

Programmes

Administration

The purpose of the programme is to provide strategic leadership, management and support services to the department. In 2022/23, priority areas within this programme focused primarily on:

- a professional and capable SAPS – focusing on the loss and theft of SAPS-owned firearms, as these firearms are invariably used in the perpetration of crimes that undermine communities' feelings of safety, due to increased levels of violent crime and the valid perceptions that the SAPS is not able to completely control this critical resource;
- ensuring an adequately resourced policing capability, in response to the demand that is determined by the operational policing capabilities;
- increasing access to policing services, to enhance the SAPS's geographical footprint;
- improving of SAPS members' capabilities or skills levels, focusing on areas prioritised through the correlation of the assessment of the training demand and the priorities of government;

- modernising the SAPS's network and prioritised sites, to ensure an adequately resourced policing capability, from a technological perspective, including the radio communication infrastructure and the wide area networks, which will improve access to the SAPS's corporate systems, primarily at local level;
- enhancing levels of ethics and integrity within the SAPS, comprising obligatory financial disclosures for various categories of employees, the management of remunerative work performed outside of the SAPS, by SAPS members and the conducting of ethics and integrity advocacy and awareness programmes;
- managing cases referred to the SAPS by IPID;
- institutionalising sound corporate governance at all levels within the SAPS, guided by national and internal standards;
- eradicating unauthorised, irregular and fruitless and wasteful expenditure;
- a tailored-made corporate governance framework for the organisation, informed by King IV and the internal dynamics of the organisation; and
- assurance provisioning associated with the SAPS' internal audit function and inspection capabilities, as the SAPS' primary internal assurance providers.

Achievements towards outcomes

The high number of stolen or lost firearms owned by the SAPS significantly affects firearm regulation and increases crime rates. These firearms often end up in criminal hands, eroding public confidence in the SAPS. Every firearm loss, regardless of the circumstances, is thoroughly investigated. This assists in the identification of the causes and the implementation of corrective measures to prevent future losses. Despite numerous measures to reduce firearm losses, the issue persists.

The construction of two new police stations; namely; Riemvasmaak, in the Northern Cape and Muyexe Police Station, in Limpopo and the procurement of 15 mobile contact points will significantly improve the effectiveness and accessibility of policing services. These initiatives increase geographical coverage, provide direct access to police facilities and enhance police visibility in crime hotspots and remote locations. They will also discourage illicit activities and improve resource distribution, leading to increased community engagement.

The security of SAPS premises is significantly enhanced through the substantial increase in the number of CCTV systems implemented, in 2023/24. These systems enhance the overall safety of SAPS members, the public and visitors to SAPS premises, as well as prevent potential attacks at police stations. It also serves to reassure the community that the premises is secure.

The SAPS's capability is significantly improved by the recruitment of over 10 000 new SAPS Act recruits, enhancing capacity and visibility, strategic deployment, crime reduction through improved police

operations and building public confidence. The increased training of SAPS members in specialised areas, such as crowd management, forensic science, crime prevention and crime investigations significantly enhances the overall capability and professionalism of the police service.

Visible policing

The purpose of the programme is to enable police stations to institute and preserve safety and security and provide for specialised interventions and the policing of South Africa's borders. The objectives are to provide a proactive and responsive policing service to discourage and prevent violent crime, by reducing the number of reported contact crimes and crimes against women and children over the medium-term, through the implementation of priorities and interventions aligned with the integrated criminal justice strategy and to strengthen safety and security in urban and rural communities across the country.

Priority areas within the Visible Policing Programme, in 2022/23, focused primarily on:

- upholding and enforcing the law, in support of the stamping of the authority of the State and a collaborative, consultative approach to policing, by focusing on the improvement of the regulation of firearms, to reduce the number of illegal firearms in circulation as one of the key drivers of violent crime and improve feelings of safety in communities, including the management of the firearm licensing process, within the context of the Firearms Control Act of 2000;
- addressing extortion and violent crime in the construction sector and protecting critical and essential economic infrastructure through cases allocated and investigated by EITTs;
- the proactive recovery of stolen/lost and illegal firearms, including SAPS-owned firearms, to enhance feeling of safety in communities; the reduction of levels of contact crime, targeting the 30 police station precincts countrywide with the highest reported incidence of contact crime;
- reducing the incidence of escapes from police custody;
- increasing recoveries of stolen and robbed vehicles, due to their association with violent crime;
- the reduction of the incidence of GBVF, specifically with regard to the manner in which GBVF is policed, including ensuring that police stations are in a position to provide victim-friendly services to victims of GBVF and to actually reduce the incidence of contact crime against women and children;
- the strengthening of community partnerships and increasing police visibility, including functional community police forums, to enhance cooperation between communities and the police at local level, the establishment of strategic partnerships, to mobilise key stakeholders in various sectors, to ensure a partnership approach to addressing crime in the country; the conducting of national Izimbizos and/or community engagements of national importance and provincial

Izimbizos and/or community engagements on police issues/ crime-related matters and maintaining the implementation of the Community-in-Blue and Traditional Policing Concepts and facilitate the implementation of the Safer Cities Framework in identified cities;

- ensuring internal stability, through the policing of incidents of peaceful and violent public protest actions;
- responding to identified illegal mining, which pose a threat to the economy and undermine the authority of the State; and
- operations at land ports, sea ports and airports, to prioritise the searching of vehicles, containers and cargo consignments for illicit vehicles, consignment, smuggled goods and counterfeit goods/ contraband.

Crime statistics

The South African Government is committed to the achievement of Outcome 3 of the Delivery Agreement, which is to ensure that all people in the country are and feel safe. High-density operations are implemented in all nine provinces, guided by the national crime threat analysis.

South Africa has a high crime rate and a global classification of third for crime and low safety. Crime instils fear in the hearts of South Africans from all walks of life, thereby preventing them from assuming their rightful place in the development and growth of our country. It inhibits our citizens from communicating with one another freely, from engaging in economic activities and prevents entrepreneurs and investors to take advantage of the opportunities the country offers.

Every time a citizen is the victim of a crime, the rights and freedoms secured by the Constitution are threatened. The Government considers the prevention of crime to be a national priority for these reasons. This pertains to all other national departments that are capable of contributing to a decrease in crime levels, in addition to the Cabinet and the security and justice departments.

The reported incidence of contact crime may not be a direct or reliable indicator of police performance. While it is important to track crime rates, it is essential to consider various factors that can affect these statistics. Crime rates are influenced by a range of complex factors and in particular violence or contact crime, including socio-economic conditions, inequality, and education levels, drug abuse, community dynamics and more.

Addressing these underlying causes of crime requires long-term economic, social and developmental interventions that extend beyond the scope of immediate police responses. Police responses primarily focus on dealing with the symptoms of the problem by enforcing the law, apprehending offenders and maintaining public order. While these efforts are necessary, they are not sufficient to address the root causes of crime, completely.

Over the medium-term, between the financial years 2019/20 and 2023/24, there has been a general decrease in the 17 community-

reported serious crimes, while contact crimes have seen an increase. This trend suggests that measures to reduce serious crimes have had some success, although the change is not drastic, but the worrying trend where incidents involving crimes against a person, such as murder, assault and robbery are becoming more prevalent. The contrast between the overall decrease in serious crimes and the increase in contact crimes could point towards a shift in the nature of criminal activities, potentially moving from property-related or contact-related crimes towards more violent offenses.

Crimes against women and children

South Africa has recently enhanced its legal protection for women and children and survivors have a greater likelihood of receiving justice, as President Cyril Ramaphosa has signed three GBV bills into law. Consequently, women and children have the rights to equality, dignity and freedom from all forms of violence, maltreatment, abuse and exploitation while having access to justice and fair treatment. The SAPS is committed to the implementation of strategies that effectively combat and prevent GBVF, which are high priorities for the police, given the severity of these crimes.

The SAPS is essential in the provision of victim support services that are tailored to meet the specific needs of vulnerable communities. Special attention must be given to the support of women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons and members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer/Questioning and Asexual communities. The objective of this inclusive approach is to address the diverse challenges encountered by various demographic groups.

Achievements towards outcomes

The increased recovery of illegal firearms has significantly improved firearm regulation, reinforcing state authority and law enforcement. This achievement reduced the number of illegal firearms in circulation. However, ongoing theft and loss, as well as challenges of untraceable firearms, remain concerns, despite efforts to address illegal firearm possession.

The increased finalisation of firearm-related applications within 120 working days has led to increased regulation of firearms, reinforced state authority, promoting responsible ownership and enhancing law enforcement, fostering a safer environment, trust among firearm owners and public confidence in the SAPS.

Consistent increased contact crimes, including at the Top 30 High Contact Crime Stations, negatively impacts community safety and highlights the SAPS's increasing challenge in reducing violent crimes.

The EITTs have effectively investigated a significant number of cases, resulting in the recovery of assets, the disruption of criminal activities, the enhancement of security measures for critical infrastructure and the arrest of individuals.

The closure of illegal liquor outlets and compliance assessments

at registered second-hand goods dealers' premises have significantly addressed the illicit trade of liquor and second-hand goods. These actions improve public safety, foster community confidence and contribute to economic and social stability by reducing crimes and protecting legitimate businesses. The SAPS's commitment to maintaining order strengthens the state's authority is evidenced by the comprehensive and consistent enforcement of laws in these areas.

Comprehensive law enforcement actions, including arrests, seizures, roadblocks, the re-arrest of escapees and vehicle recoveries, significantly impact the state's authority and the upholding of the law. Although crime levels are high, these actions strengthen public safety, disrupt criminal networks, fostering community confidence and security and reinforcing the SAPS's authority.

The rendering of victim-friendly services at all police stations and functional CPFs at nearly every police station foster a collaborative and consultative approach to policing, enhancing police responsiveness to GBV, building community engagement by encouraging active participation in crime prevention, creating a safer and more supportive environment for all, particularly for victims of GBVF.

The successful policing/stabilisation of peaceful and unrest crowd management incidents, coupled with comprehensive actions taken by POP, illustrates a robust approach to maintaining constitutionally grounded internal stability. These efforts contributed significantly to upholding the law and asserting the authority of the State.

There have been significant advances in border security management. This has been achieved through the increased detection of wanted persons and stolen vehicles through the Enhanced Movement Control System, as well as the optimisation of profiling and searching of vehicles and cargo at ports of entry, over a three-year period. These efforts contributed to balance between trade and security at ports of entry.

Detective Services

The service enables the investigative work of the SAPS, including providing support to officials, in terms of forensic evidence and criminal records. The objectives are to contribute to the successful prosecution of offenders by increasing the detection rate for contact crimes and crimes against women and children, and generating original previous conviction reports for formally charged individuals.

Priority areas within the Detective Services Programme, in 2023/24 focused primarily on:

- the detection rates for prioritised categories of crime, including at the Top 30 High Contact Crime Stations;
- the success rate of detecting contact crimes and crimes against women and children in the effective investigation of violent crime against women and children to support the thorough and responsive investigation of crime;
- addressing extortion and violent crime in the construction sector

and the protection of critical and essential economic infrastructure, which are being investigated by Organised Crime Investigations;

- reduced organised crime, specifically drug syndicates and organised criminal groups;
- to address the comprehensive utilisation of forensic investigative leads, to support the successful investigation of crime;
- the preparation of trial-ready case dockets for serious corruption in the private and public sectors;
- serious commercial crime; the successful closure of registered serious organised crime project investigations;
- the dismantling of clandestine illicit drug laboratories;
- the successful investigation of cyber-related crime investigative support case files;
- the generation of previous conviction reports;
- the updating of the SAPS's Criminal Record System; and
- the processing (analysis) of evidence gathered at the scene of crime and the provisioning of expert evidence, in this regard, to investigating officers and courts alike.

The responsive investigation of crime

The thorough and responsive investigation of crime are aligned with the categories of crime that are addressed within the Visible Policing Programme, namely contact crime and crimes against women and children, by focusing on the detection rates for the aforementioned categories of crime, as the detection rate is an indication of successful investigations and withdrawals before trial, in relation to the active investigative workload.

The priorities that have been identified by the SAPS's general and specialised investigation of crime capabilities are aligned with those of government, including serious corruption, organised crime, commercial crime and the activities of drug syndicates, including dealing in drugs and organised criminal groups. The SAPS has embarked on a process of ensuring that the investigation of crime capability is adequately resourced, to ensure the thorough and responsive investigation of every crime and will extend this process into the coming financial year.

The Criminal Record Centre and Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) play a crucial role in supporting the investigation of crime process and significant advances have been made during 2022/23, in turning the performance of the FSL around. These advances will continue to be monitored, to ensure that the FSL achieves its full potential in supporting the investigation of crime.

Reduced organised crime

Reduced organised crime has guided the prioritisation of drug syndicates and organised criminal groups, namely the neutralisation of identified drug syndicates and organised criminal groups, as well as arrests for dealing in illicit drugs. The neutralisation of identified drug syndicates and organised criminal groups relates to the arrest

of syndicate/organised criminal group members. These syndicates/groups are identified through the gathering, analysis and dissemination of crime intelligence and refers to a criminal gang. Arrests for dealing in drugs has more impact on the overall drug value chain than arrests for possession, as role players who transport, import, cultivate, collect, manufacture and supply individuals, including drug runners, are removed from society and large quantities of illegal drugs are seized.

Utilisation of forensic investigative aids

The utilisation of investigative aids is directly associated with the thorough and responsive investigation of crime. The taking of buccal samples for prioritised Scheduled 8 offences by detectives from persons arrested and charged, is conducted under the DNA Act, 2013 (Act 37 of 2013). These offences include murder, attempted murder, sexual offences, robbery, burglary, theft (excluding stock theft) and illegal possession of firearms and ammunition. Apart from legislative compliance, the taking of buccal samples increases the size of the National Forensic DNA Database, thereby increasing the likelihood of the linking of an arrested suspect to another case.

Person-to-crime investigative leads indicate that a known suspect has been linked to a crime scene by comparing the DNA that was traced at a crime scene with the National Forensic DNA Database. Crime-to-crime investigative leads indicate that a suspect has been linked to different crime scenes by comparing the DNA that was traced at crime scenes with the National Forensic DNA Database.

Fingerprint investigative leads indicate that a suspect has been linked to different crime scenes by comparing the fingerprints that were traced at crime scenes with the Fingerprint Database and Integrated Ballistics Identification System. Investigative leads indicate that a suspect has been linked to different crime scenes by comparing the ballistic evidence that was traced at crime scenes with the Integrated Ballistics Identification System Database.

The National Forensic DNA Database consists of a number of indices containing forensic DNA profiles from samples collected from different categories of persons and crime samples.

Crime Detection

The Detective Service oversees and secures the investigation of crime at police station level. Functions include the effective and efficient investigation of crimes against women and children, including the provision of forensic social work assistance; the movement of stolen vehicles across the borders of South Africa, including the execution of operations pertaining to the repatriation of recovered vehicles; stock theft; carrying out executive bilateral operations with Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO) member countries and internal disruptive operations focusing on stolen vehicle routes to SARPCCO member countries; the investigation of assigned or instructed case dockets; follow-home robberies; commercial crime,

organised crime and corruption outside the mandate of the DPCI; the tracing of suspects listed as wanted suspects; renders investigative support to members assigned to conduct investigations into missing persons; the investigation of occult-related crimes; and transmitting information obtained through Crime Stop.

Forensic Science

The Forensic Services division is responsible for:

- conducting fingerprint searches;
- identifying and confirming previous convictions of suspects in crimes being investigated;
- managing crime scenes and evidence;
- issuing police clearance certificates;
- rendering an effective ballistic service, by examining firearm and tool marks;
- rendering an effective forensic analysis service, by applying the principles of physics, in terms of organic and inorganic matter or substances;
- rendering an effective question document examination service;
- rendering an effective biology service, by examining evidentiary material of biological origin;
- rendering an effective chemistry service, for example, DNA;
- assisting in the investigation of fire and explosions; and
- presenting forensic evidence in court.

The Criminal Record Centre and the FSL focuses on areas that are critical to the thorough and responsive investigation of crime and that are directly associated with the key functions performed by the Criminal Record Centre and the FSL. The updating of the SAPS Criminal Record System with the results of trials that have been adjudicated on, in courts of law, is essential to ensure that the adjudication, either guilty or not guilty, is properly recorded on the system.

The outputs reflected, in respect of the FSL, include the processing of routine and non-routine forensic exhibits, case exhibits that relate to ballistics or to DNA evidence that is located at crime scenes, within the specified time frames. Investigation of crime supported by criminal records and forensic evidence Criminal fingerprint searches are done for the generation of previous conviction reports for formally charged persons and the SAPS' Criminal Record System are updated with the results of trials that have been adjudicated on in courts of law were prioritised, in 2022/23.

The updating of the results of trials are to ensure that the adjudication is up-to-date and do not impact negatively on those who have been acquitted of crimes that they were accused of committing, but support the investigation process, by allowing for an individual's criminal record history to be available to investigating officers and courts. Forensic Services deals with the application of the knowledge and methodology of various disciplines of science to legal matters. It involves the use of multiple disciplines, such as physics, chemistry,

biology and engineering for evidence analysis.

Without the application of forensic science, criminals cannot be convicted, unless an eyewitness is present, thus, forensic services involves the collection, preservation and analysis of evidence, which is suitable for prosecuting an offender in a court of law. The purpose of an FSL is to process evidence gathered at the scenes of crimes and to provide expert evidence, in this regard, to investigating officers and courts alike.

The performance of the SAPS's FSL has been dramatically improved through interventions, aimed at ensuring that the FSL is appropriately capacitated; that the contractual arrangements related to its specialised equipment and the consumables that this equipment requires are addressed and that system developments are fast-tracked to accommodate the forensic analysis process.

Initiatives to be implemented to improve the management of DNA exhibits and the down-management of the DNA backlog involves the:

- facilitating of the optimal use of forensic services and products by clients;
- the optimising of the financial and supply chain management processes, supporting the provisioning of forensic services;
- capacitation of the FSL with adequate staff to meet the demand for forensic products;
- modernisation and maintenance of specialised forensic equipment and methods;
- the establishment of specialised forensic process optimisation and development capacity, to support the need for forensic products;
- enhancement of the management of forensic items, exhibit and record storage;
- maintenance of forensic facilities, in accordance with the standards of the International Organisation for Standardisation and the Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1993 (Act 85 of 1993), to ensure value for money; and
- modernisation of Information Technology systems, to support the optimal processing of forensic exhibit material and records.

National priority offences

The DPCI (The Hawks), as established in terms of Section 17C of the SAPS Act of 1995, is mandated to investigate national priority offences, as provided for in terms of Section 17D of the SAPS Act of 1995. The directorate focuses on enhancing the investigation of serious corruption, serious organised crime and serious commercial crime.

As in the previous financial year, the investigation of serious corruption cases linked to crimes against the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF), the special dispensation for unemployment, tender processes for personal protection equipment and the plundering State resources intended to assist the most vulnerable will receive the highest priority. Investigating serious corruption, serious organised crime and serious

commercial crime remain the focus of the DPCI.

The DPCI has capacitated and will continue to capacitate these investigative functions by filling prioritised vacant posts within its approved structure. This capacitation extended to physical resources and the vehicle fleet of the DPCI will be increased to accommodate the expanded fixed establishment.

The procurement of specialised technological aids, software licenses for specialised investigative tools and specialised technology equipment, remains a challenge that shall receive attention to ensure the effectiveness of the investigation of all serious crime, especially those crimes being committed in the cyber space.

The limitations identified on suitable accommodation for the DPCI, shall still receive heightened attention. The DPCI shall continue to participate in the processes for the implementation of Chapter 6A of the SAPS Act of 1995, including section 17G, thereof. Over and above, the DPCI shall prioritise the investigations and recommendations by the State Capture Commission under the chairpersonship of the Acting Chief Justice RMM Zondo. The integrity of personnel attached to the DPCI remains an integral part of the work they do and the manner in which they conduct themselves.

The DPCI are guided by Section 195(1) of the integrity of personnel attached to the DPCI remains an integral part of the work they do and the manner in which they conduct themselves. The DPCI are guided by Section 195(1) of the Constitution, Section 17B (b) and Section 17E of the SAPS Act, to ensure that the integrity of members is beyond reproach.

This includes all newly appointed members of the DPCI who must be beyond reproach and must execute their duties without fear, favour or prejudice. The DPCI will continue to work closely with the NPA in targeting national priority offences, including disruption against organised criminal groups. The DPCI shall endeavour to have perpetrators prosecuted in terms of the POCA of 1998.

The directorate will continue our focused investigations on corruption levelled against State-Owned Enterprises and municipalities, serious violent crimes, such as cash-in-transit robberies, the murder of police officials, crime committed by organised criminal groups who tamper, steal or damage essential infrastructure and will continue to execute its mandate to the highest standards by using its resources in an effective and responsible manner whilst not only bringing those who have committed national priority offences to book, but also ensuring that the perpetrators do not benefit from the proceeds of crime.

Improved perceptions of serious corruption

The country is currently grappling with effects of serious corruption. Serious corruption includes, the misuse of a public or private office or position or resources with corrupt intent and may include an act of bribery, nepotism, extortion, fraud and theft. This includes, but is not limited to, offences under the PRECCA of 2004. The reviewed

DPCI organisational structure provides for the continued, thorough and responsive investigation of serious corruption in the public and private sectors, and particularly within the JCPS Cluster, which is at the frontline of the fight against crime in the country.

The SAPS has, within the context of the JCPS Cluster, prioritised interventions relevant to the reduction of serious corruption in the private and public sectors, to guide planning and implementation within key JCPS Cluster departments over the medium-term. Serious Corruption Investigation is guided by the Anti-Corruption Inter-Ministerial Committee, which established a multi-agency Anti-Corruption Task Team, aimed at reducing levels of serious corruption.

Reduced serious and transnational organised crime

The DPCI, together with Crime Intelligence have developed a comprehensive approach to address the full spectrum of the drug supply chain, ranging from the illicit cultivation, production, trafficking, drug couriers and drug outlets and emerging threats through the National Drug Master Plan.

The dismantling of clandestine drug laboratories has been designed to address serious organised crime, linked to organised criminal groups that are manufacturing illicit drugs that are in high demand, at national and international levels. The identification of a clandestine drug laboratory can be done through crime intelligence or by means of an enquiry docket or through day-to-day investigation.

An identified clandestine drug laboratory is dismantled when the precursor chemicals, equipment and natural products utilised for the illegal production of drugs has been disassembled and confiscated and can no longer be used for the production of drugs.

An arrest related to an identified clandestine drug laboratory, refers to the arrest and charging of a suspect that is linked to a specific identified clandestine laboratory/s, before the dismantling operation, either during the operation or because of further investigation after the dismantling operation.

In line with the mandate of the DPCI, to diminish illegal narcotics in South Africa, a total of 122 clandestine laboratories were dismantled, with 242 arrests, between the 2019/20 and 2022/23 financial years.

Reduced levels of serious commercial crime

Serious commercial crime refers to those cases investigated by the DPCI and is determined by the mandate of the DPCI. Commercial crime refers to fraud, forgery, uttering and theft (such as the theft of trust funds).

It further includes statutes relating to, among others, companies, trusts and close corporations, long- and short-term insurance, the counterfeiting of currency, the counterfeiting and illicit trade in counterfeit products and goods, intellectual property rights, banks and the banking industry, exchange control, estate agents and computer-related or cyber-related crime, which include an element of corruption.

Effective response to cybercrime

The threat of cybercrime, which encompasses internet-related fraud and contraventions under the Electronic Communications and Transactions Act, 2002 (Act No 25 of 2002), continues to exist in South Africa and around the globe. Priority Crime Specialised Investigation is responsible for facilitating international cooperation in the fight against national priority crimes. It provides investigative support for serious cyber-related crimes to the DPCI operational components by conducting specialised online investigations, social media investigations and open source intelligence, as well as investigating unauthorised network access.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution implies significant technological advancements for the country, but also involves substantial risk. The threat to the South African economy and population posed by the malicious and criminal targeting of cyberspace is significant and must be countered, through the appropriate development and implementation of legislative, policy, strategic and operational responses. These responses require a collaborative, preventive effort from all sectors.

The SAPS' approach to cybercrime will address the value chain associated with this complex crime, including the reporting and recording of incidents of cybercrime; ensuring an effective first responder capability to and the investigation and prosecution of cybercrime; establishing an integrated approach to stakeholder management; ensuring cybercrime intelligence and situational awareness; and the provisioning of cybercrime investigative support. Certain sections of the Cybercrimes Act, 2020 (Act 19 of 2020) has been proclaimed by the President of South Africa, on 1 December 2021.

The recently enacted Cybercrimes Act of 2020 aims to criminalise, codify and penalise cybercrimes. The Act has cybercrime offences, including unlawful access to a computer or data storage device, illegal acquisition or interception of data, the unlawful acquisition, receipt, or possession of a password, as well as online forgery, extortion or fraud and theft of incorporeal property and is the overarching legal authority on the regulation, investigation and criminalisation of cybercrimes. The Act criminalises three types of data messages, which incite damage to property or violence, threaten people with damage to property or violence and unlawfully contain an intimate image.

Achievements towards SAPS outcomes

The significant increase in life sentences by General Crime Investigation Service contributed to increased feelings of safety in communities and more effective crime investigations by deterring crime, reinforce public trust in the CJS and ensuring that dangerous offenders are appropriately dealt with. This not only removes significant threats from the community, but also signals that the CJS prioritises dangerous and impactful criminal activities.

The increase in life sentences, for crimes involving family violence and child protection enhances feelings of safety in communities. The improvement is driven by better protection for victims, stronger confidence in the CJS and the deterrent effect of severe penalties.

Significant implications arise for both the immediate output (increased feelings of safety in communities) and the ultimate outcome (thorough and responsive investigation of crime) when the detection rate for contact crimes, particularly those against women and children, is not met. The perception that law enforcement is ineffective in addressing these serious crimes is promoted by low detection rates for contact crimes.

The effectiveness of contact crime investigations is significantly influenced by the strained capabilities of the SAPS Detective Service, which loses experienced detectives due to high attrition rates. The increasing number of reported offences also makes it challenging to keep up with investigations, resulting in a backlog of cases and extended resolution periods.

The thorough and responsive investigation of organised crime is influenced by resource constraints, specialised skills and the growing demand for policing services, especially in protecting critical economic infrastructure, neutralising drug syndicates and organised criminal groups or gangs and addressing extortion and violent crime in the construction sector.

Specialised skills are needed for these cases and limited resources limit their capacity. The increased neutralisation of drug syndicates in 2023/24 contributed to a decrease in organised crime. Neutralising even a few syndicates each year builds momentum over time. Although the target may be more ambitious, each syndicate that is neutralised represents a significant blow to organised crime.

Inadequate coordination in processing buccal samples from Schedule 8 arrested offenders negatively impacts the use of forensic investigative aids and DNA database enhancement. The unavailability of buccal sample kits at specific locations as a result of inadequate coordination, results in the failure to sample certain apprehended offenders. Missed samples lead to missed opportunities to collect DNA, hindering the ability to resolve crimes relying on DNA evidence. Compliance with buccal sample requirements is crucial for the reliability of forensic investigative aids.

The use of forensic leads in crime investigations has significantly improved the DNA database and the responsiveness of investigations. This approach connects crimes involving the same perpetrator, enhances the potential for matching DNA samples with known offenders and provides persuasive and reliable evidence in court. The investigation of crimes has been significantly impacted by the increased utilisation of forensic investigative leads, as evidenced by the improvement in person-to-crime DNA leads, crime-to-crime DNA leads, fingerprint leads and IBIS leads over the years.

The thorough and responsive investigation of specialised investigations

has been significantly influenced by the significant increases in conviction-related charges, the value of drug seizures, the number of firearms, ammunition and explosives seized and the number of forfeiture orders issued by the DPCI. These accomplishments strengthen the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts, enhance public safety and disrupt criminal operations, thereby ensuring that the DPCI remains a formidable force in the fight against organised crime and other serious offences.

Crime Intelligence

The Crime Intelligence division manages and analyses crime information, and provides technical support for investigations. The objective is to contribute to combating crime on an ongoing basis by ensuring the successful termination of network operations, in support of crime prevention, investigation and prosecution.

Priority areas within the Crime Intelligence Programme in 2022/23 focused primarily on intelligence-led policing, by focusing on network operations, a key element of the SAPS's Crime Intelligence functions and are designed to:

- gather intelligence/information so that a situation can be better understood
- generate intelligence/information on criminal organisations, groups or individuals that could be turned into evidence for use in a court of law;
- generate intelligence reports relevant to all organisational levels that precedes the perpetration of a crime, the crime and those who are responsible for its perpetration;
- apply counter-intelligence measures, which include security assessments that are related to prioritised SAPS members, security assessments of the ICT hardware and software that is used by the SAPS and physical security assessments, which provide an indication of the status of the physical security of the SAPS' infrastructural facilities;
- facilitate cross-border operations and the arrest of identified transnational crime suspects, in response to requests that are received from International Criminal Police Organisation member countries.

The notable improvements in finalising security clearances and assessments, in 2023/24 have significantly contributed to strengthening intelligence-led policing.

Proactive and reactive crime intelligence

Effective proactive and reactive crime intelligence, driven by the corporate renewal of the SAPS's crime intelligence capability, supports basic policing functions provided from police stations and is critical to the stabilisation and normalisation of areas identified as being problematic. The capability also contributes to the management of the integrity of the SAPS through the introduction of a revitalised approach

to the vetting of members in key areas. Over the medium term, the SAPS aimed to focus on the effective use of crime intelligence to support policing initiatives. This approach includes:

- optimising the collection of intelligence;
- enhancing its analysis and coordination;
- ensuring effective counterintelligence;
- establishing security intelligence to uphold the authority of the State; and
- establishing a culture of performance management within the crime intelligence environment.

In support of this, the department aims to ensure that network operations are successfully terminated. The Crime Intelligence division within the SAPS is responsible for the gathering, collation, evaluation, analysis and coordination of intelligence. Legislative prescriptions require the SAPS to confine its intelligence activities to crime, criminal activities and security-related matters.

The core function of the division is to provide intelligence to operational units for use in the prevention of crime or to conduct criminal investigations and to prepare evidence for the purpose of law enforcement and the prosecution of offenders. Crime intelligence is, therefore, a key enabler, in support of both proactive and reactive policing.

The division also provides intelligence-related services, such as lifestyle audits, security screening and vetting to the SAPS. Functioning within strict legal and regulatory parameters, the division conducts its intelligence-gathering, analysis and supplementary activities with due regard to the constitutionally protected rights of individuals. Through its national and provincial components, the division has established coverage throughout the country, which extends down to cluster level.

Proactive intelligence reports include threat and risk assessments and early warning reports, in support of proactive operations. Reactive intelligence reports include profiles and intelligence analysis reports such as communication analysis reports and association or network analysis reports.

Protection and Security Services

The purpose of the programme is to provide protection and security services to all identified dignitaries and government interests. The objectives are to minimise security violations by protecting all identified local and foreign dignitaries while in transit; protecting the locations in which dignitaries are present; auditing strategic installations and evaluating NKPs.

The programme comprises the VIP Protection Services, the Static and Mobile Security and the Government Security Regulator subprogrammes managed by the Protection and Security Services division and the Presidential Protection Service component. The Protection and Security Services division is a national competency with nine provincial offices located throughout South Africa.

The division provides in-transit and static protection to all identified VIPs, including the Speaker or Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Ministers or Deputy Ministers, Premiers, Members of the Executive Council, the Chief Justice, Judge Presidents and ad hoc VIPs, in terms of the Risk Information Management Support System Policy and NKPs, and identified strategic installations (national and provincial government departments).

The Presidential Protection Service component is a national competency with provincial offices in Gauteng, the Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape. The component provides in-transit and static protection to the President, the Deputy President, former presidents, former deputy presidents, their spouses, identified VIPs, including foreign Heads of State/ Government, former Heads of State/Government and their spouses at identified government installations.

Priority areas within the Protection and Security Services Programme, in 2021/22 focused primarily on the law upheld and enforced, to support the stamping (asserting) of the authority of the State, by focusing on identified dignitaries and government interests, protected and secured, in-transit and at identified government installations and identified VIP residences; and the SAPS' compliance obligations, in respect of the National Key Points Act, 1980 (Act 102 of 1980). The authority of the State would be significantly undermined in the event of a security breach impacting on either an identified dignitary, a NKP, or a strategic installation.

SAPS Commemoration Day

The 2023 SAPS Commemoration Day took place, on 3 September 2023 at the SAPS Memorial site, in Pretoria where President Cyril Ramaphosa led the nation in honouring fallen officers. A total of 34 officers lost their lives in the line of duty in the past year, underscoring the urgent need for improved law enforcement safety and community trust.

On Commemoration Day, the SAPS offers a token of appreciation for fallen members by inscribing and preserving their names on the Wall of Remembrance, ensuring that they are remembered not only by this generation but also by generations to come. In attendance were family, friends and colleagues of the 34 members who passed away in the line of duty between April 2022 and March 2023. The event was also attended by ministers of various government departments.

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

Delivering his keynote address, President Ramaphosa said the increase of police officers' deaths, whether on or off duty, must come to an end. The President emphasised that it demonstrates the level of desperation among criminals to remove an obstacle that stands

in the way of their criminal intent. Through the SAPS Employee Health and Wellness Component, the organisation continues to render psychological and spiritual support to the families, friends and colleagues of the deceased members. The hard work of the DPCI has resulted in the arrest of some 100 suspected police murderers over the past year.

Entities

Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSIRA)

The PSIRA was established in terms of Section 2 of the Private Security Industry Regulation Act of 2001, which replaced the Security Officers Act of 1987. The authority is mandated to regulate the private security industry and exercise control over security service providers in the public and national interest, as well as in the interest of the private security industry itself. Over the medium term, the authority will concentrate on enhancing compliance by establishing specialised units, including the firearms inspections unit, the K9 unit and the special operations unit.

This strategic focus aims to ensure better adherence to the Private Security Industry Regulation Act of 2001. To bolster these initiatives and enhance the prosecution rate for cases involving noncompliant security service providers, the authority has committed R161 million over the medium term within its law enforcement programme. The goal is to increase the prosecution rate of noncompliant security service providers from 92% in 2023/24 to 97% by 2026/27.

In addition to compliance measures, the authority will prioritise the transformation of the private security industry in an effort to empower historically disadvantaged providers. Planned initiatives for the next three years include efforts to professionalise the security industry by reviewing and enhancing training materials, and accrediting 36 qualifications and 1 200 training instructors. Expenditure on these initiatives is expected to amount to R11 million over the period ahead in the communication and training programme.

The authority is set to undergo a comprehensive review of its strategy, including the digital transformation strategy, to formulate a new plan for the next five years. This includes system enhancements so that they interface with other internal and end-user systems, and supporting the implementation of levies for private security providers. Spending for these activities is within an allocation of R29 million over the medium term in the administration programme. Total expenditure is projected to increase at an average annual rate of 10.1%, from R452.7 million in 2023/24 to R605 million in 2026/27. Spending on compensation of employees accounts for an estimated 48.6% (R1.1 billion) of the authority's total spending over the MTEF period. The number of personnel is expected to increase from 390 in 2023/24 to 407 in 2026/27 as the authority fills critical vacant positions.

More than 90% (R2 billion) of the authority's revenue over the MTEF period is set to be generated through the collection of annual and

registration fees from private security businesses and security officers.

The remainder will be generated through sales of renewal certificates, the training of security officers and accreditation fees collected from training providers. Revenue was expected to increase in line with expenditure, mainly due to the anticipated increase in the registration of security officers from 180 000 in 2023/24 to 216 000 in 2026/27.

Civilian Secretariat for the Police Service (CSPS)

The CSPS was established in terms of the CSPS Act of 2011 and section 208 of the Constitution, which provides for the establishment of a CSPS to function under the direction of the Minister of Police. In terms of the Act, the secretariat's mandate is to conduct civilian oversight of the police service and provide policy and strategic support to the Minister, including administrative support for international obligations. The Act also makes the secretariat responsible for monitoring the SAPS's implementation of the Domestic Violence Act of 1998.

Over the medium term, the department will continue to develop policies and legislation for the police sector; organise events such as imbizos and public participation programmes to foster community involvement in the fight against crime; and monitor and evaluate the performance of the police service in alignment with its constitutional obligations, including compliance with legal frameworks such as the Domestic Violence Act of 1998.

Total expenditure is projected to increase at an average annual rate of 3.5%, from R154.2 million in 2023/24 to R170.8 million in 2026/27. Given the labour-intensive nature of the department's work, compensation of employees constitutes an estimated 76.8% (R495.5 million) of its budget over the MTEF period. As a result of the expected increase in the number of personnel from 157 in 2023/24 to 174 in 2026/27, with critical posts taking priority, spending on compensation of employees is set to increase at an average annual rate of 7.1%, from R108.9 million in 2023/24 to R133.7 million in 2026/27.

Cabinet-approved reductions amounting to R15 million over the medium term will be accommodated by reducing spending on non-essential items such as advertising, and travel and subsistence.

Developing policies and legislation for the police sector

The department has outlined a comprehensive plan to improve uniformity, consistency, efficiency and effectiveness within the law enforcement value chain over the period ahead; and to address inconsistencies associated with the fragmented nature of policing at the national, provincial and local levels, including the lack of standards. As part of the plan, five bills are set to be finalised: the SAPS Amendment Bill, the Stock Theft Amendment Bill, the Firearms Control Amendment Bill, the Second-hand Goods Amendment Bill, and the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service Amendment Bill.

Concluding the national policing policy – a collaborative effort

requiring inputs from the SAPS's management, provincial executives, and ministerial structures from the justice, crime prevention and security cluster – will also be prioritised over the period ahead. The successful adoption and implementation of this policy is anticipated to improve the professionalism and quality of policing services throughout the country. Spending for these initiatives is in the Legislation and Policy Development programme, which is allocated R75.1 million over the MTEF period.

Fostering community involvement in fighting crime

In addition to conducting a targeted three anti-crime campaigns per year over the next 3 years, the department intends to facilitate 24 imbizos and public participation programmes in municipalities. These are expected to heighten community awareness of crime-prevention strategies, including community policing, safety forums and the evaluation of the functionality of community police forums.

It also plans to hold 27 capacity-building workshops with stakeholders during this period. These activities will be carried out in the Intersectoral Coordination and Strategic Partnerships programme, which has a budget of R84.4 million over the next three years.

Monitoring and evaluating the police service's performance

In its commitment to enhance the management of gender-based violence cases, the department aims to compile two reports per year over the medium term to assess the SAPS's compliance with the Domestic Violence Act of 1998. To promote transformation, accountability and professionalism within the SAPS, the department aims to generate three reports per year over the period ahead on the SAPS's handling of complaints and the implementation of the IPID's recommendations, and an evaluation of police integrity. Spending for these initiatives is within the Civilian Oversight, Monitoring and Evaluations programme's allocation of R106.8 million over the medium term.

Independent Police Investigative Directorate

The IPID exercises its functions in accordance with the IPID Act of 2011. The Act gives effect to the provisions of Section 206(6) of the Constitution, which provides for the establishment of an independent police complaints body that must investigate any alleged misconduct of, or offence committed by, a member of the police service. The directorate's work centres on investigating serious and priority crimes allegedly committed by members of the SAPS and Municipal Police Services (MPS).

The Act grants the directorate an extended mandate and changes the focus of the directorate's work from a complaints-driven organisation to one that prioritises investigations. It also places stringent obligations on the SAPS and MPS to report matters that must be investigated by the directorate, and ensures that disciplinary recommendations

made by the directorate are implemented. Over the medium term, the directorate will continue to focus on enhancing its investigative capacity and streamlining processes to improve the quality of its investigations, as well as improving public perception. This will entail conducting a skills audit to identify skills as well as any gaps within its workforce to better address its case investigation backlog, and strengthening stakeholder engagements within law enforcement.

Owing to the labour-intensive nature of the directorate's activities, an estimated 68.8% (R1.1 billion) of its total budget over the MTEF period is allocated to compensation of employees, increasing at an average annual rate of 4.5%, from R245.5 million in 2023/24 to R280.5 million in 2026/27. Total expenditure is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 3.6%, from R364.4 million in 2023/24 to R405.6 million in 2026/27.

Cabinet has approved budget reductions to the department's budget amounting to R30 million over the medium term. Due to the 2023/24 wage agreement not being funded, the department also expects a shortfall of R33.2 million in its budget for compensation of employees. As such, its total shortfall for compensation of employees is expected to be R63.2 million over the next three years. To mitigate against the impact of this shortfall on overall performance, the directorate anticipates a decrease in the number of personnel from 404 in 2023/24 to 384 in 2026/27.

This decrease will mainly apply to employees appointed on a contractual basis and administrative staff across most programmes. In addition, only core posts, particularly for investigators, that are crucial for addressing the case backlog (comprising 17 988 active cases and 28 345 post decision-ready) and enhancing services, are expected to be filled during the period ahead. The directorate remains dedicated to realigning its organisational structure and streamlining functions to ensure the optimal use of its human resources.

Addressing the case investigation backlog

Over the next three years, the directorate will prioritise addressing its case backlog and investigating cases related to alleged police brutality, rape, torture and assault. Given the surge in reported cases of GBVF, special emphasis will be placed on cases involving women, children and people with disabilities.

To optimally use its human resources in support of its core mandate, the directorate plans to conduct a skills audit in 2024/25 to identify skills as well as any gaps in its workforce.

This information will guide the review of its organisational structure as the directorate aims to tap into the skills of its employees and assess key competencies required to improve performance. Funding for these initiatives is made available in the Administration programme, which is allocated R354.4 million over the MTEF period, and the Investigation and Information Management programme, which is allocated R751.2 million over the same period.

Strengthening stakeholder engagements within law enforcement

In recognition of the critical role of maintaining strong relations with various stakeholders in raising awareness about its mandate, the directorate aims to manage perceptions and restore public trust and confidence in its services.

In pursuit of this, the number of formal engagements with key stakeholders is set to increase from 167 in 2022/23 to 180 in each year over the medium term. Funding for these activities is made available in the Compliance Monitoring and Stakeholder Management programme, which has a total budget of R36 million over the next three years.

Department of Defence

The DOD derives its mandate from Section 200 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996, the Defence Act, 2002 (Act 42 of 2002) as amended by the Defence Amendment Act, 2010 (Act 22 of 2010), the 1996 *White Paper on Defence* and the *SA Defence Review* of 2015. The department is required to provide, manage, prepare and employ defence capabilities that are commensurate with the needs of South Africa.

The DOD executes its mandate to provide, manage, prepare and employ defence capabilities commensurate with the needs of South Africa, as regulated by the Constitution, national legislation and parliamentary and executive direction. This will be provided through the proper management, provision, preparedness and employment of defence capabilities that are in line with the domestic and global needs of South Africa.

Over the medium term, the department will continue to protect the sovereignty of South Africa and its territorial integrity through internal and external operations. This entails prioritising border safeguarding, maintaining infrastructure, and providing support to the SAPS and other peace-support operations.

Due to the labour-intensive nature of its work, spending on compensation of employees remains the department's main spending area, accounting for an estimated 64.8% (R138.9 billion) of total expenditure. This includes an additional allocation of R7.6 billion over the next three years to cater for adjustments arising from the 2023/24 public sector wage agreement and for the deployment of South African National Defence Force (SANDF) members in support of the SAPS during the 2024 national and provincial elections. Despite this additional allocation, the budget for compensation of employees remains under pressure.

To minimise the impact of the shortfall, the department will continue to manage commuted overtime, recruit new members through the military skills development system only every alternate calendar year, reduce its number of personnel through natural attrition, and cap annual increases for regimental and operational allowances.

Cabinet-approved budget reductions amounting to R5.3 billion over the MTEF period include reductions on transfers to the Armaments

Corporation of South Africa (Armcor) of R155.6 million in 2024/25, R162.7 million in 2025/26 and R170.2 million in 2026/27. To minimise the impact of these reductions, the department plans to continue to increase its use of technology – such as unmanned aerial vehicles, thermal cameras, and night vision and longrange cameras – in its operations. It also plans to review its programmes to identify inefficiencies, redundancies and areas where costs can be cut without compromising core defence capabilities critical to national security.

Guarding South Africa's borders and supporting the police

To safeguard the integrity of South Africa's borders, the department will continue to prioritise the acquisition of vehicles and technology that will serve as a force multiplier. This approach is expected to increase the range of the borderline under protection and help in preventing illegal border crossings, smuggling and other activities that could compromise national security.

The department will also continue to support the SAPS to address internal security challenges. These activities are carried out through allocations in the Support to the People subprogramme in the Force Employment programme, which has a budget of R3.9 billion over the next three years.

Maintaining infrastructure

To provide for day-to-day and preventative maintenance and emergency repairs, and to augment the shortfall within municipal services, R1.9 billion over the MTEF period is reallocated from the Administration programme to the General Support programme. This reallocation is mainly due to a budget shortfall in the General Support programme after the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) allowed departments to perform day-to-day maintenance and repairs of up to R1 million without the necessary funding from that department.

The shortfall in municipal services is mainly due to historical arrears to municipalities after the devolution of the responsibility to pay and manage municipal accounts moved from the DPWI to client departments with effect from 1 April 2020.

Defence Intelligence

The purpose of the Defence Intelligence Programme is to provide defence intelligence and counter-intelligence capabilities. During the period under review, Defence Intelligence conducted intelligence, counter-intelligence and collecting activities, to provide decision-makers with intelligence and counter-intelligence capabilities.

Defence Intelligence responded to intelligence requirements received from clients and strategic partners and disseminated these intelligence products to decision-makers to provide timely information. Early warning reports were provided on emerging threats on the continent and beyond. Defence Intelligence continued its

participation on bilateral and multilateral levels in regional, continental and international engagements at SADC, AU and UN levels through virtual engagements.

Entities

Armaments Corporation of South Africa

The Armcor, which is guided by the Armcor Act of 2003, ensures that the SANDF is equipped with high-quality, reliable and technologically advanced defence matériel.

By fulfilling its mission, the corporation contributes to the overall effectiveness and readiness of the defence force while actively enabling the development of the local defence industry by supporting local manufacturers and fostering research and development initiatives.

Over the medium term, the corporation will continue to focus on meeting the defence matériel requirements, as well as the defence technology, research and development analysis, and testing and evaluation requirements of the DOD.

The corporation plans to ensure that the procurement of capital assets for the defence force over the MTEF period is cost efficient and meets its operational needs. To sustain the percentage of the department's capital requirements converted into placed orders at 95% in each year over the medium term, the corporation has allocated R727.4 million over the next three years for the acquisition of defence matériel.

Over the period ahead, the corporation plans to offer services related to operational research, comprehensive testing and the evaluation of defence systems and capabilities across military and civilian settings. The adoption of cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence and nanotechnology is expected to empower the corporation to carry out its mandate.

Accordingly, the corporation aims to maintain the execution of technology requirements to meet contractual milestones at 95% over the period ahead. Consequently, projected expenditure to manage strategic research facilities is estimated to be R1.7 billion over the next three years.

The corporation is set to derive 54.7% (R4.4 billion) of its revenue over the MTEF period through transfers from the department, increasing at an average annual rate of 1.9%. To mitigate the impact of Cabinet-approved budget reductions amounting to R488.5 million over the medium term, the corporation aims to improve other revenue streams, such as the commercialisation of intellectual property and commercial income from strategic facilities. As a result, non-tax revenue streams are expected to increase at an average annual rate of 25.9%, from R742.6 million in 2023/24 to R1.5 billion in 2026/27.

Castle Control Board

The Castle Control Board derives its primary authority from the Castle Management Act of 1993, which mandates the preservation and

protection of the military and cultural heritage of the Castle of Good Hope. Additionally, certain facets of the board's mandate find their basis in the Defence Endowment Property and Account Act of 1922 and the National Heritage Resources Act of 1999. Over the period ahead, the board intends to maximise the heritage tourism potential of the Castle of Good Hope and enhance its accessibility to a wider audience.

This entails implementing a strategy to optimise revenue with the goal of ensuring that the Castle of Good Hope becomes self-sustainable over the medium term. Key to this is providing a comprehensive array of visitor services, including the introduction of an enhanced tourist guide script that integrates both tangible and intangible heritage to enrich the experience for tourists.

Efforts will also be directed towards improving museum curation and exhibitions, upgrading the information centre and website, and upgrading the curio shop to support the development of young and women entrepreneurs.

Although the board is expected to sustain its operations through self-generated revenue, the department will supplement its income with an additional R15 million over the MTEF period. This measure aims to alleviate the persistent decrease in visitor numbers and, as a result, revenue since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the medium term, expenditure is expected to decrease at an average annual rate of 2%, from R10.6 million in 2023/24 to R10 million in 2026/27. This is mainly driven by an estimated 14.5% (R9 million) decrease in spending on goods and services over the medium as part of prudent financial management.

Role players

National Conventional Arms Control Committee (NCACC)

The NCACC is a committee of Ministers. The Minister of Defence and Military Veterans is a member of the NCACC. The committee oversees policy and sets control mechanisms for the South African arms trade. It also ensures that arms-trade policies conform to internationally accepted practices. Companies interested in exporting arms have to apply for export permits, thereafter the Ministry of Defence and Military Veterans processes the applications.

Each application is sent for scrutiny to relevant government departments, such as the Department of International Relations and Cooperation or the dtic. The application is then referred to the various directors-general for their recommendations, after which the NCACC makes the final decision.

An independent inspectorate ensures that all levels of the process are subject to independent scrutiny and supervision, and are conducted in accordance with the policies and guidelines of the NCACC. The inspectorate submits periodic reports to the Joint Standing Committee on Defence.

Aerospace, Maritime and Defence Industries Association of South Africa (AMD)

The AMD's primary objective is to represent the South African industry in matters of mutual interest in pursuit of profitability, sustainability and responsible corporate citizenship. The association is acknowledged as the only trade association of the South African Defence Industries (SADI), and is mandated by its members to promote and champion the collective interests of the industry.

It comprises a cluster of leading companies in the South African private and public sector that supply defence materiel, products and services. The AMD member companies supply products and services to the DOD, government organisations and other contractors, locally and internationally, in the defence and security marketplace.

As the SADI is one of the cornerstones of a stable and growing the South African economy, the AMD is responsible for ensuring that a world-class, indigenous defence industry capability is maintained in a sustainable manner.

Within an emerging defence industry support framework, the DOD, in collaboration with the Armscor and the AMD, will continue providing effective support to enable SADI to exploit export opportunities within the South African political and legal context.

The services range from information-sharing on possible opportunities to facilitating the provision of defence personnel, facilities and equipment for use by the SADI in demonstrations for export purposes.

The AMD, through its membership, is strategically well positioned and capable of supporting government in achieving its African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development objectives.

Denel Group of South Africa

Denel was incorporated as a private company in 1992 in terms of the Companies Act of 1973, with the South African Government as its sole shareholder. It operates in the military aerospace and landward defence environment and provides strategic defence equipment.

The company's broad focus over the medium term will be on implementing its turnaround plan, which entails rolling out its new operating model, optimising its cost structure and restructuring. The new operating model reduces Denel's structure from six core business units to four according to capability domains – aviation, munitions, and land and integrated systems solutions.

In 2021/22, government helped Denel settle R3.2 billion guaranteed debt, which relieved the entity of annual interest payments amounting to R250 million. The following financial year, government allocated an additional R3.4 billion through the Special Appropriation Act of 2022 to help implement the company's turnaround plan.

Following these interventions, Denel has experienced growth in its order pipeline, which is estimated at more than R25 billion. The

company's immediate focus is to stabilise its operations and deliver on existing contracts to improve cash flow and continue to build trust with customers and partners.

However, since 2021/22, the company has lost a significant number of experienced personnel with critical skills due to decreased business activity and poor financial position, threatening its capacity to maintain strategic defence industrial capabilities.

Since the improvement in the company's financial position from mid-2022/23, Denel has stabilised its employee turnover rate and has been able to attract leadership and other critical skills to fulfil contracts.

Expenditure is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 10 per cent, from R2.4 billion in 2023/24 to R3.2 billion in 2026/27. This increase is attributed to the expected improvement in business activity and intensifying implementation of the turnaround plan. Spending on goods and services, mainly for material supplies, accounts for 50.8% (R4.5 billion) of the total expenditure.

Revenue is projected to increase at an average annual rate of 19.1%, from R2.1 billion in 2023/24 to R3.5 billion in 2026/27, due to the turnaround strategy having been implemented by the board in June 2022. Denel derives 95.7% (R9 billion) of its revenue through sales of defence and security equipment and the services that it provides. The Auditor-General of South Africa is in the process of auditing its three outstanding financial statements (2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23).

Military Veterans

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

Through recognising the contribution of military veterans to South Africa's democracy, government can promote social cohesion and national unity, and foster a sense of shared history and purpose. Government considers this not only a moral obligation but a step towards rectifying historical injustices.

Part of this recognition entails prioritising military veterans' and their dependants' access to key benefits such as pensions, housing, health care and education over the medium term. This comprehensive approach supports the wellbeing of military veterans and contributes to the broader development of society.

As such, the department plans to intensify the rollout of the pension benefit to reach deserving military veterans and their dependants by 2026/27. Applying a strict means test will ensure that the benefit is directed towards those in genuine need and prevent any potential misuse.

The department also aims to deliver 750 houses to military veterans over the MTEF period. Provincial departments of human settlements will be responsible for constructing the houses on behalf of the

department, as per the terms of its housing delivery model. Allocations amounting to R757.8 million over the next three years for the pension and housing benefits are in the Socioeconomic Support Management subprogramme in the Socio-economic Support programme.

The department plans to increase the number of bursaries provided to military veterans and their dependants from 3 500 in 2023/24 to 4 800 in 2026/27. Allocations for this benefit are made through the Empowerment and Stakeholder Management programme, which has a budget of R882.1 million over the medium term.

To enhance quality of life for eligible military veterans, the department subsidises healthcare services in full, and aims to ensure that 18 650 military veterans have access to health care services by 2026/27. To offset the impact of Cabinet-approved budget reductions of R2.3 million over the MTEF period on health care services, the department has reprioritised R37.5 million from the housing benefit to health care.

As such, spending in the Health Care and Well-being Support subprogramme in the Socio-economic Support programme is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 3.2%, from R184.4 million in 2023/24 to R202.9 million in 2026/27.

Despite the overall Cabinet-approved reduction of R362.3 million, total expenditure is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 5%, from R846.3 million in 2023/24 to R979.9 million in 2026/27, mainly due to the provision of additional funding in the 2023 Budget to roll out the pension benefit.