



The battle against crime is steadily being won, with detailed research showing that most serious types of criminal activity have been reduced in recent years. This has been achieved by more scientific policing, the deployment of greater resources and better criminal intelligence gathering.

The key objectives of the South African Police Service (SAPS) are to prevent, combat and investigate crime, maintain public order, protect and secure the inhabitants of South Africa and their property and uphold and enforce the law.

The SAPS strives to be impartial, respectful, open and accountable to the community and to provide an effective, high-quality service with honesty and integrity.

At the end of May 2002, the SAPS had a staff complement of 121 613. This will be increased to 147 000 over the next three years.

In 2000 the Government's Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster embarked on a 10-year programme to stabilise and reduce crime and build capacity in their departments.

The strategy is being implemented in two phases. Phase one is aimed at stabilising crime levels by 2003 while phase two is geared to bringing them to international levels by 2009. The second phase depends on mitigating the causes of crime, many of which fall outside the ambit of the Cluster's responsibilities. Yet, continuous multilateral and integrated cluster programmes are embarked upon to address these causes.

The 20 serious crime categories are in effect all stable or improving. Notably the incidence of murder has already decreased by almost 17% since 1999, primarily because of concentrated actions by the Cluster on specific crime tendencies such as gang violence, taxi violence and various manifestations of intergroup violence.

The policies governing policing are set out in numerous documents, including the National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS), the *White Paper on Safety and Security*, and the National Security Policy.

Concrete crime-fighting

Through a geographic approach, the National Crime Combating Statistics began to focus on 145 of the 1 130 police stations which generate more than 50% of nationwide incidents of crime.

During 2000/01, all these stations were empowered by implementing the Geographic Information System and appointing analysts to analyse the crime in these precincts on a daily basis to focus all policing activities and scarce resources (special operations, patrols, road-blocks, surveillance actions, etc).

Where possible, organised crime at station level is identified through matrix analysis. The information is then channelled to higher levels of policing to establish whether it links with other information at area, provincial and national level.

Stabilisation initiatives are under way in 45 priority areas with high levels of especially violent crime while special projects have been implemented to address murder and rape in a further 94 areas. As a result of cell

phone robbery and theft, which comprises as much as 50% of crimes such as other robbery, other theft, theft out of motor vehicles, etc, in certain areas of Gauteng, a special project has been launched.

As from 2002, crime-combating mechanisms were established to include Crime Combating and Response units (increasing road-blocks and searches and measures to reduce gang violence, taxi violence, faction-fighting and bank and cash-in-transit robberies), as well as 50 Sector Policing units (assisted by Metropolitan Police) in remaining areas with the highest crime weights.

So-called crime generators and specific crimes such as rape, murder and the availability of illegal firearms continue to receive dedicated attention.

Special projects will include addressing cellphone theft, addressing the influence of illicit drugs, improving border control, and reducing case backlogs and overcrowding in prisons.

Detective Service

By June 2002, the Detective Service was in the final stages of reorganisation. During the two phases of this process, 278 specialised units were closed. Twenty-four organised crime units with 723 members and 17 commercial branches and one Serious Economic Offences unit with 612 members were established.

These newly established units will ensure that the operational police priorities such as organised crime, serious and violent crime and commerce-related crime receive due attention.

While the specialised units were being closed, more than 1 100 investigators were reassigned to the Detective Service at police station level to strengthen policing at the local level. Some 1 360 constables were to be enlisted for the Detective Service in 2002/03 and 370 constables for the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences units. These enlistments will continue for the 2002–04 financial years and it is expected that the shortages in personnel resources



experienced by the Detective Service will decrease extensively.

Crime Intelligence

The SAPS has succeeded in destroying large amounts of arms caches in Mozambique, through the efforts of dedicated covert intelligence operations.

The greatest challenge that the Crime Intelligence Division faces is narcotics trafficking. The sophisticated nature and relative wealth of drug syndicates demand the adoption of an even more sophisticated approach. Through the SAPS' organised crime-threat analysis, the Crime Intelligence Division has accurately identified those counter-measures necessary to root out this problem.

Corruption and organised crime are intertwined. While it remains the primary responsibility of every department to flush out corruption and corrupt elements, Crime Intelligence continues to play an active role.

Crime Prevention

The Crime Prevention Division aims to reduce opportunities to commit crime by optimising visible policing.

Community policing has been adopted as the official policing style in South Africa. Various endeavours have been embarked upon to institutionalise community policing, and significant progress has been made. This policing style is based on the premise that a community and its police service are equal partners with shared responsibilities in ensuring safety and security.

Sector policing has also been identified as one of the prioritised focus areas, with a pilot project launched in the Johannesburg area to develop sector policing. At least one sector has been established within each of the wards at Johannesburg's police stations. The basic concept consists of at least one police official being allocated on a full-time basis to a sector in which he or she is responsible for enhancing safety and security.

DID YOU KNOW?

In June 2001, the South African Police Service became the first Police Service in Africa to launch a missing children website (<http://za.missingkids.com>), making it the 11th country in the world to harness computer technology in the search for missing children.

A Rural Safety Programme that is informed by the specific dynamics of rural areas has also been developed. The crime prevention strategy here involves a number of rural stakeholders such as women's groups, traditional leaders, agricultural unions and farm labourers.

In 2002, a new policy on the South African Reserve Police Service was implemented to facilitate and improve community involvement and co-operation in policing. The SAPS also estab-

lished Crime Combating Units for deployment in support of local police in flashpoint areas when normal policing is inadequate for major incidents and disasters.

Backing the efforts of these police divisions are a number of highly trained specialised resources, including the Criminal Record Centre which identifies and verifies offenders' previous convictions. Others are the Forensic Science Laboratory, the National Bureau for Missing Persons, the Integrated Ballistics Identification System, the DNA Criminal Database, the Criminal Intelligence Database and the National Drug Intelligence Database.

The recovery of firearms is linked to the new Firearm Control System, which focuses on tracing their origin by correlating firearms with their use in criminal activities. This resulted in the seizure of 13 155 illegal firearms in 2002.

Air-supported Reaction Forces, hostage negotiators, police divers and the water wing also play a crucial part.

Defence

The primary objective of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) is to defend and protect South Africa, its territorial integrity and its people in

accordance with the Constitution and the principles of international law regulating the use of force.

The Constitution provides that the SANDF may be deployed for service in:

- the defence of the country, for the protection of its sovereignty and territorial integrity
- compliance with the obligations of the country to international bodies and other states
- the preservation of life, health or property
- the provision or maintenance of essential services
- the upholding of law and order under circumstances set out in legislation, where the SAPS is unable to maintain law and order on its own
- support of any department of State for the purpose of socio-economic upliftment.

The Department of Defence is likely to play an increasingly important role in regional security management in future. Its participation will impact favourably and substantially on the state of military security, especially within South Africa.

Strategy

The reintegration of South Africa into the world and in particular African society since 1994, has resulted in far-reaching changes to national security and defence.

Using a mission-based approach to achieving strategic objectives, the SANDF envisages that in the next decade key tasks will include border control, defence against biological and/or chemical as well as information attacks, disaster relief and international co-operation in areas such as observer missions, peace-building and search and rescue.

The SANDF has supported United Nations and African Union peace-keeping missions in among others, the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Transformation

A transformation project of the Department of Defence

aims to minimise defence costs while maximising defence capability.

The Department of Defence's full-time component has been reduced from a peak strength of 102 600 members in 1995/96 to 76 724 in May 2002, amounting to a reduction of 25,22% over six years. By the end of 2003 it is envisaged that personnel will number 70 000.

Armaments

The first of the South African Navy's Valour Class patrol corvettes (F145) was officially named and launched in Germany in June 2002 by Ms Zanele Mbeki, wife of President Thabo Mbeki. This corvette is the first new warship for South Africa in 16 years.

The Italian manufacturer, Augusta, will deliver 30 light utility helicopters, capable of carrying eight occupants, from 2004 onwards. A total of 24 British Aerospace dual-seat Hawk lead-in fighter trainers, customised for South African requirements, are due to be delivered in 2005. British Aerospace/SAAB will supply nine dual-seater Gripen JAS 39 advanced light fighter aircraft, also customised for South African needs, between 2007 and 2008.

If the third and final option on the aircraft purchases is exercised in 2004, a further 19 single-seater Gripens will be acquired.

The Armaments Corporation of South Africa (Armscor) exists primarily to acquire defence products, mainly for the SANDF, and to co-manage, with the SANDF, the development of technologies for future weapon systems and products.

The Denel Group of South Africa was established in 1992 and operated as a profit-driven company with the State as the sole shareholder.

In terms of government's restructuring plan, French company Turbomeca, part of the SNECMA group, earlier in 2002 acquired a majority equity in Denel Airmotive, thus forming a new company called Turbomeca Africa.



Over the years, Denel, which employs some 10 500 people and has a turnover of around R3,75 billion, has substantially increased its export sales, which now account for more than 50% of its turnover.

Intelligence services

There are two civilian intelligence structures, namely the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and the South African Secret Service (SASS).

The NIA's mission is to proactively, professionally and impartially manage and provide the Government with domestic intelligence and counter-intelligence to enhance national security and defend the Constitution, the interests of the State and the well-being of the people of South Africa.

The SASS is South Africa's foreign intelligence capacity. It is concerned with providing clients with accurate, policy-relevant and timeous foreign intelligence collected abroad with the intention to inform, forecast and advise on real and potential threats to and opportunities for the country.