



## Safety, security and defence

Cabinet's Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster focuses on reducing serious and violent crime by between 7% and 10% a year. The JCPS Cluster is following a two-pronged crime-fighting strategy that confirms the central role of law-enforcement agencies in combating crime and acknowledges the principle of community involvement and establishing partnerships as primary instruments in preventing and combating crime.

The policy documents governing policing in South Africa include the South African Police Service (SAPS) Act, 1995 and the 1996 National Crime-Prevention Strategy.

The operational priorities of the department's strategic plan for 2005 to 2010 are:

- combating organised crime
- fighting serious and violent crime
- addressing crime against women and children
- improving on other SAPS priorities that affect basic service delivery.

In September 2006, the South African Police Service released crime statistics for 2005/06:

- attempted murder decreased by 16,6%
- serious and violent assault decreased by 9,6%
- common assault decreased by 15,6%
- robbery with aggravating circumstances decreased by 6,2%
- common robbery decreased by 18,3%
- drug-related crimes increased by 13,2%
- car hijackings increased by 3,1%
- murder decreased by 2%
- rape decreased by 1%
- indecent assault decreased by 3,7%
- driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs increased by 9,9%
- cash-in-transit heists increased by 74,1%.

Over the medium term, the department will support government's regional and continental objectives by implementing the Southern African Development Community Protocol on the Control of Firearms through the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Co-operation Organisation (SARPCCO) and the African Union (AU) Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. It will also provide operational support and institutional capacity-building to police agencies in southern Africa through SARPCCO to promote development, stability and security and to benefit policing in South Africa through information-sharing.

## **Reducing crime**

Crime prevention in South Africa is based on the principles of community policing, that is, partnerships between the community and the SAPS. Partnerships between police officers (who are appointed as sector managers) and communities strengthen existing community policing fora (CPFs).

Sector policing was introduced in 2002/03 to increase the visibility and accessibility of police officers, particularly in areas that have

It was announced in October 2006 that government would distribute R73,8 million to several law-enforcement agencies and departments in forfeited assets.

This followed Cabinet approval for the distribution of funds deposited into the Criminal Assets Recovery Account (Cara), following asset forfeiture.

A number of assets, including motor vehicles, equipment and property would also be distributed to a number of law-enforcement agencies and government departments.

In terms of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act, 1998, the monies and properties in Cara may be used to render financial assistance to law-enforcement agencies to combat organised crime, money laundering, criminal gang activities, and the financing of terrorist and related activities.

The South African Police Service received R33,7 million from the fund.

limited infrastructure and high crime levels. The implementation of sector policing continues.

CPFs, which have been in place since 1993, are functioning well at most police stations. CPFs are actively involved in crime-prevention and awareness programmes, and allow police to mobilise and involve communities in the fight against crime. CPFs also assist police by mobilising partnerships with business and other stakeholders in communities to address crime concerns.

Additional funds have been allocated to the SAPS to increase the number of personnel to 178 910 by the end of March 2009. This labour input will be complemented by a concomitant expansion of the vehicle fleet, equipment supplies and information technology (IT) infrastructure.

By March 2006, the SAPS had 155 532 members.

By May 2006, police stations had a total personnel strength of about 95 000. It is envisaged that the personnel establishment for police stations will increase by almost 35 000, which will then be sustained at nearly 130 000 up to 2010.

By May 2006, closed-circuit television (CCTV) monitor systems were being expanded in KwaMashu, Inanda and Mafikeng. The existing Cape Town and Kimberley CCTV systems were being assessed for possible expansion.

### **Firearms control**

The Firearms Control Act, 2000 and the Firearms Control Amendment Act, 2003 aim to assist the SAPS in preventing the proliferation of illegal firearms and removing them from society, as well as to control legally owned firearms. People seeking firearm licences are compelled to undergo a competency test and obtain a competency certificate before being granted a firearm licence.

In November 2004, the Minister of Safety and Security declared an amnesty for people in possession of illegal firearms and ammunition.

## Fact:

During 2005/06, nine new police stations were completed and two existing ones upgraded. By mid-2006, 20 new police stations were under construction and four had been upgraded. The construction of another 26 police stations was expected to commence in 2006/07.

In terms of the amnesty, as defined in section 138 of the Firearms Control Act, 2000, illegal firearms and ammunition had to be surrendered at police stations nationwide from 1 January to 31 March 2005. This period was subsequently extended to 30 June 2005.

A total of 33 823 illegal firearms and 608 794 rounds of illegal ammunition were surrendered between 1 January 2005 and 30 June 2005 and 46 631 legal firearms and 821 527 rounds of ammunition were voluntarily handed in to the SAPS. The SAPS confiscated over 17 600 firearms and 370 180 rounds of ammunition between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006. During this period, 4 842 firearms were reported as lost and stolen, and 12 351 firearms were recovered.

Between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006, the SAPS accredited 586 non-official firearm institutions, of which 151 were shooting ranges and 232 were training-providers.

During the same period, the SAPS destroyed more than 107 460 firearms.

### **Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL)**

The FSL in Pretoria is implementing revolutionary new technology that will quadruple the laboratory's capacity to process DNA samples.

Previously, some 200 samples were processed daily manually, but implementing the Automated Genetic Sample Processing System (AGSPS) is expected to ensure that 800 samples can be loaded into the system daily.

The AGSPS is the only one of its kind in the world and is a robotic system that combines engineering and science.

Between April and September 2006, DNA analysis had been done for over 2 000 cases.

Since the Ballistics Unit's implementation of the Integrated Ballistics Information System, more than 416 000 images had been captured on the database. Almost 5 000 hits (links between two or

In January 2002, the South African Police Service had 27 000 vehicles, whereas by March 2006 this figure had risen to 35 418 vehicles.

more cases) had been made, which implied linking almost 10 000 different crime scenes where there was no prior knowledge/information that the same firearm(s) was/were used.

The FSL has acquired an infrared device to assist in differentiating between inks and documents, and detecting alterations, additions and obliterations on documents. It has also gained gas chromatograph mass spectrometers to assist in analysing drug-related cases. The Craig Micro Spectrometer was obtained for colour analysis of various material such as fibres and paint samples.

### **Criminal Record Centre**

The Automated Fingerprint Information System (AFIS) palm-print extension and matcher upgrade was successfully implemented in December 2004 and became fully operational in January 2005. The palm-print extension contributed to crime-solving in the SAPS.

From July 2005 to December 2005, 4 200 crime-scene palm prints were identified (cases solved) with the assistance of the palm-print functionality.

In October 2006, government met with the Big Business Working Group and Business Against Crime in Pretoria. This followed an initial meeting held in Cape Town in August 2006, which resolved to re-energise the partnership between business and government in the fight against crime.

The meeting agreed to create a Leadership Forum, composed of leaders of the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster and business, to identify and mobilise 'stepchange' interventions necessary to turn around the crime situation in the country.

The specific initiatives prioritised for immediate action included:

- Reviewing and improving the criminal justice system. Both business and government will second senior executives to this initiative on a permanent basis.
- Reviewing and enhancing crime-prevention and combating initiatives undertaken by government departments.
- Providing specialist training and redeploying experts who had retired or joined the private sector.

The SAPS identified the need to implement and incorporate 108 live-scan booking stations in the SAPS AFIS. These devices have the ability to capture finger and palm prints electronically, which will in turn improve the quality of prints added to the AFIS database.

A total of 1 723 534 fingerprint forms were processed on AFIS during 2005, of which 618 178 were positively identified by the system.

### **Detective Service**

The Detective Service is responsible for maintaining an effective crime-investigation service. It investigates crimes and gathers all related evidence required by the prosecuting authority to redress crime.

The Detective Service consists of the following components:

- General Investigations
- Organised Crime
- Commercial Crime
- Serious and Violent Crime.

Between 2002 and 2005, the SAPS trained 17 475 detectives.

In 2006/07, 1 000 newly trained members were expected to join the Detective Service, as part of an effort to reduce shortages in the service by deploying 30% of trained police constables directly after they have completed their basic training.

The career paths of detectives is being streamlined to retain experienced SAPS members in operations. They are promoted within a three-level system while continuing with functional police work, rather than being promoted into administrative managerial positions.

By October 2006, general investigators were attending multilevel specialised courses to give them the capacity to investigate all types of crime.

### **Building for security**

- Community safety centres (CSCs) bring all relevant departments under one roof, including the SAPS and the departments of justice,

of correctional services, of health and of social development. The focus is on deep rural and informal settlements. The first CSC was opened at Thembaletu near George in the Western Cape in 2000. CSCs are also operational in Ntsimbini in KwaZulu-Natal, Leboeng in Limpopo and Khutsong in Gauteng.

- By the end of March 2006, victim-friendly facilities had been established at 583 police stations, 21 of which were established between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006. About 387 police members were trained in victim empowerment. The SAPS aimed to establish an additional 150 such facilities in 2005/06. In new or upgraded police stations, provision is made for private facilities where victims can provide statements and access information.

### **Safer Schools Programme**

The Safer Schools Programme is a partnership between the SAPS and the Department of Education to address issues such as drugs and firearms in schools, sexual offences and bullying. Its focus is on ensuring a safe learning environment.

Communities are involved in this programme through school governing bodies (SGBs) and school safety committees, ensuring the national roll-out of the Tiisa Thuto Programme in co-operation with Business Against Crime.

Tiisa Thuto aims to fight school community-based crime by inculcating a positive value system among the school community, heightening communities' sense of ownership of schools and creating conditions and/or a culture that is conducive to effective teaching, learning and support.

Tiisa Thuto's core beneficiaries are learners, educators, parents, and members of the SGBs.

## **Border control and security**

The SAPS is taking over border control from the Department of Defence. SAPS members have been deployed at the borders between Limpopo and Zimbabwe, Northern Cape and Namibia/Botswana, North West and Botswana, Free State and Lesotho, Eastern Cape and Lesotho and KwaZulu-Natal and Lesotho.

The Border Control Co-ordinating Committee and the Department of Public Works are constructing and upgrading ports of entry. This includes installing modern technology with improved satellite and electronic surveillance systems.

## **Defence**

The mission of the Department of Defence is to defend and protect South Africa, its territorial integrity and its people.

The department, under the auspices of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, participates in various initiatives to secure peace and stability on the continent.

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) is an all-volunteer force consisting of a regular core force and a reserve force.

In July 2006, the first of 28 Gripen fighter jets bought from Sweden's Saab Aerospace company arrived at Ysterplaat Air Force Base (AFB) in Cape Town. The jet was expected to go to the air force's Test Flight Development Centre at AFB Bredasdorp in the Overberg, to be tested to validate its equipment to South African specifications.

The air force received its first two Hawk MK 120 fighter trainer aircraft in May, part of a multibillion rand arms deal package signed in 1999. The Hawks were flown to Makhado AFB, Limpopo, where the complete fleet of 24 aircraft – that was expected by mid-2007 – would be based.

The Hawk aircraft are unique in their ability to have their cockpits configured to represent any modern frontline fighter. They are an updated version of the Hawk 100 series, incorporating changes to the avionics suite and associated aircraft systems originally developed by BAE Systems for the Royal Australian Air Force.

In addition to military matters, the Department of Defence is involved in search-and-rescue operations, hydrography and securing national key points.

Uniformed members of the SANDF have the right to join trade unions. They may not, however, go on strike or picket.

### **Peace support**

Based on the *White Paper on South African Participation in International Peace Missions*, the SANDF continues to participate in peace missions. Various members of the Department of Defence have been trained for participation in these missions. By May 2006, external deployments included Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

### **Requirement of main equipment**

The SANDF's core capabilities will be maintained to allow it to execute its mandate and play a meaningful role in peace missions. The procurement of corvettes, submarines, helicopters and fighter and trainer aircraft will go a long way in ensuring credible defence capabilities.

South Africa is on track in building and re-equipping the SANDF for both its primary and secondary roles. Over the last five years, the SANDF has been building and equipping the air force and the navy. The focus is now on modernising armaments and equipment for landward defence.

By mid-2006, the Directorate: Army Acquisition was engaged in 32 capital projects at various stages of execution. The projects included upgrading existing equipment and several major new systems. A number of upgrading projects were also completed.

A major focus area is the armoured combat vehicles capability of the army. This includes Mamba, Casspir, Olifant main battle tank,

Rooikat and G6 self-propelled gun systems that are all being upgraded to extend remaining life effectively, while the new infantry combat vehicle and supply-support vehicle programmes are close to completion.

### **Armaments Corporation of South Africa (Armscor)**

Armscor's primary function is to acquire defence products and services for the SANDF, and to co-manage, with the Department of Defence, the development of technologies for future weapon systems and products. It also manages the disposal of excess, forfeited, redundant or surplus defence material for the SANDF and subsidiary companies, which directly support defence technology and acquisition strategies.

Armscor provides the department with tender-board functions, project security and arms-control compliance assurance.

### **Denel Group of South Africa**

Denel is a profit-driven company wholly owned by the State. Fifty-one percent of its airmotive division, however, is owned by France's Turbomeca. It is recognised as a world leader in artillery systems.

Through offset deals, Denel supplies aerostructures for Gripen and Hawk aircraft to BAE Systems and Saab. It has started licensed manufacturing of the Agusta A119 Koala helicopters for AgustaWestland and provides parts to the Boeing Company.

### **Intelligence services**

South Africa has two civilian intelligence structures: the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and the South African Secret Service (SASS).

The NIA's mission is to provide government with domestic intelligence and counter-intelligence. The NIA's mandate has been divided into seven areas of interest: counter-intelligence, political

intelligence, economic intelligence, border intelligence, terrorism, organised crime and corruption.

The SASS is South Africa's foreign-intelligence capacity. Executive control is exercised by a civilian ministry and a Cabinet committee.

The objective of the SASS is to forewarn, inform and advise government on real and potential threats to South Africa's security, and on socio-economic opportunities for the country.