Police, Defence and Intelligence

The task of maintaining the safety and security of society is critical to the success of all government's programmes. Law-enforcement services in South Africa fall under the Department of Police, which is responsible for policy determination, direction and overall execution of the department's mandate in relation to relevant legislation.

The National Police Commissioner answers directly to the Minister of Police. Entities reporting to the Minister of Police are the:

- Civilian Secretariat for Police
- Independent Police Investigative Directorate
- South African Police Service (SAPS)
- Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority.

South African Police Service

The SAPS is South Africa's principal law enforcement body. The vision of the SAPS is to create a safe and secure environment for all people in South Africa.

The National Commissioner heads the SAPS. Deputy national commissioners (under whom the divisions and components of the SAPS fall) and provincial commissioners (under whom the police stations fall) report to the National Commissioner.

Crime prevention

To deliver on its mandate the SAPS conducted 34 428 policing actions in 2012/13, which included:

- 46 079 roadblocks and 2 902 917 stop-and-search operations
- 1 682 763 arrests for all crime during policing actions, compared to 1 613 254 in 2011/12 (an increase of 69 509 or 4,3%)
- 67 020 vehicles stolen and robbed in 2012/13
- 30 132 vehicles recovered
- an additional 21 598 vehicles recovered.

There are 51 vehicle identification sections countrywide. Their functions include identifying and investigating vehicles; issuing South African police vehicle identification numbers; controlling all SAPS vehicle clearance offices; controlling all unique marking of vehicles; activities relating to the registration of vehicle manufacturers, importers and builders; concluding investigations into vehicles forfeited to the State; and assisting local detective units with Interpol vehicle enquiries.

In June 2013, the South African Centre for Information Security reported that cybercrime had become a national crisis. Government published a cybercrime policy in August 2013. A National Cybersecurity Committee would oversee the implementation of the policy, while the Department of State Security would accelerate an "awareness" drive.

The aim was to create widespread awareness of cybercrime, to ensure citizens and public servants were enabled to respond to threats quickly and report the crime, and to enable the government and private sector to assess the scale of the attacks and formulate appropriate prevention plans.

A Cybersecurity Hub was established within the Department of Communications to pool public- and private-sector threat information and process and disseminate information to relevant stakeholders in the industry and civil society.

Forensic Science Services and Criminal Record Centre

The function of the Criminal Record Centre is to identify and confirm any previous convictions of suspects in crimes being investigated by the SAPS.

In 2012/13, 2 087 574 fingerprint searches were performed to identify individuals involved in crime, and to determine whether an individual has a criminal record.

The Criminal Record and Crime Scene Management arm expanded its frontline service delivery capacity to make it more accessible to local investigating officers, and to improve response times in attending to crime scenes.

The forensic science laboratory renders a support service to investigating officers by analysing physical evidence collected from various crime scenes.

Visible policing

Visible policing is regarded as a line-function division of the SAPS, specifically responsible for combating crime through crime operations; providing for the activities at police stations; combating crimes in the railway environment; dealing with crimes affecting the social fabric of society, including crimes against women and children and community-based crime prevention; providing a rapid-response service in respect of crimes in progress; eradicating the proliferation of illegal firearms available for use in crime and violence; and ensuring effective compliance and enforcement of liquor control and second-hand goods legislation to address serious crime in South Africa.

Defence

The primary role of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) is to defend South Africa against external military aggression. In this regard deployment in an internal policing capacity is limited to exceptional circumstances and subject to parliamentary approval.

The SANDF's core mandate is the protection of the country, its territorial integrity and its people.

Peace support

South Africa has been active in the formation of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Brigade as part of the overall African Standby Force whose mandate is to provide the African Union with a rapid reaction capability consisting of five regionally based brigades. The manner in which South Africa's has undertaken peace-keeping missions in the past is in line with the country's defence policy.

In Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa generally followed a negotiated strategy in which it functioned as a mediator, followed by a military commitment during the implementation phase. In this case, the SANDF was used to broker peace agreements in extremely volatile circumstances.

As part of the SANDF's troop deployment, operations were conducted to combat cross-border crime, stock theft and illegal grazing, and rhino poaching in the Kruger National Park. By 2013/14, 14 SANDF companies were deployed on the South African borders.

National Youth Service (NYS)

The NYS is a strategic priority of the department. The SANDF recruits young people into the various arms of the SANDF and in doing so is teaching them discipline, fitness and honour and fostering patriotism.

In South Africa, approximately 138 000 young South Africans are enrolled in the NYS. The last four and half years have seen almost six million youths receive some form of assistance from State entities, including loans and vouchers for youth entrepreneurs, bursaries and scholarships for young learners, career guidance, vocational training and skills development.

South Africa and Namibia have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) that will see the NYS play a much stronger role in youth development in the two countries.

Through the MoC young Namibians and South Africans would work together to fight poverty, inequality and underdevelopment. The National Youth Development Agency and Namibia's NYS immediately implemented the Youth Service Exchange programme, where Namibian and South African youth will engage in community development work from February 2014 to February 2015.

Maritime safety and security

The substantial increase in acts of piracy along Africa's coastline threatens the peace, security and stability of the continent. South Africa has an exclusive economic zone of 1 553 000 km^2 of which the areas around the Marion and Prince Edward Islands comprise 474 400 km^2. The Atlantic Ocean borders the west coast, the Indian Ocean borders the east and south coast and the southern ocean surrounds the Marion and Prince Edward Islands. South Africa has tabled its claim to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea for the extension of the continental shelf. This means that South Africa will have to exercise control and enforce state authority over 4 340 000 km^2 of maritime territory.

Military veterans

Government budgeted R300 million for 504 houses, access to free medical service and education for military veterans and their dependants in 2013. The budget of the Department of Military Veterans (DMV) was increased by R1,3 billion to pay benefits to military veterans. In August 2013, two military veterans who fought in World War II were given keys to fully furnished houses, making them the first beneficiaries of a national housing programme for military veterans across the country.

The DMV is also rolling out a programme that will give veterans free access to public transport, free healthcare and counselling, which will also be extended to family members. From March 2013, the DMV embarked on a programme of issuing healthcare cards to military veterans so that they could have easy and free access to the country's military hospitals. Healthcare cards were issued to military veterans that had updated their files with the DMV.

In September 2013, the DMV established an umbrella body to unite all military veterans associations in response to section 7 of the Military Veterans Act of 2011, which directs the department to establish a body for all military veterans nationally to include all non-statutory forces members.

Armaments Corporation of South Africa (Armscor)

According to its Corporate Plan 2012/13 – 2014/15, Armscor intends to be the premier technology and acquisition agency for the South African Government and governments of the SADC region.

It aims to meet the defence materiel, defence technology, research, development, analysis, tests and evaluation requirements of the department or any other organ of state on request or any sovereign state on agreement, effectively, efficiently and economically.

Armscor may exploit commercial opportunities as may arise out of its duty to acquire defence matériel or to manage technology projects. It may also procure commercial materiel on behalf of any Organ of State at the request of the Organ of State in question.

Denel Group of South Africa

Government wants Denel to grow into a preferred global supplier in the defence industry. To achieve this the state-owned company would have to aggressively invest in research and development to help secure long-term sustainability.

In support of the collaborative initiatives between the departments of public enterprises and defence, the SANDF is expected to become the platform for showcasing Denel's capabilities.

Improvements in Denel's performance in 2013/14 included:

- 10% growth in revenue, driven by a 34% increase in exports
- a 73% improvement in net profit of R71 million marking a third consecutive year of positive financial performance
- a 35% reduction in losses in Denel Aerostructures
- a 4% improvement in debt-to-equity ratio
- improvements in the terms of the Denel Aerostructures' Airbus A400M contract
- the introduction of new capabilities in Denel through the Tawazun Dynamics joint venture between Denel Dynamics and Tawazun Holdings
- Denel Land Systems' acquisition of a majority stake in Light Mobility Technologies to the introduction of armoured vehicles
- the accreditation of Denel Aviation as a maintenance, repair and overhaul centre for Russian Helicopters.

Project Horseshoe – the supply of combat vehicles – is one project that will benefit the local arms manufacturing industry.

In September 2013, Armscor awarded a multibillion rand contract to Denel to manufacture over 200 armoured vehicles for the SANDF over 10 years.

In addition to job and enterprise creation, the contract will also lead to an increase in skills development and retention in the industry.

The new Badger infantry combat vehicle, displayed at the Department of Defence and Military Veterans' Industry Day at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in Pretoria, provides the SANDF with unrivalled firepower, mobility and maximum armoured protection for the soldiers it transports.

Intelligence services

The State Security Agency's (SSA) mandate is to provide government with intelligence on domestic, foreign or potential threats to national stability, the constitutional order, and the safety and well-being of its people. This enables government to implement and improve policies to deal with potential threats and to better understand existing threats.

The SSA comprises:

- the Domestic Branch (formerly the National Intelligence Agency)
- the Foreign Branch (formerly the South African Secret Service)
- the Intelligence Academy (formerly the South African National Academy of Intelligence)
- National Communications, which includes the former National Communications Centre, Office for Interception Centres and Electronic Communications Security (Pty) Ltd.

The SSA focuses on matters of national interest including terrorism, sabotage, subversion, espionage and organised crime.