

Office of the Chief Justice

Adjusted budget summary

2025/26					
R thousand	Appropriation	Special appropriation	Adjustments appropriation		Adjusted appropriation
			Decrease	Increase	
Amount to be appropriated	1 515 123	–	–	104 952	1 620 075
of which:					
Current payments	1 424 442	–	–	23 532	1 447 974
Transfers and subsidies	1 022	–	–	305	1 327
Payments for capital assets	89 659	–	–	81 115	170 774
Direct charge against the National Revenue Fund	1 237 762	–	–	95 048	1 332 810
Executive authority	Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development				
Accounting officer	Secretary-General of the Office of the Chief Justice				
Website	www.judiciary.org.za				

Vote purpose

Strengthen judicial governance and independence by rendering effective support to the Chief Justice in executing administrative and judicial powers and duties as both head of the Judiciary and the Constitutional Court.

Performance

Indicator	Programme	MTDP outcome	Annual performance		
			Projected for 2025/26 as published in the 2025 ENE	Achieved in the first five months of 2025/26 (April to August) ¹	Changed target for 2025/26
Percentage of default judgments finalised by registrars within 12 court days of the last date of receipt of application per year	Superior Court Services	Outcome 20: Safer communities and increased business confidence	90%	94% (20 893/ 22 237)	–
Percentage of taxations of opposed legal bills of costs finalised within 60 court days of the date of being set down per year	Superior Court Services		98%	98% (2 116/ 2 154)	–
Percentage of taxations of unopposed legal bills of costs finalised within 40 court days of the date of being set down per year	Superior Court Services		99%	99% (16 162/ 16 362)	–
Percentage of warrants of liberation (J1 forms) delivered within 1 day of the release being issued per year	Superior Court Services		100%	100% (24)	–
Number of judicial education courses conducted per year	Judicial Education and Support		80	73	125 ²

1. Only data for the first five months of 2025/26 was available at the time of publication.

2. The target for the number of judicial education courses conducted per year was changed due to an increase in the budget allocated to the South African Judicial Education Institute in the 2025 Budget.

Progress

By finalising quasi-judicial matters within the prescribed timeframes, in the first five months of 2025/26, the department overachieved on its annual targets for default judgments finalised within 12 court days, the percentage of taxations of opposed legal bills of costs finalised within 60 court days and the percentage of taxations of unopposed legal bills of costs finalised within 40 court days.

Adjusted estimates

Programme		2025/26							
		Adjustments appropriation							
		Expenditure announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll- overs	Self- financing	Other adjustments ¹	Total adjustments appropriation	Adjusted appropriation
R thousand	Appropriation								
Administration	296 541	–	–	(751)	–	–	–	(751)	295 790
Superior Court Services	1 139 955	104 952	–	715	–	–	–	105 667	1 245 622
Judicial Education and Support	78 627	–	–	36	–	–	–	36	78 663
Subtotal	1 515 123	104 952	–	–	–	–	–	104 952	1 620 075
Direct charge against the National Revenue Fund	1 237 762	–	–	–	–	–	95 048	95 048	1 332 810
Judges' salaries	1 237 762	–	–	–	–	–	95 048	95 048	1 332 810
Total	2 752 885	104 952	–	–	–	–	95 048	200 000	2 952 885
Economic classification									
Current payments	2 560 940	23 837	–	(305)	–	–	95 048	118 580	2 679 520
Compensation of employees	2 153 561	–	–	–	–	–	95 048	95 048	2 248 609
Goods and services	407 379	23 837	–	(305)	–	–	–	23 532	430 911
Transfers and subsidies	102 286	–	–	305	–	–	–	305	102 591
Provinces and municipalities	59	–	–	(28)	–	–	–	(28)	31
Public corporations and private enterprises	9	–	–	(8)	–	–	–	(8)	1
Households	102 218	–	–	341	–	–	–	341	102 559
Payments for capital assets	89 659	81 115	–	–	–	–	–	81 115	170 774
Machinery and equipment	89 659	81 115	–	–	–	–	–	81 115	170 774
Total	2 752 885	104 952	–	–	–	–	95 048	200 000	2 952 885

1. Other adjustments include the shifting of funds between votes, the shifting of funds within a vote following a function shift, declared unspent funds, significant and unforeseeable economic and financial events, and expenditure of an exceptional nature in terms of section 6(1)(b) of the Appropriation Act (2025).

Programme 1: Administration

Subprogramme		2025/26							
		Adjustments appropriation							
		Expenditure announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll- overs	Self- financing	Other adjustments	Total adjustments appropriation	Adjusted appropriation
R thousand	Appropriation								
Management	38 675	—	—	(1 175)	—	—	—	(1 175)	37 500
Corporate Services	194 129	—	—	424	—	—	—	424	194 553
Financial	37 873	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	37 873
Administration									
Internal Audit	25 864	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25 864
Total	296 541	—	—	(751)	—	—	—	(751)	295 790
Economic classification									
Current payments	286 437	—	—	(783)	—	—	—	(783)	285 654
Compensation of employees	138 992	—	—	(783)	—	—	—	(783)	138 209
Goods and services	147 445	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	147 445
Transfers and subsidies	3	—	—	32	—	—	—	32	35
Provinces and municipalities	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Households	—	—	—	32	—	—	—	32	32
Payments for capital assets	10 101	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10 101
Machinery and equipment	10 101	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10 101
Total	296 541	—	—	(751)	—	—	—	(751)	295 790

Programme 2: Superior Court Services

Subprogramme		2025/26							Adjusted appropriation
		Adjustments appropriation						Total adjustments appropriation	
R thousand	Appropriation	Expenditure announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Self-financing	Other adjustments		
Administration of Superior Courts	23 212	–	–	(2 608)	–	–	–	(2 608)	20 604
Constitutional Court	94 372	28 300	–	(298)	–	–	–	28 002	122 374
Supreme Court of Appeal	50 316	6 518	–	5 220	–	–	–	11 738	62 054
High Courts	895 281	66 219	–	(3 801)	–	–	–	62 418	957 699
Specialised Courts	76 774	3 915	–	2 202	–	–	–	6 117	82 891
Total	1 139 955	104 952	–	715	–	–	–	105 667	1 245 622
Economic classification									
Current payments	1 059 778	23 837	–	478	–	–	–	24 315	1 084 093
Compensation of employees	850 165	–	–	783	–	–	–	783	850 948
Goods and services	209 613	23 837	–	(305)	–	–	–	23 532	233 145
Transfers and subsidies	1 019	–	–	237	–	–	–	237	1 256
Provinces and municipalities	56	–	–	(28)	–	–	–	(28)	28
Public corporations and private enterprises	9	–	–	(8)	–	–	–	(8)	1
Households	954	–	–	273	–	–	–	273	1 227
Payments for capital assets	79 158	81 115	–	–	–	–	–	81 115	160 273
Machinery and equipment	79 158	81 115	–	–	–	–	–	81 115	160 273
Total	1 139 955	104 952	–	715	–	–	–	105 667	1 245 622

Programme 3: Judicial Education and Support

Subprogramme		2025/26							Adjusted appropriation
		Adjustments appropriation						Total adjustments appropriation	
R thousand	Appropriation	Expenditure announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Self-financing	Other adjustments		
South African Judicial Education Institute	52 166	–	–	36	–	–	–	36	52 202
Judicial Policy, Research and Support	16 984	–	–	(575)	–	–	–	(575)	16 409
Judicial Service Commission	9 477	–	–	575	–	–	–	575	10 052
Total	78 627	–	–	36	–	–	–	36	78 663
Economic classification									
Current payments	78 227	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	78 227
Compensation of employees	27 906	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	27 906
Goods and services	50 321	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	50 321
Transfers and subsidies	–	–	–	36	–	–	–	36	36
Households	–	–	–	36	–	–	–	36	36
Payments for capital assets	400	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	400
Machinery and equipment	400	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	400
Total	78 627	–	–	36	–	–	–	36	78 663

Direct charge against the National Revenue Fund

R thousand	Appropriation	2025/26							Adjusted appropriation
		Adjustments appropriation						Total adjustments appropriation	
		Expenditure announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Self-financing	Other adjustments		
Judges' salaries	1 237 762	–	–	–	–	–	95 048	95 048	1 332 810
Total	1 237 762	–	–	–	–	–	95 048	95 048	1 332 810
Economic classification									
Current payments	1 136 498	–	–	–	–	–	95 048	95 048	1 231 546
Compensation of employees	1 136 498	–	–	–	–	–	95 048	95 048	1 231 546
Transfers and subsidies	101 264	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	101 264
Households	101 264	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	101 264
Total	1 237 762	–	–	–	–	–	95 048	95 048	1 332 810

Details of adjustments to the 2025 ENE

Appropriation of funds for expenditure announced by the minister during the tabling of the annual budget – R104.952 million

Programme 2: Superior Court Services

An additional R104.952 million is allocated to strengthen capabilities in the Office of the Chief Justice.

Virements and shifts within the vote

Programmes					
1. Administration					
2. Superior Court Services					
3. Judicial Education and Support					
From:			To:		
Programme by economic classification	Motivation	R thousand	Programme by economic classification	Motivation	R thousand
Programme 1		(833)	Programme 1		50
Goods and services	Minor assets	(25)	Payments for capital assets	Machinery and equipment	25
Payments for capital assets	Machinery and equipment	(25)	Goods and services	Computer services	25
Compensation of employees	Vacant posts	(783)	Programme 2		783
			Compensation of employees	Salaries and wages	783
Shifts within the programme as a percentage of the programme budget		0%			
Virements to other programmes as a percentage of the programme budget		0.3%			
Programme 2		(341)	Programme 1		32
Goods and services	Communication	(32)	Transfers and subsidies	Households	32
Transfers and subsidies	Provinces and municipalities	(28)	Programme 2		273
	Communication	(237)	Transfers and subsidies	Households	28
	Public corporations and private enterprises	(8)		Households	237
	Communication	(36)		Households	8
			Programme 3		36
			Transfers and subsidies	Households	36
Shifts within the programme as a percentage of the programme budget		0%			
Virements to other programmes as a percentage of the programme budget		0%			
Total		(1 174)			1 174

Direct charges against the National Revenue Fund – R95.058 million

Judges' salaries – R95.058 million

R95.058 million is allocated to cover a shortfall in judges' salaries.

Expenditure outcome for 2024/25 and actual expenditure for 2025/26

Programme	2024/25					2025/26			
	Adjusted appropriation	Outcome		Apr 24 - Mar 25 % of adjusted appropriation		Adjusted appropriation	Adjusted appropriation/ Total (%)	Actual expenditure	
		Apr 24 - Sep 24 % of adjusted appropriation	Apr 24 - Mar 25 % of adjusted appropriation					Apr 25 - Sep 25 % of adjusted appropriation	Apr 25 - Sep 25 % of adjusted appropriation
R thousand									
Administration	279 962	186 326	66.6	319 960	114.3	295 790	10.0	167 594	56.7
Superior Court Services	943 804	552 837	58.6	1 125 844	119.3	1 245 622	42.2	590 979	47.4
Judicial Education and Support	50 022	34 927	69.8	66 776	133.5	78 663	2.7	36 811	46.8
Subtotal	1 273 788	774 090	60.8	1 512 580	118.7	1 620 075	54.9	795 384	49.1
Direct charge against the National Revenue Fund	1 333 214	622 629	46.7	1 323 867	99.3	1 332 810	45.1	655 004	49.1
Judges' salaries	1 333 214	622 629	46.7	1 323 867	99.3	1 332 810	45.1	655 004	49.1
Total	2 607 002	1 396 719	53.6	2 836 447	108.8	2 952 885	100.0	1 450 388	49.1
Economic classification									
Current payments	2 406 999	1 278 967	53.1	2 602 971	108.1	2 679 520	90.7	1 342 003	50.1
Compensation of employees	2 111 701	1 024 189	48.5	2 149 924	101.8	2 248 609	76.1	1 109 992	49.4
Goods and services	295 298	254 778	86.3	453 047	153.4	430 911	14.6	232 011	53.8
Transfers and subsidies	143 120	56 662	39.6	103 101	72.0	102 591	3.5	43 949	42.8
Provinces and municipalities	44	24	54.5	61	138.6	31	0.0	23	74.2
Departmental agencies and accounts	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
Public corporations and private enterprises	9	–	–	–	–	1	0.0	–	–
Households	143 067	56 638	39.6	103 039	72.0	102 559	3.5	43 926	42.8
Payments for capital assets	56 883	61 053	107.3	130 338	229.1	170 774	5.8	64 436	37.7
Machinery and equipment	56 883	61 053	107.3	130 298	229.1	170 774	5.8	64 436	37.7
Software and other intangible assets	–	–	–	40	–	–	–	–	–
Payments for financial assets	–	37	–	37	–	–	–	–	–
Total	2 607 002	1 396 719	53.6	2 836 447	108.8	2 952 885	100.0	1 450 388	49.1

Expenditure trends

Total expenditure in 2024/25 was R2.8 billion, 108.8 per cent of the adjusted appropriation for the year. Mid-year expenditure in 2024/25 was R1.4 billion, 53.6 per cent of the adjusted appropriation, whereas expenditure in the first half of 2025/26 was R1.5 billion, 49.1 per cent of the adjusted appropriation of R3 billion. Compared to the first half of 2024/25, expenditure over the same period in 2025/26 increased by R53.7 million, 3.8 per cent. This was mainly due to salary adjustments and new appointments in the Land Court for the implementation of the Land Court Act (2023).

Departmental receipts

R thousand	2024/25					2025/26				
	Adjusted estimate	Outcome				Budget estimate	Adjusted estimate	Adjusted receipts estimate/ Total (%)	Actual receipts	
		Apr 24 - Sep 24	Apr 24 - Sep 24 % of adjusted estimate	Apr 24 - Mar 25	Apr 24 - Mar 25 % of adjusted estimate				Apr 25 - Sep 25	Apr 25 - Sep 25 % of adjusted estimate
Departmental receipts	4 354	1 406	32.3	2 290	52.6	4 400	4 400	100.0	3 330	75.7
Sales of goods and services produced by the department	628	320	51.0	650	103.5	650	650	14.8	323	49.7
Sales of scrap, waste, arms and other used current goods	9	1	11.1	—	—	9	9	0.2	7	77.8
Fines, penalties and forfeits	280	153	54.6	270	96.4	—	540	12.3	533	98.7
Interest, dividends and rent on land	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	0.0	—	—
Sales of capital assets	200	150	75.0	390	195.0	—	300	6.8	238	79.3
Transactions in financial assets and liabilities	3 237	782	24.2	980	30.3	3 740	2 900	65.9	2 229	76.9
Total	4 354	1 406	32.3	2 290	52.6	4 400	4 400	100.0	3 330	75.7

Revenue trends

Mid-year revenue in 2024/25 was R1.4 million, 32.3 per cent of the adjusted estimate, whereas revenue for the first half of 2025/26 was R3.3 million, 75.7 per cent of the adjusted estimate of R4.4 million. Compared to the first half of 2024/25, revenue over the same period in 2025/26 increased by R1.9 million, 136.8 per cent. This was mainly due to the disposal of assets such as vehicles and ICT equipment, and the collection of revenue from fines and forfeits.

Changes to transfers and subsidies, including conditional grants

Summary of changes to transfers and subsidies per programme

		2025/26							
R thousand	Appropriation	Adjustments appropriation						Total adjustments appropriation	Adjusted appropriation
		Expenditure announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Self-financing	Other adjustments		
	Administration								
	Households								
	Social benefits								
	Current	–	–	–	32	–	–	–	32
	Employee social benefits	–	–	–	32	–	–	–	32
	Superior Court								
	Services								
	Provinces and municipalities								
	Provinces								
	Provincial agencies and funds								
	Current	56	–	–	(28)	–	–	–	(28)
	Vehicle licences	56	–	–	(28)	–	–	–	(28)
	Public corporations and private enterprises								
	Public corporations								
	Other transfers								
	Current	9	–	–	(8)	–	–	–	(8)
	Communication licences	9	–	–	(8)	–	–	–	(8)

Summary of changes to transfers and subsidies per programme (continued)

		2025/26							Adjusted appropriation
		Adjustments appropriation						Total adjustments appropriation	
R thousand	Appropriation	Expenditure announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll- overs	Self- financing	Other adjustments		
Households									
Social benefits									
Current	954	–	–	273	–	–	–	273	1 227
Employee social benefits	954	–	–	273	–	–	–	273	1 227
Judicial Education and Support									
Households									
Social benefits									
Current	–	–	–	36	–	–	–	36	36
Employee social benefits	–	–	–	36	–	–	–	36	36

