

25: SAFETY AND SECURITY

AIM

The aim of the South African Police Service is to prevent crime, investigate offences and preserve internal safety and security.

The Department of Safety and Security includes the South African Police Service, which is responsible for police operations, and the Secretariat for Safety and Security which is responsible for policy and the implementation of the National Crime Prevention Strategy.

EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES

Table 25.1 Expenditure by programme¹

R million	Expenditure outcomes			Preliminary outcome 1998/99	Medium term expenditure estimates		
	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98		1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Administration	2 241,9	3 035,6	2 862,0	3 450,3	3 665,4	3 634,3	3 768,3
Crime prevention and response service ²	5 869,4	6 440,2	7 477,3	7 571,2	8 116,1	8 572,9	8 865,7
Detective services	1 673,3	2 121,2	2 458,3	2 726,3	2 626,6	2 767,3	2 892,6
Sub-total	9 784,6	11 597,0	12 797,6	13 747,8	14 408,1	14 974,6	15 526,6
Capital works ³	33,3	37,7	50,9	129,5	125,9	104,9	115,7
Total	9 817,9	11 634,7	12 848,5	13 877,3	14 534,0	15 079,4	15 642,3

¹ Spending by programme has been reclassified where possible to correspond to the current programme structure.

² Authorised losses included: R0,8 million in 1995/96, R2,0 million in 1996/97 and R1,8 million in 1997/98.

³ Appropriated on Vote: Public Works.

A seven-programme structure in 1995/96 and 1996/97 changed to five programmes in 1997/98. This in turn was changed to three programmes in 1998/99.

- ◆ The *Administration* programme includes the overall management of the South African Police Service and supporting services.
- ◆ *Crime prevention and response services* optimises crime prevention and security services.

- ◆ *Detective services* deals with the prevention of crime by effective information management and the application of investigative methods.

Donor-funded expenditure

Government spending on the Safety and Security vote included R7,6 million in 1998/99 funded by donor support. It is expected that donor-financed spending will also supplement this vote during the MTEF period.

Table 25.2 Economic classification of expenditure

R million	Expenditure outcomes			Preliminary outcome 1998/99	Medium term expenditure estimates		
	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98		1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Current							
Personnel expenditure ¹	7 540,6	9 132,7	10 574,1	10 854,8	11 327,9	11 734,0	12 067,7
Other current expenditure	1 513,3	1 750,4	1 882,9	2 549,9	2 492,3	2 629,5	2 825,2
Capital							
Acquisition of capital assets	764,0	751,6	391,5	472,5	713,8	715,9	749,4
Total	9 817,9	11 634,7	12 848,5	13 877,3	14 534,0	15 079,4	15 642,3

¹ Departmental personnel expenditure includes employer's contributions to pension funds at a rate of 17 per cent of basic salary in 1998/99 and 15 per cent of basic salary in subsequent years.

OUTPUTS AND TRENDS IN SERVICE DELIVERY

Statistics on crime provide a broad indication of the work and progress of the police. Table 25.3 reflects the trends in crime rates (per 100 000 of the population) related to specific crime categories. This information is based on crimes reported to the police.

Table 25. 3 Crime rates over the past five years

Rate per 100 000 of the population	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	Trends
VIOLENT CRIMES						
Murder	32,9	29,3	28,8	26,3	25,9	Stabilised
Attempted murder	33,1	31,5	32,7	30,9	31,3	Stabilised
Robbery with aggravating circumstances	99,2	98,4	79,8	73,4	90,0	Stabilised
SOCIAL FABRIC CRIMES						
Rape	46,7	52,2	57,5	57,4	52,7	Stabilised
Assault GBH (serious)	241,4	251,2	261,2	255,7	250,3	Stabilised
Common assault	225,3	240,9	241,2	226,4	216,9	Decreased
PROPERTY RELATED CRIMES						
Housebreaking – residential	274,2	289,1	299,1	284,0	288,8	Stabilised
Housebreaking – business	110,7	104,5	103,8	101,1	102,4	Stabilised
Other robbery	37,1	37,9	60,4	55,8	63,1	Increased
Shoplifting	79,5	73,7	72,5	71,5	66,2	Decreased
Theft - motor vehicle	124,1	128,0	111,6	110,4	117,8	Stabilised
COMMERCIAL CRIME						
All fraud, forgery, embezzlements, etc.	74,7	75,6	75,2	74,5	69,7	Decreased
VIOLENCE AIMED AT PROPERTY						
Arson	13,8	10,9	10,8	10,5	10,7	Stabilised
CRIMES HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON POLICE ACTION						
Illegal possession of firearms	12,7	12,6	15,1	13,8	15,4	Stabilised
Drug-related crime	59,4	51,2	47,3	51,2	45,9	Decreased
Driving under the influence	31,6	26,6	26,5	27,2	28,4	Stabilised

The statistics indicate that most categories of crime have stabilised, with apparent decreases in common assault, commercial crime, shoplifting and drug-related crimes. Thus the level of serious crime recorded by the department has been relatively stable, which may suggest that per capita crime levels have fallen marginally.

Completion of cases

A further measure of the outputs and services delivered by the police, is the rate at which cases are successfully completed. These are classified as referrals to court, cases withdrawn and cases determined to be unfounded, and are compared with the number of crimes reported.

Statistics indicate that police close about 50 per cent of murder and rape dockets, 45 per cent of assault dockets and a lower proportion of other dockets.

There has been a decline in the average number of successfully closed dockets per police officer. There has however been a decline in the number of police officers available to work on completing cases, as more officers are being used in crime prevention. It is notable that in the case

of serious crimes such as murder and rape, the success rate has increased markedly.

POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

National Crime Prevention Strategy

The National Crime Prevention Strategy (NCPS) initiated by Cabinet in March 1995, is the most important current initiative aimed at achieving sustainable safety in South Africa. The Department of Safety and Security has the responsibility to ensure the implementation of the strategy. The NCPS is promoting close co-operation with other departments and crime prevention summits have been held in all nine provinces. Priorities for 1998 were crime against women and children and the illegal possession of firearms. More emphasis will be placed on policing metropolitan areas, especially Johannesburg.

Border control

Border control will be tightened by reducing the number of international airports and commercial road entry points. This will reduce the flow of contraband and the evasion of custom and excise duties, and thereby restrict drug trafficking, illegal arms dealing and vehicle hijackings.

Criminal justice process

Another primary objective of the NCPS is the improvement of the criminal justice process. Courts are being provided with upgraded infrastructure, including basic facilities and computers. More court officials are being trained and appointed, and court management is being improved to increase the speed with which cases are handled. The witness protection programme is being improved and children testifying in court will be better protected.

National identification service

A national identification service is being developed, including automated fingerprint recognition and a criminal history information system.

Community policing policy framework

The community policing policy framework was issued in 1996. The objective was to implement visible policing programmes vigorously to address specific crimes, arrest offenders and reduce the fear of crime.

Disciplinary regulations

Disciplinary regulations were introduced in 1996, to empower management to promote a professional service through regulating the conduct of police officials. A Code of Conduct, which provides the basis for positive discipline in the SAPS, was developed during 1997.

Crowd management

A policy for crowd management, which provides standards for the use of force and tactics in dealing with protests and other incidents requiring crowd management, was introduced in 1996.

Personnel policy

A revision of the promotions policy done in 1996 provides a framework for promotions based on merit as opposed to longevity and seniority. The Department of Safety and Security has developed a policy framework for the implementation of an affirmative action programme.

SA Regional Police Chiefs Co-ordinating Committee

The Department of Safety and Security played a leading role in establishing the SA Regional Police Chiefs Co-ordination Committee to promote regional co-operation for cross-border policing.

DISCUSSION OF PROGRAMMES

Programme 1: Administration

	Budget estimate	Adjusted appropriation	Preliminary outcome	Medium term expenditure estimates		
R million		1998/99		1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
1998 Budget	3 486,6	3 487,7	3 450,3	3 634,6	3 768,5	–
1999 Budget	–	–	–	3 665,4	3 634,3	3 768,3

Administration deals with the conduct and overall management of the SAPS.

The Secretariat for Safety and Security

The Secretariat for Safety and Security is responsible for police policy and the implementation of the National Crime Prevention Strategy. R266 million was earmarked for the Integrated Justice Sector programme and R60 million for an Automated Fingerprint Recognition System (AFRS).

Policing infrastructure

The 1997/98 and the 1998/99 budgets of the Department of Safety and Security contained allocations to the following three processes, designed to increase investment in policing infrastructure.

- ◆ RDP allocations for capital works and other projects aimed at crime prevention.
- ◆ The building of Community Safety Centres, which redefine the service provision methods of government.
- ◆ The National Crime Prevention Strategy.

Improved personnel management

A cost-saving initiative has been implemented to achieve a better balance between personnel costs and other spending and to reach a target of between 120 000 and 123 000 fully equipped personnel over the next five years. The following components formed part of the cost saving initiative:

- ◆ The reduction of absenteeism in the force.
- ◆ The release of administrative staff into operational and basic policing duties.
- ◆ The replacement of trained police officials in administrative positions by civilians.
- ◆ A diversion programme aimed at releasing pressure on the criminal justice system, by investigating alternative ways to deal with certain categories of youth and adult offenders. This could enable the system to deal more speedily and effectively with priority crimes.

The cost saving initiative will be supported by restructuring the use of police reservists and promotion of representivity, productive use of personnel and improved service motivation. Any savings associated with reduced personnel will be redirected to basic policing services to address the backlog in operational expenditure.

Curbing corruption within the SAPS

A project has been initiated to combat corruption within the SAPS. The aim is to reduce the incidence of corruption within the SAPS by increasing the detection of improper practices and dismissal of offenders.

Programme 2: Crime prevention and response service

R million	Budget estimate	Adjusted appropriation	Preliminary outcome	Medium term expenditure estimates		
		1998/99		1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
1998 Budget	7 652,3	7 653,2	7 571,2	8 183,6	8 669,0	–
1999 Budget	–	–	–	8 116,7	8 572,9	8,865,7

The programme *Crime prevention and response service* deals with optimising crime prevention and security services. It involves effective operational planning for the prevention of crime. It further deals with border policing, which involves tracing illegal immigrants and investigating the smuggling of goods across borders as well as public order policing which involves the control of unrest and the defusing of riots.

Firearms

The SAPS has prioritised a campaign to use visible policing in order to curb violent crimes committed with firearms. The objective is to increase the detection rate in firearms-related cases and to improve control over firearms. Efforts will be focused on illegal use and possession of firearms, theft of firearms and inspection of firearm dealers and manufacturers.

Crime prevention (targeted visible policing)

In improving crime prevention policing, the development of a model for targeted visible policing has been prioritised. The objective is to build a “pocket of excellence” geographically as well as in core functional areas and then to extend these skills nationally. Further aims are to develop best practices in identified priority areas and to improve the ability to gather pro-active crime intelligence. Crime prevention policing also intends to enhance co-operation with other government agencies and the private sector.

Programme 3: Detective services

R million	Budget estimate	Adjusted appropriation	Preliminary outcome	Medium term expenditure estimates		
		1998/99		1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
1998 Budget	2 570,4	2 755,8	2 726,3	2 680,0	2 743,4	–
1999 Budget	–	–	–	2 626,6	2 767,3	2 892,6

The *Detective services* programme deals with the prevention of crime by effective information management and the application of investigative methods. Serious and violent crime, which includes crimes against children and murder and robbery, and the investigation of priority crimes are dealt with under this programme. It is also concerned with organised crime, which involves the management of pro-active projects and the investigation of organised crime as well as the effective analysis of crime

information. Crime intelligence and internal security includes the management of crime intelligence and internal security and the technical support to investigations. A forensic science laboratory renders a forensic science supporting service and a criminal record centre ensures that criminal records of persons are available.

Detective academy

A Detective academy opened in 1997 to improve the investigative skills of the SAPS. Capacity was the priority in 1998.

Criminal organisations

The Department aims to improve intelligence on the activities of criminal organisations and to improve measures aimed at curbing their activities.

Crimes against women and children

In combating crimes against women and children, the objective is to inform vulnerable groups of their rights and to enhance the quality of service to victims. While the NCPS addresses the root causes of these crimes, the SAPS will concentrate on ensuring better care for women and children when they report crimes against themselves. The project includes the provision of facilities for privacy during statement taking, such as one-way glass and partitions in the Community Service Centres and police stations.

Policing priorities

The Department has identified several critical areas for more focused attention over the MTEF period. These are aimed at reducing crime and improving service delivery, while continuing to fulfil the obligations of the SAPS in respect of crime prevention, investigation of offenders and promotion of safety and security.

