

Office of the Chief Justice

Budget summary

R million	2026/27			Total	2027/28	2028/29
	Current payments	Transfers and subsidies	Payments for capital assets		Total	Total
MTEF allocation						
Administration	340.1	0.0	13.5	353.6	372.4	387.0
Superior Court Services	1 384.1	1.2	182.6	1 567.9	1 664.6	1 717.9
Judicial Education and Support	84.6	–	0.4	85.0	91.9	95.5
Subtotal	1 808.9	1.2	196.5	2 006.6	2 128.9	2 200.4
Direct charge against the National Revenue Fund						
Judges' salaries	1 284.1	108.8	–	1 392.9	1 455.0	1 501.6
Total expenditure estimates	3 093.0	110.0	196.5	3 399.5	3 583.9	3 702.0

Executive authority Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development
Accounting officer Secretary-General of the Office of the Chief Justice
Website www.judiciary.org.za

The Estimates of National Expenditure is available at www.treasury.gov.za. Additional tables in Excel format can be found at www.treasury.gov.za and www.vulekamali.gov.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.

Mandate

The Office of the Chief Justice renders support to the Chief Justice as the head of the Judiciary, as provided for in section 165(6) of the Constitution, read together with the Superior Courts Act (2013). The Office of the Chief Justice is also required to provide and coordinate legal and administrative support to the Chief Justice; provide communication and relationship management services and intergovernmental and internal coordination; develop policies, norms and standards for the administration of courts; support the development of judicial policy, norms and standards; support the judicial function of the Constitutional Court; and support the Judicial Service Commission and South African Judicial Education Institute in the execution of their mandates.

Selected performance indicators

Table 27.1 Performance indicators by programme and related outcome

Indicator	Programme	MTDP outcome	Audited performance			Estimated performance	MTEF targets		
			2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Percentage of default judgments finalised by registrars within 12 court days of the last date of receipt of application per year	Superior Court Services	An ethical, capable and professional public service	– ¹	– ¹	– ¹	90%	91%	92%	93%
Percentage of taxations of opposed legal bills of costs finalised within 60 court days of date of being set down per year	Superior Court Services		– ¹	– ¹	– ¹	98%	98%	98%	98%
Percentage of taxations of unopposed legal bills of costs finalised within 40 court days from being set down per year	Superior Court Services		– ¹	– ¹	– ¹	99%	99%	99%	99%
Percentage of warrants of liberation (J1 forms) delivered within 1 day of the release being issued per year	Superior Court Services		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of judicial education courses conducted per year	Judicial Education and Support		124	155	141	125	130	135	140

1. No historical data available.

Expenditure overview

Over the medium term, the department will focus on digitising and automating court processes; ensuring the independence of the Judiciary; accelerating land reform; and providing judicial education and training courses to judicial officers, and secretarial and administrative support through the *Judicial Education and Support* programme. Expenditure is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 7.8 per cent, from R3 billion in 2025/26 to R3.7 billion in 2028/29. An estimated 70.8 per cent (R7.6 billion) of the department's budget over the period ahead is allocated to compensation of employees.

Digitising and automating court processes

The department aims to enhance the efficiency of the judicial system through the Court Online system, which was rolled out in 2025/26 and provides cloud-based digital infrastructure that enables the department to initiate and manage civil cases online and present evidence in court through an online interface. The system will be expanded to automate criminal case management and enable integration with justice sector institutions, with the criminal module set to be developed in 2026/27 and implemented in 2027/28. The full rollout is expected to improve court efficiency, increasing the finalisation of default judgments from 91 per cent in 2026/27 to a projected 93 per cent in 2028/29. Judges' conditions of service and Judicial Service Commission processes such as judges' gratuities and the registrable interest of judges will also be automated as part of the full rollout. The system is set to be funded through allocations of R66.6 million in 2026/27 and R84.9 million 2027/28 in the integrated justice system programme in the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development. The Office of the Chief Justice has allocated R9.5 million over the medium term to upgrade digital and network infrastructure, strengthen cybersecurity, ensure the continuity of electricity supply and enhance courtroom technology through the acquisition of equipment such as large screens for virtual hearings.

Ensuring judicial independence

According to the Constitution, all courts should be under the Judiciary and the leadership of the Chief Justice. However, lower courts are still under the control of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development. To give effect to this constitutional mandate, significant reforms were announced in 2025 that will be instrumental in granting the courts financial, structural and operational independence. To ensure judicial independence and enhance efficiency, functions such as facilities management, security and virtual library services will be transferred together with their allocation of R883.8 million over the medium term from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to the Office of the Chief Justice with effect from 1 April 2026.

Accelerating land reform

The Land Court plays a specialised role in advancing land reform by resolving disputes tied to historical injustices and equitable access to land. Established under the Land Court Act (2023), it replaced the Land Claims Court as a permanent superior court with status equivalent to that of a high court. To ensure the required human resources capacity to implement the Land Court Act (2023), among others, an additional allocation of R687 million over the medium term is made available to the department.

Providing judicial education and training, and secretarial and administrative support

The department plans to deliver a comprehensive programme of judicial education and training over the period ahead through the South African Judicial Education Institute. The programme provides for 130 courses in 2026/27, increasing to 140 in 2028/29, aimed at strengthening the competencies of current and prospective judicial officers. The courses will be offered at an estimated cost of R174.4 million over the next 3 years in the *Judicial Education and Support* programme.

The Judicial Service Commission will continue to receive secretarial and administrative support from the department to appoint judicial officers. For this purpose, the commission is allocated R31.4 million over the MTEF period. The department further ensures judicial accountability by administering a record of judges' registrable interests, as informed by section 13 of the Judicial Service Commission Act (1994). Related costs are in the *Judicial Policy, Research and Support* subprogramme, which has a budget of R66.7 million over the MTEF period in the *Judicial Education and Support* programme.

Expenditure trends and estimates

Table 27.2 Vote expenditure trends by programme and economic classification¹

Programmes											
1. Administration											
2. Superior Court Services											
3. Judicial Education and Support											
Programme	Audited outcome			Adjusted appropriation	Average growth rate (%)	Average: Expenditure/ Total (%)	Medium-term expenditure estimate			Average growth rate (%)	Average: Expenditure/ Total (%)
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25				2025/26	2022/23 - 2025/26	2026/27		
R million											
Programme 1	281.8	253.6	320.0	295.8	1.6%	10.7%	353.6	372.4	387.0	9.4%	10.4%
Programme 2	963.6	1 029.7	1 125.8	1 245.6	8.9%	40.4%	1 567.9	1 664.6	1 717.9	11.3%	46.3%
Programme 3	49.4	56.1	66.8	78.7	16.8%	2.3%	85.0	91.9	95.5	6.7%	2.6%
Subtotal	1 294.9	1 339.4	1 512.6	1 620.1	7.8%	53.4%	2 006.6	2 128.9	2 200.4	10.7%	59.3%
Direct charge against the National Revenue Fund	1 154.6	1 218.8	1 323.9	1 332.8	4.9%	46.6%	1 392.9	1 455.0	1 501.6	4.1%	40.7%
Judges' salaries	1 154.6	1 218.8	1 323.9	1 332.8	4.9%	46.6%	1 392.9	1 455.0	1 501.6	4.1%	40.7%
Total	2 449.4	2 558.2	2 836.4	2 952.9	6.4%	100.0%	3 399.5	3 583.9	3 702.0	7.8%	100.0%
Change to 2025 Budget estimate							495.8	517.8	498.3		
Economic classification											
Current payments	2 223.3	2 385.8	2 603.0	2 679.5	6.4%	91.6%	3 093.0	3 276.8	3 381.4	8.1%	91.3%
Compensation of employees	1 869.8	2 011.6	2 149.9	2 248.6	6.3%	76.7%	2 395.2	2 535.5	2 632.5	5.4%	70.8%
Goods and services ¹	353.5	374.2	453.0	430.9	6.8%	14.9%	697.8	741.3	748.9	20.2%	20.5%
<i>of which:</i>											
Computer services	91.5	82.6	130.3	108.9	6.0%	3.8%	114.1	112.9	116.5	2.2%	3.2%
Contractors	2.3	4.9	6.7	6.0	37.2%	0.2%	108.1	114.3	119.0	171.2%	3.2%
Fleet services (including government motor transport)	26.1	27.7	31.9	24.2	-2.5%	1.0%	32.6	36.3	28.7	5.9%	0.9%
Operating leases	25.3	20.9	19.2	17.4	-11.7%	0.8%	93.1	99.4	102.5	80.5%	2.8%
Property payments	4.6	7.0	7.1	4.9	1.6%	0.2%	85.4	89.4	92.9	167.5%	2.5%
Travel and subsistence	114.0	139.8	144.6	154.1	10.6%	5.1%	132.9	144.0	142.7	-2.5%	3.9%
Transfers and subsidies¹	92.5	83.1	103.1	102.6	3.5%	3.5%	110.0	118.5	122.2	6.0%	3.3%
Provinces and municipalities	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	-8.9%	0.0%	0.1	0.1	0.1	30.6%	0.0%
Public corporations and private enterprises	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0	0.0	0.0	141.0%	0.0%
Households	92.4	83.1	103.0	102.6	3.5%	3.5%	109.9	118.4	122.1	6.0%	3.3%
Payments for capital assets	132.4	89.2	130.3	170.8	8.9%	4.8%	196.5	188.6	198.4	5.1%	5.5%
Buildings and other fixed structures	0.0	0.1	-	-	-100.0%	0.0%	-	-	-	0.0%	0.0%
Machinery and equipment	121.7	88.8	130.3	170.8	11.9%	4.7%	196.5	158.9	167.4	-0.7%	4.9%
Software and other intangible assets	10.6	0.3	0.0	-	-100.0%	0.1%	-	29.7	31.0	0.0%	0.6%
Payments for financial assets	1.3	0.0	0.0	-	-100.0%	0.0%	-	-	-	0.0%	0.0%
Total	2 449.4	2 558.2	2 836.4	2 952.9	6.4%	100.0%	3 399.5	3 583.9	3 702.0	7.8%	100.0%

1. Tables with expenditure trends, annual budget, adjusted appropriation and audited outcome are available at www.treasury.gov.za and www.vulekamali.gov.za.

Transfers and subsidies expenditure trends and estimates

Table 27.3 Vote transfers and subsidies trends and estimates

	Audited outcome			Adjusted appropriation	Average growth rate (%)	Average: Expenditure/ Total (%)	Medium-term expenditure estimate			Average growth rate (%)	Average: Expenditure/ Total (%)
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25				2025/26	2022/23 - 2025/26	2026/27		
R thousand											
Households											
Social benefits											
Current	91 672	82 868	103 039	102 559	3.8%	99.7%	109 905	118 428	122 099	6.0%	99.9%
Employee social benefits	5 317	5 325	5 867	1 295	-37.5%	4.7%	1 105	1 520	1 558	6.4%	1.2%
Judges' salaries	86 355	77 543	97 172	101 264	5.5%	95.0%	108 800	116 908	120 541	6.0%	98.7%
Other transfers to households											
Current	758	210	-	-	-100.0%	0.3%	-	-	-	-	-
Other transfers	758	210	-	-	-100.0%	0.3%	-	-	-	-	-
Provinces and municipalities											
Provincial agencies and funds											
Current	41	57	60	31	-8.9%	-	60	63	69	30.6%	0.1%
Vehicle licences	41	57	60	31	-8.9%	-	60	63	69	30.6%	0.1%
Public corporations and private enterprises											
Other transfers to public corporations											
Current	1	-	2	1	-	-	13	14	14	141.0%	0.0%
Communication licences	1	-	2	1	-	-	13	14	14	141.0%	0.0%
Total	92 472	83 135	103 101	102 591	3.5%	100.0%	109 978	118 505	122 182	6.0%	100.0%

Personnel information

Table 27.4 Vote personnel numbers and cost by salary level and programme¹

Programmes																				
1. Administration																				
2. Superior Court Services																				
3. Judicial Education and Support																				
Number of posts estimated for 31 March 2026		Number and cost ² of personnel posts filled/planned for on funded establishment												Average growth rate (%)	Average: Salary level/ Total (%)					
Number of funded posts	Number of posts additional to the establishment	Actual			Revised estimate			Medium-term expenditure estimate												
		2024/25		2025/26		2026/27		2027/28		2028/29		2025/26 - 2028/29	2026/27 - 2028/29							
		Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost				
Office of the Chief Justice		2 726	70	2 591	2 149.9	0.8	2 470	2 228.0	0.9	2 616	2 395.2	0.9	2 669	2 535.5	1.0	2 653	2 632.5	1.0	2.4%	100.0%
Salary level		2 726	70	2 591	2 149.9	0.8	2 470	2 228.0	0.9	2 616	2 395.2	0.9	2 669	2 535.5	1.0	2 653	2 632.5	1.0	2.4%	100.0%
1 – 6		1 033	–	981	318.6	0.3	984	342.6	0.3	1 093	399.6	0.4	1 178	446.9	0.4	1 174	469.6	0.4	6.1%	43.4%
7 – 10		892	13	826	469.1	0.6	840	506.2	0.6	874	554.4	0.6	875	585.0	0.7	860	607.1	0.7	0.8%	32.9%
11 – 12		114	–	106	89.4	0.8	114	98.6	0.9	116	105.4	0.9	116	111.1	1.0	116	117.2	1.0	0.6%	4.4%
13 – 16		504	–	495	1 240.6	2.5	486	1 267.9	2.6	482	1 321.2	2.7	480	1 386.5	2.9	469	1 427.7	3.0	-1.2%	18.0%
Other		183	57	183	32.3	0.2	47	12.8	0.3	51	14.6	0.3	20	6.0	0.3	34	10.8	0.3	-10.2%	1.3%
Programme		2 726	70	2 591	2 149.9	0.8	2 470	2 228.0	0.9	2 616	2 395.2	0.9	2 669	2 535.5	1.0	2 653	2 632.5	1.0	2.4%	100.0%
Programme 1		216	15	192	125.3	0.7	186	138.2	0.7	290	182.5	0.6	299	195.1	0.7	295	204.0	0.7	16.6%	11.1%
Programme 2		1 888	55	1 780	771.5	0.4	1 744	830.4	0.5	1 777	894.0	0.5	1 851	965.3	0.5	1 834	1 007.8	0.5	1.7%	68.8%
Programme 3		36	–	33	26.4	0.8	49	27.9	0.6	58	34.6	0.6	61	37.0	0.6	63	39.6	0.6	8.7%	2.3%
Direct charges		586	–	586	1 226.7	2.1	491	1 231.5	2.5	491	1 284.1	2.6	458	1 338.1	2.9	461	1 381.1	3.0	-2.1%	17.8%

1. Data has been provided by the department and may not necessarily reconcile with official government personnel data.

2. Rand million.

Departmental receipts

Table 27.5 Departmental receipts by economic classification

	Audited outcome				Adjusted estimate	Revised estimate	Average growth rate (%)	Average: Receipt item/ Total (%)	Medium-term receipts estimate			Average growth rate (%)	Average: Receipt item/ Total (%)
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26					2026/27	2027/28	2028/29		
R thousand													
Departmental receipts	3 909	2 714	2 290	4 400	4 400	4.0%	100.0%	4 526	4 577	4 623	1.7%	100.0%	
Sales of goods and services produced by department	590	633	650	650	650	3.3%	19.0%	750	790	825	8.3%	17.2%	
Sales by market establishments	39	633	650	100	100	36.9%	10.7%	110	120	125	7.7%	2.6%	
of which:													
Sales by market establishment	39	38	650	100	100	36.9%	6.2%	110	120	125	7.7%	2.6%	
Other sales	–	595	–	–	–	–	4.5%	–	–	–	–	–	
Administrative fees	–	–	–	35	35	–	0.3%	40	45	50	12.6%	1.0%	
of which:													
Telecommunication services	–	–	–	35	35	–	0.3%	40	45	50	12.6%	1.0%	
Other sales	551	–	–	515	515	-2.2%	8.0%	600	625	650	8.1%	13.7%	
of which:													
Services rendered: Commission on insurance and garnishees	388	–	–	342	342	-4.1%	5.5%	380	390	400	5.4%	8.5%	
Services rendered: Photocopies and faxes	133	–	–	150	150	4.1%	2.1%	200	210	220	13.6%	4.6%	
Sales of assets less than R5 000	30	–	–	15	15	-20.6%	0.3%	20	25	30	26.0%	0.5%	
Replacement of lost office property	–	–	–	5	5	–	–	–	–	–	-100.0%	–	
Sales: Department publications and productions	–	–	–	3	3	–	–	–	–	–	-100.0%	–	
Sales of scrap, waste, arms and other used current goods	–	3	–	9	9	–	0.1%	10	11	12	10.1%	0.2%	
of which:													
Sales: Scrap	–	3	–	9	9	–	0.1%	10	11	12	10.1%	0.2%	
Fines, penalties and forfeits	110	189	270	540	540	70.0%	8.3%	–	–	–	-100.0%	–	
Interest, dividends and rent on land	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	1	1	1	–	–	
Interest	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	1	1	1	–	–	
Sales of capital assets	9	492	390	300	300	221.8%	8.9%	–	–	–	-100.0%	–	
Transactions in financial assets and liabilities	3 200	1 397	980	2 900	2 900	-3.2%	63.7%	3 765	3 775	3 785	9.3%	82.5%	
Total	3 909	2 714	2 290	4 400	4 400	4.0%	100.0%	4 526	4 577	4 623	1.7%	100.0%	

Programme 1: Administration

Programme purpose

Provide strategic leadership, management and support services to the department.

Expenditure trends and estimates

Table 27.6 Administration expenditure trends and estimates by subprogramme and economic classification

Subprogramme	Audited outcome			Adjusted appropriation	Average growth rate (%)	Average: Expenditure/ Total (%)	Medium-term expenditure estimate			Average growth rate (%)	Average: Expenditure/ Total (%)
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25				2025/26	2022/23 - 2025/26	2026/27		
R million											
Management	40.7	39.3	43.1	37.5	-2.7%	13.9%	56.8	60.4	61.3	17.8%	16.0%
Corporate Services	183.0	154.9	214.5	194.6	2.1%	64.9%	224.1	235.6	248.1	8.4%	63.6%
Financial Administration	35.8	36.4	40.2	37.9	1.9%	13.1%	47.6	50.0	50.6	10.1%	13.3%
Internal Audit	22.3	23.0	22.3	25.9	5.1%	8.1%	25.1	26.5	27.0	1.5%	7.1%
Total	281.8	253.6	320.0	295.8	1.6%	100.0%	353.6	372.4	387.0	9.4%	100.0%
Change to 2025 Budget estimate				-			36.3	35.6	35.0		
Economic classification											
Current payments	234.2	239.7	302.4	285.7	6.8%	92.2%	340.1	357.5	371.6	9.2%	96.1%
Compensation of employees	109.9	121.9	125.3	138.2	7.9%	43.0%	182.5	195.1	204.0	13.9%	52.3%
Goods and services	124.3	117.8	177.0	147.4	5.9%	49.2%	157.7	162.4	167.6	4.4%	43.8%
of which:											
Minor assets	0.1	0.3	1.4	0.3	42.1%	0.2%	4.0	5.5	5.6	155.8%	1.4%
Audit costs: External	7.5	7.0	10.0	7.8	1.4%	2.8%	7.5	6.5	6.7	-4.8%	1.9%
Computer services	90.3	81.0	128.4	107.2	5.9%	35.3%	112.5	110.1	112.9	1.7%	30.1%
Contractors	0.7	1.8	2.1	2.9	60.4%	0.6%	3.4	5.2	6.0	28.1%	1.3%
Travel and subsistence	10.1	11.9	14.1	12.4	6.9%	4.2%	10.8	12.9	13.4	2.7%	3.3%
Training and development	3.6	1.9	5.7	4.7	9.3%	1.4%	5.0	5.1	5.3	4.0%	1.4%
Transfers and subsidies	0.8	0.7	1.5	0.0	-64.1%	0.3%	0.0	0.0	0.0	-51.5%	0.0%
Provinces and municipalities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	44.2%	0.0%	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.1%	0.0%
Households	0.8	0.7	1.5	0.0	-65.1%	0.3%	-	-	-	-100.0%	-
Payments for capital assets	46.8	13.2	16.1	10.1	-40.0%	7.5%	13.5	14.9	15.4	15.1%	3.9%
Machinery and equipment	36.2	12.9	16.1	10.1	-34.7%	6.5%	13.5	14.9	15.4	15.1%	3.9%
Software and other intangible assets	10.6	0.3	0.0	-	-100.0%	1.0%	-	-	-	-	-
Payments for financial assets	0.0	-	0.0	-	-100.0%	0.0%	-	-	-	-	-
Total	281.8	253.6	320.0	295.8	1.6%	100.0%	353.6	372.4	387.0	9.4%	100.0%
Proportion of total programme expenditure to vote expenditure	21.8%	18.9%	21.2%	18.3%	-	-	17.6%	17.5%	17.6%	-	-
Details of transfers and subsidies											
Households											
Social benefits											
Current	0.8	0.7	1.5	0.0	-65.1%	0.3%	-	-	-	-100.0%	-
Employee social benefits	0.8	0.7	1.5	0.0	-65.1%	0.3%	-	-	-	-100.0%	-
Provinces and municipalities											
Provincial agencies and funds											
Current	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	44.2%	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.1%	0.0%
Vehicle licences	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	44.2%	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.1%	0.0%

Personnel information

Table 27.7 Administration personnel numbers and cost by salary level¹

Number of posts estimated for 31 March 2026			Number and cost ² of personnel posts filled/planned for on funded establishment												Average growth rate (%)	Average: Salary level/ Total (%)	
Number of funded posts	Number of posts additional to the establishment	Number of posts	Actual			Revised estimate			Medium-term expenditure estimate								
			2024/25			2025/26			2026/27		2027/28		2028/29		2025/26 - 2028/29	2026/27 - 2028/29	
			Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost
Administration																	
Salary level	216	15	192	125.3	0.7	186	138.2	0.7	290	182.5	0.6	299	195.1	0.7	295	204.0	0.7
1 – 6	41	–	38	17.0	0.4	42	19.6	0.5	144	56.0	0.4	152	61.1	0.4	148	62.5	0.4
7 – 10	96	–	83	55.3	0.7	77	54.8	0.7	77	57.6	0.7	78	61.5	0.8	78	64.9	0.8
11 – 12	41	–	38	30.9	0.8	45	35.2	0.8	47	38.8	0.8	47	40.9	0.9	47	43.2	0.9
13 – 16	23	–	18	22.0	1.2	22	28.6	1.3	22	30.0	1.4	22	31.6	1.4	22	33.4	1.5
Other	15	15	15	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

1. Data has been provided by the department and may not necessarily reconcile with official government personnel data.

2. Rand million.

Programme 2: Superior Court Services

Programme purpose

Provide court administration services to the superior courts.

Objectives

- Improve court efficiency by:
 - increasing the percentage of default judgments finalised by registrars within 12 court days from 90 per cent in 2025/26 to 93 per cent in 2028/29
 - maintaining the percentage of taxations of opposed legal bills of costs finalised within 60 court days at 98 per cent over the MTEF period
 - maintaining the percentage of taxations of unopposed legal bills of costs finalised within 40 court days at 99 per cent over the MTEF period
 - ensuring that all warrants of liberation (J1 forms) are delivered within 1 day over the MTEF period
 - producing 4 judicial case flow management performance reports per year.

Subprogrammes

- *Administration of Superior Courts* provides administrative and technical support to the superior courts, monitors their overall performance and enhances judicial stakeholder relations.
- *Constitutional Court* funds the activities and operations of the Constitutional Court, which has jurisdiction over constitutional matters and matters of public importance.
- *Supreme Court of Appeal* funds the activities and operations of the Supreme Court of Appeal, which adjudicates appeals in any matters arising from the high courts or courts of similar status.
- *High Courts* funds the activities and operations of the various high court divisions, which have jurisdiction over defined geographical areas.
- *Specialised Courts* funds the activities and operations of the Labour Court, the Labour and Labour Appeal Court, the Land Court, the Competition Appeals Court and the Electoral Court. These courts adjudicate over various types of matters excluded from the jurisdiction of the various high court divisions and lower courts.
- *Facilities Management* funds the provision of accommodation for the superior courts and delivery points for justice services.

Expenditure trends and estimates

Table 27.8 Superior Court Services expenditure trends and estimates by subprogramme and economic classification

Subprogramme	Audited outcome			Adjusted appropriation	Average growth rate (%)	Average Expenditure/ Total (%)	Medium-term expenditure estimate			Average growth rate (%)	Average Expenditure/ Total (%)
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25				2025/26	2022/23 - 2025/26	2026/27		
R million											
Administration of Superior Courts	12.6	13.9	16.1	20.6	17.9%	1.4%	47.5	59.8	56.4	39.9%	3.3%
Constitutional Court	57.4	77.9	72.5	122.4	28.7%	7.6%	85.6	87.5	90.5	-9.6%	5.3%
Supreme Court of Appeal	47.4	49.7	58.1	62.1	9.4%	5.0%	53.3	55.5	65.3	1.7%	3.5%
High Courts	776.3	815.2	902.8	957.7	7.2%	79.1%	990.2	1 055.5	1 094.3	4.5%	63.4%
Specialised Courts	69.8	72.9	76.4	82.9	5.9%	6.9%	112.6	118.3	128.9	15.8%	7.3%
Facilities Management	–	–	–	–	–	–	278.7	288.0	282.5	–	17.2%
Total	963.6	1 029.7	1 125.8	1 245.6	8.9%	100.0%	1 567.9	1 664.6	1 717.9	11.3%	100.0%
Change to 2025 Budget estimate				–			358.5	378.5	374.1		
Economic classification											
Current payments	872.8	950.2	1 007.8	1 084.1	7.5%	89.7%	1 384.1	1 490.1	1 534.0	12.3%	89.0%
Compensation of employees	669.0	721.5	771.5	850.9	8.4%	69.0%	894.0	965.3	1 007.8	5.8%	57.9%
Goods and services	203.8	228.7	236.3	233.1	4.6%	20.7%	490.1	524.7	526.2	31.2%	31.1%
of which:											
Contractors	1.6	3.1	4.6	2.9	22.0%	0.3%	104.5	108.9	112.8	237.3%	6.6%
Fleet services (including government motor transport)	25.9	27.6	31.3	24.0	-2.6%	2.5%	32.3	35.9	28.3	5.6%	2.0%
Operating leases	25.2	20.9	19.2	17.4	-11.5%	1.9%	93.1	99.4	102.5	80.5%	6.0%
Property payments	4.3	5.9	6.8	4.4	1.1%	0.5%	84.7	88.6	92.1	174.7%	5.4%
Travel and subsistence	93.3	115.0	114.5	111.6	6.1%	10.0%	92.2	99.4	97.3	-4.5%	5.8%
Operating payments	5.2	5.5	6.4	6.4	7.2%	0.5%	17.7	19.3	19.7	45.5%	1.1%
Transfers and subsidies	5.3	4.7	4.2	1.3	-38.0%	0.4%	1.2	1.6	1.6	9.2%	0.1%
Provinces and municipalities	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	-11.2%	0.0%	0.1	0.1	0.1	32.4%	0.0%
Public corporations and private enterprises	0.0	–	0.0	0.0	–	0.0%	0.0	0.0	0.0	141.0%	0.0%
Households	5.2	4.6	4.1	1.2	-38.3%	0.3%	1.1	1.5	1.6	8.3%	0.1%
Payments for capital assets	85.3	74.8	113.9	160.3	23.4%	9.9%	182.6	172.9	182.2	4.4%	10.9%
Buildings and other fixed structures	0.0	0.1	–	–	-100.0%	0.0%	–	–	–	–	–
Machinery and equipment	85.3	74.7	113.9	160.3	23.4%	9.9%	182.6	143.2	151.2	-1.9%	9.6%
Software and other intangible assets	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	29.7	31.0	–	1.2%
Payments for financial assets	0.2	0.0	0.0	–	-100.0%	0.0%	–	–	–	–	–
Total	963.6	1 029.7	1 125.8	1 245.6	8.9%	100.0%	1 567.9	1 664.6	1 717.9	11.3%	100.0%
Proportion of total programme expenditure to vote expenditure	74.4%	76.9%	74.4%	76.9%	–	–	78.1%	78.2%	78.1%	–	–
Details of transfers and subsidies											
Households											
Social benefits											
Current	4.5	4.4	4.1	1.2	-35.0%	0.3%	1.1	1.5	1.6	8.3%	0.1%
Employee social benefits	4.5	4.4	4.1	1.2	-35.0%	0.3%	1.1	1.5	1.6	8.3%	0.1%
Other transfers to households											
Current	0.8	0.2	–	–	-100.0%	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other transfers	0.8	0.2	–	–	-100.0%	–	–	–	–	–	–
Provinces and municipalities											
Provincial agencies and funds											
Current	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	-11.2%	–	0.1	0.1	0.1	32.4%	0.0%
Vehicle licences	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	-11.2%	–	0.1	0.1	0.1	32.4%	0.0%
Public corporations and private enterprises											
Other transfers to public corporations											
Current	0.0	–	0.0	0.0	–	–	0.0	0.0	0.0	141.0%	0.0%
Communication licences	0.0	–	0.0	0.0	–	–	0.0	0.0	0.0	141.0%	0.0%

Personnel information

Table 27.9 Superior Court Services personnel numbers and cost by salary level¹

Number of posts estimated for 31 March 2026			Number and cost ² of personnel posts filled/planned for on funded establishment												Average growth rate (%)	Average: Salary level/ Total (%)						
Number of funded posts	Number of posts additional to the establishment	Medium-term expenditure estimate																				
		Actual			Revised estimate			Medium-term expenditure estimate						2025/26 - 2028/29	2026/27 - 2028/29							
			2024/25			2025/26			2026/27		2027/28		2028/29									
			Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost					
Superior Court Services			1 888		55	1 780	771.5	0.4	1 744	830.4	0.5	1 777	894.0	0.5	1 851	965.3	0.5	1 834	1 007.8	0.5	1.7%	100.0%
Salary level																						
1 – 6	983	–	934	296.7	0.3	928	316.6	0.3	928	332.9	0.4	1 001	373.2	0.4	999	393.2	0.4	2.5%	53.6%			
7 – 10	778	13	726	402.8	0.6	737	435.3	0.6	769	478.7	0.6	770	505.3	0.7	755	523.0	0.7	0.8%	42.0%			
11 – 12	68	–	64	55.3	0.9	66	60.8	0.9	66	63.9	1.0	66	67.4	1.0	66	71.1	1.1	–	3.6%			
13 – 16	17	–	14	16.7	1.2	14	17.6	1.3	14	18.5	1.3	14	19.5	1.4	14	20.6	1.5	–	0.8%			
Other	42	42	42	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

1. Data has been provided by the department and may not necessarily reconcile with official government personnel data.

2. Rand million.

Programme 3: Judicial Education and Support

Programme purpose

Provide education programmes to judicial officers, support services to the Judicial Service Commission, and policy development and research services to the department and the Judiciary for the optimal administration of justice.

Objectives

- Strengthen judicial governance, education and accountability by:
 - increasing the number of judicial education courses conducted from 125 in 2025/26 to 140 in 2028/29
 - producing 3 judicial education newsletters per year over the MTEF period
 - producing 1 research monograph on judicial education per year over the MTEF period
 - producing 5 reports on the management and coordination of litigations per year over the MTEF period
 - producing 3 reports on judicial appointments and judicial complaints per year over the MTEF period
 - producing 2 reports on the status of disclosures for judges' registrable interests per year over the MTEF period in accordance with regulatory requirements.

Subprogrammes

- South African Judicial Education Institute* funds the activities of the South African Judicial Education Institute to provide continuing judicial education for judicial officers and training for aspirant judicial officers.
- Judicial Policy, Research and Support* provides advisory opinions on policy development, undertakes research and offers legal support services to enhance the functioning of the Judiciary.
- Judicial Service Commission* provides secretariat and administrative support services to the Judicial Service Commission so that it can effectively fulfil its constitutional and legislative mandates.

Expenditure trends and estimates

Table 27.10 Judicial Education and Support expenditure trends and estimates by subprogramme and economic classification

Subprogramme	Audited outcome			Adjusted appropriation	Average growth rate (%)	Average Expenditure/ Total (%)	Medium-term expenditure estimate			Average growth rate (%)	Average Expenditure/ Total (%)
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25				2025/26	2026/27	2027/28		
	R million	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2022/23 - 2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2025/26 - 2028/29	2026/27 - 2028/29
South African Judicial Education Institute	23.2	29.7	31.7	52.2	31.1%	54.5%	54.6	59.0	60.9	5.2%	64.0%
Judicial Policy, Research and Support	14.3	14.8	18.1	16.4	4.7%	25.3%	20.7	22.3	23.7	13.1%	24.5%
Judicial Service Commission	11.9	11.6	17.0	10.1	-5.5%	20.2%	9.8	10.6	11.0	2.9%	11.5%
Total	49.4	56.1	66.8	78.7	16.8%	100.0%	85.0	91.9	95.5	6.7%	100.0%
Change to 2025 Budget estimate				-			2.5	1.6	1.1		
Economic classification											
Current payments	49.1	54.8	66.1	78.2	16.8%	98.9%	84.6	91.1	94.7	6.6%	99.3%
Compensation of employees	23.7	27.0	26.4	27.9	5.6%	41.9%	34.6	37.0	39.6	12.3%	40.8%
Goods and services	25.4	27.7	39.7	50.3	25.6%	57.0%	50.0	54.2	55.2	3.1%	58.5%
of which:						-					-
Catering: Departmental activities	0.6	1.5	2.8	4.9	101.0%	3.9%	1.7	2.3	2.4	-21.6%	2.3%
Consultants: Business and advisory services	1.0	1.4	1.5	1.0	-0.7%	1.9%	3.5	3.8	3.8	59.2%	4.1%
Legal services	7.6	4.2	9.7	4.2	-17.8%	10.2%	5.4	5.5	5.8	10.8%	6.1%
Travel and subsistence	10.6	12.8	16.0	30.2	41.9%	27.7%	29.9	31.8	32.0	2.0%	34.4%
Operating payments	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.6	7.0%	1.1%	1.6	1.7	1.8	41.0%	1.9%
Venues and facilities	3.7	4.7	6.8	6.3	19.6%	8.6%	4.9	5.4	5.6	-3.9%	5.8%
Transfers and subsidies	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	-28.1%	0.2%	-	-	-	-100.0%	-
Households	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	-28.1%	0.2%	-	-	-	-100.0%	-
Payments for capital assets	0.2	1.2	0.4	0.4	27.5%	0.9%	0.4	0.8	0.8	26.4%	0.7%
Machinery and equipment	0.2	1.2	0.4	0.4	27.5%	0.9%	0.4	0.8	0.8	26.4%	0.7%
Total	49.4	56.1	66.8	78.7	16.8%	100.0%	85.0	91.9	95.5	6.7%	100.0%
Proportion of total programme expenditure to vote expenditure	3.8%	4.2%	4.4%	4.9%	-	-	4.2%	4.3%	4.3%	-	-
Details of transfers and subsidies											
Households											
Social benefits											
Current	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	-28.1%	0.2%	-	-	-	-100.0%	-
Employee social benefits	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	-28.1%	0.2%	-	-	-	-100.0%	-

Personnel information

Table 27.11 Judicial Education and Support personnel numbers and cost by salary level¹

Salary level	Number of posts estimated for 31 March 2026	Number of posts additional to the establishment	Number and cost ² of personnel posts filled/planned for on funded establishment												Average growth rate (%)	Average: Salary level/ Total (%)			
			Actual			Revised estimate			Medium-term expenditure estimate										
			2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2025/26 - 2028/29	2026/27 - 2028/29										
			Number	Unit cost	Number	Unit cost	Number	Unit cost	Number	Unit cost	Number	Unit cost	Number	Unit cost					
Judicial Education and Support	36	-	33	26.4	0.8	49	27.9	0.6	58	34.6	0.6	61	37.0	0.6	63	39.6	0.6	8.7%	100.0%
1-6	9	-	9	4.9	0.5	14	6.3	0.5	21	10.6	0.5	25	12.7	0.5	27	13.9	0.5	24.5%	40.1%
7-10	18	-	17	10.9	0.6	26	16.1	0.6	28	18.1	0.6	27	18.2	0.7	27	19.2	0.7	1.3%	45.1%
11-12	5	-	4	3.2	0.8	3	2.5	0.8	3	2.6	0.9	3	2.8	0.9	3	2.9	1.0	-	4.9%
13-16	4	-	3	7.5	2.5	6	3.0	0.5	6	3.1	0.5	6	3.3	0.5	6	3.5	0.6	-	9.9%

1. Data has been provided by the department and may not necessarily reconcile with official government personnel data.

2. Rand million.

