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OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

2026 BUDGET

JUSTICE AND SECURITY CLUSTER

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2026 BUDGET: JUSTICE AND SECURITY CLUSTER

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2026 BUDGET: JUSTICE AND SECURITY CLUSTER

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1. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2026 BUDGET

The 2026/27 Budget Review notes the following spending additions (funded from identified savings):

- A total of R2.697 billion is allocated to **Defence** over the MTEF (R857 million in 2026/27, R899 million in 2027/28 and R942 million in 2028/29) for maintenance of the South African Air Force's (SAAF) fighter capability and to procure uniforms. Of these funds, R1.4 billion is allocated to the maintenance of SAAF fighter capability and is ring-fenced for this purpose.
- A total of R687 million is allocated to the **Office of the Chief Justice** (OCJ) over the MTEF (R219 million in 2026/27, R229 million in 2027/28 and R239 million in 2028/29) to increase capacity. This is in addition to the R883.8 million which is shifted over the medium term from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to enhance the independence of the OCJ through the management of its own budget.

Of the overall budget of R1.21 trillion, a total of **R242.7 billion (20%)*** is allocated to departments within the Justice and Security Cluster.

* Excludes direct charges against National Revenue Fund (NRF).

The response by the Minister of Finance to the Budget Review and Recommendation Reports include:

- The allocation of an additional R1.7 billion to **Defence** in earmarked funds over the medium term to enhance border safeguarding (prioritising border safeguarding technology and equipment, and improving the reach, coverage and effectiveness of borderline protection).
- **Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) and Civilian Secretariat for Police Services (CSPS)** have been identified as departments with overlapping mandates and as part of the Targeted and Responsible Savings (TARS) and Programme Assessment Matrix exercises, economies of scale have been identified. No additional funds are thus allocated. Both departments were allocated additional funds in the 2025 MTEF (R126.3 million for IPID and R30.8 million for CSPS).
- In 2026/27, R311.1 million of ring-fenced funds have been allocated to **SAPS** for implementation of the Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJS) 7-Point Plan.
- **Correctional Services** is reprioritising R2.8 billion over the medium term to take over Mangaung and Kutama-Sinthumule public-private partnership correctional centres in June 2026 and February 2027, respectively.

The **Police services** will shift R894.2 million within its budget to improve information and communication technology.

State-owned companies: Denel continues to face stagnant revenue, a cost base that requires restructuring and constrained funding. It continues to implement its turnaround plan. Of the R3.4 billion allocated to Denel in 2022 to implement this plan, a total of R156 million remains ring-fenced for strategic repairs and maintenance, working capital and capital projects.

The Minister, in his Budget Speech, notes that R1 billion each has been allocated to the **SAPS** and to the **SANDF** from the Criminal Assets Recovery Account (CARA) fund for the fight against organised crime. SONA commitments by the President for the establishment of specialised courts will be allocated funds later in the 2026/27 financial year, once the costing has been finalised. Commissions of inquiry that are unlikely to meet their deadlines and will also be allocated additional funds when the costs have been established.

The Cluster has eight departments under its purview. Table 1 shows the 2025/26 main and adjusted appropriation¹, the 2026/27 main appropriation² and the percentage increases for each Vote as well as the percentage share of total appropriated funds.

Table 1: Departments within the Justice and Security Cluster

| Vote | Department R million | 2025/26 Main Appropriation | 2025/26 Adjusted Appropriation | 2026 /27 Appropriation | 2025/26- 2026/27 ³ Percentage Increase/ Decrease | 2026/27 Percentage Share of Total Appropriated Funds per Vote |
|------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 21 | Civilian Secretariat for the Police Service | 172.2 | 172.6 | 181.4 | 5.1% | 0.0% |
| 22 | Correctional Services | 29 222.0 | 29 223.2 | 30 939.6 | 5.9% | 2.5% |
| 23 | Defence | 57 183.7 | 59 072.2 | 57 605.7 | -2.5% | 4.7% |
| 24 | Independent Police Investigative Directorate | 428.6 | 428.6 | 447.1 | 4.3% | 0.0% |
| 25 | Justice and Constitutional Development | 22 737.5 | 22 945.2 | 23 571.8 | 2.7% | 1.9% |
| 26 | Military Veterans | 878.5 | 878.5 | 912.8 | 3.9% | 0.1% |
| 27 | Office of the Chief Justice | 1 515.1 | 1 620.1 | 2 006.6 | 23.9% | 0.2% |
| 28 | Police | 120 889.9 | 120 889.9 | 127 072.5 | 5.1% | 10.5% |

¹ An adjusted appropriation is a modification to a government's main budget, increasing or decreasing funds during a financial year through an [Adjustments Appropriation Bill](#).

² ENE, 2026

³ Based on the adjusted allocation for 2025/26.

2. VOTE 25: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DOJCD)

The DOJCD receives R26.3 billion in 2026/27, which is an increase of 2.9% compared to the 2025/26 adjusted budget of R25.5 billion. *(If the allocation from the National Revenue Fund (NRF) for magistrates' salaries is excluded, the allocation in 2026/27 is R23.57 billion, which is an increase of 2.7% from the 2025/26 adjusted budget of R22.94 billion).* The Department's budget allocation is projected to increase to R27.3 billion in 2027/28 and R28.1 billion in 2028/29.⁴ Despite the nominal growth, the DOJCD budget remains structurally constrained given inflationary pressures, rising personnel costs, the scale of reform commitments, and substantial ICT modernisation needs. The Department is expected to deliver major systemic reforms without any corresponding incremental funding.

The Vote has five Programmes:

- Administration
- Lower Court Services
- State Legal Services
- National Prosecuting Authority
- Auxiliary and Associated Services

2.1. MTEF FOCUS AREAS⁵

The DOJCD will focus on the following areas over the MTEF:

- Accelerating the rollout of the revised digitisation and modernisation strategy
- Enhancing judicial independence by migrating judicial functions towards a single independent judiciary
- Deepening the response to Gender-Based Violence and Femicide
- Reinforcing efforts to tackle complex crimes

2.2. ALIGNMENT OF THE 2026 SONA FOCUS AREAS AND MTEF PRIORITIES

The Department receives R115.1 million over the MTEF to make provision for early retirement and voluntary exit programmes.

The 2026 SONA outlined the following areas pertaining to justice:

- **Stepping up the fight against organised crime and criminal syndicates.** In conjunction with Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster institutions, the DOJCD and National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) will have to implement strengthened and coordinated measures to address organised crime and criminal syndicates.
- **New Criminal Justice System reform initiative to be implemented.** A dedicated team in the Presidency, leaning on the successful model of Operation Vulindlela, will ensure that reforms identified in a hard-hitting new criminal justice reform initiative are implemented across the system to crack down on organised crime, corruption and the illicit firearms trade.⁶ This initiative will require the DOJCD, NPA and Special Investigating Unit (SIU) to work closely with the South African Police Service (SAPS), and other law enforcement agencies to drive a comprehensive reform programme.
- **Implement the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Criminality, Political Interference and Corruption in the Criminal Justice System (Madlanga Commission) findings and recommendations.** Following the expected release of the final report of the Madlanga Commission in March 2026, the DOJCD, along with JCPS

⁴ Inclusive of NRF funds for magistrates.

⁵ ENE, 2026

⁶ President Ramaphosa's Reply to SONA 2026 debate

Cluster institutions, will be required to use the findings and recommendations to lay the basis for a fundamental reform of the Criminal Justice System.⁷

- **Intensify the fight against corruption.** The DOJCD will assist to strengthen key anti-corruption bodies such as the SIU and the NPA, through legislative amendments and support for additional resourcing.
- **Finalise the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council’s (NACAC) recommendations on the establishment of a permanent, independent, overarching anti-corruption body.** The NACAC report was presented at the JCPS Ministers’ meeting on 25 September 2025. The DOJCD has been directed by the JCPS Ministers to coordinate the relevant stakeholders with a view to developing an implementation plan for the NACAC recommendations and a Cabinet Memorandum.
- **Whistleblower protection.** The DOJCD will introduce a Whistleblower Protection Bill in Parliament in 2026. A Final Impact Assessment (Preliminary) certificate was obtained from the Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME). Preliminary certification of the Bill is still awaited before the Bill is submitted to the Minister for submission to Cabinet.
- **Gender-based Violence and Femicide (GBVF).** Following the classification of GBVF as a national disaster, and in line with the commitment to better coordinate efforts for more impactful interventions against GBVF, the implementation of the five operational priorities developed as part of a Programme of Action is key. As a key contributor to the priority on strengthened law enforcement and justice, the DOJCD will focus on improved case management of GBVF cases, as well as expanding sexual offences courts and Thuthuzela Care Centres. However, effective implementation will require a whole-of-government effort.
- **National illicit economy disruption programme.** Key NPA agencies, such as the Investigating Directorate Against Corruption (IDAC), Specialised Commercial Crime Unit and Asset Forfeiture Unit, which have an essential role to play in assisting to recover illicit assets, will have to strengthen cooperation and co-ordination with agencies such as the South African Revenue Service, the Financial Intelligence Centre, and the Hawks as part of the disruption programme.

Table 2: SONA⁸ and MTEF priorities for Vote 25 and funds allocated to the priorities

| SONA PRIORITIES | MTEF PRIORITIES | ALLOCATED BUDGET ⁹ |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Better coordinate efforts for more impactful interventions against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, including strengthening law enforcement through faster investigation, improved case management, expanded sexual offences courts, and action against repeat offenders. | Deepening the response to gender-based violence and femicide | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An allocation of R15 million to increase the number of sexual offences courts with standardised infrastructure, trained personnel and victim support services from 16 in 2025/26 to 22 in 2028/29. • An estimated 150 district courts, over the MTEF will be upgraded to meet the minimum domestic violence service standards at a projected total cost of R12 million. • 6 new Thuthuzela Care Centres will be established over the MTEF at an estimated cost of R58.5 million. |
| Step up the fight against organised crime and criminal | Reinforcing efforts to tackle complex crimes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An amount of R1 billion is allocated to IDAC over the |

⁷ This date may be subject to change and the final report will only be made public once the Commission completes its work and advises on any national security sensitivities.

⁸ SONA, 2026

⁹ Figures from the ENE

| SONA PRIORITIES | MTEF PRIORITIES | ALLOCATED BUDGET ⁹ |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| syndicates through integrated law enforcement. | | MTEF, to support the appointment of 64 specialist prosecutors, 97 criminal and financial investigators and 28 forensic officials and continue with the development of a digital forensic lab in the NPA. |
| Not mentioned | Accelerating digitisation and modernization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R1.8 billion is allocated for upgrading local and wide area networks (LAN and WAN) at various service points across the country, including courts, masters' offices and offices of the state attorney. • An allocation of R584.2 million has been made available to upgrade the department's legacy systems. • An additional 27 posts will be filled in the ICT unit at an estimated cost of R57.6 million over the MTEF. |
| Not mentioned | Enhancing judicial independence through a move to a judiciary-led court administration model | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The transfer of key functions of the DOJCD to the Office of the Chief Justice (OCJ), which involves the relocation of shared services functions (such as facilities management, security services), requires a shift of R883.8 million over the medium term, from the DOJCD to the OCJ. |

2.3. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR OVERSIGHT

The following issues must be considered by the Committee:

- **ICT funding shortfalls and leadership instability.** The effective implementation of the DOJCD's digitisation and modernisation strategy is key to improving service delivery in environments such as the courts, Masters Offices and State Attorney. While the 2026 ENE reflects that funds have been allocated to upgrade legacy systems and local and wide area networks, the DOJCD has reported that over the medium term, there is a current shortfall of R1.5 billion to fund ICT operations and R1.07 billion to fund digitisation. **This shortfall has been elevated as a risk to the Department.** Critically, the Deputy Director-General: ICT, who is expected to drive the digitisation and modernization strategy, has been provisionally suspended since August 2025 and is still undergoing a disciplinary process. Moreover, after an investigation, the DOJCD has reported that it is experiencing pushbacks in ICT reforms as a number of ICT contracts have repeatedly been renewed without added value or accountability for non-delivery. Additionally, for the fourth consecutive year, the Department has failed to achieve its target for rolling out the Court Audio- Visual Solution (CRAVS), which offers superior functionality compared to existing CRT¹⁰ and SOS¹¹ systems. Digitisation is a high-risk

¹⁰Court Recording Technology.

¹¹Sexual Offences System.

area where underfunding and leadership instability may undermine access to justice, case flow efficiency. Therefore, close monitoring of the Department's plans to address the challenges and underfunding affecting the ICT environment is essential.

- **Criminal Asset Recovery (CARA) Funding Transparency.** According to the Minister of Finance, R1 billion has been allocated to the SAPS, over the MTEF, and another R1 billion to the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), through the CARA fund for the fight against organised crime. In prior years, the Border Management Authority (BMA), SANDF and SAPS reportedly received a share of over R2 billion from CARA “to fight illegal mining and other crimes”.¹² Despite this significant budget allocation, illegal mining has reportedly resumed.¹³ The DOJCD reports on this fund as part of its Annual Financial Statements. Unfortunately, the information provided is insufficient for effective oversight purposes. As part of the efforts to strengthen oversight over CARA, the Committee should request greater transparency and more consolidated reporting on inflows, allocations, expenditure and outcomes for CARA funding.
- **Capacitating the Investigating Directorate Against Corruption (IDAC).** The capacitation of IDAC was a 2025 SONA commitment. In the 2026 SONA, the President indicated that government will intensify the fight against corruption and make a provision for the appointment of 64 specialist prosecutors, 97 criminal and financial investigators and 28 forensic officials. Despite the need for additional personnel, it is concerning that IDAC did not receive any additional budget allocation in the 2026 MTEF, instead its budget is reduced by R32 million over the 2026 MTEF. This budget reduction might have a negative effect on the appointment of additional personnel. In addition, more intensive scrutiny is required of the costs of and progress with the development of the digital evidence unit which is intended to support the work of the IDAC.
- **Implementation of Phase I of the transition to judiciary-led court administration model.** Over the medium term, R883.8 million will be shifted from the DOJCD to the Office of the Chief Justice (OCJ). This will enable the OCJ to assume full responsibility for facilities management, security services and virtual library functions at the Superior Courts. While the transition is essential for judicial independence, capacity gaps in the OCJ and legacy administrative fragmentation present operational risks. Ongoing engagement with both Departments on their plans for this critical transition is needed, as is close monitoring of the transfer of both the funds and functions.
- **Funding for Commissions of Inquiry.** The National Treasury reported in the 2025 MTPBS that it had provided an allocation of R147.89 million for the DOJCD to fund the operations and proceedings of the Madlanga Commission of Inquiry. In addition, R45 million had also been transferred to the Department from other departments that declared savings to fund the operations and proceedings of the Khampepe Commission of Inquiry. In his 2026 Budget Speech, the Minister of Finance noted that “*the various commissions of inquiry underway that are unlikely to finish within their initial deadlines, funding will also be made available when the costs become clearer.*” Both these Commission have a critical role to play; (i) in respect of Madlanga Commission, the President has made a commitment that the findings and recommendations will be used for a fundamental reform of the Criminal Justice System and (ii) in respect of Khampepe Commission, its findings and recommendations are key to uncovering the reasons for the delay in processing TRC prosecutions. Regular engagement with the DOJCD is necessary, not only to track the funding for both Commissions, but also to exercise oversight over expenditure.

¹²Parker D, Criminal Asset Recovery Fund, not fiscus, to fund SANDF's war on illegal mining (Accessed at <https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/criminal-asset-recovery-fund-not-fiscus-to-fund-sandfs-war-on-illegal-mining-2024-02-21>)

¹³Steyn L, After govt's R1bn blitz, illegal mining roars back (Accessed at <https://www.news24.com/business/economy/after-govts-r1bn-blitz-illegal-mining-roars-back-20260224-1131>)

- **Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.** The medium term funding for sexual offences courts (SOC's) and Thuthuzela Care Centres (TCC's) is in line with SONA commitments and MTEF priorities. However, as highlighted by the organisation Rape Crisis, "a completed SOC does not always mean fully functional."¹⁴ Expanding infrastructure without addressing systemic capacity constraints may limit the impact of GBVF interventions. Issues of adequate capacity, (prosecutors, judges, interpreters, intermediaries), psychosocial support, proper maintenance of existing infrastructure and functioning ICT, (specifically SOS systems), are areas that require intensive and ongoing oversight.
- **Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Compliance.** The Finance Minister has reported that in order to sustain South Africa's removal from the FATF grey list, resources will be directed towards strengthening financial crime units and enhancing prosecutor-guided investigations. Ongoing oversight and more information is needed from the NPA on the type of resources needed to strengthen money laundering prosecutions.
- **Intensify the fight against corruption.** In the 2026 SONA, the President indicated that the DOJCD will assist to strengthen key anti-corruption bodies such as the SIU and the NPA, through legislative amendments and support for additional resourcing. However, it is concerning that there have been no additional resources allocated for the NPA, despite all the commitments that have been made to strengthen its capacity. For the 2026 MTEF, the NPA's budget has been reduced by R116.6 million. Therefore, these budget reductions might have a negative impact on the capacitation of the NPA.

¹⁴Hussain M, 'Tokenistic and populist': New sex offences courts a 'lovely idea' but impractical - experts (Accessed at <https://www.news24.com/opinions/analysis/tokenistic-and-populist-new-sex-offences-courts-a-lovely-idea-but-impractical-experts-20260223-0718>)

3. VOTE 27: OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE (OCJ)

The OCJ receives R3.3 billion for the 2026/27 budget, which is an increase of 15% from the 2025/26 adjusted budget of R2.9 billion. *[If the allocation from the National Revenue Fund (NRF) for judges' salaries is excluded, the main budget for 2026/27 is R2 billion, which is an increase of 23.9% from the 2025/26 adjusted budget of R1.6 billion]*. The allocation is projected to increase to R3.58 billion in 2027/28 and R3.7 billion in 2028/29, respectively.¹⁵ The OCJ's increase signals a strategic budget shift in support of the judiciary's gradual transition toward institutional independence. However, this expansion comes with heightened operational risk, especially given existing capacity and infrastructure constraints.

The Vote has three Programmes:

- Administration
- Superior Court Services
- Judicial Education and Support

3.1. MTEF FOCUS AREAS¹⁶

The OCJ will focus on the following areas over the 2026 MTEF:

- Digitising and automating court processes
- Ensuring the independence of the Judiciary
- Accelerating land reform
- Providing judicial education and training courses to judicial officers, and secretarial and administrative support

3.2. ALIGNMENT TO THE 2026 SONA FOCUS AREAS AND MTEF PRIORITIES

No additional funding is allocated to meet 2026 SONA commitments, but in line with the MTEF priority of accelerating land reform, an additional allocation of R687 million over the medium term is made available to the OCJ, for the human resources capacity to implement the Land Court Act 6 of 2023.

The 2026 SONA outlined the following areas pertaining to the judiciary:

- **Establishment of specialised commercial courts.** The OCJ and DOJCD will engage with the Chief Justice, Heads of Courts and National Treasury around the proposed establishment and funding requirements for specialised courts for commercial matters. Clarification is needed on where exactly these courts will be situated. For example, the Specialised Commercial Crime Courts (SCCC's) are Regional Courts, currently under the DOJCD. Notably, some concern has been expressed that the gains of specialisation in respect of the SCCC's do not seem to have materialised as may have been hoped.¹⁷
- **Gender-based Violence and Femicide (GBVF).** The South African Judicial Education Institute has a critical role to play in the provision of judicial education and relevant training for judicial officers to ensure that the secondary victimization that survivors often experience in the justice system is limited and justice is dispensed with dignity and care.

¹⁵ Inclusive of NRF funds for judges.

¹⁶ ENE, 2026

¹⁷ Redpath J, The record thus far: The 'Specialised' Commercial Crime Courts (Accessed at <https://dullahomarinstitute.org.za/acjr/acjr-publications/sccu-policy-brief.pdf>)

Table 3: SONA¹⁸ and MTEF priorities for Vote 27 and funds allocated to the priorities

| SONA PRIORITIES | MTEF PRIORITIES | ALLOCATED BUDGET ¹⁹ |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Establish specialised courts for commercial matters | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Minister of Finance stated in his 2026 budget speech that once the costing process is finalised, an allocation for this priority will be considered later in the year. |
| Not mentioned | Digitising and automating court processes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocations of R66.6 million in 2026/27 and R84.9 million 2027/28 is made available to fund the ongoing roll-out of the Court Online system through the DOJCD Integrated Justice System programme. R9.5 million has been allocated over the medium term to upgrade digital and network infrastructure, strengthen cybersecurity, ensure the continuity of electricity supply and enhance courtroom technology. |
| Not mentioned | Ensuring judicial independence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R883.8 million will be transferred from the DOJCD to the OCJ over the medium term with effect from 1 April 2026 to enable the OCJ to fund functions such as facilities management, security and the virtual library. |
| Not mentioned | Accelerating land reform | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An additional allocation of R687 million over the medium term is made available to provide human resources capacity to implement the Land Court Act. |
| Not mentioned | Providing judicial education and training, and secretarial and administrative support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Judicial Service Commission will continue to receive secretarial and administrative support through an allocation of R31.4 million over the medium term. |

3.3. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR OVERSIGHT

The following issues must be considered by the Committee:

¹⁸ SONA, 2026

¹⁹ Figures from the ENE

- **The costing and feasibility of specialised courts for commercial matters.** Funding must still be secured for these courts as the Minister of Finance has confirmed that the costing process must still be finalised. However, in response to the President’s SONA commitment, a number of concerns have been raised around the viability of these courts. South Africa has not had a substantial increase in the number of judges in 16 years. In that same period, the country’s population, together with the complexity of the economy, has grown significantly, placing pressure on the existing courts.²⁰ Notably, the final report of the Moseneke Committee²¹, released in 2025, recommended a minimum 20% increase in the number of judges across the country, with the Gauteng and Limpopo high courts being the top priority. It will therefore be important, for oversight purposes, to engage with key role-players, such as the OCJ, Chief Justice, Heads of Courts, DOJCD and National Treasury on (i) the proposed structure and available funding for such specialised courts, as well as (ii) the feasibility, funding implications, and timelines for implementing the recommendations of the Moseneke Committee.
- **Intensifying scrutiny over the OCJ budget and monitoring the shifting of shared services funding from the DOJCD to the OCJ.** The budget cuts effected on the OCJ’s budget in previous MTEF cycles had a severe impact on the Department. It led to unauthorised expenditure in the 2024/25 financial year and has contributed to an increase in vacancies within the institution, especially at senior management level.²² Some relief was provided in the 2025 Budget. The Minister of Finance stated that over the medium term, an additional R880.8 million would be allocated to the OCJ, to fill vacant posts, cover operational costs, fund the SAJEI Amendment Bill, and the implementation of Court Online system to improve judicial efficiency. However, there were still shortfalls for infrastructure-related support, security in courts, and new priorities (for example, the Durban High Court, and Moseneke Committee Report). While managing the impact of budget constraints and capacity issues, the OCJ must now take over functions such as facilities management, security and the virtual library, as part of the phased transition to institutional independence for the judiciary. To fund this process, R883.8 million is to be transferred from the DOJCD to the OCJ over the medium term with effect from 1 April 2026. Without adequate capacitation of the OCJ, however, there are significant risks to this transition. Parliament will have a critical oversight role to play as it monitors, not only the OCJ’s expenditure and operations in the 2026/27 financial year but also phase I of the transition to a fully independent judiciary with the shifting of funds and functions from the DOJCD to the OCJ.
- **Capacitating the Land Court.** The Land Court Act 6 of 2023 represents a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to foster equitable land distribution and provide an effective mechanism for resolving land disputes. The Land Court established in terms of this transformative legislation has a central role to play. The additional allocation of R687 million to the OCJ, over the medium term, to provide the required administrative/human resources capacity to assist with the effective functioning of the Land Court is an important step in realising the objectives of the Act. There are several challenges and limitations affecting the functioning of the specialist land court system in South Africa, especially as it transitions from the old Land Claims Court into the newly established Land Court. Although the new Land Court is designed to improve matters, systemic issues persist that impede its effectiveness and impact. Adequate resourcing of this court is vital to the task of equitable land distribution and the resolution of disputes. Ongoing oversight of the funding and administrative support provided to the Land Court by the OCJ is a necessity.
- **Improving court efficiency through ICT.** The digitisation and automation of court processes is critical to improving access to justice, reducing systemic delays and strengthening the efficiency, integrity and resilience of the judicial system. Modern,

²⁰ Benjamin M, Ramaphosa’s SONA Special Courts idea (Accessed at <https://www.judgesmatter.co.za/opinions/ramaphosas-sona-special-courts-idea/>)

²¹ Rationalisation of Judicial Establishments (Moseneke Committee Report - Phase 2).

²² In 2024/25 30.6% of key management positions at SMS were vacant within the OCJ (OCJ AR 2025/25 p77)

secure electronic case management, filing and scheduling systems can significantly reduce case backlogs, minimise lost or incomplete records, and improve transparency and accountability across courts. Digitisation also enhances accessibility. The OCJ has experienced delays in implementing the Court Online system, which was finally rolled out in 2025/26. 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 system is set to be funded through allocations of R66.6 million in 2026/27 and R84.9 million 2027/28 in the DOJCD's Integrated Justice System programme. Oversight of expenditure and performance will be key, given past challenges with the rollout of the Court Online system and the delays affecting the deliverables across the IJS programme.

4. VOTE 22: CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

The Department of Correctional Services (DCS) receives R30.9 billion for the 2026/27 budget, which is an increase of 5.6 per cent compared to 2025/26 adjusted budget of R29.223 billion. Expenditure is projected to increase at an average annual rate of 4 per cent, from R29.2 billion in 2025/26 to R32.8 billion in 2028/29. Spending on compensation of employees constitutes an estimated 70.9 per cent (R67.9 billion) of the total budget over the medium term. While the Department receives an additional funding of R418.7 million in 2026/27, to make provision for the staff early retirement and voluntary exit programmes, its budget allocations for 2027/28 and 2028/29 have been reduced by R96.3 million and R540.6 million, respectively.

The Vote has five Programmes:

- Administration
- Incarceration
- Rehabilitation
- Care
- Social Reintegration

4.1. MTEF FOCUS AREAS²³

DCS will focus on the following areas over the MTEF:

- Ensuring safe, secure and humane detention.
- Providing needs-based rehabilitation.
- Providing adequate health care for inmates.
- Taking over the management of 2 private correctional centres.

4.2. ALIGNMENT TO THE 2026 SONA FOCUS AREAS AND MTEF PRIORITIES

While no direct mention was made of correctional services issues in the 2026 SONA, the following can be noted as it has relevance to the sector:

- Fighting organised crime and criminal syndicates, using technology, intelligence and integrated law enforcement.
- Eradicating gang violence.
- Prioritising border security and addressing illegal immigration.
- Undertaking a fundamental overhaul of the skills development system and preparing the ground for a skills revolution specifically to improve youth development and employment opportunities.

Table 4: SONA²⁴ and MTEF priorities for Vote 22 and funds allocated to the priorities

| SONA PRIORITIES | MTEF PRIORITIES | ALLOCATED BUDGET ²⁵ |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring safe, secure and humane detention. | <p>The Incarceration programme receives an increase of 2.95 per cent in 2026/27, when compared to the 2025 adjusted budget. The Incarceration programme receives an estimated 59 per cent (R56.5 billion) of the Department's total budget over the MTEF. In 2026/27, the DCS plans to reduce</p> |

²³ ENE, 2026

²⁴ SONA, 2026

²⁵ Figures from the ENE

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | escapes from 0.012 to 0.011 per cent. |
| Undertaking a fundamental overhaul of the skills development system and preparing the ground for a skills revolution specifically to improve youth development and employment opportunities. | <p>Providing needs-based rehabilitation which includes the provision of education, literacy and skills development. The Department plans to increase the percentage of offenders completing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long occupational skills programmes from 85 per cent in 2025/26 to 87 per cent in 2028/29 • Short occupational skills programmes from 80 per cent to 84 per cent in 2028/29 • Subjects in technical and vocational education and training college programmes from 63% in 2025/26 to 65 per cent in 2028/29 • Further education and training from 75 per cent in 2025/26 to 77 per cent in 2028/29 • Adult education and training levels 1-4 from 67 per cent in 2025/26 to 77 per cent in 2028/29 • The pass rate of offenders who write the grade 12 national senior certificate examinations by 1 per cent each year from 87 per cent in 2025/26 to 90 per cent in 2028/29. | <p>In 2026/27, the Rehabilitation programme increases by 7.5 percent in nominal terms</p> <p>The Rehabilitation programme is allocated R7.6 billion over MTEF. Spending in the programme is projected to increase at an average annual rate of 6.2 per cent, from R2.23 billion in 2025/26 to R2.7 billion in 2028/29, mainly driven by spending on compensation of employees.</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing adequate health care for inmates including primary health care, mental health services and nutritional and hygiene support. | The Care programme increases by 5.57 per cent in 2026/27. The programme is allocated a budget of R8.8 billion over the medium term. Of this, 42.9 per cent (R3.8 billion) is earmarked for compensation of employees including nurses, pharmacists and medical practitioners. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking over the management of 2 private correctional centres. Kutama Sinthumule Correctional Centre in Limpopo (February 2027) and Mangaung Correctional Centre in the Free State (June 2026). | To provide for compensation of employees, goods and services and payments for capital assets for these facilities, R2.8 billion over the medium term is set to be reprioritised from agency and support/outsourced services in the Facilities subprogramme mainly to the Security Operations subprogramme in the Incarceration programme. |

4.3. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR OVERSIGHT

The following issues must be considered by Parliament and the relevant committees:

- **Public Private Partnership Takeover:** Ensuring a smooth takeover of the two Public-Private Partnership correctional centres, Mangaung and Kutama-Sinthumule by the Department of Correctional Services. The Minister of Finance indicated that R2.8 billion is prioritised from agency and support services over the medium term to enable the takeovers of Mangaung and Kutama-Sinthumule correctional centres in June 2026 and February 2027, respectively. However, it is notable that the budget reduction on agency and support services in 2026/27 is a mere R327 million from the 2025/26 adjusted budget and therefore, the Department should indicate if this reprioritized amount of R327 million will be sufficient to meet the deadline of February 2027 for the Department to take over both centres. .
- **Gangs and organised crime:** The 2026 SONA stressed initiatives to address gang violence and organised crime including the utilisation of the SANDF to support the SAPS initiatives in three provinces. Parliament needs to ensure there is oversight over initiatives taken by the DCS in combating gang violence in correctional centres.
- **Immigration:** Illegal immigration negatively burdens correctional centres and directly contributes to overcrowding. This has serious implications for the fiscus. Parliament should monitor the relationship between DCS and the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) regarding immigration and consider effective means to address immigration-related offences. In January 2025, there were 12 676 sentenced foreign national offenders and 12 771 foreign national remand detainees in correctional centres. In total, 25 447 foreign nationals were incarcerated in South African correctional centres. Approximately 65.33% of the sentenced offenders were detained for immigration laws only.
The Border Management Authority has been allocated an additional R990 million over the medium term to build capacity by filling 738 positions. The Departments of Home Affairs and Police will shift R1.4 billion and R894.2 million within their budgets over the medium term, to improve immigration services and information and communications technology, respectively.
- **IIMS Project:** Parliament needs to monitor the full roll out and implementation of the Integrated Inmate Management System (IIMS) project. This should include regular updates from the DCS on the ongoing arbitration.
- **Skills Development for Offenders:** The President stressed the importance of skills development in the 2026 SONA. While the budget under the relevant programme (Rehabilitation) increases in the 2026/27 financial year and in the MTEF, it is unclear as to whether these are sufficient to provide for a marked focus by the DCS on the delivery of these skills and educational programmes. Parliament should focus on the Department's targets on the number of offenders participating in various skills development programmes in correctional facilities to ensure that more offenders are afforded with the opportunity to acquire skills that could be used upon release. This is particularly important for juveniles and youth.
- **Self Sufficiency and Sustainability:** Parliament should oversee the Department's endeavours to enhance self-sufficiency and sustainability. This will save money for the Department. The Department has indicated that it will do this by maintaining 75 per cent of offenders working on departmental farms and maintaining 80 per cent of offenders working in production workshops over the medium term.
- **JICS:** The Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services (JICS) was officially designated as a national government component on 1 April 2024. It is a government component within Vote 22. The allocation for JICS increases from R121.2 million in 2025/26 to R129.8 million in 2026/27. Expenditure is expected to increase at an average annual rate of 4.8 per cent, from R121.2 million in 2025/26 to R139.6 million in 2028/29, with compensation of employees constituting an estimated 66.3 per cent (R268.6 million) of the Inspectorate's total budget over the MTEF period. Parliament should continue in its oversight responsibilities over the Inspectorate.

5. VOTE 28: SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE (SAPS)

The Department of Police has been allocated R127.07 billion in 2026/27, an increase of 5.1% from the 2025/26 adjusted budget of R120.88 billion, rising to R131.68 billion in 2027/28 and R135.77 billion in 2028/29. The Vote has five Programmes:

- Administration
- Visible Policing
- Detective Services
- Crime Intelligence
- Protection and Security Services

5.1. MTEF FOCUS AREAS²⁶

The Department of Police will focus on the following areas over the MTEF:

- Reducing levels of violent crime
- Fighting gender-based violence and femicide and supporting a preventative approach to policing
- Addressing corruption, economic and organised crimes
- Building capacity in the South African Police Service

5.2. ALIGNMENT TO THE 2026 SONA FOCUS AREAS AND MTEF PRIORITIES

The SONA of 2026 outlined the following areas pertaining to police:

- Addressing organised criminal networks by dismantling and disrupting syndicates and the illicit economy with consolidating intelligence, identifying priority syndicates, and deploying specialised, multidisciplinary teams to dismantle criminal networks using technology, data analytics, and artificial intelligence.
- Stabilising high-violence areas with targeted South African National Defence Force (SANDF) deployment in support of SAPS to restore order in specific hotspots (i.e. gang violence and illegal mining) and to reduce violence in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, and Gauteng. The Ministers of Police and Defence will develop a technical plan to inform the SANDF's deployment.
- Strengthen firearm control and reduce gun violence by streamlining firearm legislation and regulations, while improving enforcement of existing firearm laws.
- Addressing gender-based violence and femicide by protecting vulnerable groups remains a priority, with a focus on faster investigations, better case management, and placing social workers in police stations.
- Strengthening police capacity including recruitment of an additional 5 500 police officers. Moreover, institutions such as the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation will be strengthened as part of a larger criminal justice reform.
- Securing borders and enforcing immigration law by working jointly with Home Affairs and labour inspectors to enforce immigration and labour laws, while protecting constitutional rights.

Table 5: SONA²⁷ and MTEF priorities for Vote 28 and funds allocated to the priorities

| SONA PRIORITIES | MTEF PRIORITIES | ALLOCATED BUDGET ²⁸ |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Addressing organised criminal networks and the illicit trade | Addressing corruption, economic and organised crimes: The DPCI will prioritise the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption, economic and organised crime, | MTEF priorities in corruption, economic and organised crimes are funded through the Specialized Investigations sub programme in the Detective |
| Addressing corruption and restoring integrity | | |

²⁶ ENE, 2026

²⁷ SONA, 2026

²⁸ Figures from the ENE

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p>asset recovery and consequence management issues. Implementation will continue through a coordinated, multi-agency approach overseen by the national priority crime operational committee in collaboration with the NPA. The Fusion Centre will be central in addressing financial crimes. Dedicated extortion interventions will be supported through specialised investigation teams to address extortion in key sectors including construction and small business. Support to intelligence-led operations targeting illegal mining through strengthened border control measures, stakeholder coordination and the disruption of organised criminal networks including the confiscation of mining equipment and illicit proceeds.</p> | <p>Service programme. The Detective Services programme receives R25.4 billion in 2026/27 (it received R24 billion in 2025/26). The Specialised Investigations subprogramme receives R2.8 billion in 2026/27 (it received R2.6 billion in 2025/26).</p> <p>The Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech notes the allocation of R1 billion for the SAPS through the Criminal Assets Recovery Account (CARA) fund to address organised crime.</p> |
| Stabilising high-violence areas by deploying SANDF in support of SAPS operations | <p>Reducing levels of violent crime: Through intelligence-led high density operations implemented in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies, civil society and government departments. The focus will be on crime hotspots through increased visible policing, targeted arrests and coordinated investigations. The recently adopted multi-organised crime approach will support efforts to disrupt gang violence, extortion, drug trafficking and the illicit circulation of firearms.</p> | <p>Funding for all these MTEF priority activities over the MTEF period is within the allocations of R209.7 billion in Visible Policing (of which R67.3 billion is allocated for 2026/27); R78.7 billion in Detective Services programme (of which R25.4 is allocated for 2026/27) and R16.3 billion in the Crime Intelligence programme (of which R5.2 billion is allocated for 2026/27).</p> <p>R1 billion for the SANDF through the Criminal Assets Recovery Account (CARA) fund to address organised crime.</p> |
| Strengthen firearm control and reduce gun violence | | <p>R311 million ring-fenced in 2026/27 under the Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJS), which can support forensic analytical systems and technical capacity for improved case outcomes.</p> |
| Securing borders and enforcing immigration law | | <p>R990 million to the Border Management Authority to fill 738 posts</p> |
| Addressing gender-based violence and femicide | | <p>Fighting gender-based violence and femicide and supporting a preventative approach to policing. The Department has funded an action plan aligned with the National Strategic Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide. Implementation will be overseen through the national steering committee on gender-based violence and femicide interdivisional forum.</p> |

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| | | case management and enhancing the monitoring of domestic violence and sexual offence cases. |
| Strengthening police capacity | Building capacity in the South African Police Service including to deal with new and emerging threats (such as cybercrime, organized criminal networks and financial crimes which require specialised skills, advanced technology and intelligence-driven approaches) and for additional recruitment. | <p>Funding is within existing programme allocations. A total of 931 officials are expected to retire in 2026/27 resulting in estimated savings of R255 million which will allow for career progression as well as the recruitment of new talent. The Department will receive R568 million in 2026/27 to make provision for early retirement and voluntary exit programmes.</p> <p>Funding under the Detective Services programme includes R968 million allocated over the medium term for the implementation of the integrated criminal justice strategy to support efforts to modernize policing capabilities and enhance operational reach.</p> |

5.3. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR OVERSIGHT

The following issues must be considered by Parliament and the relevant committees:

- Vote 28 provides moderate growth in the SAPS allocation over the MTEF. When comparing the 2025 MTEF allocation from the 2025 budget estimate, the Department's 2026 MTEF budget has been reduced by R1.9 billion. A large portion of this reduction was effected on Visible Policing (R7.2 billion) and Detective Services (R3.5 billion). At economic classification level, the bulk of the budget reductions were effected on compensation of employees (R11.1 billion) and goods and services (R1.7 billion). Thus, SAPS capacitation, especially for Detectives is not reflected through budget changes and therefore this might limit the department's ability to fulfil the 2026 SONA pronouncements in relation to capacitating detectives.
- While SANDF deployment and CARA-funded operations may temporarily stabilise gang-affected and illegal mining areas, sustained impact will depend on whether Vote 28 allocations to Detective Services (including the DPCI) and Crime Intelligence are adequate to dismantle the underlying criminal networks, disrupt illicit financial flows, and prevent the reconstitution of operations once SANDF support is withdrawn. As reflected above, the budget reductions that have been effected on Detective Services programme are concerning. Recent experience in illicit mining demonstrates that where stabilisation is not followed by sustained investigative, intelligence, and prosecutorial capacity, criminal activity predictably reverts to pre-intervention levels.
- Although R311.1 million is ring-fenced under the Integrated Criminal Justice System allocation for forensic modernisation in 2026/27, this area has historically experienced underspending and internal reprioritisation. Oversight should therefore focus on whether these funds are protected, timeously spent, and translated into measurable improvements in forensic turnaround times and investigative capacity.
- The Minister of Finance notes that R1 billion has been allocated to the SAPS, and another R1 billion to the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), in 2026, through the CARA fund for the fight against organised crime. In prior years the Border Management Authority (BMA), SANDF and SAPS reportedly received a share of over R2 billion from CARA "to

fight illegal mining and other crimes”.²⁹ Despite this significant expenditure illegal mining has reportedly resumed.³⁰ The DOJCD reports on this Fund as part of its Annual Financial Statements, unfortunately the information provided is insufficient for effective oversight purposes. As part of efforts to strengthen oversight over CARA, the relevant parliamentary committees should request greater transparency and more consolidated reporting on inflows, allocations, expenditure and outcomes when they are provided with allocations from this Fund.

²⁹Parker D, Criminal Asset Recovery Fund, not fiscus, to fund SANDF’s war on illegal mining (Accessed at <https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/criminal-asset-recovery-fund-not-fiscus-to-fund-sandfs-war-on-illegal-mining-2024-02-21>)

³⁰Steyn L, After govt’s R1bn blitz, illegal mining roars back (Accessed at <https://www.news24.com/business/economy/after-govts-r1bn-blitz-illegal-mining-roars-back-20260224-1131>)

6. VOTE 21: CIVILIAN SECRETARIAT FOR THE POLICE SERVICE (CSPS)

The Civilian Secretariat for the Police Service (CSPS) receives R181.4 million in 2026/27, an increase of 5,1% from the 2025/26 adjusted budget of R172.6 million, rising to R189.4 million in 2027/28 and R195.3 million in 2028/29, respectively. The Vote has five Programmes:

- Administration
- Intersectoral Coordination and Strategic
- Partnerships
- Legislation and Policy Development
- Civilian Oversight, Monitoring and Evaluations

6.1. MTEF FOCUS AREAS³¹

The Civilian Secretariat for the Police Service will focus on the following areas over the MTEF:

- Developing policies and legislation for the police sector
- Fostering community involvement in fighting crime
- Monitoring and evaluating the police service's performance

6.2. ALIGNMENT TO THE 2026 SONA FOCUS AREAS AND MTEF PRIORITIES

The SONA of 2026 outlined the following areas pertaining to the CSPS:

- Strengthen firearm control and reduce gun violence by streamlining firearm legislation and regulations, while improving enforcement of existing firearm laws.

Table 6: SONA³² and MTEF priorities for Vote 21 and funds allocated to the priorities

| SONA PRIORITIES | MTEF PRIORITIES | ALLOCATED BUDGET ³³ |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Streamline firearm legislation. | Developing policies and legislation for the police sector. The CSPS plans to finalise the Firearms Control Amendment Bill over the medium term. | R8.8 million of the Legislation and Policy Development programme allocation is available for legislative drafting and legal support functions, a nominal increase of approximately 19 per cent as compared to the previous year. |

6.3. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR OVERSIGHT

The following issues must be considered by the Committee:

- Given the Acting Minister's intention to establish a multi-stakeholder organised crime advisory council, clarity is required on the role of the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service in providing policy coordination, research support and monitoring capacity to this structure.
- Monitoring the finalisation of legislation to be introduced (Amendment Bills on stock theft, firearms control, second-hand goods, PSIRA, CSPS, critical infrastructure, and SAPS) should be prioritised. These are multiple complex amendment bills progressing concurrently under a relatively modest legislative allocation.
- In the absence of earmarked funding for a public complaints management system, the Committee should consider whether internal reprioritisation within Vote 21 is realistically sufficient to operationalise such a complaints system. Without such capacity, gaps may persist

³¹ ENE, 2026

³² SONA, 2026

³³ Figures from the ENE

in the civilian oversight architecture, leaving certain categories of police service-delivery complaints without a clear institutional home.

7. VOTE 24: INDEPENDENT POLICE INVESTIGATIVE DIRECTORATE (IPID)

The Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) receives R447.1 million in 2026/27, an increase of 4.3% from the 2025/26 adjusted budget of R428.6 million, rising to R465.4 million in 2027/28 and R479.9 million in 2028/29. The Vote has three Programmes:

- Administration
- Investigations and Provincial Coordination
- Legal Compliance, Information and Stakeholder Management

7.1. MTEF FOCUS AREAS³⁴

The IPID will focus on the following areas over the MTEF:

- Reduction of backlog cases and prioritising corruption cases
- Improving the directorate's quality assurance capacity
- Enhancing operational efficiency and strengthening stakeholder relations

7.2. ALIGNMENT TO THE 2026 SONA FOCUS AREAS AND MTEF PRIORITIES

The SONA of 2026 outlined the following areas pertaining to IPID:

- As the SAPS increase its focus on organised crime, the IPID will become relevant to investigate police collusion and corruption.
- Although IPID is not operationally involved in stabilising high-violence areas with SAPS and the SANDF, intensified enforcement operations may heighten the likelihood of use-of-force incidents, thereby increasing demands on IPID's investigative capacity

Table 7: SONA³⁵ and MTEF priorities for Vote 24 and funds allocated to the priorities

| SONA PRIORITIES | MTEF PRIORITIES | ALLOCATED BUDGET ³⁶ |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Addressing organised crime and corruption | Reduction of backlog cases and prioritising corruption cases which includes the recruitment of 25 former detectives dedicated to this work. To root out corruption within the police, IPID will aim to ensure that 45 corruption cases over the medium term are decision-ready within days of registration. | The allocated budget for this entire Investigations and Provincial Coordination programme is R284 in 2026/27 million, a nominal increase of 5.8 per cent compared to the previous year. |

7.3. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR OVERSIGHT

The following issues must be considered by the Committee:

- Since IPID's case digitisation and system integration form part of the broader ICJS modernisation programme (and thus no additional funds are available), it is important to ensure that IPID is positioned to benefit from these reforms to materially improve its operational efficiency.

³⁴ ENE, 2026

³⁵ SONA, 2026

³⁶ Figures from the ENE

8. VOTE 23: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (DOD)

DOD receives R57.6 billion in 2026/27, which is a decrease of 2.5% (R1.5 billion) compared to the 2025/26 adjusted appropriation of R59.1 billion. Over the medium term, the Department's expenditure is projected to increase marginally, from R59.1 billion in 2025/26 to R61.8 billion in 2028/29, an average annual growth rate of 1.5%. The Vote has eight Programmes:

- Administration
- Force Employment
- Landward Defence
- Air Defence
- Maritime Defence
- Military Health Support
- Defence Intelligence
- General Support

8.1. MTEF FOCUS AREAS³⁷

DOD will focus on the following areas over the MTEF:

- Protecting the sovereignty of South Africa and its territorial integrity
- Prioritising border safeguarding
- Supporting the South African Police Service
- Maintaining navy defence systems
- Maintaining the air force's fighter capability.

8.2. ALIGNMENT TO THE 2026 SONA FOCUS AREAS AND MTEF PRIORITIES

The 2026 SONA outlined the following areas pertaining to defence:

- The internal deployment of the SANDF will continue. Acting in co-operation with the South African Police Service, the military will be deployed to combat gangsterism and organised crime and to protect against illegal mining.
- The international deployment, as part of the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) will end. The South African peacekeeping battalion deployed will be withdrawn prematurely.

Table 8: SONA³⁸ and MTEF priorities for Vote 23 and funds allocated to the priorities

| SONA PRIORITIES | MTEF PRIORITIES | ALLOCATED BUDGET ³⁹ |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The international deployment as part of the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) will end. The South African peacekeeping battalion deployed will be withdrawn prematurely. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planned withdrawal from the UN mission in the DRC is reflected in the budget, with a sharp decrease in expenditure under the Regional Security sub-programme within Force Employment. • Funding decreases from R3 billion in 2025/26 to R923.7 million in 2026/27, R911 million in 2027/28, and R889.4 million in 2028/29.⁴⁰ • This represents a -35.5% annual average annual growth over the medium term 2025/26–2028/29. |

³⁷ ENE, 2026: 452.

³⁸ SONA, 2026

³⁹ Figures from the ENE

⁴⁰ ENE, 2026: 458. Table 23.8

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>The internal deployment of the SANDF will continue. Acting in co-operation with the police service, the military will be deployed to combat gangsterism and organised crime and to protect against illegal mining with a focus on the Western Cape and Gauteng. The Ministers of Police and Defence will develop a technical plan to inform the SANDF's deployment.</p> <p>In his response to the debate on SONA, the Eastern Cape province was added.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting the South African Police Service – the Department will continue to support the police to address internal security challenges, including the protection of critical government infrastructure and national key points, and operations related to illegal mining, public unrest and the 2026 local government elections. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R4.2 billion over the medium term is allocated to the 'Support to the People' subprogramme under Programme 2: Force Employment. This represents an increase of the 'Support to the People' subprogramme to 32% of the total Force Employment budget. The Minister in his Budget Speech notes that R1 billion each has been allocated to the SAPS and to the SANDF from the Criminal Assets Recovery Account (CARA) fund for the fight against organised crime. |
| <p>Continuing the internal deployment of the SANDF</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritising border safeguarding- to safeguard the integrity of borders, the Department will continue to prioritise the acquisition of vehicles and technology that will serve as a force multiplier. This will increase the range of the borderline under protection and help prevent illegal border crossings, smuggling and other activities that threaten national security. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Ministers response to the BRRR contained in the Budget Review, it is noted that R1.7 billion is additionally allocated over the medium term to enhance border safeguarding. This aligns with Parliament's request for the increase. These funds are strictly earmarked by National Treasury for this purpose. The allocation will prioritise equipment procurement and support enhanced mobility and greater use of technology. However, the number of landward sub-units deployed on border safeguarding remains at 15 per year through 2029 - below the required 22 sub-units. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining navy defence systems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R3.7 billion total is allocated over the medium term for the Maritime Combat Capability subprogramme. An estimated R338.5 million will be reprioritised over the next 3 years from goods and services across all programmes to strengthen the Maritime Defence programme |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining air force fighter capability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R1.4 billion is additionally allocated over the medium-term specifically for the maintenance of the South African Air Force's air combat capability, as per the BRRR request of the PCDMV. The allocations are ring-fenced, and changes to the amounts or their intended use require National Treasury approval. |

8.3. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR OVERSIGHT

The following issues must be considered by Parliamentary Committees:

- **Compensation of Employees:** Compensation (R37.7 billion) continues to be the largest expenditure item, (65.5% of the 2026/27 total budget of R57.6 billion) and accounting for roughly two-thirds of total Defence spending and nearly 74% of current payments. Parliament ought to:
 - Ensure that compensation remains within budget ceilings, given that high personnel costs limit flexibility for capital and operational expenditure.
 - Ensure the development of an action plan to limit irregular expenditure on CoE
 - Monitor commuted overtime expenditure within the South African Military Health Service to ensure it does not exceed 30% of each employee's total annual salary package.
 - Oversight over the planned exit of 227 Public Service Act personnel by the end of 2026/27, funded through additional allocations for transfers to household (an additional R76.1 million in 2026/27).
 - Monitor whether this translates into measurable personnel cost savings.
 - Oversight should assess whether actual headcount aligns with funded posts and whether reductions meaningfully ease fiscal pressure.
 - Reductions in personnel numbers must be evaluated against operational requirements, particularly given expanded internal deployments
- **International Peacekeeping Withdrawal:** Ensure the phased withdrawal of SANDF troops from MONUSCO is managed operationally and financially to minimize risks to regional stability.
- **Internal Security and SAPS Support:**
 - Ensure cooperation between SANDF and SAPS is optimized for maximum impact.
 - Monitor effective use of increased funds to support SANDF's internal deployment roles combating crime, illegal mining, disaster relief, and election security.
 - Ensure effective oversight and reporting over the received Criminal Asset Recovery Account (CARA funds) in particular.
 - Guard against the gradual normalisation of military involvement in routine policing functions.
- **Border Safeguarding Capacity:**
 - Track procurement, deployment, and operationalisation of border safeguarding equipment funded by the additional R1.7 billion.
 - Investigate and address reasons for the shortfall in landward sub-unit numbers against the required 22 units to avoid gaps in border security coverage.
- **Additional allocations identified in the Budget Review.** The 2026 Budget Review notes that R2.697 billion is additionally allocated to **Defence** over the MTEF (R857 million in 2026/27, R899 million in 2027/28 and R942 million in 2028/29) for maintenance of the South African Air Force's fighter capability and to procure uniforms. However, while the ENE states that R1.4 million of this additional allocation is for SAAF fighter capacity, it states that R255 million is allocated over the medium term for uniforms for SANDF members. It is unclear what the remainder of the additional funds (R1.0 billion) will thus be used for.
- **State-owned companies:** The 2026 Budget Review notes that Denel continues to face stagnant revenue, a cost base that requires restructuring and constrained funding. It continues to implement its turnaround plan. Of the R3.4 billion allocated to Denel in 2022 to implement this plan, a total of R156 million remains ring-fenced for strategic repairs and maintenance, working capital and capital projects.
- **Criminal Asset Recovery (CARA) Funding Transparency.** According to the Minister of Finance R1 billion has been allocated to the SAPS, and another R1 billion to the

South African National Defence Force (SANDF), in 2026, through the CARA fund for the fight against organised crime. In prior years the Border Management Authority (BMA), SANDF and SAPS reportedly received a share of over R2 billion from CARA “to fight illegal mining and other crimes”.⁴¹ Despite this significant expenditure illegal mining has reportedly resumed.⁴² The DOJCD reports on this Fund as part of its Annual Financial Statements, unfortunately the information provided is insufficient for effective oversight purposes. As part of efforts to strengthen oversight over CARA, the Committee should request greater transparency and more consolidated reporting on inflows, allocations, expenditure and outcomes.

⁴¹Parker D, Criminal Asset Recovery Fund, not fiscus, to fund SANDF’s war on illegal mining (Accessed at <https://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/criminal-asset-recovery-fund-not-fiscus-to-fund-sandfs-war-on-illegal-mining-2024-02-21>)

⁴²Steyn L, After govt’s R1bn blitz, illegal mining roars back (Accessed at <https://www.news24.com/business/economy/after-govts-r1bn-blitz-illegal-mining-roars-back-20260224-1131>)

9. VOTE 26: DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY VETERANS (DMV)

The DMV receives R912.8 million in 2026/27 which is an increase of 3.9% compared to the adjusted appropriation of R878.5 million in the previous financial year. Over the medium-term total expenditure is expected to grow at 3.6% per year, from in 2025/26 to R977 million in 2028/29. The Vote has three Programmes:

- Administration
- Database Management and Socioeconomic Support
- Empowerment and Stakeholder Management

9.1. MTEF FOCUS AREAS⁴³

Key priorities over the medium term include:

- Pension provision to deserving military veterans
- Housing delivered through provincial human settlements departments
- Health care provision to military veterans
- Educational bursaries awarded to veterans and dependants

9.2. ALIGNMENT TO THE 2026SONA FOCUS AREAS AND MTEF PRIORITIES

The 2026 SONA did not mention military veterans.

Table 9: SONA⁴⁴ and MTEF priorities for Vote 26 and funds allocated to the priorities

| SONA PRIORITIES | MTEF PRIORITIES | ALLOCATED BUDGET ⁴⁵ |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pension provision | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R560.1 million allocated for pension and housing benefits combined. • 5000 deserving military veterans and their dependents will receive benefits annually, with strict means testing to ensure funds reach those in genuine need. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing delivery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R560.1 million allocated for pension and housing benefits combined. • 450 houses will be delivered through provincial human settlements departments under the Socioeconomic Support Management subprogramme. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bursaries awarded | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R853.7 million over the medium-term period, to provide 3 500 bursaries to veterans and their dependents. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health care | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R1.3 billion over the medium-term period, to provide fully subsidised health care access to 18 743 beneficiaries by 2028/29. |

9.3. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR OVERSIGHT

The following issues must be considered by the Committee:

- **Audit and Governance:**
 - Oversight should closely monitor audit reports, the implementation of audit action plans, and remedial measures taken to address findings. Over the MTEF period, goods and services constitute approximately 42.7 per cent of the Department's total budget (about R1.2 billion). In Programme 2 alone, goods and services amount to R201.8 million in

⁴³ ENE, 2026

⁴⁴ SONA, 2026

⁴⁵ Figures from the ENE

2026/27 representing roughly 46 per cent of programme expenditure. Given the scale of operational spending, strengthened financial controls and internal audit capacity are critical to safeguarding public funds.

- Oversight should also focus on ensuring a comprehensive internal audit capacity in the DMV which has not been in place for an extended period.
- **Strategic leadership and organisational structure.** The DMV has not had a permanent Director-General for several years despite Parliament's insistence on this position being filled. Similarly, key critical vacancies in senior positions remain. There is need to review the organisation structure of the DMV, a process that has been characterised by multi-year delays, to ensure efficiency of the organisation.
- **Integrity of the DMV database:** Without a credible database, means testing cannot function properly, verification of eligibility cannot be assured, and benefits may be misdirected or duplicated. Within Programme 2, current payments account for about **54% of expenditure**, suggesting that parts of database management may rely on external service providers.
- **Reliance on Contractors:** Programme 2 reflects a high reliance on contracted services. Contractor expenditure amounts to R176.7 million in 2026/27, rising to R190.7 million in 2028/29, accounting for approximately 41 to 44 per cent of goods and services spending within the programme. Given that Programme 2 constitutes about 47 per cent of the total Vote allocation (R433.3 million in 2026/27), the scale of contracted expenditure necessitates strict oversight.
- **Housing Delivery:** The delivery of 450 houses over the MTEF period is dependent on provincial departments of human settlements. Housing delivery has historically been identified as an area of underperformance and inconsistency. Oversight should monitor implementation timelines, intergovernmental coordination, and address historical underperformance in this area.

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