

Sub-programme 2: Office for Witness Protection



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Purpose

Office for Witness Protection provides for protection, support and related services to vulnerable witnesses and related people in judicial proceedings.

The following were highlights of achievements:

- At the end of the period there were still 203 witnesses left on the programme. During the year 180 witnesses were discharged or left the programme. Of these 113 were discharged; 5 died (not by criminal conduct on the part of persons against whom the witnesses had been protected); 52 signed off; and 10 walked off. The 113 who were discharged either testified or were not required to testify. All these witnesses were relocated and resettled after discharge.
- The number of witnesses on the programme increased from 300 to 468 which is a 56% increase. Similarly the number of related persons on the programme increased from 500 to 906 which is 81% increase.
- The number of grievances was reduced from 10% to 3% and the average duration on the programme was also reduced from 24 months to 18 months.
- On average the total costs for the protection of witnesses during operations amounted to R27 700. The approximate expenditure for accommodating witnesses and related persons, on average, amount to R19 800 per month excluding the salaries and S&T of protectors and support personnel, the use of official vehicles and accommodation.
- Many of the court-related operations were high risk and demanded very good planning and great dedication and commitment from all members. Examples of some of these operations are as follows:
 - o Operation Siyaya – despite the acquittal of all the accused in the Western Cape High Court the operation was a success in that all 9 witnesses had been effectively protected.
 - o All regional offices were prepared for all possible eventualities during the 2010 FIFA World Cup™.

