



ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

Beyond Growth: Driving Purpose,
Impact and Strengthening Trust



National Prosecuting Authority
South Africa



National Prosecuting Authority
South Africa

NDPP'S ANNUAL REPORT IN TERMS OF SECTION 22(4)(g) OF THE NPA ACT

"Beyond Growth, Driving Purpose, Impact and Strengthening Trust"



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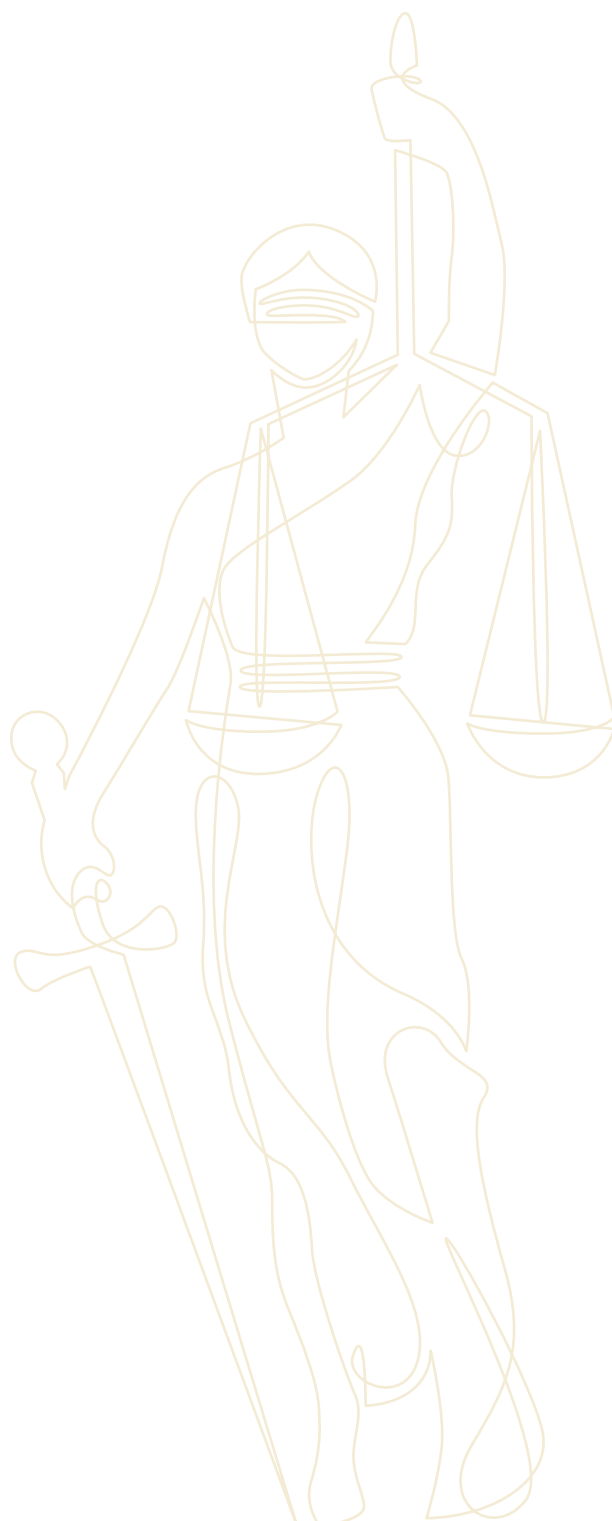
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In commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Constitution

PREAMBLE

We, the people of South Africa,

Recognise the injustices of our past;

Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land;

Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country; and

Believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity.

We, therefore, through our freely elected representatives, adopt this Constitution as the supreme law of the Republic so as to -

Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights;

Lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people and every citizen is equally protected by law;

Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person; and

Build a united and democratic South Africa able to take its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.

May God protect our people.

Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika. Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso.

God seën Suid-Afrika. God bless South Africa.

Mudzimu fhatutshedza Afurika. Hosi katekisa Afrika.



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ACRONYMS

ACTT	Anti-Corruption Task Team
ADRM	Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism
AFU	Asset Forfeiture Unit
APA	Africa Prosecutors Association
APP	Aspirant Prosecutor Programme
BACSA	Business Against Crime South Africa
BLSA	Business Leadership South Africa
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
C-ADR	Corporate Alternative Dispute Resolution
CARA	Criminal Assets Recovery Account
CFT	Combatting the Financing of Terrorism
CPA	Criminal Procedure Act
CPI	Community Prosecution Initiative
CPO	Court Preparation Officer
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
CTFC	Counter Terrorism Functional Committee
DDPP	Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions
DEEC	District Efficiency Enhancement Committee
DHA	Department of Home Affairs
DIRCO	Department of International Relations and Cooperation
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DNDPP	Deputy National Director of Public Prosecutions
DoJ&CD	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
DPCI	Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation
DPCI: CATS	Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation: Crimes Against the State
DPCI: PCSI	Priority Crime Specialised Investigations
DPP	Director of Public Prosecution
DPSA	Department of Public Service and Administration
DSD	Department of Social Development
ECMS	Electronic Case Management System
EWP	Employee Wellness Programme
ExCo	Executive Committee
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FIC	Financial Intelligence Centre
GBVF	Gender-Based Violence and Femicide
GLA	General Laws Amendment Act
GPIA	Governance, Performance and Institutional Assurance
HRM&D	Human Resources Management and Development
IAP	International Association of Prosecutors
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
ID	Investigating Director

ACRONYMS(continued)

IDAC	Investigating Directorate Against Corruption
IEG	Intergovernmental Expert Group
IPAC	Independence, Professional, Accountable and Credible
IPID	Independent Police Investigative Directorate
ISM	Information Systems Management
IT	Information Technology
IO9-11	Immediate Outcomes 9, 10 and 11
JCPS	Justice, Crime Prevention and Security
JICC	Joint Initiative against Crime and Corruption
KZN	KwaZulu-Natal
LAD	Legal Affairs Division
ManCo	Management Committee
MLA	Mutual Legal Assistance
MoU	Memoranda of Understanding
MPTT	Missing Persons Task Team
MS	Microsoft
MTEF	Medium-Term Expenditure Framework
MTSF	Medium-Term Strategic Framework
NATJOINTS	National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure
NCAC	National Conventional Arms Control
NCSMT	National Coordination and Strategic Management Task Team
NCTS	National Counter Terrorism Strategy
NDPP	National Director of Public Prosecutions
NEEC	National Efficiency Enhancement Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NICOC	National Intelligence Co-ordinating Committee
NOMM	National Operations Management Meeting
NPA	National Prosecuting Authority
NPAA Act	National Prosecuting Authority Amendment Act
NPS	National Prosecutions Service
OCC	Organised Crime Component
OEA	Office for Ethics and Accountability
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OWP	Office for Witness Protection
PEEC	Provincial Efficiency Enhancement Committee
PCLU	Priority Crimes Litigation Unit
PCMC	Priority Crime Management Centre
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act, 1 of 1999
POCA	Prevention of Organised Crime Act, 121 of 1998
PROMANCO	Provincial Meetings of Senior Management
PROVJOINTS	Provincial Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure

ACRONYMS(continued)

REEC	Regional Efficiency Enhancement Committee
SAPS	South African Police Service
SAPS CI	South African Police Service Crime Intelligence
SARS	South African Revenue Service
SCCC	Specialised Commercial Crimes Court
SCCU	Specialised Commercial Crimes Unit
SDPP	Special Director of Public Prosecutions
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SIU	Special Investigating Unit
SMO	Strategy Management Office
SMS	Senior Management Services
SOC	Strategy, Operations and Compliance
SOCA	Sexual Offences and Community Affairs
SPP	Senior Public Prosecutor
SSA	State Security Agency
STU	Specialised Tax Unit
TCC	Thuthuzela Care Centre
TFNRA	Terror Financing National Risk Assessment
TRC	Truth and Reconciliation Commission
UN	United Nations
UNCAC	United Nations Convention Against Crime
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
US	United States
WGB	Working Group on Bribery

CASE-RELATED ACRONYMS

ABB	Asea Brown Boveri
NLC	National Lotteries Commission
PRASA	Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa



VISION

Justice in our society so that people can live in freedom and security.



MISSION

Guided by the Constitution, we in the National Prosecuting Authority ensure justice for the victims of crime by investigating serious, high-profile corruption cases; by prosecuting without fear, favour, or prejudice; and by working with our partners and the public to solve and prevent crime.



VALUES

Integrity, which is displayed through ethical conduct, high moral standards, honesty, moral principles and values, zero tolerance for bribery or corruption, keeping promises, truthfulness and being beyond reproach.

Professionalism, which can be seen through commitment, dedication, punctuality, competence and professional conduct in and out of court.

Accountability, which is based on transparent actions and spending, regular contact with partners and routine reporting.

Credibility, which is built by behaving consistently and aiming to inspire belief and trust.

Service excellence, which means providing first-class customer service and complying with the Batho Pele principles.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME

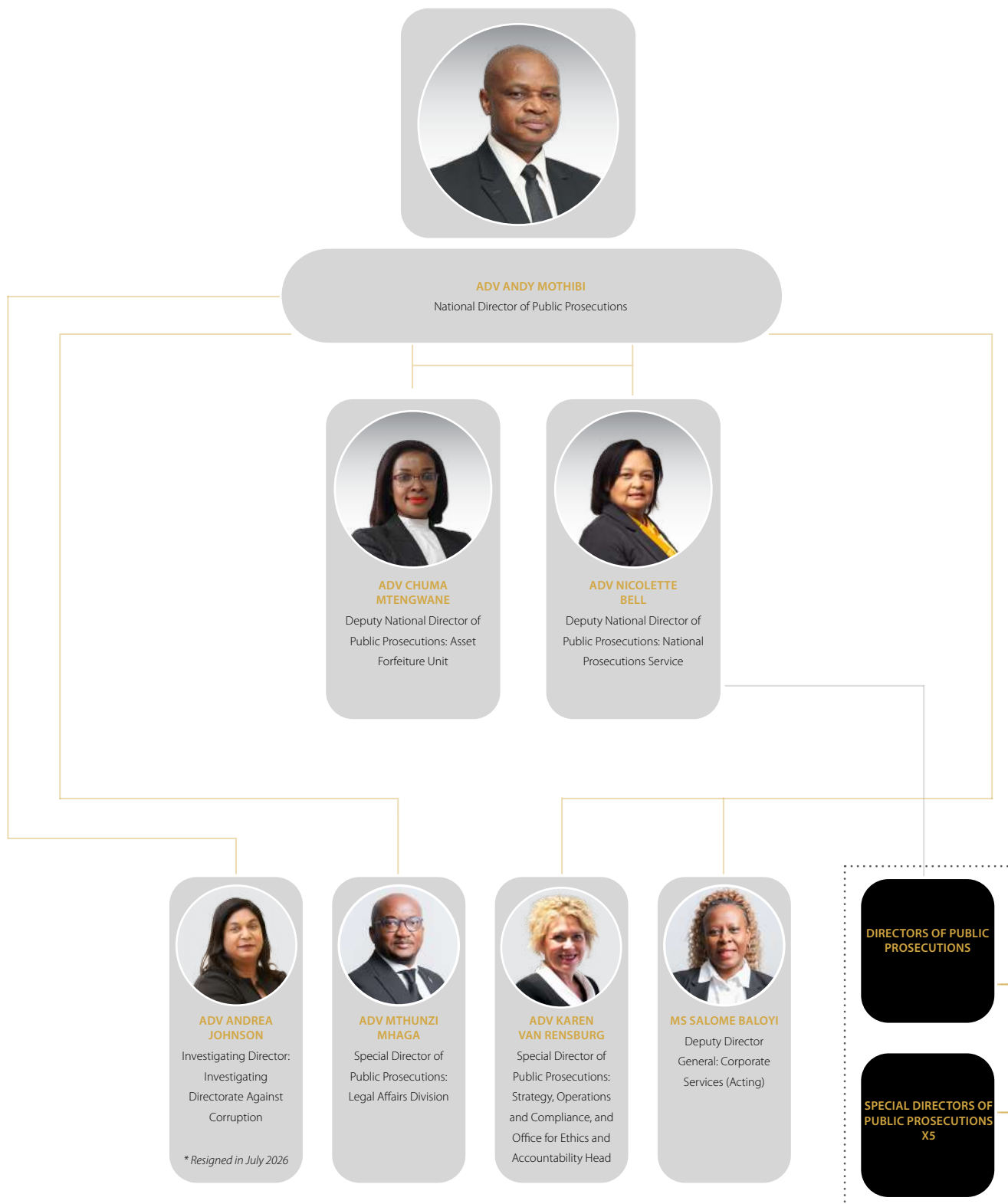
The strategic outcomes of the NPA for 2025-2030 are as follows:

- Improved access to NPA services
- Improved public confidence in the NPA and the Criminal Justice System

To achieve these outcomes, the NPA continued to implement, amongst others, the following strategic priorities:

- Prosecutorial prioritisation
- Community prosecution
- Service delivery improvement
- Amplifying NPA's voice and influence in the criminal justice system.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



NATIONAL PROSECUTIONS SERVICE

DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS



**ADV SAMKELO
CALLAWAY
MTWANA**
Director of
Public Prosecutions:
Eastern Cape Division



**ADV NAVILLA
SOMARU**
Director of
Public Prosecutions:
Free State Division



**ADV SIBONGILE
MZINYATHI**
Director of Public
Prosecutions: Gauteng
Division, Pretoria



**ADV ANDREW
CHAUKE**
Director of
Public Prosecutions:
Gauteng Division,
Johannesburg



**ADV ELAINE
HARRISON**
Director of
Public Prosecutions:
KwaZulu-Natal
Division



ADV IVY THENGA
Director of
Public Prosecutions:
Limpopo Division



MR SONJA NTULI
Director of Public
Prosecutions:
Mpumalanga Division



**MR LIVINGSTONE
SAKATA**
Director of
Public Prosecutions:
Northern Cape
Division



**ADV RACHEL
MAKHARI-
SEKHAOLELO**
Director of
Public Prosecutions:
North West Division



**ADV ADRIAN C
MOPP**
Director of
Public Prosecutions:
Western Cape
Division

SPECIAL DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS



**ADV BRADLEY
SMITH**
Special Director of
Public Prosecutions:
National Prosecutions
Service and Tax (Acting)



**ADV NKEBE
KANYANE**
Special Director of
Public Prosecutions:
Specialised
Commercial Crime
Unit



**ADV BONNIE
CURRIE-GAMWO**
Special Director of Public
Prosecutions: Sexual
Offences and Community
Affairs Unit



**ADV GIDEON
MASHAMAITE**
Special Director of
Public Prosecutions:
Priority Crimes
Litigation Unit
(Acting)



**ADV WENDY DA
SILVA**
Special Director of
Public Prosecutions:
Asset Forfeiture Unit
(Acting)

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE – SOC



ADV KAREN VAN RENSBURG
Special Director of Public Prosecutions: SOC



MS SALOME BALOYI
Deputy Director General: Corporate Services
(Acting)



MS HANIKA VAN ZYL
Chief Director:
Financial
Management



MR MAKGOMO THUPANA
Chief Director:
Strategy Management
Office
(Acting)



MR DENTON SEROBATSE
Chief Director:
Information Systems
Management



MR TSHILIDZI MUKWEVHO
Chief Director:
Security Management
Services



MS BULELWA MAKEKE
Chief Director:
Communications



MS TSHIDI MODISE
Chief Director:
Human Resource
Management and
Development



FOREWORD

BY THE NATIONAL
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC
PROSECUTIONS

FOREWORD

BY THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

It is my honour and privilege to present the 2025/2026 Annual Report of the National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa. This report reflects the dedication, professionalism and resilience of prosecutors and support staff across every sub-programme, division, cluster and court in the country. It also demonstrates the NPA's continued contribution to the objectives of the National Development Plan 2030 and the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP), particularly the priorities of reducing crime, combating corruption, addressing gender-based violence, organised crime and contact crime, and helping to build a safer and more secure South Africa.

Overall Performance Highlights

During the 2025/2026 financial year, the NPA maintained its strong post-COVID performance trajectory, achieving 88% of its Annual Performance Plan targets. This represents a two-percentage-point improvement from the 86% achieved in the previous reporting cycle.

The year was marked by high conviction rates across courts and crime categories. The High Courts recorded a 93% conviction rate, Regional Courts recorded 84%, District Courts recorded 96%, and specialised commercial crime courts recorded 90%. Corruption remained a priority focus, with 335 persons sentenced for corruption-related offences and the Investigating Directorate Against Corruption (IDAC) authorising 19 additional state capture and complex corruption investigations. The Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) continued to fulfil its mandate of ensuring that crime does not pay by obtaining freezing orders of R858 million and recovering assets valued at R532 million.

Consequently, the NPA remains on track to achieve its five-year MTDP targets in key areas, including sexual offences convictions, the establishment of additional Thuthuzela Care Centres, the finalisation of terrorism financing and money laundering cases, serious commercial crime, organised crime and corruption convictions, and asset recoveries. This performance is central to strengthening public trust in the work of the NPA, while management remains committed to monitoring performance and improving the organisation's service delivery model.

This encouraging performance comes at a historic moment, as the country commemorates the 30th anniversary of

the adoption of the 1996 Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The Constitution remains our social contract, grounded in equality, freedom and human dignity. It also provides the foundation for a democratic society based on justice, accountability and respect for human rights.



Commission Recommendations Task Force

Following serious allegations by KwaZulu-Natal Police Commissioner Lieutenant-General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi that the criminal justice system had been compromised through collusion between politicians, intelligence operatives and violent syndicates, President Cyril Ramaphosa established the Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Criminality, Political Interference and Corruption in the Criminal Justice System, known as the Madlanga Commission, in July 2025.

Since the Commission's first public hearing on 17 September 2025 and the release of its interim report, the NPA has committed to working with the Commission Recommendations Task Team (CRTT) to support speedy investigations and enable prosecutorial decisions. The NPA has allocated State Advocates to provide prosecutor-guided investigations, while the Asset Forfeiture Unit has assigned resources to expedite asset recovery processes.

Good Governance and Ethical Standards

The NPA's performance is underpinned by continued efforts to strengthen the governance and ethical framework that guides all officials. The Office for Ethics and Accountability has been established to foster a culture of ethics and integrity programmes, including financial disclosures, service delivery improvements, and investigations into reported unethical practices and conduct. It remains essential that the Office is appropriately capacitated to reduce investigation turnaround times and institutionalise lifestyle audits. Lifestyle audits remain a key priority for both the NPA and the Ministry and are therefore non-negotiable within the current financial context.

Operational and Financial Independence

Strengthening the NPA as an independent institution with its own financial and governance model remains a key strategic focus, as articulated by the President in the State of the Nation Address. This longstanding matter received renewed attention during the 2025/2026 period, including the establishment of a project team and the appointment of legal counsel to review the proposed reform and provide a legal opinion to safeguard the constitutional position of the NPA.

Strategy Against Gender-Based Violence

In November 2025, South Africa officially classified Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) as a national disaster, reflecting the severity of the crisis and its impact on the safety of women and children in particular. I am encouraged that the NPA's Sexual Offences and Community Affairs (SOCA) Unit responded swiftly by developing the Strategy Against Gender-Based Violence. The strategy will guide and strengthen the NPA's efforts to deliver on its mandate efficiently and increase access to justice for victims of GBV. It will be implemented under the broader guidance of the National Strategic Plan on GBVF.

Tackling Corruption, Organised Crime and Commercial Crime

Our ongoing assessment of the environment confirms that South Africa continues to confront the scourge of corruption, financial crime and commercial crime. During the reporting period, the NPA continued to invest in practical capacity-building initiatives to ensure that prosecutors are equipped with the necessary skills, tactics and strategies to prosecute crimes that weaken public institutions, erode public trust and undermine economic prosperity.

We are equally concerned by the growing trend of organised crime and syndicate activity, as reflected in developments emerging from the Madlanga Commission. The NPA continues to implement its Strategy Against Organised Crime, which prioritises a coordinated, impact-based value chain approach that integrates prosecution, law enforcement, financial investigation and asset recovery. Early areas of impact include the Top 10 Case Prioritisation process, with a focus on identifying kingpins, the Top 5 SARS Project, and the consistent application of standard case intake criteria for prioritisation.

Strengthening Support and Oversight for IDAC

IDAC has evolved from a project into a permanent specialised anti-corruption capability focused on serious, high-profile and complex corruption arising from the state capture era. Although finalising these matters is often a lengthy process, IDAC continues to authorise investigations and, where evidence is uncovered, to enrol state capture-related cases and effect arrests. Since its inception, IDAC has enrolled 55 matters, bringing 390 persons and entities before the courts.

With the support of the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, the Office for IDAC Oversight was established through the appointment of retired Judge Takalani Joseph Raulinga, as contemplated in section 22A of the Act.

Placing the AFU at the Heart of Prosecution Efforts

The AFU continues to leverage its Asset Recovery Strategy, which introduces a "business unusual" approach to asset recovery, including Corporate Alternative Dispute Resolution where appropriate. During the reporting period, the AFU strengthened collaboration through its work with the Anti-Corruption Task Team, the Inter-Agency Working Group on Illicit Financial Flows, State Capture, Health Sector Corruption and the Fusion Centre under the auspices of the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC). Disruptive asset recovery remains vital not only to the MTDP process, but also to South Africa's FATF-related efforts.

Financial Action Task Force

October 2025 marked a significant milestone for the credibility of South Africa's financial system and for the collaborative efforts of law enforcement agencies, including the NPA, SAPS, FIC, South African Revenue Service (SARS), Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC), DOJ&CD, Special Investigating Unit (SIU) and South African Reserve Bank (SARB). These institutions worked tirelessly to support South Africa's removal from the FATF grey list, formally known as the list of "Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring".

South Africa's progress in addressing Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) deficiencies represents a major policy and institutional achievement, particularly in the aftermath of the weakening of key law enforcement and governance institutions during the state capture era. While exiting the grey list is a significant achievement, the greater collective test will be to remain resolute and sustain progress in forthcoming country assessments.

Building Public Trust Through Communication and Engagement

During the 2025/2026 period, the NPA developed a proactive communication strategy anchored in brand preservation and public accountability. The strategy is intended to deepen public engagement across multiple platforms, including Facebook, X, NPA TV, and the ground-breaking podcasts Graft Under Watch and Prosecution Matters.

Working with the Communication team, the NPA must continue to embody the constitutional values of transparency, accountability and responsiveness by leveraging its digital footprint and strengthening real-time traditional communication approaches, including media statements, NDPP media briefings and the DPP Speaks series.

Financial Status and Audit Management

The NPA remains a programme within the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and therefore operates within defined financial delegations and budget allocations. For the 2025/2026 period, the NPA spent 100% of its allocated budget before virements, while recording marginal underspending of R74 million on Compensation of Employees. Nearly 76% of the allocated budget was spent on prosecution services, while corporate services accounted for 12% and supported key enabling functions such as security, fleet, facilities and information technology.

The NPA continues to monitor its financial environment and compliance standards to mitigate the risk of a negative audit outcome. Performance information is scrutinised monthly and quarterly to improve completeness, accuracy, validity and credibility. Ongoing audit intervention sessions at both NPA and DOJ&CD level continue to monitor implementation of the audit action plan.

The Path Ahead

While the reported performance is encouraging, public expectations of the NPA remain high. Meeting these expectations will require continued innovation, strategic reform and sustained organisational focus. Key priorities for the coming financial year include:

- Driving an organisational culture shift by aligning people, processes and systems.
- Monitoring implementation of Quick Wins Action Plans.
- Establishing an organisational performance review mechanism.

- Accelerate investigative and prosecutorial capacity of IDAC.
- Ensuring the sustainability and capacitation of the NPA.
- Monitoring and supporting the work of various commissions.
- Strengthening the organisational integrity framework and rolling lifestyle audits.
- Building a professional and ethical organisation.
- Contributing to legal reform initiatives.
- Strengthening international cooperation.
- Assessing the impact of artificial intelligence on prosecution.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the management of the NPA comprising of Deputy National Directors, Directors and Special Directors of Public Prosecutions, Acting Deputy Director General and Chief Directors as well as each and every member of the NPA workforce for their steadfast commitment to building a prosecution authority that pursues justice without fear, favour or prejudice. The NPA operates within a highly complex criminal justice system value chain with inherent systemic challenges. Even so, your tenacity and dedication at ground level remain resolute. Our shared responsibility is to continue fighting for justice through a victim-centred approach.

As I present the 2025/2026 Annual Report to the public, I also wish to thank the Minister and Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi and Mr Andries Nel, for their leadership and executive support within the confines of the Constitution and the Act.

Adv Mothibi

National Director of Public Prosecutions

31 August 2026



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Key NPA's Strategic Initiatives and Priorities Achievements

During the reporting period, the NPA made significant progress on its four strategic initiatives: prosecutorial prioritisation, community prosecution, service delivery improvement and amplifying the NPA's strategic influence. This increased access to justice and increased its public impact. The NPA has rolled out different projects in response to the implementation of its initiatives and priorities.

Prosecutorial Prioritisation

The NPA continued to implement the prosecutorial prioritisation initiative to deal more strategically with the crimes affecting the day-to-day security of all citizens. As part of implementation, the divisions identified different areas of priority – housebreaking, theft, murder, organised crime, rape etc.

The Free State prioritised corruption, stock theft, organised crime and money laundering, and KwaZulu-Natal focused on housebreaking, murder, sexual offences backlogs, serious and violent crimes, FATEF, human trafficking, while the Gauteng Division, Pretoria, stressed gender-based violence and contact crimes, corruption, drugs, money laundering and asset forfeiture (Section 18 of POCA). Limpopo prioritised sexual offences, illegal mining, organised crime, environmental crime, corruption, money laundering and stock theft; its neighbouring province the North West, highlighted drug and substance abuse, gender-based violence, stock theft, money laundering and asset forfeiture. Mpumalanga focused on organised crime (essential infrastructure) and the Eastern Cape stressed gender-based violence, in particular, intimate partner femicide matters. The Western Cape prioritised robbery and gender-based violence, while the Gauteng Local Division emphasised murder, robbery with aggravating circumstances, gender-based violence, sexual offences, domestic violence, femicide, human trafficking, complex commercial crimes, corruption, money laundering, cybercrime and damage to essential infrastructure. Finally, Sexual Offences and Community Affairs focused on DNA, teenage pregnancy, serial rapists, GBV and anti-bullying.

Community Prosecution

Community Prosecution remained a vehicle to enhance relationships between prosecutors, police, local authorities, communities and community-based organisations to address public safety and to deal with community-level irritant crimes. The initiative's scope covered a wide variety of crimes across the divisions, including gender-based violence, domestic violence, drug abuse, stock theft and cable theft.

The Free State has five community prosecution sites focusing on gender-based violence, sexual offences, bullying, substance abuse, gangsterism; KwaZulu-Natal has eight sites focusing on murder, gender-based violence, tuckshops regulatory and maintenance services. The Gauteng Division Pretoria's three sites focused on gender-based violence, school bullying and other crimes affecting local communities and maintenance procedures; the five Limpopo sites focused on gender-based violence and femicide, domestic violence, drug abuse, sexual offences, bullying, child protection, cyber-crimes, criminal records and educating the community about community prosecutions and its role; North West has five sites which focused on combating and preventing stock theft, gender-based violence and drug related offences; Mpumalanga's four sites focused on gender-based violence, stock theft, and theft as well as essential infrastructure; the Eastern Cape's nine sites focused on gangsterism, illegal taverns, drugs, gender-based violence, ukuthwala and initiations; the Northern Cape has six sites and focused mainly on the tracing of people in the community and learners who absconded from school; the Western Cape emphasised alcohol-related offences, robbery prevention, firearm awareness, gender-based violence and the establishment of new local safety structures, support interventions against illegal liquor trading, illegal shebeens; and the Gauteng Local Division's six sites focused on substance abuse, gender-based violence, illegal liquor trading and second-hand goods offences.

Service Delivery Improvement

The divisional offices consistently represented the NPA at Technical Cluster meetings. This ensured that the NPA participated in all issues pertaining to the JCPS cluster and formed part of the working groups. Victims of crime continued to benefit from the Thuthuzela Care Centres (TCCs) and court preparation services available throughout the divisions – this demonstrated the focus all divisions had on delivering justice to the most vulnerable members of society. District Efficiency Enhancement meetings (DEEC), and Provincial Efficiency Enhancement meetings (PEEC) meetings were attended regularly to discuss issues with prosecutors and management. The activities of the CPOs are aimed at improving service delivery and making the criminal court environment less hostile for vulnerable witnesses.

Amplifying the NPA's Influence and Voice Within the JCPS

The NPA as a key role-player in the Criminal Justice System is committed to improving its public perception and reputation by working with JCPS partners. Communication initiatives were conducted both internally and externally, with a particular focus on the prosecution services and outcomes provided. Outreach programmes and imbizos were held to enhance communication. Stakeholder collaboration took place through the outreach programmes spearheaded by Community Prosecutions. The NPA amplified its voice in the JCPS through participation in PROVJOINTS and the Divisional Law Enforcement Stakeholder Engagement meetings. The training of officials from SAPS, DPCI, JMPD and EMPD is indicative of the leading role the management took in the JCPS. Management was represented on various external stakeholder forums, such as the SAPS/DCS Technical Steering Committee.

Civil Society Organisations (CSO) Roundtable

A roundtable discussion with Civil Society Organisations was held in April 2025 with the aim to take a critical and balanced view of the work carried out by the NPA over the previous five years, to reflect on lessons learned and to gain insights on how to further strengthen the NPA. This gave the opportunity to present three successful case studies, namely:

- Housebreaking project, conducted in KZN, Durban
- Dealing with gangsterism cases, DPP WC; and
- GBV and the impact of Thuthuzela Care Centres (TCCs) established under the leadership of SOCA.

Daily Maverick's 'The Gathering 2025' Panel Discussion

On 28 August 2025, former NDPP Adv. Shamila Batohi and former DNDPP Adv. Ouma Rabaji-Rasethaba held a successful panel discussion, with Home Affairs Minister Leon Schreiber and SARS Commissioner Edward Kieswetter at the Daily Maverick's "The Gathering 2025" under the theme: *State of Repair: The inside story of fixing government, one department & institution at a time.*

30th Annual Conference and General Meeting of International Association of Prosecutors

Senior leadership of the NPA participated in the 30th Annual Conference and General Meeting of the International Association of Prosecutors from 7 to 10 September 2025 in Singapore. The overall theme for the conference was "The Versatile Prosecutor", looking at the specialist expertise and cross-cutting capabilities that prosecutors need to cultivate in response to the constantly evolving criminal justice landscape.

The 3rd Annual National Prosecutor's Conference in Zambia

At the 3rd Annual National Prosecutor's Conference in Zambia, held under the theme "The Evolving Role of the Prosecutor in a Complex World," former NDPP Adv. Shamila Batohi highlighted the increasingly complex environment in which prosecutors operate and emphasised the need for prosecuting authorities to adapt to emerging forms of crime, technological advancements, and evolving societal expectations. She stressed that while innovation and emerging technologies can strengthen prosecutorial effectiveness, they must be applied responsibly and never at the expense of integrity, independence and the rule of law. Drawing on South Africa's experience in rebuilding institutions weakened by state capture, Adv. Batohi highlighted the importance of ethical leadership, accountability, international cooperation, institutional resilience and unwavering prosecutorial independence. She called on African prosecutors to remain fearless, fair and principled in upholding justice, protecting democratic institutions, and maintaining public trust in the criminal justice system.

BRICS Heads of Prosecution Services Conference

At the BRICS Heads of Prosecution Services Conference, former NDPP Adv. Shamila Batohi emphasised that artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly reshaping both crime and the administration of justice, presenting significant opportunities

and risks for developing countries. She highlighted that while criminals and organised crime networks are already exploiting AI to facilitate cybercrime, fraud, disinformation and other transnational offences, prosecutors must harness the technology responsibly to strengthen investigations, case management and cross-border cooperation. The NDPP stressed that AI should serve as a tool to enhance not replace prosecutorial judgment, integrity and fairness and called for robust ethical safeguards, human oversight, legal reform and international collaboration among BRICS countries. Adv. Batohi's key message was that prosecutorial innovation is no longer optional; justice institutions must embrace technology while safeguarding the rule of law, human rights and prosecutorial independence to ensure that AI becomes a force for greater accountability, security and access to justice.

African Prosecutors Association (APA) and the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP)

The NPA continues to play an active role in both the African Prosecutors Association (APA) and the International Association of Prosecutors (IAP), two important forums that bring together prosecuting authorities from across Africa and the wider international community. During the period under review, former NDPP Adv. Shamila Batohi attended the APA Conference in Morocco and the IAP Annual Conference in Paris. These forums provide valuable platforms for prosecutors to share best practices, strengthen professional networks, exchange experiences on emerging crime trends,

and promote cooperation in combating transnational crimes such as corruption, organised crime, cybercrime, terrorism and money laundering. Participation in these structures enables the NPA to remain abreast of global developments in prosecution, contribute to the development of international prosecutorial standards, and enhance its institutional capacity through collaboration, knowledge-sharing and strategic partnerships with counterparts from around the world. The NDPP's participation in these conferences reaffirmed the NPA's commitment to prosecutorial excellence, international cooperation, and the advancement of independent, effective and accountable prosecution services in support of the rule of law.

Capability Review and Capacity Enhancement Initiative

For the capacity enhancement initiative, which started with a capability review conducted in 2023, recommendations from the review were implemented with a focus on skills development in specialised commercial, corruption and organised crime. Considerable effort was invested in developing the curriculum and learning materials. The materials were tested through the facilitation of at least two training groups, involving employees, partners and beneficiaries from the SAPS and DPCI. The initiative is aimed at capacitating prosecutors and investigators in the fight against complex corruption and organised crime.





Independence of the National Prosecuting Authority

In February 2026, the management of the NPA and the NDPP Adv. Andy Mothibi resolved to revive and advance the work previously undertaken by the organisation concerning the possible enhancement of the NPA's operational and financial independence from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development ("the Department").

Against this background, consideration is given to whether the existing financial governance model adequately supports the NPA's constitutional role, or whether appropriate reforms may be required to strengthen the NPA's operational and financial autonomy. Any such reforms would necessarily seek to preserve the constitutional principle of the Minister's final responsibility contemplated in section 179(6) of the Constitution, together with the applicable oversight, accountability, and public finance management mechanisms. Furthermore, such reforms would aim to strengthen the NPA in the effective discharge of its duties.

The Legal Affairs Division (LAD) in consultation with the state attorney facilitated the appointment of a legal team led by reputable Senior Counsel to undertake this work, supported by a project team consisting of officials from the NPA, SIU and the Legislative Development Unit within the Department. During consultation with Counsel, it was resolved that a consultation with designated officials in various entities was necessary in view of the strategic role that they play within the inter-governmental setting and the impact the process might have on government broadly.

A preliminary opinion, with an outline of work to be done, has been obtained from the legal team, such will be considered during a project review consultation to be held during July 2026, after which the legal opinion will be completed for a formal submission to be made to the Department with a clear proposal on the best model to give effect to the operational and financial independence objective. It is projected that the amendments, if any, would be tabled during the next reporting period.



Organised Crime Strategy

The NPA Strategy against Organised Crime was approved and adopted by ManCo in 2024. The strategy was developed in response to the exponential escalation of organised crime and the absence of a comprehensive national strategy to guide and coordinate the State's response. The strategy provides a structured and integrated framework, underpinned by five strategic pillars aimed at strengthening the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, and disruption of organised criminal activities through intelligence-led interventions, enhanced governance, institutional coordination, and strategic partnerships. Furthermore, it incorporates standardised intake criteria to ensure the consistent identification, assessment, prioritisation, and allocation of organised crime matters.

To support the effective implementation of the strategy, comprehensive implementation plans were developed to operationalise its strategic objectives, assign institutional responsibilities, establish accountability mechanisms, and provide a framework for monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on implementation and performance.

This strategy delivered key achievements, including strengthened stakeholder engagement and improved coordination across the criminal justice system.





Digitisation and Modernisation

The NPA through the chief directorate, ISM, continued to modernise business processes and develop seamless efficiencies, ease of record keeping and reporting. A number of business processes were initiated for digitisation and modernisation, including; the **Close Protection Portal**, which tracked the status of protection special services as delivered by Security Management Services (SMS); the **State Attorney Portal**, designed for the Legal Affairs Division team (LAD team) to allocate the most appropriate State Attorney to a civil case where the NPA is cited, based on their credentials; the **DPP Registers System**, which tracked all case files within the DPP office; and the **SMS Access Control System**, which automated the checking in and out of NPA properties by the security personnel at the reception areas.

Over and above, the proof of concept for the **SCCU Portal** is being developed to address the administration of case referrals and recommendations sent from the SIU and the Presidency for further investigations and/or prosecution by the SCCU at the NPA and the Labour Relations system, which aims to automate the full cycle of disciplinary matters within the NPA.

NPA Senior Management Engagement Conference

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) hosted its Senior Management Conference from 19 to 21 August 2025 under the theme *"Consolidating and Futureproofing the NPA's Contribution towards a Capable, Ethical and Developmental State"*. The conference brought together senior managers of the NPA, with key stakeholders from across the criminal justice sector, including the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation, the judiciary, National Treasury and other strategic partners. It provided a strategic platform for the organisation's senior leadership to reflect on progress made during the implementation of the NPA Strategic Plan 2020–2025, including an assessment of the successes and challenges experienced during this period. The conference also contributed to the consolidation of the NPA Strategic Plan 2025–2030 and the development of a comprehensive institutional handover report to support leadership continuity and organisational sustainability.

The conference concluded with a set of strategic resolutions aimed at strengthening the NPA's future performance and institutional impact. Key outcomes included reaffirming the importance of ethical leadership, improving collaboration across the criminal justice value chain, enhancing prosecutorial capacity and specialist skills, embracing technological innovation, including artificial intelligence, strengthening performance management and accountability, and advancing victim-centred prosecution services. These resolutions are intended to support the implementation of the NPA Strategic Plan 2025–2030.





External Partnerships

Official Development Assistance: German Funding Request

The NPA is in the second year of implementing a project on Combatting Complex Corruption and Organised Crime in South Africa, with support by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany as implementing agency, the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF). This support is valued at Euro 3 000 230 (estimated at R57 376 758,00) over three years commencing in January 2025 and is due to end on 31 December 2027. This is provided with the application of a technical cooperation mechanism of Official Development Assistance (ODA); in this arrangement, funding does not flow into the Reconstruction and Development Programme account of the National Treasury. Consequently, no funding is allocated to the NPA. Funding tranches are allocated to the HSF, whose role is to support the NPA in the management of the budget, while the NPA drives implementation to achieve project outcomes.

The project's primary outcomes were strengthening of prosecuting and investigating capability of the NPA in relation to complex corruption and organised crime and strengthening of public discussion processes on complex corruption and organised crime.

The project's main beneficiaries are the investigators and prosecutors in the NPA's specialised units, namely the Assets Forfeiture Unit (AFU), IDAC, Organised Crime Component (OCC), Specialised Commercial Crimes Unit (SCCU) and Specialised Tax Unit (STU). These include investigators from the South Africa Police Service (SAPS) and the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI).

Project activities are declared as in-kind donations to the NPA in line with relevant Treasury Regulations, prescripts and policies. In-kind donations to the value of R14 891 649.29 have been disclosed as part of the annual financial statements.



Legislative Developments and Relevant Court Cases

Investigating Directorate Against Corruption

The Investigating Directorate Against Corruption ("IDAC") was established on 19 August 2024 under the National Prosecuting Authority Amendment Act, 2024 (Act No. 10 of 2024) ("NPAA Act" or "Amendment Act"), which came into effect on such date.

The NPAA Act made amendments to the National Prosecuting Authority Act, 1998 (Act No. 32 of 1998) ("NPA Act" or "principal Act") pertaining to:

Section 22A of the NPA Act, which governs the retired judge complaints mechanism applicable to the IDAC, was brought into operation on 1 March 2026. Related hereto, the Minister of the DOJ&CD also published regulations in the *Government Gazette*, which govern the form and manner of complaints to the retired judge. The retired judge complaints mechanism applies to all staff in the IDAC, referred to in section 7(4) (a) of the NPA Act, that is, all staff, i.e., DDPPs, prosecutors, investigators, administrative staff, and other persons seconded to or assigned at the IDAC, who are required to assist the Investigating Director ("ID") in the exercise and performance of her powers, functions and duties.

As the ID is a DPP in terms of the NPA Act, any complaint lodged against her is governed by section 12(6) of the Act read with Regulation 17 of the OEA Regulations, published in the *Government Gazette*. This means that the retired judge does not have jurisdiction to investigate a complaint levelled against the ID.

Justice Takalani Joseph Raulinga has been appointed as the retired judge contemplated in section 22A of the Act. His office is in the process of being established. In line with section 22A(13) of the Act, it is the DOJ&CD which must determine the rates for the appointment of the retired judge. Section 22A(13) provides as follows:

"The Minister shall ensure that the retired judge has sufficient personnel and resources to fulfil his or her functions."

Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act No. 51 of 1977)

The South African Law Reform Commission (SALRC) is undertaking a review of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act No. 51 of 1977). As this largely governs the work of the NPA, the NPA is included as a stakeholder and other members of the NPA have been drawn into specific focus areas. Each of the DPP Divisions identified a nodal point for

the coordination of input and comments of the divisions on papers published by the SALRC. The due dates for comment on such discussion papers are in the 2025/26 financial year. The contributions from the NPA should be key in shaping the legislative proposals that will find their way through Cabinet and into Parliament.



Relevant Court Rulings

This summary identifies key recent judgments likely to affect the National Prosecuting Authority's prosecutorial operations and service delivery obligations. The emphasis is on the core legal principles, outcomes and practical implications for prosecution management.

Embrace Project NPC and Others v Minister of Justice and Correctional Services and Others 2025 (1) SACR 36 (GP)

The High Court declared provisions of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act, 2007 unconstitutional to the extent that they allowed an accused to avoid liability for a sexual offence by relying on a subjective and unreasonable belief that the complainant had consented. The Court held that such a defence unduly favoured perpetrators and infringed victims' rights to equality, dignity, privacy, bodily and psychological integrity, and freedom from violence.

The declaration of invalidity was suspended for 18 months to allow Parliament to correct the defect. During that period, a provision is to be read into the Act requiring an accused, who relies on belief in consent, to show that objectively reasonable steps were taken to ascertain consent. The order applies prospectively from 30 September 2024. For the NPA, the judgment requires prosecutors to assess sexual offence matters through an objective consent lens and to lead evidence on the accused's steps, or failure to take steps, to ascertain consent.

Director of Public Prosecutions, Johannesburg and Another v Schultz and Others; Director of Public Prosecutions, Bloemfontein v Cholota (CCT 280/24; CCT 190/25) [2026] ZACC 3

The Constitutional Court considered the legality of outgoing extradition requests made by the NPA and the effect of any irregularity on a criminal court's jurisdiction. It held that the final authority to make outgoing extradition requests to foreign states lies with the national Executive, not the NPA, because such requests involve the exercise of external sovereignty and foreign relations discretion. The NPA may initiate and prepare the domestic prosecutorial components of an extradition request, but it cannot represent the Republic at state-to-state level.

In Cholota, the Court found that the DPP lacked authority to make the extradition request, but the irregularity did not automatically deprive the criminal court of jurisdiction. The Ebrahim principle remains important, but a court should decline jurisdiction only where proceeding with the trial would bring the administration of justice into disrepute. Because the NPA had acted under a *bona fide* understanding of the law and there was no indication that the extradition would not otherwise have been properly requested, the High Court erred in refusing jurisdiction. The appeal succeeded. In Schultz, condonation for the late application was refused.

Operationally, the NPA must ensure that outgoing extradition processes are routed through the appropriate Executive authority, while retaining responsibility for preparing requests and supporting documentation. Existing or past extraditions are not automatically invalidated merely because the NPA authorised the request, but future processes should be aligned with the judgment to avoid litigation risk.

S v Thabethe and Others [2025] 3 All SA 333 (SCA); 2025 (2) SACR 335 (SCA)

The SCA granted leave to the State and reserved questions of law after the High Court acquitted accused persons charged with procurement-related offences, fraud and money laundering. The SCA held that the trial court committed material errors of law, including failing to consider the totality of the evidence, misapplying the doctrine of common purpose, misapplying rules on documentary evidence and secondary evidence, and misconstruing section 204 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

The Court emphasised that a failure to consider the totality of evidence may constitute an error of law. It found that the State had established a *prima facie* case and that the High Court's approach resulted in a failure of justice. Six questions of law were decided in favour of the State, the High Court order was set aside to that extent, and the respondents could be retried for the same offences.

The case is important for complex corruption, procurement and money-laundering prosecutions. Prosecutors should frame applications for reserved questions of law clearly, distinguish legal misdirections from factual complaints, and ensure that documentary and section 204 evidence are properly presented and preserved.

Van Veen v Director of Public Prosecutions, Western Cape and Others 2025 (2) SACR 115 (SCA)

The SCA confirmed that a permanent stay of prosecution is an exceptional remedy. Delay alone, even where lengthy, is insufficient. The accused must establish egregious delay and demonstrably clear, irreparable trial prejudice. The appellant, charged in relation to a financial scheme causing substantial investor losses, relied on an 11-year delay and the effect of a brain tumour on his ability to participate in the trial. The Court held that the alleged prejudice was not sufficiently established.

The Court further held that questions concerning the accused's capacity to understand proceedings and make a proper defence should ordinarily be dealt with within the criminal trial framework under sections 77 and 79 of the Criminal Procedure Act, not through civil proceedings for a permanent stay. For prosecutors, the judgment strengthens resistance to permanent stay applications where prejudice is speculative and highlights the need to channel fitness-to-stand-trial issues into the appropriate criminal procedure mechanisms.

Polovin v Director of Public Prosecutions, Western Cape and Others 2025 (1) SACR 1 (SCA)

The SCA reaffirmed that decisions to prosecute, discontinue prosecution or not to prosecute are excluded from review under PAJA. Such decisions remain reviewable only on legality and rationality grounds. The Court treated decisions to prosecute and not to prosecute as belonging to the same category for this purpose.

This judgment is significant for prosecutorial independence and litigation risk management. Prosecutorial decisions should be properly recorded; rationally connected to the available evidence and prosecution policy; and capable of withstanding legality review, while avoiding treatment as ordinary administrative action under PAJA.

S v Luphondo 2026 (1) SACR 613 (SCA)

The SCA dealt with a special plea that prosecutors lacked title to prosecute because the accused had been a prosecutor at the time of the alleged offences and there was no written authorisation in terms of the Prosecution Policy Directives. The Court considered the high threshold for reconsideration under section 17(2)(f) of the Superior Courts Act and held that mere error is not enough; the error must be likely to cause grave injustice or bring the administration of justice into disrepute.

The Court held that non-compliance with the directive requiring written authorisation was not automatically fatal. The decisive question was whether continuing the trial would bring the justice system into disrepute. Given the seriousness of the corruption charges, halting the prosecution on a technical procedural basis could itself undermine confidence in the administration of justice. The application was refused.

For the NPA, the judgment confirms that internal authorisation requirements should be complied with and documented, particularly where prosecutors or former prosecutors are accused persons. However, procedural irregularities must be assessed contextually, with due regard to the public interest in prosecuting serious offences.



PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW



Highlights

The National Prosecuting Authority has demonstrated significant year-on-year improvement in its performance achievements over the past six years. From a 50% achievement rate in 2020/2021, the NPA has steadily increased its performance, reaching 88% in 2025/2026. This upward trend reflects the organisation's ongoing commitment to strengthening prosecutorial effectiveness and delivering on its mandate.

The organisation remained focused on improving access to justice, strengthening public confidence in the criminal justice system, combating corruption and organised crime, and supporting the victims of crime.



Victim-centered Services

Significant progress was made in expanding victim-centred services through the establishment of two additional Thuthuzela Care Centres, increasing access to integrated support services for victims of sexual offences. The NPA achieved a sexual offences conviction rate of **74%**, reflecting sustained efforts to improve the prosecution of gender-based violence and sexual offences.



Witness Protection

The Witness Protection Programme continued to provide effective protection services, with no witnesses or related persons threatened, harmed, or killed while under protection. This achievement underscores the effectiveness of witness protection.



Conviction Rates

High conviction rates were maintained across the courts, with the High Courts achieving a **93%** conviction rate, Regional Courts **84%**, while District Courts achieved 96%. The specialised commercial crime courts achieved a conviction rate of **90%**, demonstrating the effectiveness of specialised prosecution capacity in dealing with serious complex commercial crime matters.

Furthermore, the NPA achieved conviction rates of **94%** in serious organised crime matters, **79%** in corruption cases, and **71%** in murder prosecutions. These results demonstrate the continued effectiveness of prosecutorial interventions in addressing serious and priority crimes.



In the fight against corruption and financial crime, 335 persons were sentenced for corruption-related offences. The Investigating Directorate Against Corruption authorised **19** investigations, while seven state capture, complex corruption and related matters were enrolled in court. In addition, 167 prosecutions involving money laundering charges were instituted and 181 cases were finalised, reflecting sustained efforts to combat illicit financial flows and financial crimes.

The Asset Forfeiture Unit continued to deprive criminals of the proceeds of crime by **obtaining freezing** orders amounting to

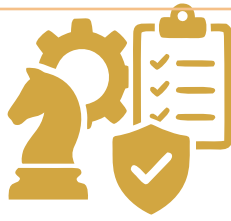


R858 million
In freezing orders obtained



R532 million
in recoveries obtained

These interventions contributed significantly to protecting state resources and disrupting criminal enterprises.



Strategy, Operations and Compliance

The SOC component provided corporate services in terms of finance, human resources, information communication technology, supply chain, communication, security services, and strategy and risk management. The strategic outcome

of the component is to provide adequate, effective and responsive support services in pursuit of good governance. This outcome is achieved by improved provisioning of support services to the NPA while ensuring clean administration.



Strategy Management Office (SMO)

The Chief Directorate: Strategy Management Office (SMO) continued to play a critical role as the strategic partner and dependable advisor for the NPA and its leadership. The Chief Directorate, which is constituted by the directorates, Strategy and Enterprise Risk Management, Research and Knowledge Management, Performance Information Management and Project Management and Governance is charged with enhancing the strategic alignment, organisational performance and delivery of impactful measures across key priority areas.

Strategy Development

In the period under review, the directorate of Strategy and Enterprise Risk Management spearheaded the development of multiple execution plans underpinning the delivery of NPA's 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. The meticulous development of execution plans focused on ensuring that strategic priorities were translated into impactful performance and operational plans, with clear performance measures and targets.

The directorate played a fundamental role during the conceptualisation, planning and execution of the landmark Senior Management Conference, which was held in August 2025. The conference further strengthened alignment

and contribution to government-wide priorities and the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP), with the emphasis on improving efficiency, accountability, and NPA's response to priority crimes, including state capture and high-profile corruption.

The unit was instrumental in the development of the Strategy Against Gender-based Violence for the Sexual Offences and Community Affairs (SOCA) Unit and actively supported the development of the NDPP's handover report, which documented the NPA's institutional recovery since 2019 and the progress achieved at the end of Adv. Shamila Batohi's tenure.

Enterprise Risk Management

The Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) unit leveraged on the improvement of the risk culture in the organisation to enhance and streamline its risk processes. Organisational risk maturity was underpinned by continuous and regular risk awareness sessions, including digital screensavers.

The ERM unit supported the delivery of performance and operational plans through interactive risk assessments sessions and the maintenance of risk profiles across all business units and regions.

Performance Information Management

The Performance Information Management (PIM) directorate played a critical role in strengthening institutional accountability, compliance, and evidence-based reporting. The unit coordinated the collection, verification, consolidation, and reporting of organisational performance information in line with the required frameworks for reporting. To mitigate adverse audit outcomes, the unit intensified its verification processes through engagements with business units and regional offices.

A significant milestone during the reporting period was the appointment of the Director responsible for Performance Information Management. The appointment cemented leadership, governance, and strategic oversight within the unit and contributed to improved coordination of performance reporting processes and stakeholder engagement across the organisation.

Research Management

The Research Management (RM) directorate continued to influence evidence-based decision-making through the delivery of the organisational research agenda. The unit managed and preserved organisational knowledge through research and knowledge management initiatives, products and services.

The NPA has always aimed to continuously improve on the quality of services that it renders to its customers at various courts. As such, Research Management led the delivery of the Crime and Criminal Justice Satisfaction Survey (CCJSS)

and the IDAC stakeholder survey reports. This report concluded a satisfaction survey of NPA customers for the first iteration of three, spanning the 2024-2029 period; a series of these satisfaction surveys has been ongoing since 2005. Research Management produced and delivered a number of briefing papers on global threats to the rule of law and their implications for prosecutorial institutions, including a background paper on South Africa's security architecture, "*Combating Complex Corruption and Organised Crime in South Africa project*". The paper was prepared in support of the NPA study tour to Munich, Germany.

Knowledge Management

Knowledge Management (KM) developed the NPA Knowledge Management Strategy in accordance with the Department of Public Service and Administration's Directive on the Implementation of Knowledge Management in the Public Service. This strategy provided a clear framework for strengthening how knowledge is captured, shared, and applied across the organisation.

KM played a pivotal role in facilitating the After-Action Review (AAR) for the *State v Zinhle Gumede* matter where the accused was found guilty of 10 counts of contravening section 8(a) of the Cyber Crimes Act. Prosecutors Roshiela Benimadho, Tyron Ramsamy, and Alexis Appalsamy took the lead in this review. Notably, this review was especially significant as it marked the first time that the CPP Durban had finalised such a case, allowing the directorate to capture invaluable insights and lessons that will inform future approaches.



Human Resource Management and Development

Capacitation of the NPA

The focus for the 2025/26 financial year continued to be on capacitation of the NPA to create a fit-for-purpose organisation. The prioritisation was based on three areas: the establishment of the organisational structure through the creation of positions, particularly in specialised units; the recruitment and appointment of personnel; and skills enhancement.

The organisational structure was evaluated to confirm an efficient organisation, identify areas requiring additional capacity, and determine whether to repurpose or eliminate obsolete personnel. The overall headcount for the NPA comprised 5 559 permanent employees, together with an additional 306 on fixed-term contracts, of which 97 new positions were established, primarily within specialised units, including the Specialised Commercial Crimes Unit and the Asset Forfeiture Unit, to enhance the capacity to combat corruption and organised crime and to support the forthcoming Financial Action Task Force evaluation.

Figure 1: Vacancy rate per Division

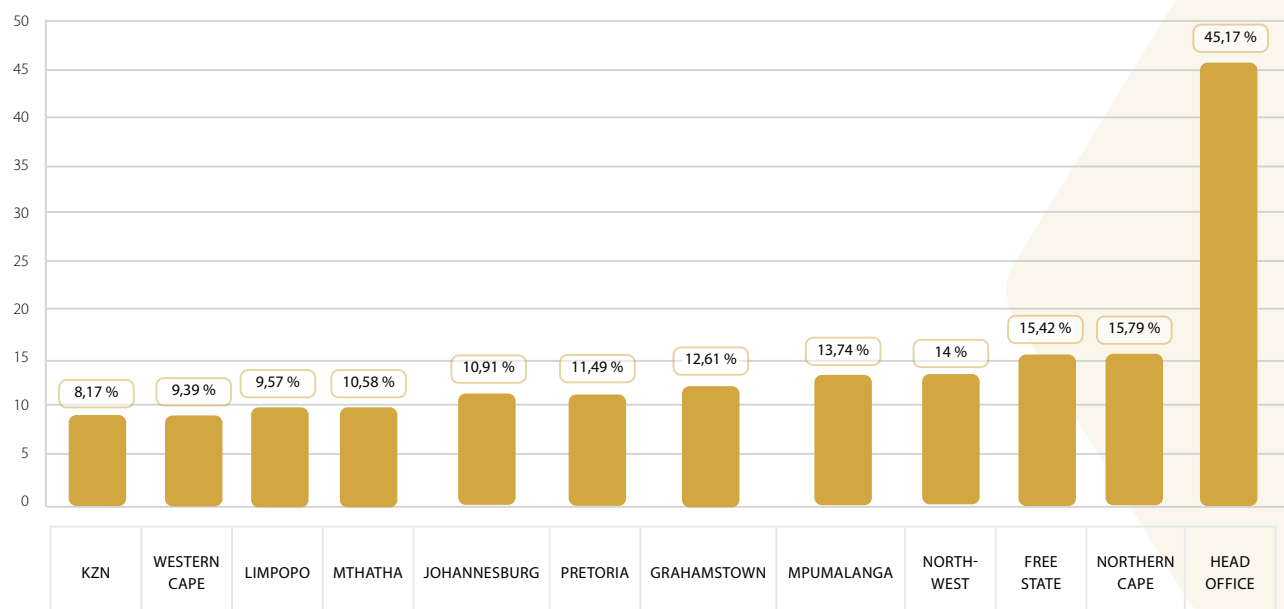


Table 1: Vacancy rate per salary level category

SALARY LEVELS	TOTAL POSTS	FILLED POSTS	VACANT POSTS	VACANCY RATE
SL 2 - 5	761	596	165	21,68
SL 6 - 8	2 335	1 867	468	20,04
SL 9 - 12	3 316	2 864	452	13,63
SL 13 - 16	329	231	98	29,79
SL 17	1	1	0	0,00
TOTAL	6 742	5 559	1 183	17,55



Human Resource Attraction and Retention

During 2025/26 financial year, the NPA advertised a total of 683 positions for recruitment and attraction and 285 positions were filled. A further 129 former aspirants from the previous intake were incorporated into permanent District Court Prosecutor positions.

Capability enhancement

The NPA prioritised the development of the skills of prosecutors and support staff, as illustrated below. Education and training are instrumental in the cultivation and maintenance of human capital.

Table 2: Bursaries per qualification (current financial year 2025/26)

	Doctor of Laws (LLD)	5
	Masters in Business Administration (MBA)	1
	Honours	5
	Bachelor of Laws (LLB)	8
	Postgraduate Diplomas	3
	Other Bachelor's Degree	10
	Diplomas	4
	TOTAL	36

Education, training and development

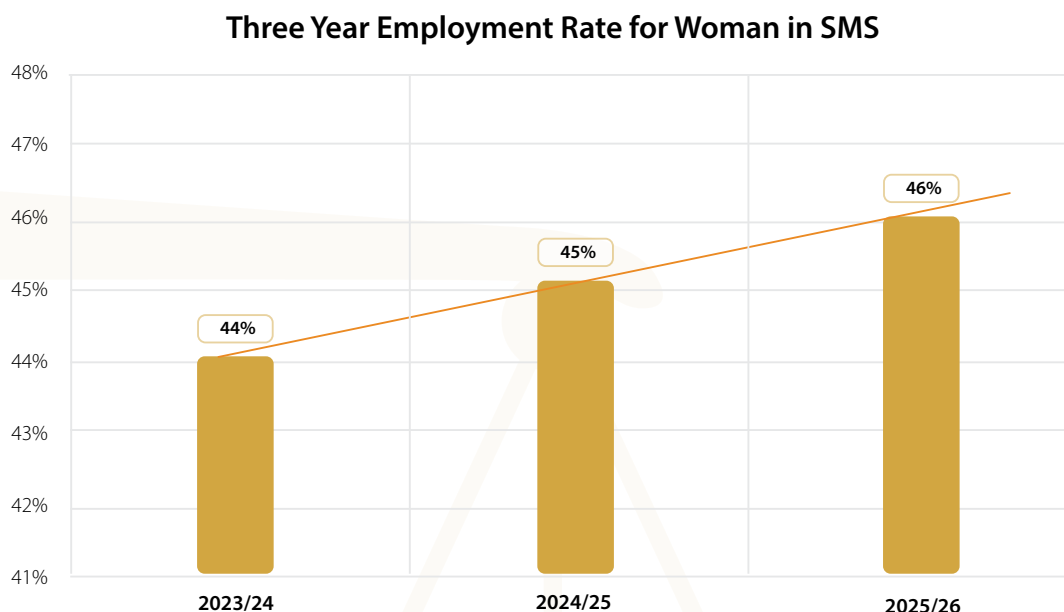
Training interventions were attended by 1 884 staff members; these interventions addressed a wide range of topics. The key programmes included: money laundering, to respond to FATF obligations; search and seizure and Section 18-AFU, to improve the recovery of proceeds of crime; domestic violence, to respond more effectively and urgently to the needs of gender-based violence (GBV) victims; and the prevention of Organised Crime Act, to disrupt and reduce the effects of organised crime.

Transformation

The NPA advanced its workplace transformation initiative to comply with legislation and regulatory prescripts. Figure 2 depicts an improvement in the representation of women at the Senior Management Service (SMS) level, with representation increasing from 45% in 2024/2025 to 46% in 2025/2026. This reflects the organisation's ongoing commitment to promoting gender equality and enhancing representation within leadership structures.



Figure 2: Employment rate for women in SMS positions in the NPA



Implementation of the Diversity Management Programme

The NPA continued to advance in its pursuit of inclusivity and diversity. As part of its commitment to cultivating an inclusive organisational culture and establishing an equitable workforce, diversity management sessions were successfully implemented. Heritage sessions were also held in all provinces to enhance employees' awareness and understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace, with the goal of promoting inclusion and appreciation for diversity.

Employee Health and Wellness Programme

The NPA's Employee Health and Wellness Programme continued to strengthen employee well-being and organisational resilience through targeted psychosocial

support interventions for employees operating in high-stress and trauma-exposed environments. The interventions were aimed at mitigating the effects of secondary trauma, burnout, and compassion fatigue among employees. During the reporting period, 35 stress and trauma management group sessions were delivered reaching 995 employees, including prosecutors, Court Preparation Officers and Thuthuzela Care Centre (TCC) personnel across urban and rural locations

Employee Relations

The high success rate in dealing with external disputes continued even in this period as well as the resolution of grievances. A success rate of 97% for arbitrations and labour court matters was achieved, as well as 91% of grievances were resolved within the time frame.

Table 3: Grievances lodged against the NPA

Grievance outcome	Number	% of total
Resolved	74	91%
Not resolved (i.e. referred to the PSC)	7	9%
Total	81	100%

Table 4: Resolution rate for misconduct investigations

 The finalisation rate for general misconduct investigations was **92%**, indicating that most investigations in this category were completed within the reporting period.

Nature of Misconduct	Total Received	Total Finalised
 General misconduct	35	23
 Corruption-related	2	2
 Total	37	25

Table 5: Resolution rate for misconduct hearings

 During the 2025/26 financial year, **62** misconduct matters were reported, of which **47** were finalised. This resulted in a finalisation rate of **76,%** of cases. **4** Corruption-related cases were dealt with.

			
MATTERS REPORTED 62	MATTERS FINALISED 47	FINALISATION RATE 76%	CORRUPTION - RELATED CASES DEALT WITH 4

Table 6: External disputes

Number of disputes addressed	Number	% of total	Total
 Upheld	1	3,33 	1
 Dismissed	29	96,60 	29
 Total	30	100 	100



Information and Systems Management

Information and Systems Management is responsible for fostering collaboration across the JCPS cluster, aligning IT strategies with NPA business objectives, and ensuring system availability and security.

Implementation of Electronic Case Management System

In the period under review, the NPA continued to expand its roll-out of the Electronic Case Management System (ECMS) at lower courts, with a sharp increase in the system utilisation noted across them. While change management initiatives are ongoing, the positive trajectory was supported by the training of more than 1 700 Lower Court prosecutors and cluster champions. Additionally, the provision of the mobile routers to the lower courts as a temporary measure seems to be bearing fruit.

The continued upgrading of ECMS proceeded as planned and the ECMS Case Outcomes phase 1 project was completed; the ECMS High Court project was completed, which ensured that all KPIs from the High Court could also be reported directly from the system; and the Child Justice module has been initiated.

Modernisation and System Development

The responsibility for information security remained critical for all employees, and ISM continued to encourage businesses to embrace and implement automated solutions

to enhance productivity, compliance, and user adoption. Various initiatives were implemented, including the Close Protection Series, State Attorney's portal for LAD, SMS Access Control System, and the SIU-SCCU proof of concept portal. The MREP (Mutual Legal Assistance and Extraditions repository) was successfully migrated to the cloud.

ICT Infrastructure

With 95% of SLA metrics and targets met for Wide Area Network services and 61 of 65 Thuthuzela Care Centre (TCC) sites completed successfully, the connectivity and infrastructure initiatives achieved solid results, with only four sites still in progress. The Server Refresh project was completed, and the successful phase 1 laptop deployment of 1,870 laptops across NPA and DOJ&CD was one of the major technology rollouts that was deployed effectively. The organisation's overall cybersecurity posture was bolstered by the successful completion of the Firewall Refresh, Security Information and Event Management (SIEM), and Data Loss Prevention (DLP) projects, which were also critical security enhancements.

Library Services and Document Centre

Legal information sources in clusters/lower courts and regional libraries were updated through routine maintenance. Organisational compliance, information access, and NPA governance and accountability were all supported by the Document Centre.





Communications

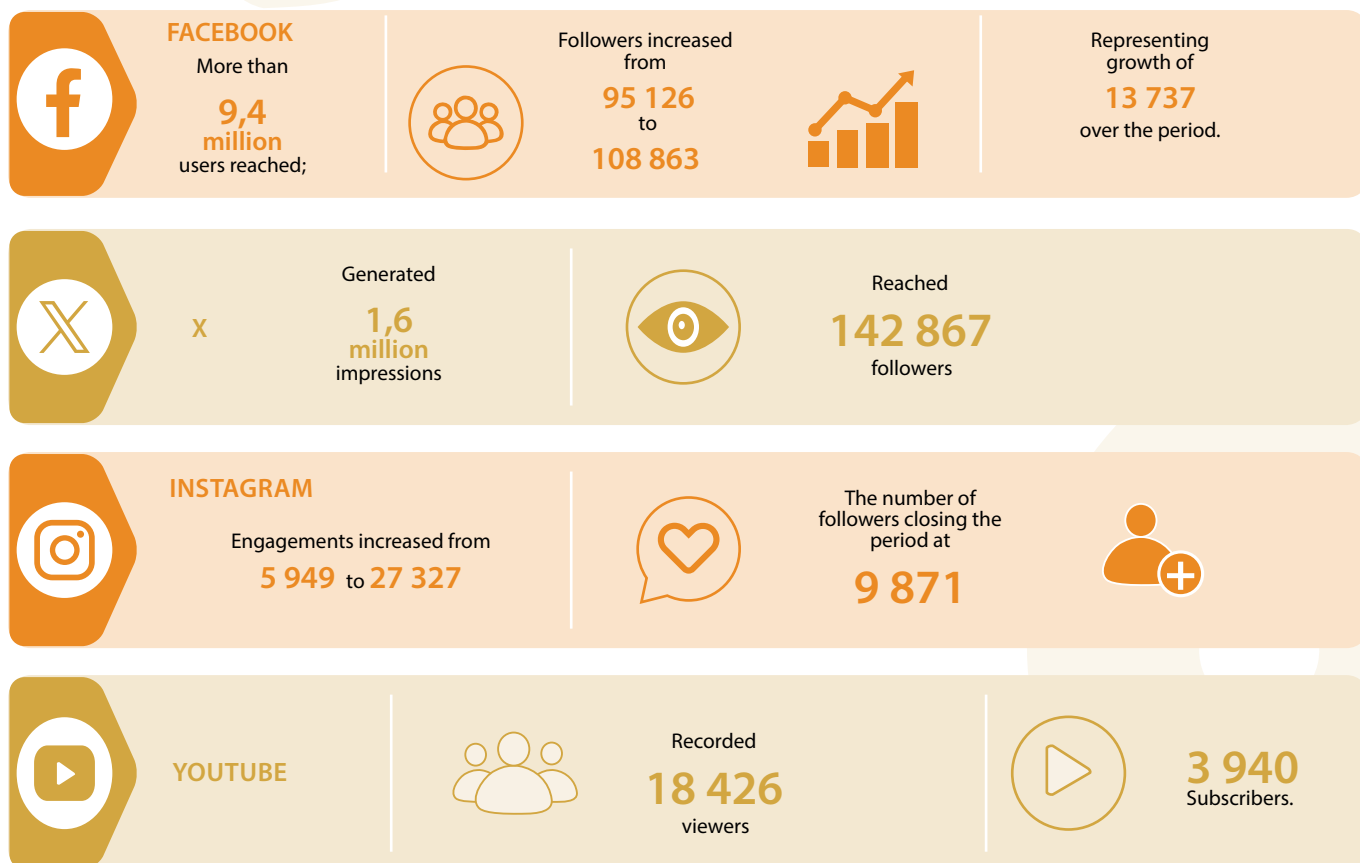
Reputation management is an indispensable component of the communication strategy, particularly in the current challenging environment, where the NPA must establish society's trust in the rule of law and its capacity to administer justice. The primary method of disseminating communication messages remains the utilisation of conventional media platforms.

Strengthening Media Relations

High-level media briefings and live streaming of important events were held by the former National Directors of Public Prosecutions, Adv. Shamila Batohi and subsequently Adv. Andy Mothibi, towards the end of the period.

The NPA's digital footprint was expanded through targeted engagement strategies, driving growth across all its social media platforms.

Figure 3: Social Media platforms



NPA produced four episodes of the podcast "Graft Under Watch," as part of an NPA project in partnership with the German Government, implemented through the Hans Seidel Foundation (HSF). The communication stream of the project was designed to create awareness of and increase public engagement on the NPA's work and achievements in addressing serious corruption and organised crime.

Expanding Community Reach

To enhance public awareness, the NPA executed an extensive programme of outreach and community engagement activities during 2025/26, exceeding its initial targets.

Table 7: Public Awareness Sessions



OUTREACH SESSIONS:

More than **300** sessions were conducted during the reporting period.



PRIORITY TOPICS COVERED:

Access to justice, gender-based violence, court preparation, maintenance, child protection, child justice, bullying, trafficking in persons, stock theft, and the NPA Aspirant Prosecutor Programme.



TARGET AUDIENCE:

At-risk communities across the country.



Maximising Media Influence

By optimising digital branding and media outreach, such as using QR coding for access to brochures and information material, the NPA has significantly increased the visibility of services provided by Thuthuzela Care Centres. National and regional communications support remains a cornerstone in the continued expansion of the TCC network.

The NPA actively supported and participated in government-led GBVF forums, projects and the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence campaign. In particular, the NPA supported the National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure (NATJOINTS) as a multi-agency platform coordinating government efforts to combat GBVF and fast-track implementation of the National Strategic Plan on GBVF, ensuring integrated and effective interventions across law enforcement, social services and the justice system.

Strengthening Community Prosecution

The strategic focus on Community Prosecution is ongoing and supported with various communication outreach activities and interventions, including Community Prosecutors and Prosecutors engaging communities in the regions.

Community prosecution empowers prosecutors to proactively combat crime and related irritants at the community level. The result is enhanced prosecutorial accountability and credibility, strengthened public confidence in the justice system, and prosecutors as active collaborators in developing local solutions to public security and justice problems.

Strengthening Internal Communications

Internal Communications has played an important role in establishing and maintaining positive relations between the organisation and its internal stakeholders. Central to this effort are a range of digital communication platforms, including the NDPP Brief, which has been embraced by the current NDPP and refreshed to strengthen leadership visibility, institutional cohesion, and employee engagement across the organisation. During periods of change and uncertainty, the NDPP Brief serves as an important platform for reassurance, clarity and organisational stability.

Strengthening Internal Communications (continued)

As custodian of the organisation's corporate image and identity for internal stakeholders, Internal Communications is guided by a practical strategy and implementation plan supported by relevant processes and structures. The Enhanced Proactive Communication Strategy has contributed to more focused, timely and clear messaging through communication tools such as infographics, and Internal Communications continued to build on this trajectory. Two-way communication and engagement between staff and senior leadership are continuously encouraged, helping to foster pride, loyalty and commitment to the NPA brand.

To support this objective, the unit leveraged and institutionalised Viva Engage as a strategic platform to strengthen two-way communication and promote a culture of openness, collaboration, dialogue and real-time interaction. Although the uptake of Viva Engage is

still at an early stage, it has been assessed to have greater potential in creating an environment of learning and sharing among employees, both formally and informally. During the latter part of the financial year, the unit started exploring a comprehensive strategy to enhance the use of Viva Engage into the new financial year. A range of other channels continued to support the effective flow of information across

the organisation, including the Internal Bulletin, Exco/ManCo Updates, Ithala, the website, YouTube, the NDPP Brief, the Khasho Newsletter, regional bulletins, regional newsletters, MS Teams and noticeboards. Internal Communications is therefore positioned as a strategic organisational function that supports a culture of information sharing.



Security Management Services

The Chief Directorate Security Management Services is responsible for ensuring that applicable security standards and programmes, which promote a safe and conducive working environment for prosecutors, NPA staff and visitors are implemented at various service points.

Employee Protection

In the period under review, there were no security incidents against threatened NPA officials who are under protection and no official was harmed whilst under protection. The unit facilitated protection for 35 officials who had threats against them.

Furthermore, SMS successfully conducted 25 security coordination operations for identified and classified high-risk cases. These operations are conducted in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies.

Occupational Health and Safety

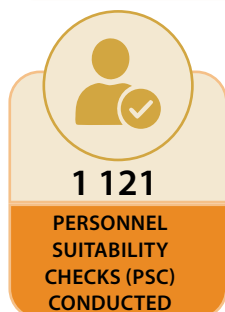
In the period under review, SMS commissioned five OHS audits and 288 inspections at identified NPA facilities to identify weaknesses and non-compliance. The regional security representatives were instrumental to the OHS inspection to ensure compliance, while training was conducted for appointed Health and Safety representatives.

Table 8: Personnel Suitability Checks and Vetting



In adherence to the Minimum Information Security Standards and other regulatory prescripts, the business unit successfully conducted personnel suitability checks (PSC), screened nine companies for SCM processes, issued 13 vetting and 196 clearance certificates.

No security vetting denials were reported in the 2025/2026 reporting period.





Financial Management

Financial Management continued to ensure that the NPA optimises its budget allocation to deliver on its mandate while remaining compliant with relevant government frameworks and guidelines. The overall allocation for the NPA was an adjusted budget of R6,032 billion before virement and R6,030 billion after virement in the financial year. This budget allocation included a ring-fenced budget allocation of R262 million for the Investigating Directorate Against Corruption.

The NPA spent 100% of its allocated budget, before virement, while an underspending of R74m in respect of Compensation of Employees was recorded. In comparison, the expenditure by NPA increased by 8% from R5,583 billion in the 2024/25 financial year to R6,030 billion during the year under review.

From the overall expenditure, 75,9% of the spending is dedicated to prosecution services while Support Services accounted for a total of 12,07%, to provide for services such as security, fleet and facilities and IT services.

Table 9: Expenditure report

Sub-programme name	2025/26			2024/25		
	Final appropriation	Actual Expenditure	(Over)/under expenditure	Final appropriation	Actual Expenditure	(Over)/under expenditure
	(After virement)			(After Virement)		
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
National Prosecutions Service	4 577 137	4 577 137	0	4 283 990	4 283 990	0
Investigating Directorate Against Corruption	194 072	194 072	0	153 081	148 355	4 726
Asset Forfeiture Unit	228 123	228 123	0	214 945	214 945	0
Office for Witness Protection	303 133	303 133	0	207 463	207 463	0
Support Services	728 199	728 063	136	727 857	727 857	0
Total	6 030 664	6 030 528	136	5 587 336	5 582 610	4 726



Table 10: Actual Expenditure per economic classification

Sub-Programme	National Prosecutions Service	Investigating Directorate Against Corruption	Asset Forfeiture Unit	Office for Witness Protection	Support Services
	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000	R'000
Compensation of employees	4 313 931	114 767	206 821	116 146	271 569
Goods & services	230 248	73 584	21 091	180 799	433 773
Payment of capital assets	1 665	5 272	9	5 515	6 362
Other	31 293	449	202	673	16 359
Total	4 577 137	194 072	228 123	303 133	728 063

Partnerships and In-kind Donations

The NPA received in-kind donations and sponsorships amounting to R22,8 million during the financial year. The details of these donations are disclosed as part of the Annual Financial Statements.

The NPA has, in the 2025/2026 financial year received support in kind from Business Against Crime South Africa (BACSA), to the total of R2 062 993. The support in kind assisted NPA with Data Analysis Services, Research and Consulting Services, Legal Research and Forensic Consulting mainly in the Eskom related cases.



The Office for Ethics and Accountability

The Office for Ethics and Accountability (OEA) completed its first year as a newly created unit in the Office of the NDPP. The year has seen much progress made in putting processes and procedures in place to ensure principles of good governance are complied with. The capacitation of the unit was the main priority, and the result has been that the unit has grown from 11 people to 23. Unfortunately, the delay in finalising the Job

Evaluation process for the investigators has caused delays in finalising cases as the demand for investigations has grown as the awareness of the work of the OEA has increased. While the performance of the unit in all areas has been good, the unit remains unable to finalise investigations within 90 days of receipt.

Performance

The performance of the Unit was monitored against the approved Office for Ethics and Accountability (OEA) annual performance plan and managed through the submission of monthly and quarterly reports to the NDPP and to the Strategy Management Unit, respectively.

The cumulated annual performance of the directorate is represented by a total of 31 ethics-related investigations/cases carried forward from 2024/25, 397 received, of which a total of 289 cases were finalised, and 139 were carried over

to the 2025/26 year. This results in an overall performance achievement of 68%. Due to staff shortages and several complex matters, the directorate could have achieved a higher performance rate; however, the directorate is on a recruitment drive to address the issues of staff shortages.

A total of 239 SMS Members were required to submit their Financial Disclosures for 2024/2025 on or before the 30th of April 2025; and 238 (99,58%) financial declarations for SMS members were submitted via the e-disclosure system.

Only one (0,42%) member could not submit, and formal disciplinary action was instituted.

A total of 2 010 employees were appointed at salary levels 11 and 12 (including OSD), finance and procurement were required to submit their Financial Disclosures for 2024/25 on or before 31 July 2025. Out of the above-mentioned total of 2 010 and 48 employees (2,39%) failed to submit their disclosures as required by Regulation 18 of the Public Service Regulations, 2016. To mitigate non-submissions, the OEA has submitted a list of non-compliance employees to the Labour Relations Unit to implement disciplinary actions.

A total of 78 applications for remunerative work were received, analysed and processed within 30 days for approval. A total of 71 applications were approved, five were declined, one returned to the applicant for further clarification, and one was withdrawn. One of the main challenges the directorate is faced with is incorrect completion of the Other Remunerative Work application forms.

A lifestyle review was successfully conducted on 238 SMS members, however, due to the downtime of the DPSA e-disclosure system, resulted in the Directorate not being able to conduct the lifestyle review for non-SMS. The DPSA e-disclosure system was restored in March 2026, and the Directorate finalised the lifestyle reviews in the new financial year.

As an endeavour to promote an ethical culture through the creation of awareness on relevant policies (frameworks) and provide support to address ethical and corruption challenges. A total of four webinars were successfully conducted to create awareness on ethics and integrity as well as the work of the OEA, its role, duties, functions and responsibilities. In addition, 10 ethics awareness workshops were conducted during the period under review. The Annual International Anti-Corruption Day was observed and commemorated. A total of eight ethics articles were planned for publishing on the NPA intranet, and all eight articles were successfully drafted and disseminated.

During the reporting period, the Directorate planned and successfully developed the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) Service Delivery Charter, which serves as a formal statement of commitment between the NPA and its clients, outlining service standards, expected levels of performance, and accountability in the delivery of prosecutorial services.

During the reporting period, the Directorate planned and successfully developed and institutionalised service standards for the Office for Ethics and Accountability (OEA). In addition, the OEA and Organisational Development (OD) undertook a comprehensive review and development of the OEA's business processes and Standard Operating Procedures, thereby strengthening operational efficiency and governance. Furthermore, the OEA and OD successfully developed Business Processes and Standard Operating Procedures and Service Standards for the Asset Forfeiture Unit (AFU) – Enforcement, contributing to improved service delivery and accountability within the unit.

The Directorate planned and successfully developed and piloted the Service Inspection Framework, enabling the Office for Ethics and Accountability (OEA) to conduct service inspections in a structured, consistent, and regulatory compliant manner, as prescribed by the OEA Regulations. A pilot study of the draft Service Inspection Framework was conducted at the Pretoria, Kimberley, and Bloemfontein Magistrates' Courts.

Capacity

The unit had a vacancy rate of 23 (64%) officials at the start of the financial year, with an occupancy of 13 (36%) officials. A total of nine officials joined the OEA during the month of February 2026. The administrative occupation has seen a growth of 43% (nine) in total.

A total of 17 officials attended the National School of Government's compulsory Ethics in the Public Service course, and three officials attend the Ethics Officer Certification Programme (EOCP) with The Ethics Institute.





National Prosecutions Service

The National Prosecutions Service (NPS) is responsible for the institution of criminal proceedings on behalf of the state and to carry out any necessary functions incidental thereof. This includes the resolution of criminal matters through Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (ADRM),

the determination of admission of guilt penalties for lessor offences and consideration of dockets brought by the police where persons have not been charged (decision dockets), including decisions not to prosecute (*nolle prosequi*) and the performance of other matters incidental to prosecutions.

Performance



During the 2025/2026 reporting period, a total of **1 046 812 criminal matters** were finalised, representing the full universe of cases concluded within the NPA contributing to the criminal justice system.



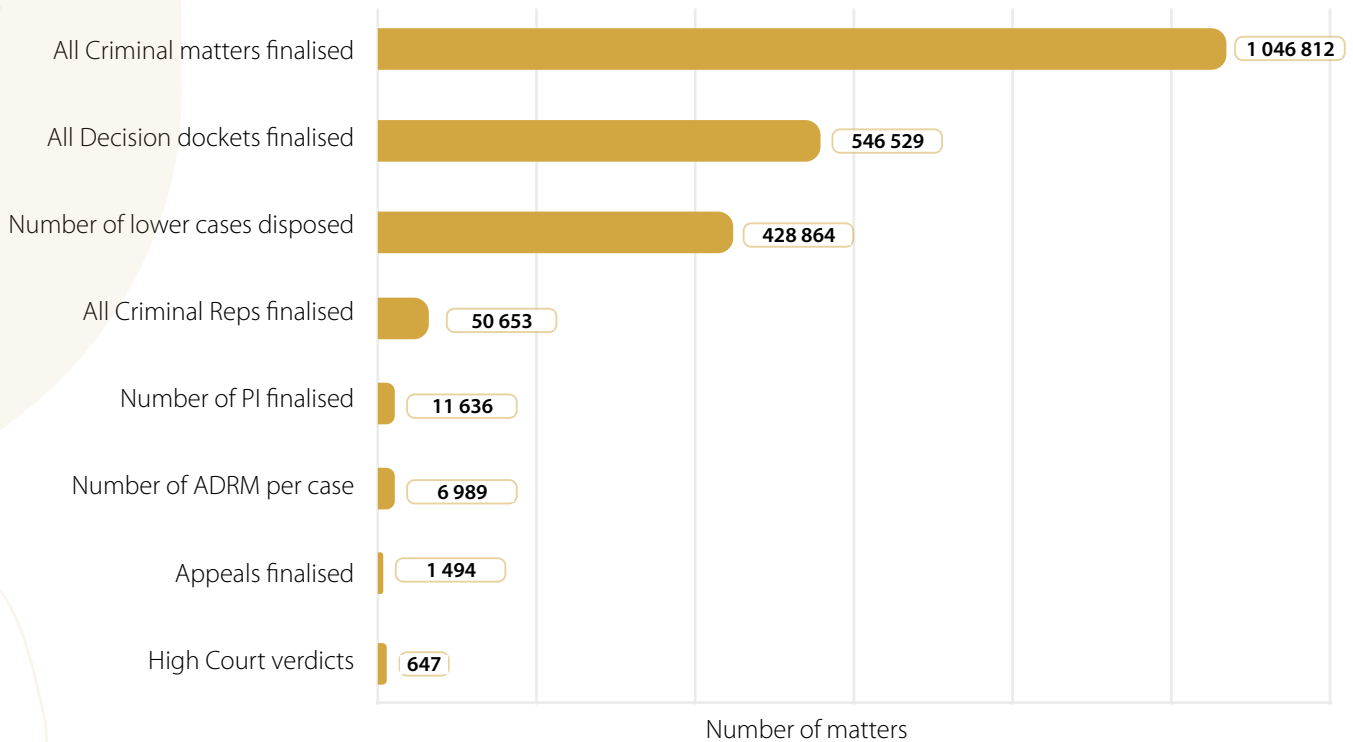
The High Court (HC) verdicts amounted to 647 cases, representing only 0,06% of total criminal matters finalised, reflecting the relatively smaller volume of High Court matters.

A total of 50 653 court reports were finalised, equivalent to 4,84% of all criminal matters. Furthermore, 11 636 Preliminary Inquiry in the context of South African child justice under the Child Justice Act 75 of 2008 were finalised, accounting for 1,11% of cases. Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanism (ADRM) interventions resulted in 6 989 matters finalised, representing 0,67% of the total caseload.

The appellate process accounted for 1 494 appeals finalised (0,14%).



Figure 4: All criminal matters finalised



Key Observations

- More than half (52,21%) of all criminal matters resulted in the finalisation of court decision dockets.
- Lower Courts remained the principal forum for criminal case adjudication, with 428 864 cases disposed.
- High Court matters constituted a very small proportion of the overall criminal caseload (0,06%), as expected, given their complexity and jurisdiction.
- Post-trial and ancillary processes, including court reports, prosecutorial instructions, ADRM interventions and appeals, collectively accounted for a relatively small share of finalised matters.

The number of cases has increased steadily from year to year and reached the highest level which shows that NPA dealt with an increased case workload.

Figure 5: Number of new cases by financial year

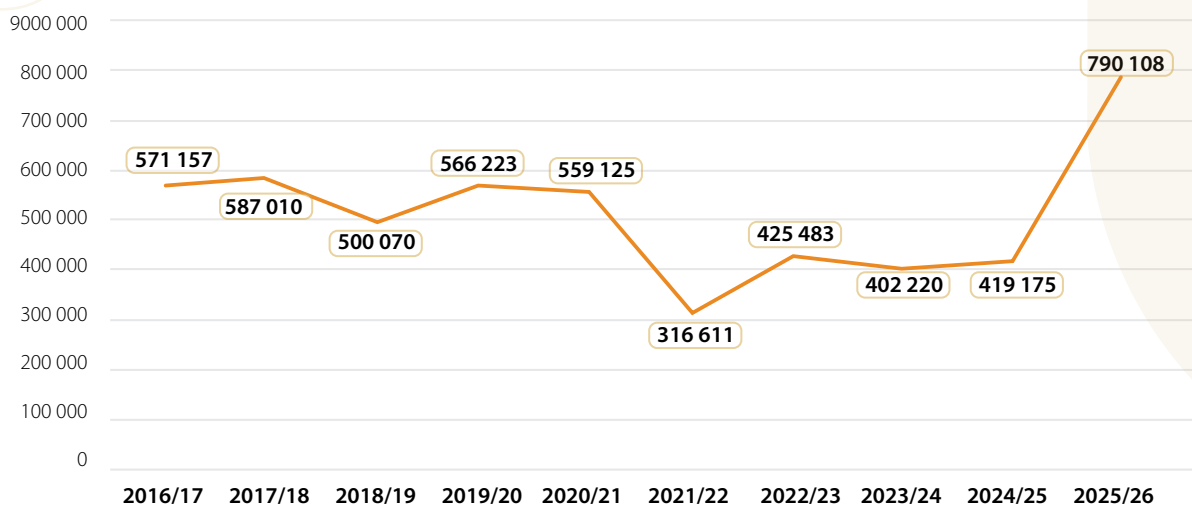


Figure 6: The top 10 charges of new cases received by District Court

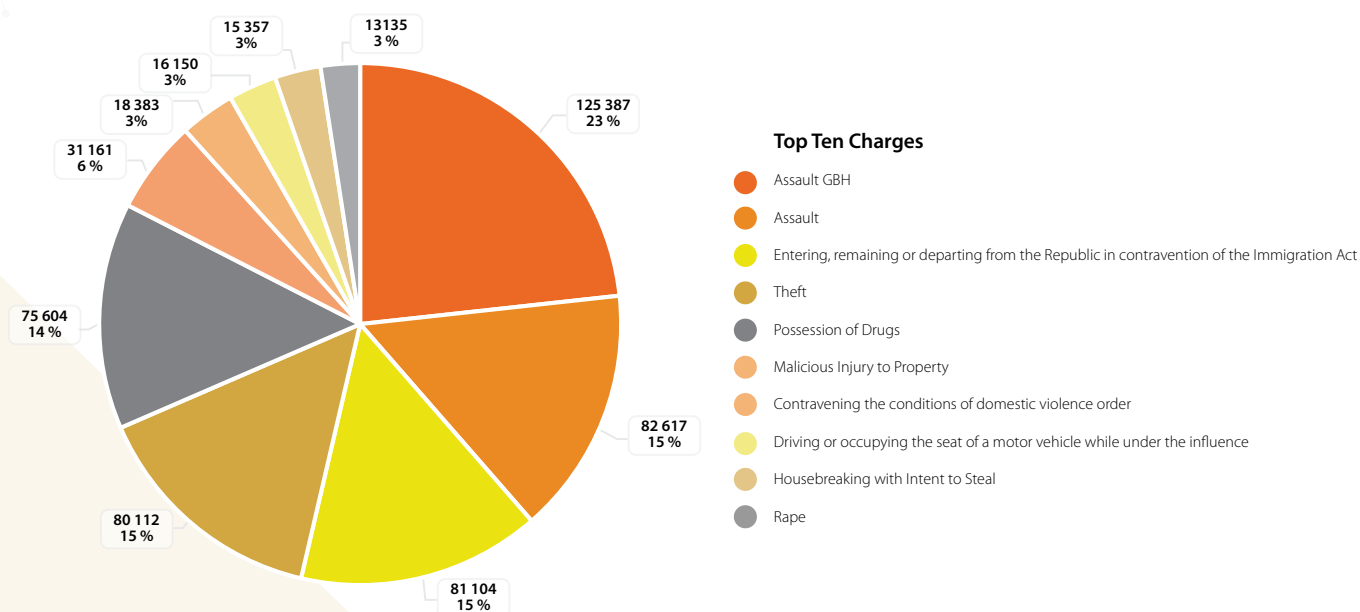
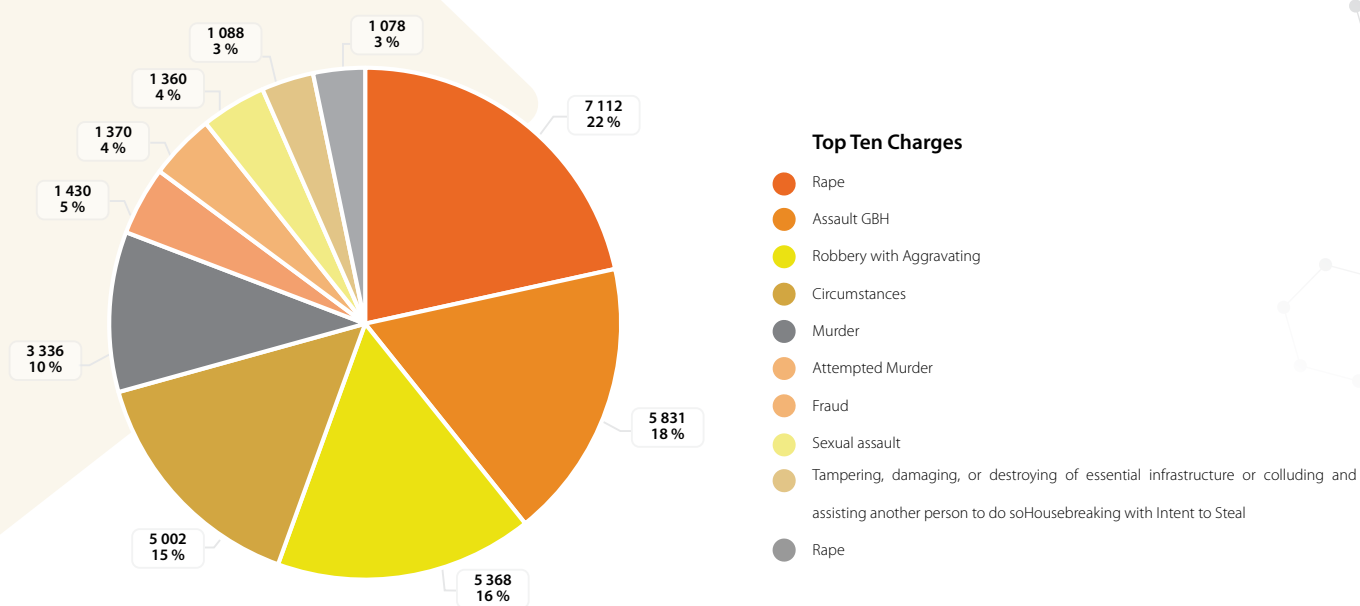
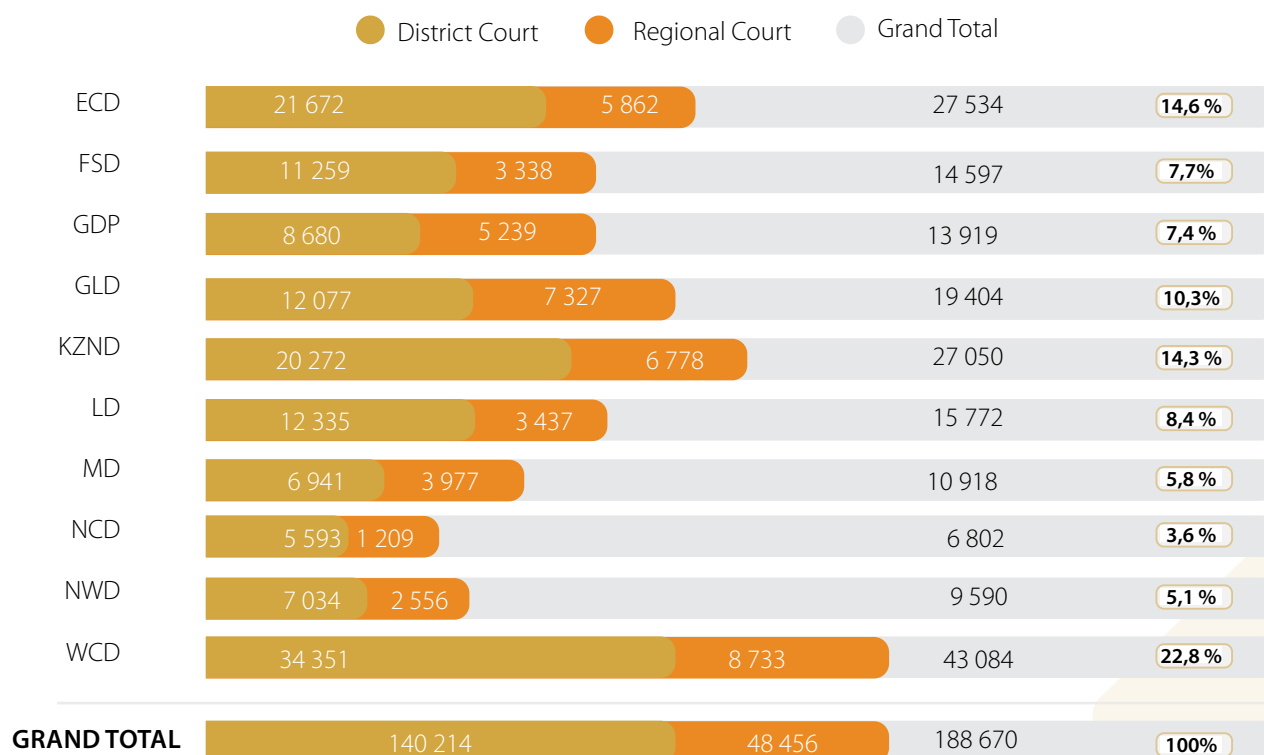


Figure 7: The top 10 charges of new cases received by Regional Courts



The table below provides an overview of outstanding cases in the District and Regional courts, including a further breakdown of District Court matters by Division:

Table 11: Cases Outstanding By Court Type



Backlog Cases

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) continued to prioritise the effective management of court rolls and the reduction of outstanding cases during the reporting period. Analysis of open criminal cases indicates that more than half of all outstanding matters (51,01%) have been on the court roll for less than three months, while a further 25,28% have been outstanding for between three and six months. This means that over 76% of all open cases are less than six months old, reflecting ongoing efforts to ensure the timely progression and finalisation of matters.

While 25,22% of open Regional Court cases were less than six months old, a significant proportion of matters were older than one year. Cases outstanding for between 12 and 24 months accounted for 26,08% of the open caseload, while

a further 24,53% had been outstanding for more than two years. Collectively, more than half (50,61%) of open Regional Court matters were older than 12 months, reflecting the complexity and resource-intensive nature of many Regional Court prosecutions.

While attention remains focused on reducing aged cases, only 1,84% of all open matters have been outstanding for more than two years in the district courts. The NPA continues to work closely with justice sector partners through Local Case Flow Management structures to identify and address causes of delays, prioritise aged matters, and implement targeted interventions aimed at reducing backlogs. Particular emphasis is placed on complex and high-impact cases, where factors such as case complexity, expert evidence requirements, multiple accused persons, and court availability may contribute to longer processing times.



Table 12: The number of backlog cases and percentage of backlog cases

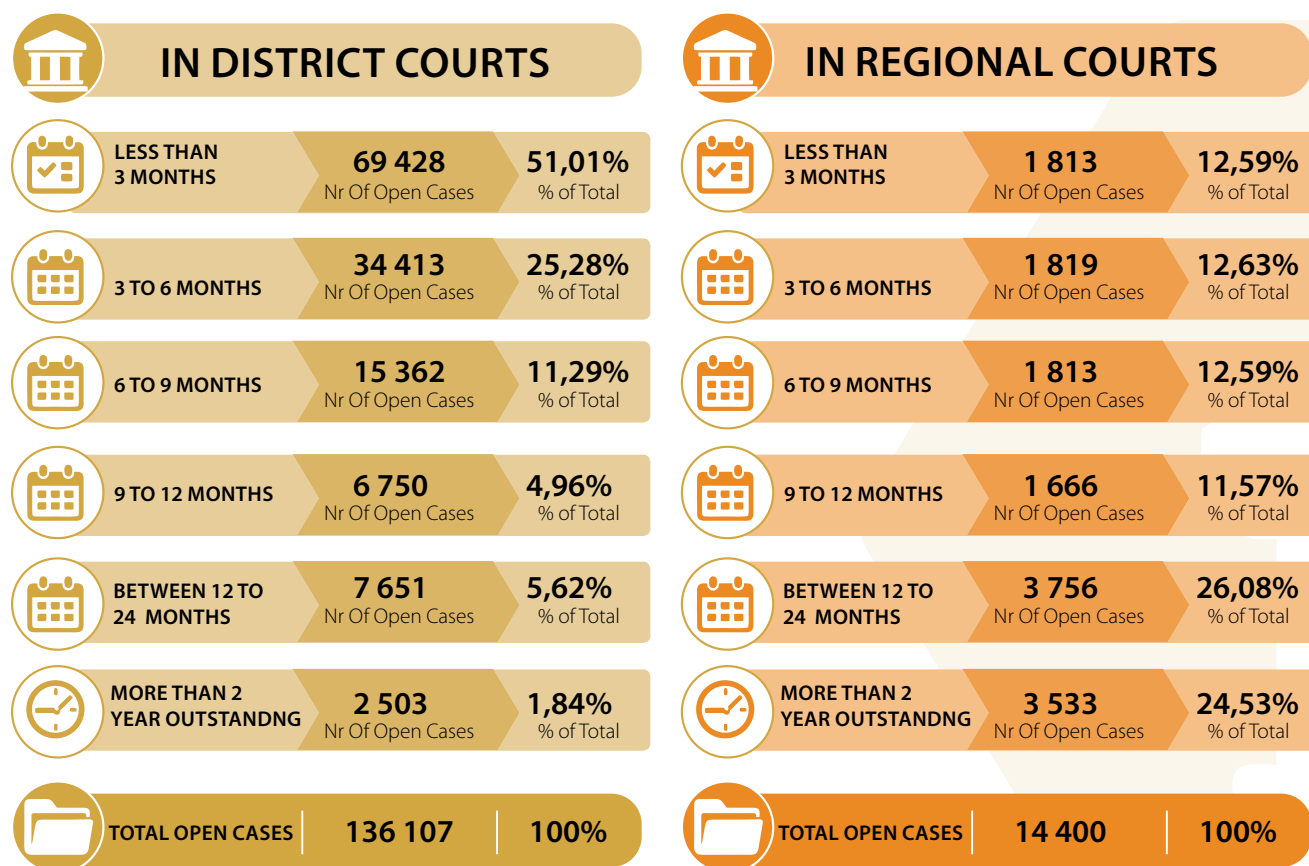


Table 13: Conviction rates and clearance dockets, 2025/26

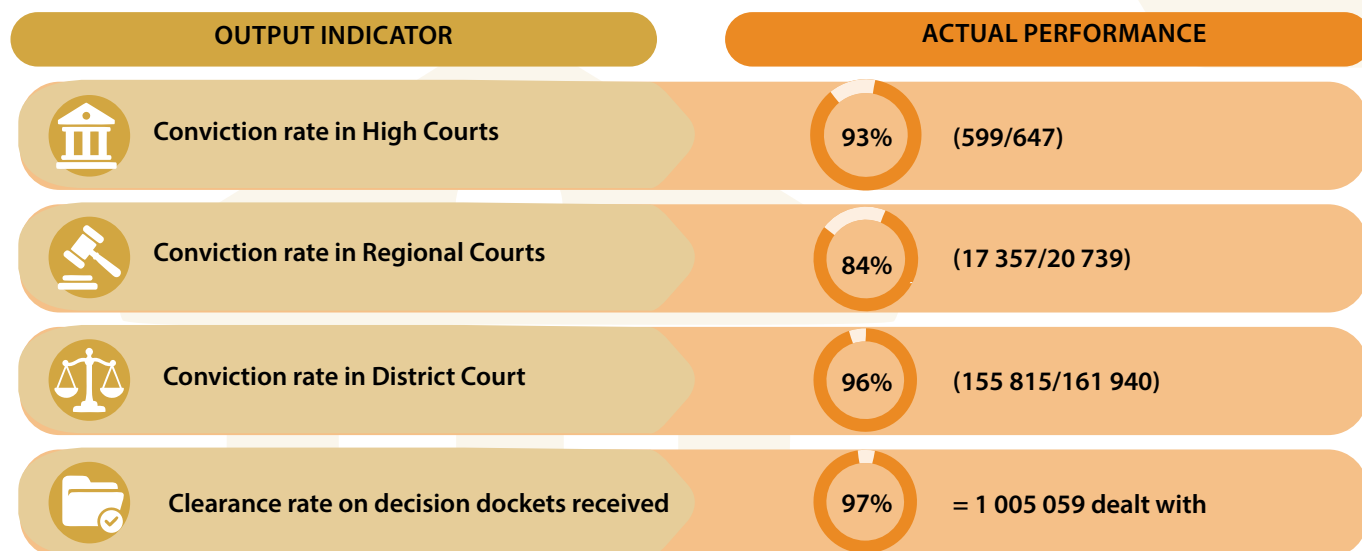


Table 14: Finalised Cases by District Court

Division	SEC57A	DC Convictions	Total Convictions	Acquittals	Conviction Rate
ECD	1 928	10 804	12 732	979	92,86%
FSD	6 408	12 456	18 864	785	96,00%
GDP	195	14 805	15 000	403	97,38%
GLD	649	22 283	22 932	570	97,57%
KZND	2 793	20 907	23 700	735	96,99%
LD	2 011	13 433	15 444	711	95,60%
MD	777	7 559	8 336	274	96,82%
NCD	833	2 757	3 590	204	94,62%
NWD	1 534	5 706	7 240	276	96,33%
WCD	4	27 973	27 977	1 188	95,93%
Grand Total	17 132	138 683	155 815	6 125	96,22%

Table 15: Finalised by Regional Court

Division	RC Convic-tions	RC SEC57A	Acquittals	Conviction Rate
ECD	2 891	0	558	83,82%
FSD	1 492	4	330	81,93%
GDP	1 406	2	241	85,39%
GLD	2 267	5	352	86,59%
KZND	2 902	6	657	81,57%
LD	789	0	170	82,27%
MD	830	0	205	80,19%
NCD	675	0	139	82,92%
NWD	800	0	138	85,29%
WCD	3 282	6	592	84,74%
Grand Total	17 334	23	3 382	83,69%

Table 16: Finalised by High Courts

Division	HC Convictions	Acquittal	Total Convictions	Conviction Rate
ECD	119	11	130	92%
FSD	71	7	78	91%
GDP	49	4	53	92%
GLD	60	5	65	92%
KZND	79	7	86	92%
LD	85	6	91	93%
MD	56	5	61	92%
NCD	29	0	29	100%
NWD	7	2	9	78%
WCD	44	1	45	98%
Grand Total	599	48	647	93%

Figure 8: Murder sentences

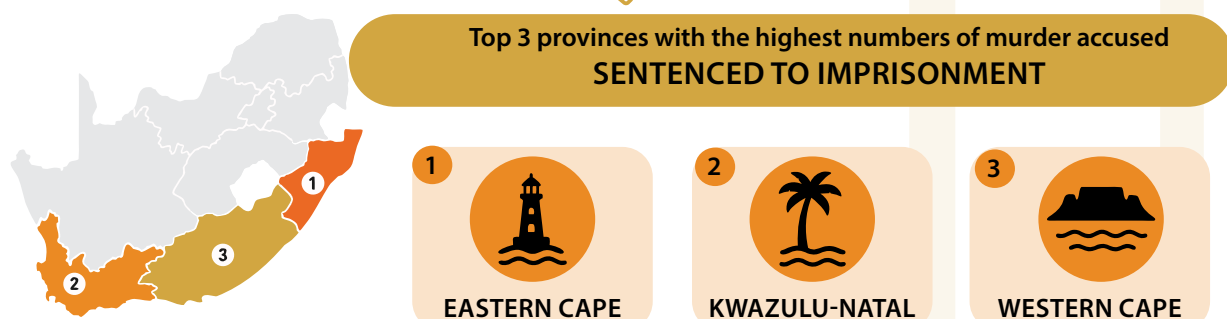
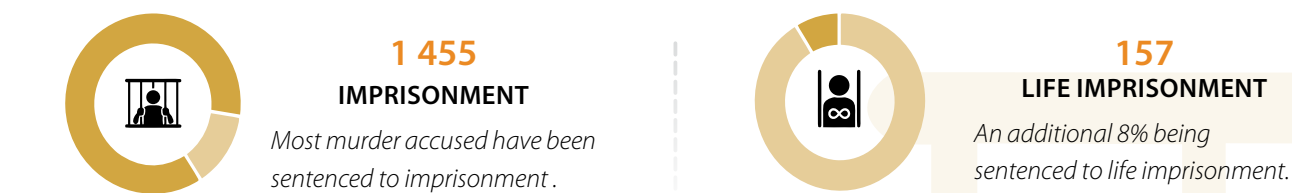


Figure 9: Top 5 murders by sentence

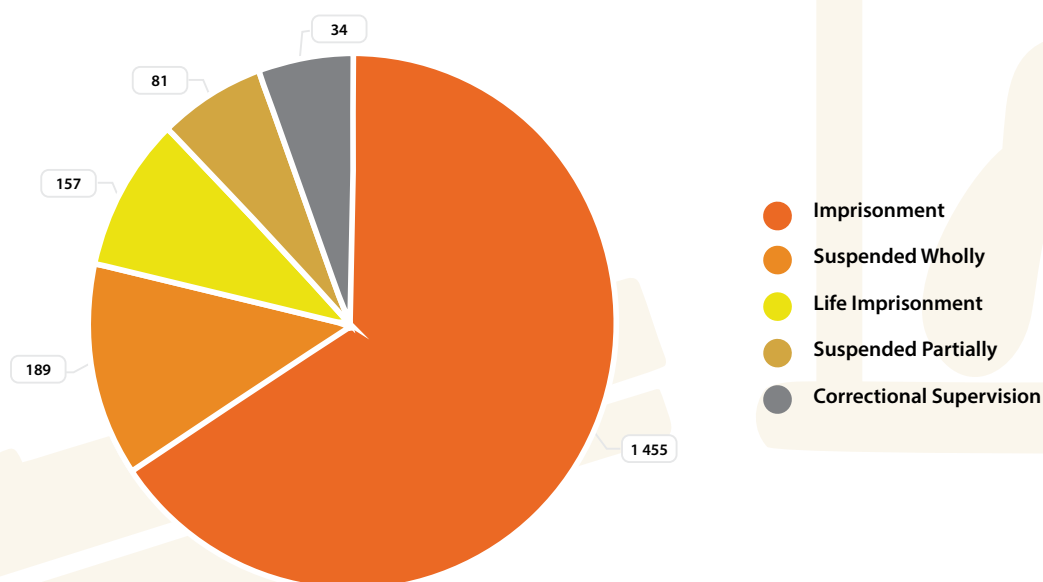
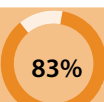


Table 17: Conviction rate in murder prosecutions and robbery with aggravating circumstances

OUTPUT INDICATOR	ACTUAL PERFORMANCE
 Conviction rate in Murder Prosecutions	 71% (2 431/3 436)
 Conviction rate in robbery with aggravation circumstances	 83% (1 699/2 047)



Noteworthy Cases

25 Years Imprisonment for Sindiso Magaqa Murder Accused

(KZN Division)

Sibusiso Ncengwa (37) was sentenced to an effective 25 years' imprisonment in the Pietermaritzburg High Court, following his conviction for the murder of former ANC Youth League Secretary General, Sindiso Magaqa, in July 2017, in uMzimkhulu, as well as other charges.

On 6 June 2025, Ncengwa made admissions in terms of section 220 of the Criminal Procedure Act, admitting that he shot Magaqa on 13 July 2017. He also admitted to the attempted murder of Jabulile Msiya, Nonsikelelo Mafa and Nceba Mazongolo, as well as malicious injury to property in respect of motor vehicles belonging to Magaqa and others. Ncengwa further admitted to two firearm-related charges and unlawful possession of ammunition. He outlined the events leading to Magaqa's death and his interactions with his co-accused, namely Sbonelo Myeza, Mlungisi Ncalane and Mbulelo Mpofana. Ncengwa also disclosed the names of the alleged instigators or masterminds behind Magaqa's killing. His admissions amounted to a plea of guilty, and he was convicted accordingly.

Ncengwa was sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment for conspiracy to commit murder, 25 years' imprisonment for murder, five years' imprisonment for each of the three counts of attempted murder, three years' imprisonment for each of the three counts of malicious injury to property, five years' imprisonment for unlawful possession of a prohibited firearm, five years' imprisonment for unlawful possession of a firearm, and one year's imprisonment for unlawful possession of ammunition. The court ordered the sentences to run concurrently.

Life Imprisonment for Killing Ward Councillor

(KZN Division)

The Ntuzuma Regional Court sentenced Phathesakhe Thuthukani Ngiba (25) to life and 12 years' imprisonment for the murder (and firearm-related charges) of a ward councillor in September 2022 in the Kwa Maphumulo area.

The deceased, Zakhele Khuzwayo (44), was a ward councillor at the iLembe Municipality. On the evening of 15 September 2022, Khuzwayo was driving his motor vehicle along a gravel road in the area when he stopped to speak to someone known to him. While he and the person were speaking, a motor vehicle approached them, and an unknown man alighted from that vehicle and walked to Khuzwayo's motor vehicle. Several shots were fired at Khuzwayo's motor vehicle, and the shooter fled the scene. Ngiba was arrested after police traced his fingerprints from the crime scene.

Ngiba was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder, 10 years' imprisonment for unlawful possession of a firearm and two years' imprisonment for unlawful possession of ammunition.

Life Imprisonment for Murder of Wife

(Gauteng Division: Pretoria)

The High Court in Pretoria sentenced the accused, Pieter Johannes Smith, to life imprisonment for the murder of his wife. The accused had reported his wife missing to the police. Soon thereafter, the body of a woman was discovered in a nearby field. The accused was escorted to the scene by the police, where he positively identified the deceased as his wife. The police noticed blood spatter on the rear bumper of the accused's vehicle and suspected that he might have killed her. They proceeded to his house, where they found further blood spatter inside the premises. DNA analysis of the blood found inside the house confirmed that it belonged to the victim. The victim had sustained serious wounds to various areas of her head and face and had suffered internal bleeding, including bleeding of the brain. Based on the circumstantial evidence, the accused was charged with and convicted of murder.

Life Imprisonment for the Murder of Elderly Persons

(Gauteng Division: Pretoria)

The High Court in Pretoria sentenced Ms Zaheera Boomgaard to two life sentences for the premeditated murders of two people, as well as 15 years' imprisonment for robbery with aggravating circumstances. Additional sentences were imposed for theft and fraud. The first victim, Harry Nathvani, was a British national who met Boomgaard online and was murdered shortly after visiting Boomgaard's Johannesburg home in March 2020. The second victim, Lynette Mustapha, was a friend of Boomgaard whose death was linked to fraudulent and forged wills. Both victims were elderly. They were burned and displayed signs of strangulation and blunt-force trauma. The motive for the killings was the theft of money and the unlawful acquisition of assets.

Eight Terms of Life Imprisonment for Glebelands Hostel Murders

(KZN Division)

The Durban High Court sentenced five men to eight life terms and 15 years' imprisonment each, following their conviction on eight counts of murder, and possession of a prohibited firearm and unlawful possession of ammunition.

The murders took place on 03 June 2023 at the Glebelands Men's Hostel in Umlazi, where the accused and the deceased resided. The accused were friends with each other, and all the deceased were known to one another. Mabele was the block chairperson for some of the hostel blocks and oversaw the daily operations and allocation of accommodation for those blocks. At times, his co-accused assisted him in executing his duties. Phakamani Lukhozi oversaw the daily operations and accommodation of other blocks at the hostel. Those blocks were not controlled by Mabele. Mabele was not on good terms with Phakamani because Phakamani refused to relinquish control of his blocks to Mabele. Mabele then decided to kill Phakamani and, together with his co-accused, planned the murder of Phakamani and his friends.

Life Plus 71 Years Imprisonment for Brutal Farm Attack

(Mpumalanga Division)

The Evander Regional Court sentenced Thubelihle Ndwandwe (29), Siyabonga Ndwandwe (29), and Muzikayifane Ndwandwe (43) to life imprisonment plus an additional 71 years each for a violent farm attack that took place in Leslie, Mpumalanga, on 7 September 2022. The trio were found guilty on 17 charges, including: one count of attempted murder; two counts of kidnapping; two counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances; two counts of possession of an unlicensed firearm; six counts of pointing a firearm; one count of housebreaking with intent to commit a crime; one count of theft; one count of robbery; and one count of attempted robbery.

The three men posed as prospective buyers of cattle and were received by the farm owner's wife and an employee. During the visit, they launched a brutal attack, strangling and stabbing the wife multiple times and binding her with cable ties. They also threatened an employee with a firearm. Another worker witnessed the attack and managed to lock the house before fleeing to seek help from nearby farms.

Life Imprisonment and 38 Years Imprisonment for Murder of a Tourist

(Mpumalanga Division)

The Mpumalanga High Court sitting in Breyten sentenced, James Cumalo (32), to life imprisonment plus a further 38 years for the murder of tourist John Wickham. The incident occurred on 26 November 2023 in Dullstroom. The accused hitchhiked from Pretoria to a guesthouse with the intention of committing robbery. Upon arrival, he jumped over the fence, went to one of the rooms, and forcefully kicked the door open. Inside, he found a couple asleep and demanded money and valuables. When the victims resisted, the accused produced a firearm and fatally shot Wickham. He then fled the scene with stolen belongings before hitchhiking back to Pretoria. After the incident, he requested a friend to dispose of the firearm.

Life Imprisonment for Murder of Retiree

(Northern Cape Division)

The three accused Tumelo Mavlenter Sotho (Accused 1), Martatjie Engelbrecht (Accused 2) and Nkosinathi Ntombela (Accused 3) were sentenced on 4 February 2026, for their respective roles in the brutal murder and robbery of a 71-year-old retired businesswoman, Judith Redelinghuys. Accused 1 and 3 were sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder and 15 years for the robbery. Accused 2 was convicted as an accessory after the fact and sentenced to 10 years' direct imprisonment.

The crime was committed at the victim's residence during the COVID-19 hard lockdown period on 30 June 2020. The deceased was found by her daughter and granddaughter at her home in a secured housing complex in Upington in her swimming pool with her hands bound behind her back.

Double Life Imprisonment for Killing School Girls

(KZN Division)

The Ixopo Regional Court sentenced Baphumelele Zulu (24) to two terms of life imprisonment for the murder of two schoolgirls in July 2022 in the Ngwagwane area near Creighton. Zulu was sentenced to a further eight years' imprisonment for escaping from lawful custody.

The deceased, Amanda Zulu and Minenhle Buthelezi, were Grade 12 schoolgirls who were renting a house within a homestead in the Ngwagwane area. On the evening of 30 July 2022, both complainants were attacked at the house. Amanda Zulu was found bleeding outside the house, and taken to the hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries. Buthelezi's body was found further away in a ditch in a field. Both complainants had been brutally assaulted on their heads with an unknown object. Zulu was arrested after a family member handed him over to the police.

Life Imprisonment for Accused Posing as Buyer of a House

(Gauteng Division: Pretoria)

The accused, Raymond Steven Jan-Erik Smith, was convicted of two counts of murder, assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm and attempted robbery with aggravating circumstances and sentenced, among other penalties, to life imprisonment in respect of each count of murder.

He pretended to be interested in buying a house so that he could be given an opportunity to view the property. His real intention was to identify what he could steal. He noticed that the sellers were an elderly couple. On the day of the incident, the sellers' children were in the house. The accused stabbed them to death with a knife and assaulted the elderly couple.

Life Imprisonment for Murder of Farm Worker

(Gauteng Division: Pretoria)

The High Court in Pretoria sentenced Jaco Wessels Kemp and two other men to life imprisonment following the murder of a farm worker in the Brits area. The accused had been socialising at a braai held at a chicken farm in Mamogaleskraal after repairing a water pump. They saw the deceased carrying a bucket of water, approached him and severely assaulted and killed him. There was no direct evidence linking the accused to the murder, except for the evidence of the wife of Accused 2, who could not be compelled to testify against her husband. Accused 1 and 2 were found in possession of the deceased's body and informed the police that the deceased had been murdered by Accused 3.

The prosecutor called the wife of Accused 2 as a witness after she had been informed that she was not compelled to testify against her husband. She testified against Accused 1 and Accused 3. During the trial, all three accused sought to implicate one another. All three were found guilty of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment.

PAROLEE HANDED LIFE SENTENCE FOR MURDER OF GIRLFRIEND

(ECD Division)

The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) welcomes the sentence imposed by the Cala Magistrates' Court, where Mabuti Mabra Mbili (35) was sentenced to life imprisonment for the brutal murder of his 22-year-old girlfriend. In May 2024, the lifeless body of a young woman was discovered by a shepherd in the mountainous area of Tsengiwe Administrative Area. The body was found decapitated, with the head severed from the torso. The deceased was later identified as the accused's girlfriend. During the investigation, a photograph depicting the deceased in the company of two males circulated on social media. This assisted police in narrowing their investigation, which led to the arrest of the accused. Following his arrest, the accused led police officers to a location where the severed head of the deceased was recovered.

In aggravation of sentence, State Prosecutor Odwa Mmeli argued that life imprisonment was the only appropriate sentence, given the gruesome and brutal way the offence was committed. She submitted that the deceased suffered an exceptionally violent death at the hands of the accused. The prosecutor further highlighted the accused's violent disposition, pointing to his previous convictions for murder and robbery. At the time of committing this offence, the accused was out on parole. Mmeli also emphasised that the matter ranks among the most shocking incidents of femicide, reflecting the deepening national crisis of gender-based violence in the country. The court sentenced Mbili to life imprisonment and further declared him unfit to possess a firearm. Members of the Cala community welcomed the court's judgement and attended proceedings in large numbers to hear the outcome of the trial, reflecting the community's demand for justice and accountability.

Essential Infrastructure:

The protection of essential infrastructure remains a priority for the National Prosecuting Authority, given the significant impact that the damage to, theft from, and tampering with critical infrastructure has on economic activity, service delivery and public safety. At the end of the reporting period, a number of cases relating to essential infrastructure offences remained active across all Divisions of the NPA.

The highest number of open cases was recorded in Gauteng Local Division (389 cases), followed by the Western Cape Division (295 cases), Gauteng Division Pretoria (246 cases)

and the Eastern Cape Division (230 cases). These figures reflect the continued prevalence of offences involving essential infrastructure and the considerable enforcement focus placed on combating these crimes. Other Divisions also maintained active caseloads, demonstrating the nationwide nature of the threat posed by infrastructure-related crime.

The NPA continues to work closely with law enforcement agencies, State-Owned Entities and criminal justice stakeholders to ensure the effective investigation and

prosecution of these matters. Particular attention is given to cases involving organised criminal networks, repeat offenders and offences that have a significant impact on the provision of electricity, transport, telecommunications, water, fuel pipelines and other essential services. Through enhanced collaboration, specialised prosecutorial interventions and improved case management practices, the NPA remains committed to reducing the incidence of essential infrastructure crime and ensuring accountability for those responsible.

Figure 10: Essential Infrastructure open cases in courts

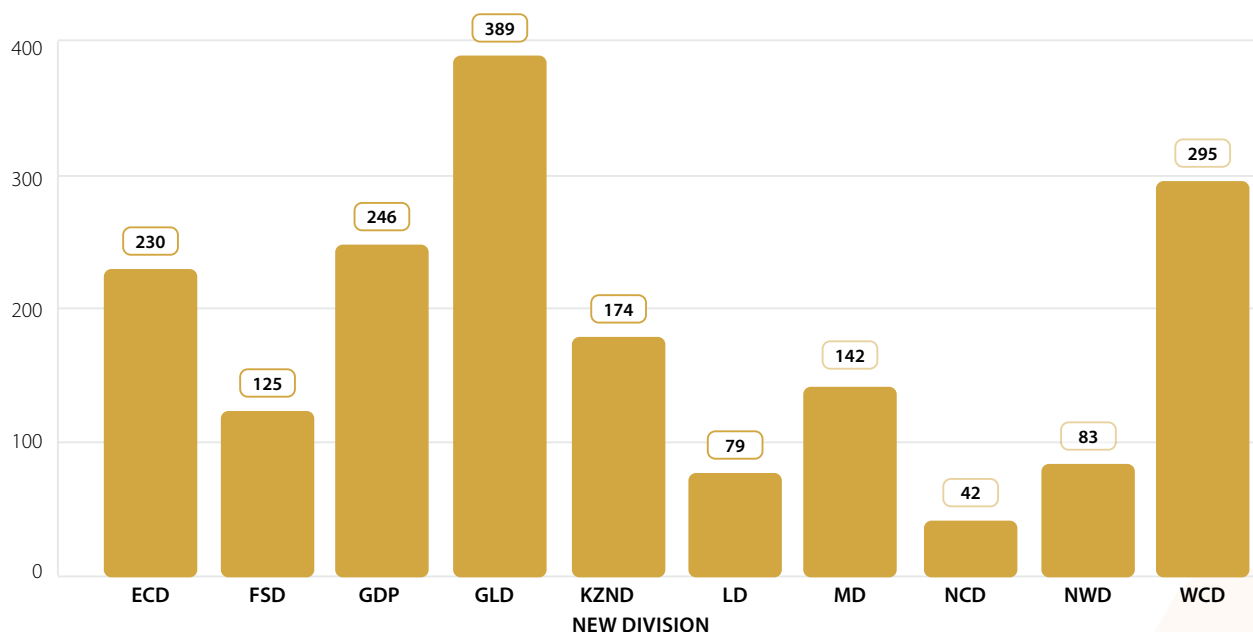
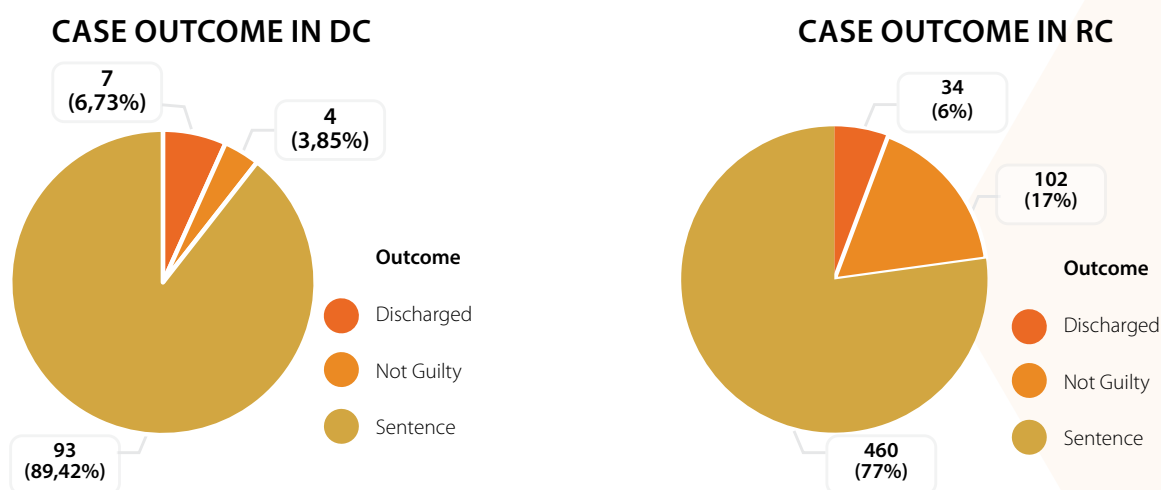


Figure 11: Finalised cases involving essential infrastructure



Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

A significant achievement was the exit from FATF grey list (the list of "Jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring") in October 2025. Key to this was the demonstration that there had been a significant growth in money laundering prosecutions. Following the listing of South Africa on the FATF grey list in February 2023, law enforcement agencies worked tirelessly to address all the deficiencies that were identified by the FATF which were reflected in the 22 Action Items in the Action Plan.

South Africa's progress in addressing the Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) deficiencies and exiting the FATF grey list represented a major policy and institutional achievement for the people of South Africa, particularly following the weakening of key law enforcement and other institutions during the state capture era. The exit from the grey list was particularly important because it improved the country's financial credibility and reduced the "risk premium" attached to doing business with South Africa.

Various structures were established to improve coordination. The NPA established the Law Enforcement Workstream comprising of all relevant NPA Business Units, the SAPS, FIC, SARS, CIPC, Master of the High Court, DoJ&CD, SARB, and the SIU. The workstream met monthly to coordinate its efforts to become more effective in dealing with ML and TF, with the NPA taking the lead in this coordination. This workstream also established the Integrated Law Enforcement Training forum

to pursue joint training for Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), share resources and skills, and to strengthen operational effectiveness and improve inter-agency collaboration.

The NPA's FATF Desk, which was initially established with representatives from the various NPA business units in attendance, was reconfigured and its terms of reference (TOR) amended to include nodal points from the various regions. This strengthened collaboration between the national office and the regions, ensured that information was disseminated and streamlined. The NPA led the FATF Drafting Team to draft the inputs for the FATF reports, comprising of members of the representatives from the National Office.

Some regions have replicated one or more of the above structures in their regions. It goes without saying that all the abovementioned efforts resulted in improved coordination, resulting in the NPA being able to demonstrate an increase in money laundering prosecutions. The AFU was able to provide measurable evidence on the tracing, freezing and seizing of assets, as well as prosecutions of terror financing cases.

The NPA was able to demonstrate that the number of new ML prosecutions (measured at the point of enrolment) has increased significantly since 2020. Over 220 new prosecutions were enrolled in 2023, with 194 enrolled in 2024. This compared with 86 in 2022 and 73 in 2021. In addition, the NPA was able to demonstrate a sustained increase in the convictions since 2022 as is reflected in the Table below

Table 18: ML Convictions by Predicate Offence

Predicate	Jan to Jun 2023	Jul to Dec 2023	Jan to June 2024	Jul to Dec 2024
Corruption and Bribery	1	7	0	6
Tax Related Crimes	0	5	6	0
Fraud	19	32	20	30
Drug Trafficking	0	0	1	0
Cybercrime	2	0	0	2
Smuggling and Trafficking of Illicit Goods and Contraband	1	1	6	5
Illicit Wildlife Trade and Environmental Crimes	0	4	0	0
Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking	0	0	0	0
Illegal Mining and Smuggling of Precious Metals and Stones	0	0	0	0
Other*	24	14	8	21
TOTALS	47	63	41	64

In addition to the statistics collated by the Operations Management Component (NPS Ops) was the provision of 'IJS' statistics sourced from the integrated SAPS (ICMS/CAS), NPA (ECMS) and DoJ&CD (ICMS) systems. These statistics demonstrated a substantial growth in the prosecution of money laundering (ML cases). The complex charges, which were the focus of the 'grey listing' action plan were separated from those less complex, to be able to demonstrate the growth in this area identified as a weakness. The table below indicates the statistics South Africa was able to present:

Figure 12: Number of ML prosecutions enrolled per month

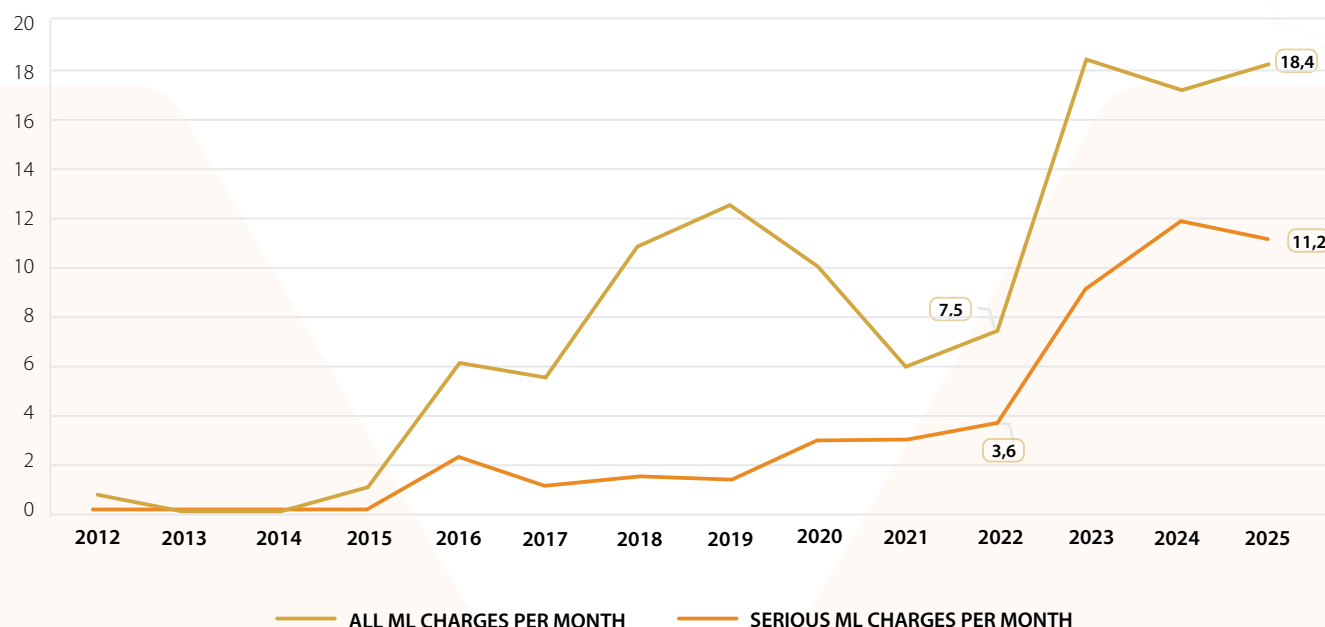
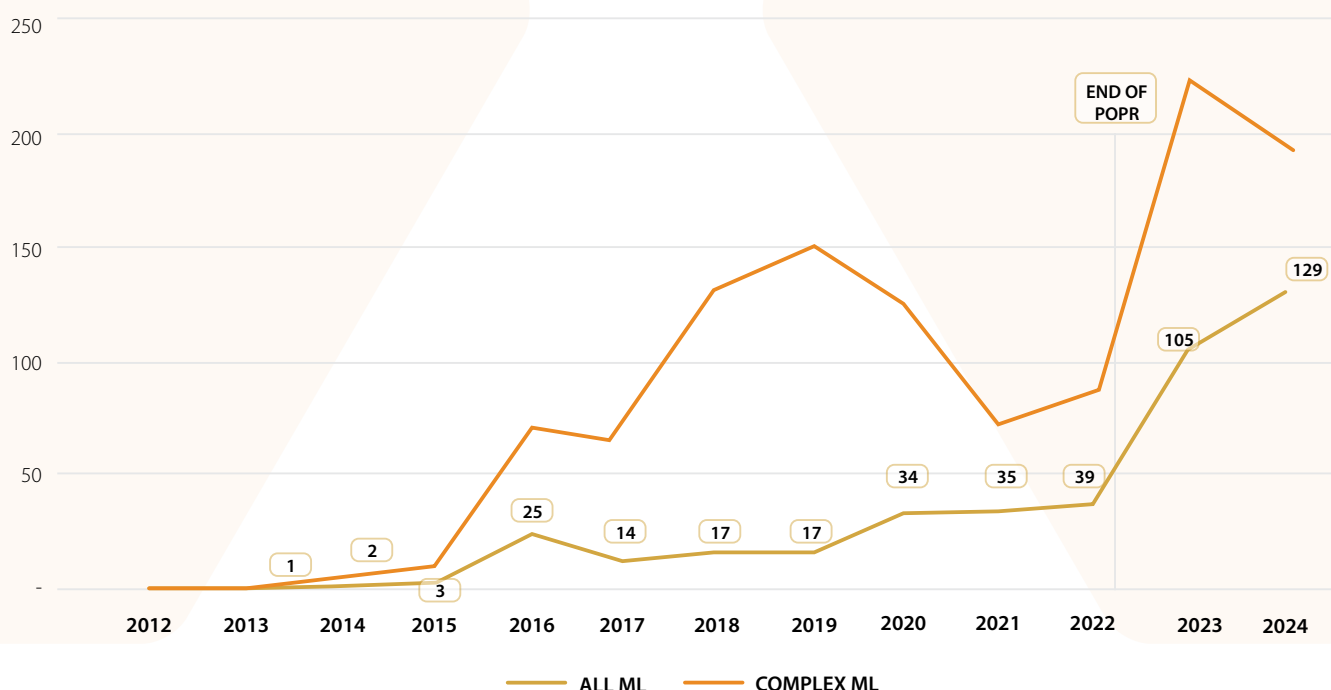


Figure 13: Long term trends in ML prosecutions



Essentially, South Africa has demonstrated that it is able to successfully investigate and prosecute serious and complex money laundering cases, across the range of typologies, and in particular third-party ML, including Professional Money Laundering Network (PMLN) and enablers.

The FATF work is ongoing as we enter our 5th Round Mutual Evaluation 2026/2027. This is an 18-month process running until the end of 2027. It is critical for all law enforcement agencies to keep their foot on the pedal to ensure that we demonstrate an effective Anti-Money Laundering and Terror

Financing system in South Africa. The NPA has undertaken to sustain its Anti-Money Laundering (AML) efforts through sustained training and capacity building and increasing its number of prosecutions and finalisation of cases.

Stakeholder engagements

The acting SDPP assisted, the head of the Organised Crime Component (OCC), in chairing the meetings of the FATF Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) workstream, as well as represented South Africa as part of the team that presented the progress reports to the FATF assessors and also attended the FATF working group and plenary meetings. Key stakeholder engagements include the FATF and State Capture meetings and the meetings with SARS outlined in the report of the STU.

The NPA is represented at the JCPS Development Committee (Dev Comm); the National Joint Operations and Intelligence Structure (NATJOINTS) as well as the JCPS Cluster Directors-General meetings. These meetings deal with broader policy, legislative, strategic and operational issues, including the processing of matters to the JCPS Ministers and Cabinet. Additionally, they ensure collaboration and coordination across the JCPS and contribute to the success of government and, in particular, the delivery of the JCPS Programme of Action as set out in the MTDP 2024 – 2029.

Use of electronic systems and digitisation

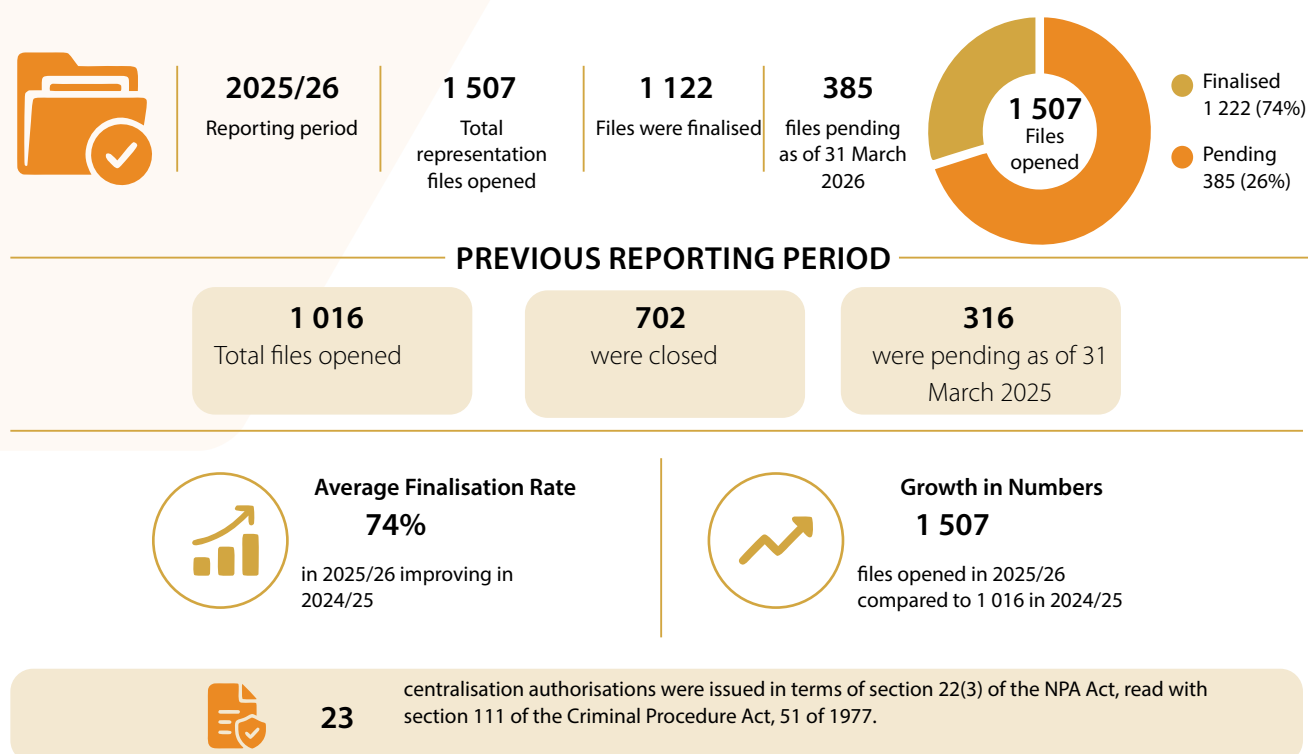
The NPS Operations Management Component (Ops) is on the forefront of digitisation and the use of digital tools, particularly in relation to the analysis of performance information using the Power BI. Extensive training has been provided online and in-person to the regions on the ECMS and the Power BI. The Ops is the central point for obtaining statistical analysis, operational reports and data for decision making. They also provide input into the IT developments and represent the business at IJS meetings.

Representations and Complaints

Section 179(5)(d) of the Constitution provides that the NDPP may review a decision to prosecute or not to prosecute, after consulting the relevant DPP and after taking representations within a period specified by the NDPP from the accused person, the complainant and any other person the NDPP considered to be relevant. This provision is repeated in section 22(2)(c) of the NPA Act. The NDPP has delegated the powers, duties or functions as envisaged in section 22(2)(c) of the NPA Act to the Acting DNDPP: NPS. A Representations Component has been established within the office of the DNDPP: NPS to deal with representations.

In addition to the formal review process in terms of the Constitution, there is a process to review decisions taken by prosecutors in the lower courts which should be exhausted before the formal review. The process is set out on the website of the NPA.

Figure 14: Key achievements



Performance

Table 19: Corruption and money laundering

OUTPUT INDICATOR	ACTUAL PERFORMANCE 2025/26
 Number of persons sentenced for corruption	335
 Conviction rate for corruption	 79% (300/380)
 Prosecutions instituted involving money laundering charges	167
 Prosecutions finalised involving money laundering charges	181

Formal Reviews dealt with

A total of 251 formal reviews in terms of section 179(5) (d) of the Constitution were considered. A total of 166 general prosecutions matters were dealt with, while two were escalated to the NDPP for review. In five instances the decision of the DPP was overturned and/or not confirmed.

Representations dealing with the specialist areas that fall within the responsibility of SOCA, SCCU, PCLU, OCC, TRC and STU are directed to these specialist units and components.

In the 2025/2026 reporting period, STU had 19 review matters that were decided by the DNDPP and none of them were escalated to the NDPP for review purposes.

The SCCU had a total of 29 matters reviewed and only five of these matters were escalated to the NDPP for review purposes. On one occasion, the decision of the DPP was overturned and/or not confirmed.

The OCC had five review matters that were decided by the DNDPP and none of them were escalated to the NDPP for review purposes.

The SOCA Unit dealt with 32 review matters which were decided by the DNDPP and none of them were escalated to the NDPP for review purposes. In two of these matters, the decision of the DPP was overturned and/or not confirmed.

The PCLU and TRC did not record any matters for review.





Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Component

The TRC was tasked with investigating human rights abuses committed between 1960 and 1994. A coordinating role is played at the head office level, while it is the responsibility of the DPP's in whose Divisions the alleged offences occurred to guide investigations, request the reopening or holding of formal inquests and the institution of prosecutions, where necessary. Increased focus on quality investigations, including skill-sharing and orientation sessions within both the NPA and DPCI, the creation of 19 dedicated permanent TRC posts, proactive planning and increased accountability and preparatory sessions, a victim-centred approach, have resulted in an increase in the volume of matters under investigation as well as progress on TRC matters.

Challenges

The TRC, in its Final Report (Volume one, Chapter 8), found that there was mass destruction of documents. It acknowledged the deliberate and systematic destruction of state records and documentation to attempt to remove incriminating evidence and sanitise the history of oppressive rule. The biggest challenges which continue to inhibit investigations are the destruction/loss/misplacement of police dockets, post-mortem records and inquest records. In addition, witnesses and perpetrators are aged, or deceased, etc. It is therefore important to implement structured, working and reliable systems which are results-focused. Task scheduling, time tracking, engaging of relevant stakeholders, simple but impactful planning, scheduling of sessions, structured taskings in groups, and pooling of resources were implemented to fast-track progress on matters.

Stakeholder Engagement

Joint accountability sessions were held between investigators and prosecutors within the divisions. When introduced, it was an unprecedented, novel approach, which also involved both the national coordinators; the DPP; DDPPs seized with TRC matters; and senior management of the DPCI. The primary purpose was and remains is to critically analyse progress on every matter under investigation within that specific division. The dual-pronged approach was important to target purposeful prosecuted guided investigation. Both investigators and prosecutors account in the presence of

DPPs and DPCI senior management, for the progress or lack of progress on the matters. Performance of each division is gauged on a month-to-month basis. This has offered a more realistic view of the progress on TRC matters.

Increased joint accountability sessions between the NPA and DPCI have contributed to an increase in the level of engagement, progress and joint accountability.

The volume of matters under investigation within each division guides the duration of the joint accountability sessions, which are typically held over two or three days. Where there are training sessions involved, the sessions may take place over five days. Skills sharing and preparation for trials and inquests also take place well in advance and are held over three to five days, attended by prosecutors, investigators and both national coordinators. Where matters are identified for fast tracking, all resources are pooled to expedite and finalise the investigation into a specific matter.

The Khampepe Commission of Inquiry (COI)

The COI was established by President Cyril Ramaphosa in May 2025. It is chaired by retired Constitutional Court Judge Sisi Khampepe, who together with retired Northern Cape Judge President Frans Kgomo and Advocate Andrea Gabriel SC, are tasked with investigating allegations whether political interference suppressed the investigation and prosecution of apartheid-era crimes as recommended by the TRC.

Several witnesses have testified before the COI when it commenced in January 2026. This included former NDPPs, former and current employees of the NPA and DPCI, affected families and survivors, amongst others. The COI has been extended until December 2026.

Performance

During the 2025/2026 financial year, two convictions were secured. In one matter, the accused was sentenced to 15 years direct imprisonment. In the second matter, whilst the conviction was secured, sentencing of two accused is expected to be finalised in July 2026. Additionally, four other criminal matters were enrolled in 2025/2026 whilst six inquests were finalised during the same financial year.

The following seven matters are on the criminal court roll - S v Dandala, S v Mfalapitsa plus one, S v Botha and other two, S v Coetzee plus one, S v Engelbrecht plus another, S v Schoon and others).

There are 12 matters on the Inquest court roll which include: Cradock Four, Mr Griffiths Mxenge, Mr Boozi Mantyi, Mr Boykie Thlaphi, Mr Mathews Mabelane, Mr Stephen Bantu Biko, Northcrest Five, PEBCO three, Mr Brian Nqulunga (date awaited) and Mr Luke Mazwembe (Date awaited), Mr Charles Ndaba, Mr Mbuso Shabalala (and three pending re-opening of inquests.)

There are six finalised inquests/re-opened inquests of Mr Zama Sokhulu Mlobeli, Mr Mthunzi Vlemeseni Njakazi, Mr Oupa Ronald Scorpio Madondo, Mr Solomzi Talakumeni, Chief Albert Luthuli and Highgate Hotel and several decisions taken to re-open or hold formal inquests into unnatural deaths.

Details of TRC Cases Dealt With

S v Engelbrecht and Others

The trial against Abraham Engelbrecht, Pieter Stander and Leon Louis van den Berg proceeded separately with several interlocutory applications and challenges to the use of evidentiary material during the trial. The line up of state witnesses included Caiphus Nyoka's family and several expert witnesses. On 2 December 2025, Engelbrecht and Stander were convicted of murder whilst Van den Berg was acquitted. The state has lodged an appeal against the acquittal of Van den Berg. Sentencing in respect of Engelbrecht and Stander is expected to be finalised in June 2026.

Re – Open Inquest into the Death of Chief Albert Luthuli (KwaZulu - Natal)



Following the successful overturning of the findings of several inquests held into the deaths of detainees, the inquest into the death of Chief Albert Mvumbi Luthuli, who died on 21 July 1967 after allegedly colliding with a train, was re-opened. After his death, inquest proceedings commenced on 19 September 1967 at the Stanger Magistrates Court after the Attorney General had declined to prosecute. At the time of his death, he was the President General of the ANC.

After a thorough investigation by DPCI, guided by the committed prosecutors seized with the case, an application was made to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, to re-open the inquest into the death of Chief Luthuli.

The inquest was re-opened on 14 April 2025. Prosecutors from the DPP's office (Advvs Ngcobo, Chuene and Msimango) led by the DDPP, Adv N Dunywa, presented the evidence of several family witnesses, amongst others, archival witnesses as well as expert witnesses who testified on the injuries sustained by the victim as well as on the reconstruction and simulation of the incident, mechanics of locomotives etc. As a result of evidence led, the presiding officer in the re-opened inquest, Judge Nompumelelo Radebe, found that the deceased died from injuries sustained because of the assault. This finding overturned the 1967 inquest findings which held that the deceased died from injuries sustained by a locomotive accident.

Northcrest Five

On 8 October 1993, Messrs Mzwandile Mfeya (12 years old), Sandiso Yeso (12 years old), twins Samora and Sadat Mpendulo (16 years old) and Thando Mthembu (17 years old) were preparing for their final examinations in the home of Mr Siggibo Mpendulo (Mpendulo), who was a member of Pan African Congress (PAC). In the early morning, as the children slept, the door was kicked open by skilled South African Defence Force soldiers, who then opened fire on all the occupants as they slept. All five children died after been shot. There was no inquest held into the deaths of the five children. The formal inquest was enrolled at the Mthatha High Court on 10 September 2025.

PEBCO Three

On 8 May 1985, Messrs Sipho Samuel Hashe, Qaqawuli Godolozzi and Twasile Champion Galela left their homes to meet with a prospective donor at the Hendrik Verwoed Airport in Port Elizabeth. All three activists disappeared. They became known as PEBCO Three. Their fate remained unknown until November 1997. Despite multiple applications being brought against the State by the families to reveal the whereabouts of the missing men, the State denied any knowledge of their detention and disappearance. Although it was strongly suspected that the security branch had something to do with the disappearance of the three activists, the truth of what happened to Hashe, Godolozzi and Galela only emerged at the TRC during November 1997, 12 years later when it emerged that the three men had been lured, abducted, tortured, killed and their remains burnt and discarded. No inquest was held into their deaths. The matter was enrolled on 23 January 2026. The hearing is set to commence in October 2026.

Inquest of Messrs Madondo, Njikazi and Mlobeli (KZN)

Mr Oupa Ronald 'Scorpio' Madondo was born on 20 May 1948 in Sophiatown, Johannesburg, Transvaal. At a later stage he was recruited into the ANC. In 1979 he disappeared and was never seen again. In 1996, his family approached the TRC to find out what had happened to him. Five Security Branch (SB) policemen applied for amnesty for the killing of one 'Scorpio', who was shot at a farm in Leeuspoort and his body detonated around the area of Jozini dam. It was, however, never established by the TRC if the said 'Scorpio' was indeed Oupa Ronald Madondo. Although Oupa Madondo had been presumed dead and a death certificate issued in that respect, an inquest into his death had never been held.

After a decision was taken for inquest proceedings to be held at the Pongola Magistrate's Court, the former members of the

security branch launched several interlocutory applications in respect of legal representations who were to testify as witnesses. The prosecutors invoked the provisions of section 342A of the Criminal Procedure Act. During the inquest proceedings, the prosecution's task was to prove the identity of 'Scorpio' as being that of Oupa Ronald Madondo. Evidence led was in the form of archival documents, police records, the testimony of family members and other witnesses. This resulted in the court making a finding on 27 August 2025 that the body of 'Scorpio', which was detonated by members of the Security Branch in 1980 around area of Jozini Dam, KwaZulu-Natal, was that of Oupa Ronald Madondo and that the name 'Scorpio' was a pseudonym used by the deceased. The record has been referred to the NPA for consideration.

Mr Mthunzi Njakazi was a member of the ANC and an Umkhonto We Sizwe cadre who was killed by members of the Natal Security Branch on 28 January 1991. The Inquest court sitting at the Durban Magistrate's Court found, *inter alia*, that the then apartheid-era South African Police and Askaris were responsible for the death of Njakazi. During the proceedings, evidence revealed that members of the security branch would plant grenades and later claim that when they shot a cadre, they were acting in self-defence. Use of a S204 witness, who was granted amnesty, assisted in an understanding of the modus operandi of planting of weapons by members of the security branch during the staging of a scene.

The inquest of Mr Mlobeli (also known as Mr Zama Sokhulu) was finalised and the court findings were referred to the NPA for consideration.

Re-opened Inquest into the Death of Mr Griffiths Mxenge (KZN)

Mxenge was a human rights lawyer and an activist. In 1981, he was abducted, stabbed and beaten and then killed by members of the security branch. A formal inquest into the death of Mxenge was held as from 15 July 1982 to 23 September 1983 at the Umlazi Magistrate's Court. After lengthy proceedings, the Inquest Court found that, the death of Mxenge was caused by an unknown person or persons. Those finding remain unchanged. The investigation into his death was re-opened by DPCI, guided by the NPA. Despite a request from the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development to have the Inquest re-opened and heard, proceedings were delayed by issues of legal representation and the raising of preliminary questions of law by the presiding officer to be addressed by the parties before the inquest court proceeds. The State argued that the preliminary questions raised by the Court amounted to a review of the decision of the Minister. Judgement is expected during June 2026.

Highgate Hotel (Eastern Cape)

Extensive evidence was also led in the formal inquest into the deaths of Messrs Stanley Hacking, Douglas William Gates, Royce Michael Wheeler, Deon Wayne Harris and Deric John Witfield, who were killed in an armed attack on the Highgate Hotel on 1 May 1993 in East London, at which they were patrons.

Prosecutors from the Eastern Cape office Advs. Nomapa Nvandaba (DDPP), Jannie Coltman and Fiona Bosman led evidence on behalf of the State at the East London Special Tribunal, which commenced on 27 January 2025. Extensive evidence of family members and survivors, ballistic experts, and commanders of Azanian People's Liberation Army (AZAPO) amongst other witnesses, was led. Whilst the attack was initially attributed to the armed wing of the Pan African Congress (PAC), subsequent investigations could not confirm this. The inquest was finalised on 1 December 2025. The tragic event counted among the most devastating incidents of its nature at the time and Judge Denzel Potgieter found that "the attack had been meticulously planned and callously executed with the precision of highly trained operatives". The record was referred to the NPA for consideration.



After considering the available evidence, an application was made to the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development for the re-opening of the inquest into the deaths of the Cradock Four. The inquest commenced and evidence of both the previous inquests, former comrades of the Cradock Four, witnesses, family members, experts and former police officers have testified. Currently a s205 application is underway pertaining to information in possession of other government institutions.

Cradock Four



The third re-opened inquest into the deaths of Messrs Mathew Goniwe, Sicelo Mhlauli, Sparrow Mkhonto and Fort Calata commenced on 2 June 2025. On 27 June 1985, Goniwe, Calata, Mkhonto and Mhlauli, left Port Elizabeth after attending a meeting. They then headed home to Cradock but never arrived. It later emerged that they were subsequently abducted and murdered. Days later their badly burned bodies, exhibiting numerous stab wounds, were discovered in two separate locations. They became known as the Cradock Four.

Two inquests were previously held into their deaths. The De Beer inquest found in 1989 that the deceased were killed by unknown person/s, finding no evidence implicating the security forces. The second inquest, the Zietsman inquest, concluded in 1994, held that the state security forces were responsible for the killings but stopped short of naming the suspects. The last people to see the deceased alive were their killers, whose identity and motive remained shrouded in mystery until the TRC was set up in 1996.

Mr Stephen Bantu Biko

Biko was a prominent anti-apartheid activist who founded and led the Black Consciousness Movement (BCM). On 17 August 1977, Biko drove with a friend to Cape Town. Biko, who had been banning orders restricting him to King Williamstown, had violated the order by travelling to Cape Town. On 8 August 1977, they were stopped at a police roadblock near Grahamstown. Biko was arrested for violating the banning order. During his detention, Biko sustained injuries, allegedly during an altercation with the interrogating officers. On 11 September 1977, he was loaded into a Land Rover, and driven to a prison hospital in Pretoria, approximately 1200km away. He died on 12 September 1977.

After an intensive prosecution guided investigation, an application to re-open the inquest was taken by the office of the DPP. After the approval for same was received from the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, the re-opened inquest was enrolled on 12 September 2025 before the High Court sitting in Gqeberha.

S v Dandala

This matter was enrolled in 2025 after a decision was taken to charge Mr Gcinisiko Lamont Dandala, for the 1985 murder of activist and UNITRA student Mr Batandwa Ndondo in Cala. Ndondo was shot dead during an altercation with members of the Security branch. The trial will commence before a special court at Lady Frere on 21 July 2026.

Re-opened Inquest of Nicholas Mjestic Boiki Thlaphi (North West)



Thlaphi was a 26-year-old community activist at the time he went missing. He was a politically active member of Ikageng Civic Association, Potchefstroom. On the evening of 20 March 1986 at approximately 20:00, he and 11 other mourners boarded a taxi to attend the funeral service of three comrades who had been shot by police. They were arrested at Jouberton on their way to Klerksdorp. The arrests took place during a State of Emergency, which had been declared by Government. Members of the SAP and those units involved with the control and stability of the country were on high alert.

After some time, all Thlaphi's comrades were released. Despite the allegation that Thlaphi was also released, he never returned home. A formal inquest had been held in 1985. The court ruled that it could not find beyond a reasonable doubt that Thlaphi was deceased. A new prosecution-guided investigation was instituted into the matter which persuaded the NPA to take a decision to apply for a re-opening of the inquest. The matter was enrolled during November 2025.

Booi Mantyi (Northern Cape)

Mantyi was killed during an alleged altercation with members of the SAP on 16 June 1985 in 6th Street, Numzumakazi, De Aar in the Northern Cape. A formal inquest was held in De Aar in 1985 which ruled that no one was responsible for an act/omission amounting to an offence regarding the victim. However, significant developments occurred which warranted a revisit of the circumstances under which the death of Mantyi allegedly occurred. The inquest was re-opened after a decision was taken by the NPA to approach the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development. The inquest is set to commence in De Aar on 3 August 2026.

COSAS Four

On 15 February 1982, four teenage activists, Messrs Eustice Madikela, Peter Matabane, Fanyana Nhlapho and Zandile Musi were lured by members of the security branch, into a pumphouse laden with explosives and detonated. Only Musi survived the explosion. The accused were charged for several offences including Crimes against Humanity (CAH). The case has been marred with several interlocutory applications and legal challenges, including the refusal of the SAPS to fund the legal representation of former members of the SAP and several recusal applications.

There were also several historic legal developments including the court ruling there was no time bar to the charge of CAH. The decision of the TRC to refuse amnesty to one of the accused was also taken on review. The application was dismissed. Whilst the accused have petitioned the SCA for leave to appeal, a trial date has been set for July 2026.





Missing Persons Task Team

Key achievements

The Missing Persons Task Team (MPTT) traced and exhumed the remains of seven political prisoners who were hanged on the gallows during the apartheid era. Justice Minister Kubayi handed over the seven remains to their families in official ceremonies hosted in Soweto (Gauteng), Komani (Eastern Cape) and GaMaupa (Limpopo). These exhumations brought the Gallows Exhumation Project to a successful conclusion, with the total recovery of 87 remains of hanged political prisoners since its launch in 2016.

In July 2025, the MPTT visited Angola and conducted grave mapping at **14 sites in Luanda**, Bengo Province in the north and Malanje Province in the east. While logistical challenges were experienced due to the remote locations, jungle overgrowth and the need for demining to be conducted, the MPTT was able to map 89 possible grave sites for excavation during 2026.

The MPTT also conducted grave mapping in Lesotho in February 2026. Ten graves were identified for exhumation in 2026. These graves largely contain the remains of the victims of the **1982 and 1985 Maseru** raids conducted by the former apartheid government's security forces. The MPTT took DNA samples from three graves to confirm identity prior to exhumation due to grave marking problems.

In all, **17 bone samples** and **31 family** reference samples were submitted to a DNA lab specialising in highly degraded samples, with results expected in the coming months. The MPTT continues to trace families and take DNA reference swabs for future identifications in the ERP.

During 2025 the MPTT assisted in the reburials of eight of the first group of exiles exhumed in and repatriated from Zambia and Zimbabwe in 2024. The remains of political detainee **Thabo Mosala**, who died in police custody in 1976, were handed to his family in Matatiele on 31 May 2025 by Deputy Justice Minister Andries Nel, following their exhumation and identification by the MPTT. Mr Mosala died in detention following his opposition to the so-called 'independence' of the Transkei.

The documentation and grave locations of two political prisoners from Namibia (then called South West Africa and occupied by South Africa) who died in the early 1970s while serving their sentences on Robben Island were assessed and reports prepared. This is a joint project with Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and the Namibian government.

The above activities form part of the government's implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) regarding forms of redress for those who suffered gross human rights violations during our past political conflict.

Stakeholder engagements

The MPTT has strong relationships with many stakeholders, which include affected families, military veterans and government departments.

Sixteen reburials of remains recovered by the MPTT took place during the 2025/2026 financial year (eight deceased exiles, seven hanged political prisoners and one death in detention). The MPTT remains engaged with hundreds of affected families regarding ongoing investigations.

President Cyril Ramaphosa launched the Exile Repatriation Project (ERP) in September 2024 with the goal of tracing and recovering the remains of South Africans who died while in political exile. The MPTT forms part of the ERP Technical Team and is responsible for conducting the tracing, mapping, exhumation and identification, in partnership with the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC).

The MPTT met with dozens of military veterans where seven military veterans were selected to assist with grave identifications in **Angola and Lesotho**.

All the projects undertaken by MPTT rely on ongoing partnerships and regular meetings with the TRC Unit in DoJ & CD, DSAC, Department of Military Veterans (DMV), Freedom Park, as well as related provincial and municipal departments.

Capacity

The MPTT establishment comprises three permanent staff (one Director and two Forensic Anthropologists), supplemented by three Forensic Investigators procured through SCM.

The two forensic anthropologists provided excellent technical expertise, which combined with the efforts and skills of the three forensic investigators, created a strong combination of investigative and forensic skills to enable successful outcomes for the MPTT.



Priority Crimes Litigation Unit

PCLU is a highly specialised unit of NPS dealing with serious and complex cases that requires highly skilled and experienced prosecutors in the sphere of terrorism, terror financing, contraventions of the Protection of Constitutional Democracy Against Terrorist and Related Activities Act, 33 of 2004, high treason, sedition, crimes contemplated under the implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court Act, 27 of 2002, and other serious national and international crimes related to mercenaries, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, arms control and nuclear materials.

PCLU has, over the years, managed to prosecute serious and complex cases like the Boeremag case (terrorism), the Henry Okah case (terrorism), the crusaders case (terrorism), the Abrams case (terrorism financing), the Thulsie case (possession of terrorism materials) etc.

Key achievements

During the 2025/2026 financial year, PCLU has sought to enhance its specialised prosecutorial capacity with 53 prosecutors nationally who can deal with PCLU cases. This is an achievement following the decentralisation of prosecution of PCLU cases to the regions. There is now more focus on terrorism and terrorism financing cases as required by FATF.

Accordingly, several specialised training sessions were held addressing various aspects, including the International Justice Symposium on "Domestic and international accountability mechanisms for international crimes supported by Wayamo – an NPO from Germany; a Counter terrorist financing workshop; online training for BRICS members on financial investigations (set-up, conduct, and cryptocurrency); the financing of terrorism and violent extremism based on xenophobia, racism, and other forms of intolerance in the name of religion or belief; and Countering the Financing of Terrorism - Good Practices, which was hosted in Malawi.

PCLU was also instrumental in the crafting of the Terrorism Financing National Risk Assessment (TFNRA), National Counter Terrorism Strategy (NCTS) and National Counter Financing Terrorism Strategy (NCFRS) and its implementation plans. PCLU continued to be a key stakeholder on issues relating to terrorism and terrorism financing within the Counter Terrorism Functional Committee (CTFC) that is chaired by the State Security Agency (SSA) and co-chaired by PCLU. Additionally, PCLU is one of the agencies that are in the process of developing the PF National Risk assessment, PF National strategy and its implementation plan.

In the period under review, PCLU has finalised two TF cases (with a conviction and diversion), while a further three TF cases are on the court roll. While there are still 23 TF matters that are under investigation by DPCI CATS. We continued to monitor the progress of these matters using the prosecution-guided investigation (PGI) methodology.

PCLU has played a prominent role in the FATF process in respect of Immediate Outcome 9-11 (IO9-11 – *measures a country's effectiveness in combatting terrorist financing and proliferation financing based on the FATF framework*) that deals with terrorism financing, proliferation financing and target financial sanctions. We managed to persuade the FATF reviewers to upgrade IO9-11 from non-compliance to largely compliant in October 2025. As a result of our hard work, working together with other agencies, we saw RSA exiting the grey listing in October 2025.

Challenges

Over the 2025/2026 period, PCLU has demonstrated solid performance, however, the critical challenge of old files/enquiries/dockets persist, requiring improved co-ordination and collaboration with Law Enforcement Agencies and Intelligence Communities.

Stakeholder engagements

PCLU worked very close with FIC, SSA, CI, DOH, DSD, Defence Intelligence (DI), Interpol, DPCI-CATS, DPCI-PCMC, DPCI-PCSI, DPCI-FA etc.

Table 20: Stakeholders meetings

1.	Counter Terrorism Functional Committee (CTFC) led by State Security Agency (SSA) to deal with all terrorism and TF related issues. This ensures better coordination amongst agencies.
2.	CTFC Sub-Committee (International and Domestic Terrorism) led by State Security Agency is a meeting with the intelligence communities (CI, FIC, SSA) and DPCI CATS, dealing with detection and investigations on matters relating to terrorism and terrorism financing.
3.	CTFC Training Task Team led by PCLU is chaired by ASDPP and focuses on training coordination meeting between the representatives of the agencies mentioned above. This meeting happens every month or as required.
4	NICOC Steercom meeting led by NICOC to deal with the drafting of the National Counter Terrorism Strategy (NCTS) and National Counter Financing Terrorism Strategic (NCFTS) and the Implementation plans.
5	Inter-Departmental Working Group lead by DIRCO is responsible for all international issues in RSA as this impact on the work of PCLU and security of the State.
6	FATF Law Enforcement Agencies Meeting led by NPA deals with all the work of FATF with PCLU focusing on Immediate Outcome (IO) 9-11.
7	FATF GROUP 5 and 6 is heavily involved in the FATF group 5 that deals with TF country reporting and group 6 that deals with PF country reporting. All the inputs, statistics, data, case studies etc relating to TF and PF are coordinated and captured in these respective groups.
8	TF National Risk Assessment (TF NRA) committee led by FIC responsible for drafting the Terrorism Financing National Risk Assessment.
9	TF Agencies Operations Meeting led by PCLU is overseeing the terrorism financing cases in the regions/nationally.
10	National Conventional Arms Control (NCAC) meeting attended by NCAC Inspectorate (defence unit) and DPCI CATS to deal with the NCAC cases.
11	Counter Proliferation Functional Committee (CPFC) led by State Security Agency dealing with proliferation financing of weapons of mass destructions.
12	PCLU also lead ad hoc meetings of law enforcement agencies that are dealing with cases of mercenaries/RSA citizens that are offering military assistance in foreign countries without authorisation.
13	PCLU also attend other many ad hoc meetings and engagements (domestically and internationally) that address issues relating to the work of PCLU. This, <i>inter alia</i> , include the work relating to ICC cases (Genocide, War Crimes and Crime Against Humanity), Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering (ESAAMLG/ Africa Regional FATF) and FATF.

Noteworthy Case

A Hoax Bomb Threat Leads to a Sentence of 5 Years Imprisonment

(Western Cape)

The accused was charged with contravention of POCDATARA, following a hoax bomb threat in respect of critical infrastructure. The accused was sentenced to five years imprisonment under section 276(1) (i) of the Criminal Procedure Act.

On 11 November 2024, a series of telephonic bomb threats were made to a police station in Cape Town. The caller indicated that there were “Explosive Devices placed at the Department of Water and Sanitation, Transnet and the Bellville Taxi rank”. An investigation was activated and following a search and seizure, the mobile device used to make the bomb threats as well as the individual who made the calls was identified. Investigations indicated that the individual had purchased a “burner” mobile phone specifically to make the bomb threats.



Sexual Offences and Community Affairs Unit

Key achievements

During the 2025/2026 financial year (FY), SOCA continued to comply with the Gender-Based Violence National Strategic Plan (GBV NSP) obligations and to increase the SOCA mandate. This was achieved through various activities that SOCA prioritised.

Through the TCC model, SOCA has increased access to justice by expanding its national TCC footprint from 55 in 2021 to **68** in 2025/26, thus ensuring that more GBV victims are provided with pre-trial services. Significant in the reporting period, two new TCCs were established - **Rietvlei TCC (KZN)** and **Flagstaff TCC (EC)**. In its continued mission to enhance and modify the TCC spaces to ensure that the victim is serviced a place which is world-class and fit-for-purpose for healing, reducing trauma and restoring dignity, the reaccommodation of the Madadeni TCC (KZN) was finalised, increasing the number of TCCs in modern accommodation to nine.

The Mediclinic pilot project saw the creation of the first partnership between the NPA and a private hospital group. This partnership allowed SOCA access to a group of GBV victims who, for too long, were falling through the cracks. These are private clients who did not open criminal dockets and were never encouraged to do so and were never informed about what GBV is nor where to seek help. By creating a referral pathway between the hospital and the closest TCC, victims are now receiving the same pretrial services as victims who come to the TCC directly. This collaboration is aimed at breaking down stereotypes around GBVF, breaking the cycles of violence and, most importantly, saving lives. Currently the project has been piloted at eight Mediclinic hospitals in the WC. In 2025/2026 FY the initiative has been extended to include the Mediclinic hospitals in the FS, NC and KZN.

SOCA produced its first TCC marketing video (a first for the NPA), which was posted on various platforms. It further secured the right to solely use the name Thuthuzela and the logo through its initiative to secure the trademark also a first for the organisation.

The SOCA unit has developed and introduced GBV specific NPA policy directives, obligating prosecutors to refer victims to a TCC if one is available in their area, thus embedding the victim-centred approach. Additionally, it successfully introduced compulsory GBV training for all prosecutors. Moreover, SOCA secured education bursaries for victims of GBV, thus facilitating economic empowerments, as prescribed by Pillar 5 of the NSP-GBVF (a first for the NPA). It has also successfully introduced compulsory vetting against the National Sexual Offences Register and the Child Abuse Register during recruitment.

The **DNA prioritisation initiative** continued to safeguard the prosecution of GBV matters by ensuring that matters are not withdrawn, accused are not acquitted, matters not struck from the roll or unduly delayed because of the absence of DNA. At the end of the 2025/2026 FY, a total of **67 700 DNA reports** have been processed since its inception in October 2020.

Challenges

The TCCs continued to experience infrastructure and accommodation constraints, which require further support through CARA funding and private sector partnerships.

There are very few TCCs nationally, which limits victim access to GBV services. There is underreporting of GBV in some communities; as a result, it limits the NPA's ability to provide access to justice. Withdrawal of US funding to provide psycho-social services has created a lacuna in the provision of psycho-social service delivery within TCCs.

Stakeholder Engagements

Stakeholder engagement remains a central enabler of SOCA's delivery model for the 2025/26 financial year. SOCA maintained structured partnerships with key government stakeholders DoH, DSD, SAPS, FSL, GCIS.

The NPA together with the private sector collaborated and partnered with various private sector concerned under the

PPP model. These private sector partners: Vodacom and FirstRand have provided funding for the establishment and reaccommodation of TCC; the SPAR group continued to provide groceries to TCCs nationally.

Partnership with the Minerals Council, Impala Platinum and Fraser Alexander (Minerals Council members) supported the production of an awareness video on the services provided at TCCs which are accessible on all NPA social media platforms.

In the Western Cape, a high-impact engagement between the NPA, DoH, Department of Infrastructure, and a private sector partner (FirstRand/FRMB) resulted in the finalisation of MOUs and building plans for the Paarl TCC reaccommodation, and construction commenced in January 2026.

In KwaZulu-Natal, engagements with UNODC-facilitated DNA training for prosecutors and law enforcement, strengthening the quality of investigations and prosecution readiness. Engagements with Higher Health and tertiary institutions resulted in training of medical practitioners, registrars, and students on GBVF and forensic processes, while also improving referral pathways from universities to TCCs.

The Northern Cape's engagements translated into system-wide improvements in victim support and service delivery, with the conclusion of a provincial MOU with DoH.

Partnerships with SAPS (FCS and DPCI) ensured that GBVF and trafficking in persons matters are consistently channelled through TCCs, improving case management and adherence to protocols.

The longstanding lack of forensic mental health assessments for child offenders and intellectually challenged victims within the Klerksdorp Cluster was addressed as the Forensic Unit at Witrand Psychiatric Hospital (Potchefstroom) was established.

Communications

Externally, SOCA partnered with GCIS, which supported awareness campaigns, participated in events (both online and in-person), and secured community radio interviews to promote GBVF awareness and TCC services. Webinars were also used to educate the public and stakeholders, while participation in national and international platforms assisted to raise the profile of SOCA's work.

Performance

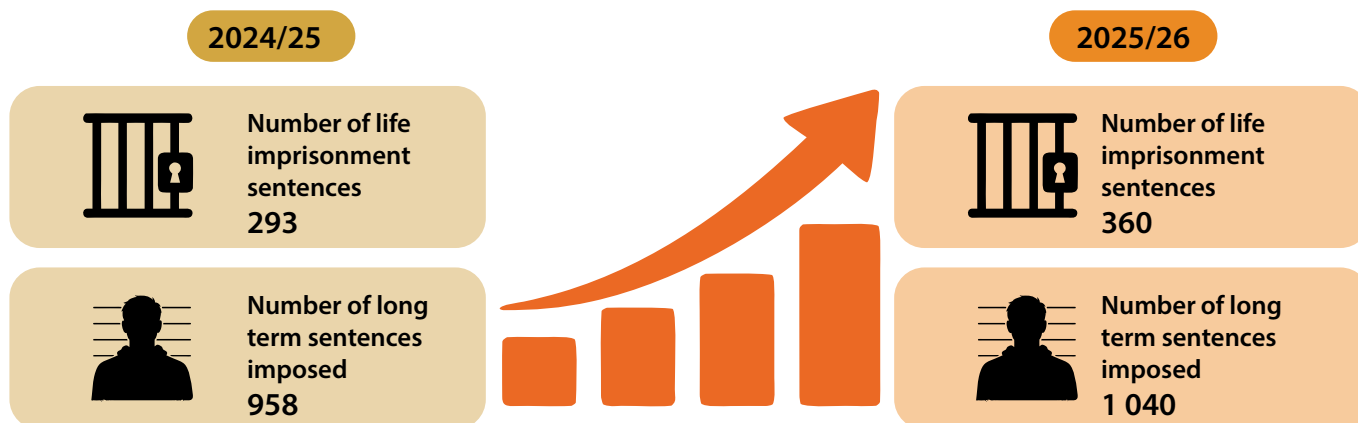
Currently there are 68 TCC-sites based on the verification criteria, providing services for victims of gender-based violence. These sites are based in all nine provinces. The 2025/26 FY performance of the TCC is tabled below:

Table 21: Targets vs Achievements

Indicator	Target	Actual	Performance
Number of TCCs established	2	2	100% achieved
Victims assisted at TCCs	40 000	46 301	+4,9% above target
Conviction rate	70%	79,2%	+9,2% above target
% cases enrolled for prosecution (PGI)	55%	63,8%	+8,8% above target
Number of public awareness and education sessions delivered	800	1 236	+55% above target

Figure 15: Impact of TCCs on verdicts

The sentences imposed by the courts for TCC verdict cases during the reporting period:



Capacity

SOCA continues to engage in order to address the insufficient staff capacity to avoid high workload and impact on the delivery of GBV.

During the period under review SOCA coordinated 97 training sessions which were attended by 2 650 officials. The training covered various elements within the SOCA mandate such as Domestic Violence, Sexual Offences, Trafficking in Persons, Maintenance and Gender Based Violence.

Table 22: Conviction rate in sexual offences

OUTPUT INDICATOR	ACTUAL PERFORMANCE
 Conviction rate in sexual offences	 74% (3 794/5 141)



Noteworthy Cases

Repeat Offender Sentenced to 105 Years Imprisonment for rape and other offences

(Mpumalanga Division)

The Elukwatini Regional Court sentenced a 40-year-old repeat offender, Wonder Thulani Malinga, to an effective 105 years' direct imprisonment for a series of violent sexual offences committed in Nhlazatshe. Malinga was convicted on nine counts, comprising three counts of rape, three counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances, and three counts of housebreaking with intent to commit rape.

The offences were committed between March and October 2019, during which the accused targeted young women living alone in the Nhlazatshe area. In each incident, Malinga unlawfully gained entry into the victims' homes, threatened them with a bush knife, concealed his identity with a balaclava, and proceeded to rape them.

Life imprisonment for serious sexual offences against young children

(Northern Cape Division)

The accused, Jan Lewis Strydom, after initially absconding was finally convicted on 79 counts of serious sexual offences committed against young children in 2016 and sentenced to life imprisonment for rape and 263 years' imprisonment on the remaining charges. These charges included, attempted rape, sexual assault, sexual grooming, causing a child to

witness sexual acts, displaying pornography to a child, exposure of genital organs to a child, and possession of child pornography.

The case came to light when a 10-year-old girl reported incidents of sexual assault to her mother, who immediately alerted the police. Subsequently, two additional victims, an eight-year-old boy and a 10-year-old girl, came forward and reported similar offences. Further investigation led to a search of his residence, where evidence of child pornography was recovered and seized, resulting in additional charges.

Serial rapist gets four terms of life imprisonment

(North – West Division)

A serial offender, Thapelo Joseph Chulitshwane, was linked through DNA evidence to multiple rape incidents involving five victims, including home-invasion attacks during which victims were raped and robbed. The accused pleaded guilty, supported by strong forensic evidence. He was sentenced to four terms of life imprisonment for rape, 15 years' imprisonment for an additional rape count, and five years' imprisonment for housebreaking with intent to rob.

Life Imprisonment for Rape, Sexual Exploitation and Assault of Two Minor Daughters

(Limpopo Division)

The Polokwane High Court sentenced a 39-year-old father to life imprisonment for the rape, sexual exploitation, and assault of his two minor daughters, aged 9 and 11 at the time of the crimes. He also received three and five years for two counts of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. His 36-year-old friend, a co-accused, was sentenced to two life terms for two counts of rape. To protect the victims' identities, the perpetrators' names are withheld. A third accused, died by suicide before the trial began. The victims, now aged 11 and 13, endured horrific abuse around 2022 at farms in the Letsitele area.

Rapist of a 14 year old gets life imprisonment

(KZN Division)

A 14-year-old victim was alone at her residence during the night when the accused, who was known to her as a neighbour, unlawfully entered the premises. He verbally threatened her before proceeding to rape her. The mother of the victim was working night shift. As a result of the incident, the complainant fell pregnant and later gave birth to a child.

The accused was subsequently arrested after being positively linked to the offence through DNA evidence. He was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Four-year-old testifies in her rape case, accused gets life imprisonment

(Western Cape Division)

A 56-year-old accused raped a three-year-old neighbour. Evidence was led of the victim who testified at the age of four, making her one of the youngest children in South Africa to testify in her own rape case. The accused was sentenced to life imprisonment for rape, five years' imprisonment for sexual assault, and eight years' imprisonment for possession of child pornography.



Specialised Commercial Crime Unit (SCCU)

Key achievements

The SCCU is seized with the responsibility of the prosecution of serious and complex commercial crime that are primarily investigated by the Directorate of Priority Crime Investigations (DPCI). Boasting a national footprint, the SCCU has a total of 23 Specialised Commercial Crime Courts (SCCCs) in all the Divisions.

The SCCU engages with external stakeholders on a national, regional, and international basis regarding matters of mutual interest, these ongoing engagements with local and international colleagues, assist the SCCU to keep up with international commercial crime trends. Ongoing engagements are held with amongst others the SIU, SAPS (including the DPCI, FATF, OECD and the Ad Hoc Committee for Comprehensive International Convention on Cyber Crime).

During the past financial year, the SCCU demonstrated resilience and impact by successfully prosecuting complex commercial crimes, improving conviction rates, reducing backlogs, and strengthening collaboration with key stakeholders. The unit continued to shift towards high-impact prosecutions while enhancing its capacity to deal with increasingly sophisticated financial crimes.

A significant achievement is also on the increase in custodial sentences in the SCCCs. About 40% of the cases in the SCCCs resulted in a term of imprisonment. This is significantly higher than the international standards for prosecution of financial crime.

The SCCU Advisory Panel, established in March 2022, continues to be a tool that assists the DNDPP and the NDPP in complex representations and reviews. The mandate of the panel is to provide advice, make suggestions and offer guidance on complex commercial crimes or corruption cases presented to the panel members by prosecutors and investigators.

The SCCU continues to lead the NPA in the compliance of the OECD WGB. The SCCU developed an implementation plan to address the recommendations from the OECD WGB. Several priority matters were identified and are closely monitored to ensure that the country enrol a foreign bribery matter to demonstrate effectiveness of our legal instruments.

Challenges

The ability of the SCCU to meet its targets is typically affected by a combination of structural, operational, legal, and external challenges.

Some of the structural challenges may be resolved by increasing the number of SCCCs and by having a combination of a continuous roll for prioritised matters alongside a regular court. Given the court roll, and limited presiding officers, it is not possible to only resort to a continuous roll, as that would reduce the number of cases that can be tried at any given time. This would require an investment in increasing dedicated magistrates.

The SCCU operates in a highly complex and resource-intensive environment, where success depends on effective coordination, specialised skills, and robust systems. The main barriers to achieving targets stem from case complexity, limited capacity, systemic delays, and the inherently complex nature of financial crime.

One of the biggest challenges is how complicated commercial crime cases have become. These matters often involve intricate financial transactions, large volumes of documents, and sometimes cross-border elements.

This slows everything down – investigations take longer, trials are more technical, and cases take more time to finalise. Most commercial crime matters are against accused who have the financial muscle to enlist the services of experienced defence counsel and most trials are riddled with interlocutory applications, causing further delays. The risk of lengthy term of imprisonment induces the accused to embark on all available delay strategies to evade justice.

The use of section 220 admissions, 105A Plea and Sentence agreements in terms of the Criminal Procedure Act and other Alternative Dispute Resolutions (ADR), including Corporate ADR, are explored to curtail long trials. Consequently, cases are generally better prepared and stronger in court, but they still take time because of their nature. Where plea and sentence agreements are concluded, a protracted trial is averted.

Stakeholder engagements

The SCCU key stakeholder remains the DPCI. SCCU enjoys a well-established working relationship with the DPCI. This collaboration was further enhanced by the co-location with the DPCI at the NPA head offices.

During the 2025/2026 financial year key stakeholders were identified to engage them with a view to strengthening relations, these include, SABRIC, FSCA, SIU, FIC, SAPHRA and BACSA.

These partnerships have not only addressed operational challenges but have also produced measurable improvements in case flow, quality, and coordination.

Communications

The SCCU contributed to the publication of successful matters through the DPP regional communications managers. The SCCU developed a media strategy, which was signed off by the DNDPP. The implementation plan is in place and ready to be rolled out. The media strategy for the SCCU will ensure that we move from merely communicating case finalisation to highlighting achievements, awareness campaigns, host webinars, media campaigns and publications of opinion editorials (op-eds).

Use of Electronic Systems and Digitisation

Training is conducted online via Microsoft Teams. The SCCU continues to disclose documents via Microsoft SharePoint to reduce costs. SCCU Management Meetings are held online via Microsoft Teams. All SCCU courts are equipped with audio visual devices for witnesses who are not available to appear physically in court to give testimony virtually. Currently, the SCCU is embarking on digitising the SCCU for visual courts similar to civil courts and operating from the beginning of the case until the end by using case line methods. This will include ensuring uninterrupted connectivity for the SCCCs.

Performance

Table 23: Conviction rate in complex commercial crime



The SCCU's performance was effectively monitored through structured reporting, case flow management, and active oversight by management. The unit achieved an overall conviction rate of 90% in complex commercial crime matters during 2025/26, with 282 convictions secured out of 314 verdicts. Performance across divisions remained generally strong, with the Western Cape Division achieving 100%, while the Eastern Cape Division and Gauteng Division each recorded 93,75%, and Limpopo recorded 91,30%. Lower conviction rates were recorded in KwaZulu-Natal (66,67%) and the Free State (82,93%).

A range of targeted interventions – including strengthening case readiness, reducing backlogs, enhancing stakeholder collaboration, and prioritising high-impact cases – were implemented to address identified challenges. These

interventions resulted in improved case flow, stronger prosecution outcomes, reduced backlogs, increased enrolment for money laundering and increased organisational efficiency.

Additionally, to further address the main causes of backlog and postponements, the Unit intensified case-flow management and strengthened oversight of long-running matters, particularly part-heard cases and matters set down for trial. Regular pre-trial consultations and case review meetings were conducted to identify bottlenecks early, secure readiness for trial, and reduce avoidable postponements. Additionally, closer coordination with the courts was pursued to secure trial dates timeously, improve scheduling of pre-trial proceedings, and monitor provisionally postponed matters to ensure they are re-enrolled without unnecessary delay.

Capacity

Table 24: Highlights the SCCU staff establishment for 2025/2026 Financial Year

Overall regions	Legal establishment	Filled Legal posts	Vacant legal posts	Admin Establishment	Filled Admin	Vacant Admin
TOTALS	241	173	65	66	53	13

SCCU legal establishment increased from 229 to 241 due to creation of new posts. Filled legal posts decreased from 194 to 173 by 21 vacancies. Filled support staff decreased from 55 to 53, with two vacancies. The SCCU regions also benefitted from the creation of Deputy Directors of Public Prosecutions posts that increased the SCCU establishment. There was also approved creation of Senior State Advocates and State Advocates for this financial year that also increased the establishment to overall 307.

Training was undertaken in the critical areas of Money Laundering, Corruption, Foreign Bribery, and Cybercrime, with a particular focus on the identification, investigation, and prosecution of complex financial crimes. Some of the training interventions are done in conjunction with the DPCI. The training equipped prosecutors and investigators with enhanced knowledge of financial intelligence, the movement of illicit funds, beneficial ownership structures, and the legal frameworks applicable to corruption and money laundering offences. The training has strengthened the SCCU's capacity to detect money laundering activities at an earlier stage, resulting in the more efficient screening and enrolment of cases on the court roll and reducing delays in the prosecution process.

The training further contributed to South Africa's efforts to implement the FATF recommendations and strengthen the

country's anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism framework. This has enhanced the quality of investigations and case preparation/planning, leading to more effective prosecutions. In addition, the training on Foreign Bribery is equipping investigators and prosecutors with the ability to detect, guide, and investigate foreign bribery matters.

The SCCU is capacitated by highly experienced prosecutors with specialised knowledge of complex financial crimes, including fraud, corruption, money laundering, and corporate misconduct. These skills enable the Unit to handle intricate case dockets, interpret financial records, and engage meaningfully with forensic auditors and investigators. In matters where such expertise is concentrated, the SCCU demonstrates a clear ability to deliver high-quality prosecutions and achieve successful outcomes, thereby reinforcing public confidence in the NPA.

However, this capability is not easy to maintain. The loss of experienced personnel and challenges in retaining institutional knowledge further exacerbate these gaps, affecting continuity and overall efficiency. The SCCU was hit hard by recent retirements, including early retirements. Several targeted initiatives have been implemented to strengthen skills and enhance the Unit's ability to fulfil its core function.

Training programmes have been rolled out, focusing on commercial crime-specific competencies. These interventions are aimed at building a more technically proficient prosecutorial base, particularly among less experienced prosecutors.

Mentorship and peer-learning initiatives have been introduced, pairing less experienced prosecutors with senior advocates. This approach supports practical, case-based skills transfer and helps to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and courtroom application.



Noteworthy Cases

Conviction of Businesswoman Leads to 14 years' Imprisonment

(Free State Division)

This matter involved serious commercial crime and money laundering. On 3 December 2025, the Free State Division of the High Court sentenced Sello Cedric Pinkoane (52) to 14 years' direct imprisonment for fraud, uttering and money laundering involving R64.8 million.

In January 2017, the accused approached an elderly businesswoman with a business proposition. He claimed to have secured a lucrative tender with a leading mining company and told the victim that he urgently needed vehicles and cash. The victim agreed, purchased six Isuzu bakkies and gave the accused money. When she later enquired with the mining company, she discovered that the accused had never secured a tender. He had forged her signature, changed ownership of the vehicles and sold them.

Abuse of Position of Trust Leads to 12 years' Imprisonment

(Gauteng Division: Pretoria)

The accused, Elma Cilliers, while employed as a personal assistant and later as an administrative employee and minority shareholder in the complainant's company, unlawfully transferred funds from the complainant's personal and company bank accounts into her own account. She misrepresented these transactions as legitimate business or personal expenses, thereby defrauding the complainant and Richcor (Pty) Ltd of R4,216,291.35 over the period 2014 to 2017.

The accused was charged with multiple counts of fraud, alternatively theft, as well as money laundering relating to the acquisition and use of proceeds of unlawful activities. She pleaded guilty to 214 counts of fraud and was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment, of which four years were suspended for five years.

Fraudulent Financial Reporting Leads to a Five-year Sentence

(Gauteng Division: Pretoria)

This matter concerns the fraudulent inflation of Steinhoff's income for the 2016 financial year. The accused, Iwan Peter Schelbert, was a director of Steinhoff At Work (Pty) Ltd and a senior executive within the Steinhoff group. In late 2016, a fictitious "global sourcing rebate" invoice was created based on a handwritten note from senior Steinhoff management, purporting to reflect income due from TG Sourcing Services SARL. The transaction was not supported by any legitimate underlying business activity, arose after the financial year end, and merely involved an internal flow of funds within the Steinhoff group, yet it was falsely presented as external income.

The accused played a key role in processing and approving the invoice and thereafter signed Steinhoff at Work's 2016 annual financial statements, knowing that the income was irregular, unsupported and inconsistent with the company's operations. As a result, Steinhoff at Work's operating income was overstated by approximately R376 million, which was then consolidated into Steinhoff NV's group financial statements, misleading shareholders, investors and the broader market. Although the accused did not personally benefit financially, he knowingly contributed to fraudulent financial reporting. The matter was finalised by way of a section 105A plea and sentence agreement, with the accused pleading guilty to fraud and receiving a sentence of five years' imprisonment in terms of section 276(1)(i) of the Criminal Procedure Act.

Financial Accountant Gets 15 Years for Fraud and Five Years for Money Laundering

(North West Division)

The accused, Jan Jacobus Van Niekerk, a financial accountant at a company, fraudulently created authorisation forms to release funds and misrepresented transactions in order to divert company money into his six personal bank accounts. Posing as legitimate service providers, he siphoned more than R8 million from the company over six years. His actions caused severe financial harm to the company and contributed to retrenchments. The court consolidated all counts for purposes of sentencing, imposing a 15-year sentence for fraud and a further five years' imprisonment for money laundering.

Long Terms of Imprisonment for Fraud and Money Laundering

(Free State Division)

The accused, Mabolloane and 2 others, were convicted on 20 March 2026 on two counts of fraud to the value of R6 000 000,00 and money laundering in contravention of POCA. Accused 1 was sentenced on two counts of fraud, to 15 years' imprisonment, and two counts under section 4 of POCA, eight years' imprisonment; Accused 3: two counts of fraud, 12 years' imprisonment, and section 4 of POCA, five years' imprisonment; Accused 5: section 4 of POCA, seven years' imprisonment.

The case centres on a large-scale fraud and money laundering scheme targeting VKB Agriculture (Pty) Ltd, a company based in the Free State. The accused, including employees of VKB Agriculture and external parties, orchestrated fraudulent payments from VKB Agriculture's accounts to accounts controlled by the accused.

Two fraudulent payments were made from VKB Agriculture's bank account to an ABSA account belonging to Accused 1, totalling over R7,9 million. The payments were disguised as legitimate transactions with a supplier (Budget Truck Spares), but the payment forms and supporting documents were forged. Funds were subsequently distributed to accounts held by the other accused, including VKB employees and external parties, through a series of transfers. The scheme resulted in a financial loss of R7 973 389,47 to VKB Agriculture.

10 Years' Imprisonment and R4.5 Million Asset Forfeiture for Crypto Trader

(KZN Division)

The Durban Specialised Commercial Crimes Court sentenced Mfundo Mancini (33) to 10 years' direct imprisonment after he entered into a section 105A plea and sentence agreement on behalf of himself and his company, Crypto Mzansi Group (Pty) Ltd. He pleaded guilty to several charges, including fraud, contraventions of the Banks Act, contraventions of the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act, and offences under the POCA committed between June 2020 and April 2021.

Mancini was an online trader who bought cryptocurrency and started an investment scheme which had short-term and long-term promotions, promising high returns. He managed to enlist the assistance of two women whom he knew, and he introduced them to the online trading business. He told them that he wanted them to promote his investment business and informed them that if they referred a client for investment, they would receive a commission.

On 22 August 2022, the AFU obtained a preservation order, freezing all Mancini's bank accounts. Realising that his funds were dried up and that his accounts were frozen, Mancini handed himself over to the authorities in Cape Town and the case was then transferred to Durban. The AFU order was subsequently finalised, recovering more than R4,5 million from Mancini.

As part of the plea and sentence agreement, all fraud counts were taken together for purposes of sentence, and he was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment, five years of which were suspended. For contravening the Banks Act, he was sentenced to five years' imprisonment, to run concurrently with the sentence imposed for fraud. For contravening the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act, all counts were taken together for purposes of sentence, and he was sentenced to five years' imprisonment, also to run concurrently with the fraud sentence. For contravening the POCA, read with section 1 of the Financial Intelligence Centre Act 38 of 2001, all counts were taken together for purposes of sentence, and he was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment, to run concurrently with the sentence imposed for fraud. Mancini will effectively serve 10 years' imprisonment.

Theft of Company Funds Leads to a Sentence of 12 Years' Imprisonment

(Gauteng Division: Pretoria)

This case concerns a largescale theft committed over an extended period against Atec Systems and Technologies (Pty) Ltd. The accused, Louis Parker, was charged with 166 counts of theft arising from the unlawful misappropriation of company funds between 2011 and 2016. During this period, the accused repeatedly caused payments to be made from the complainant's company's bank accounts without lawful entitlement or supporting documentation.

The theft was carried out through a series of unauthorised electronic payments, many of which were disguised as payments to BNP Engineering or reflected as transactions with no supporting documentation on file. The cumulative value of the stolen funds amounted to approximately R3 966 261,83. The matter was eventually finalised with the accused being convicted on all 166 counts of theft, which were taken together for purposes of sentence. On 2 March 2026, he was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment, of which five years were suspended for five years, subject to conditions, highlighting the seriousness of sustained financial crime committed in breach of trust.

Cross-border Email Fraud Scheme Gets Accused 10 Years in Jail

(Gauteng: Johannesburg)

The accused, Abdul Olutunji, was convicted of theft and money laundering arising from a cross-border email fraud scheme in which a complainant in the United States was induced to transfer substantial funds into fraudulent accounts. The accused controlled local accounts through which the proceeds were channelled and dissipated. The court-imposed sentences of ten years' imprisonment on each count, ordered to run concurrently, noting the organised and transnational nature of the offence.

Former Police Officers Sentenced to 15 Years Imprisonment

(KZN Division)

The Durban Specialised Commercial Crimes Court sentenced former SAPS officers Madoda Mduduzi Mhlono (57), Siyabonga Herbert Mabhida (51), and Prince Ntsikelelo Shezi (50) to 15 years' imprisonment each for corruption, contravening Section 4(1)(a) of the Prevention of Combating Corrupt Activities Act, 12 of 2004.

At the time of the offence, the accused were SAPS members attached to the Taxi Violence Unit. The complainants, Mr Shange and Mr Mazibuko, were involved in the Kwandengezi Zwelibomvu Taxi Association. Shange was the chairperson, and Mazibuko was a taxi owner involved in the running of the Taxi Association, while a Mr Terrance Mhlono (Terrance) provided close protection services to them. Accused 3, Shezi, was assigned to investigate the complainants' involvement in alleged criminal activities about the Taxi Association.

On 13 March 2019, the three accused met with Terrance and advised him that they were being pressured to arrest the complainants but were willing to accept R200 000 from them (Shange and Mazibuko) not to effect the arrest. Unbeknownst to the accused, Terrance (on the instructions of Shange and Mazibuko) reported this to the police, and a sting operation got underway. On 29 March 2019, all three accused met Shange at a mall parking lot in Pinetown and accepted the money from him. They were immediately arrested whilst in possession of the trap money. This evidence was caught on a hidden camera and was later used during a trial-within-a-trial,



Organised Crime Component

Key achievements

During the 2025/2026 financial year, the Organised Crime Component focused its efforts on the implementation of the **NPA's strategy Against Organised Crime**. At the heart of OCC's achievements were the establishment of the 'Top 10 Case Prioritisation Project', the establishment of the 'Firearms Desk' at Head Office, the successfully handled racketeering applications, rolling out Money Laundering training to six regions, drafting and circulating a racketeering manual for Lower Court prosecutors, and guidelines on how to apply for centralisation and racketeering authority. Working with SARS to identify the 'Top 5' projects that need their focus, played a significant role in the development of the draft National Organised Crime Strategy, jointly developed the SAPS Stabilisation Plan and established the prison-linked organised crime portfolio.

As part of the 'Top 10 Case Prioritisation Project', **Project Dune** has successfully secured both centralisation and racketeering certificates, while **Project Tsitsikama** progressed to prosecution in March 2026. Financial investigations in respect of most of the remaining priority matters are at an advanced stage.

Challenges

There are numerous challenges that OCC faces in respect of specific offences that it deals with. In terms of Trafficking in Persons (TiP) cases, there are few prosecutions involving syndicates; few prosecutions on Money Laundering and Racketeering charges in TiP cases overlapping with other offences, i.e. Kidnapping for Ransom and Extortion and lack of project-driven investigation for operations and activities of TiP.

In terms of dealing in drugs offences, the challenges are around addressing lower levels of drug syndicates and not addressing money laundering in all drug trafficking cases through financial investigations. In some cases, even though financial and assets investigations are pursued, it bears no fruit. Exhibits are not analysed timeously, leading to delays in the finalisation of cases or cases being struck off the roll. Greater focus must be placed on transnational drug trafficking, with a particular focus on the financial investigations to uncover money laundering in compliance with the country's Financial Action Task Force (FATF) obligations. Additionally, there is lack of drug trafficking investigations fuelled by corruption.

With criminal gang activities, accused are sometimes acquitted on gang-related charges in contravention of section 9 of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act, Act 121 of 1998 and only convicted of predicate offences, such as murder, attempted murder or assault with the intention to commit grievous bodily harm etc.

In respect of extortions, the National Priority Committee on Extortions and Violence at Business Sites currently oversees the activities and meetings relating to extortions. The instability within the SAPS system is one of the factors impacting the functionality of the committee. The issues raised at the Madlanga Commission relating to the connection between SAPS members and alleged criminal cartels, clearly impact the trust relationship within SAPS and NPA. Because the information in the public domain implicates some of the alleged criminal characters in extortion, while there is still a need to clearly investigate such characters.

The major challenge in the essential infrastructure prosecutions is that the investigations and prosecutions of these offences have for a long time, focused primarily on the low-level runners. Currently SAPS Organised Crime has two registered projects relating to destruction of essential infrastructure.

The DPCI has one project in KZN relating to damage to fuel pipeline. The low number of essential infrastructure projects clearly influences the impactful prosecution of essential infrastructure offences. The nonattendance of regional fora, which is attributed to shortage of Advocates in the regions, also impacts the prosecution of offences. This is so mostly because most operational activities are conducted in the regions and it is crucial that the NPA also participates in the regions and can raise concerns in the regional fora.

Other aspects raised in the meetings, which negatively contributes to the high number of these offences are corruption and porous borders allowing for stolen materials to easily exit. During a meeting of NFMCCC it was reported that SARS does not have a scanner to scan the copper

containers leaving the country. The absence of a scanner was attributed its cost – estimated in the region of R100 million per scanner. The price of clean copper is currently estimated at between R110 and R150 per kilo, this makes copper one of the most targeted commodities for criminal syndicates.

In the illegal mining space, successful prosecution requires financial investigations, and the capacity is currently lacking, both within the NPA and SAPS. Financial investigators are recruited, trained and then leave for greener pastures elsewhere. The NDPP has, however, indicated a willingness to tap into the capabilities of SIU for assistance with these investigations. FIC have indicated their willingness to provide us with financial and court-admissible reports, but not in all cases. The challenge, however, remains they cannot do asset investigations, only investigations flowing from bank statements targeting money flows.

The problem with the legislation prohibiting illegal mining is that sentences, involving penalties, are the main options upon conviction. This does not have the necessary deterrent effect on criminals. Parliament is in the process of passing the General Laws Amendment Act (GLA) and the Draft Mineral Bill to address the issue of sentencing. Both bills aim to achieve the same results with the imposition of higher sentences.

There is also a deportation challenge, wherein most accused are illegal foreigners. Once convicted they receive a suspended sentence and/or pay a fine and are deported but return to South Africa illegally. Corruption plays a role as it impacts the successful prosecution of these cases, both in SAPS, and the within the judiciary resulting in witnesses disappearing when they are needed in court. Numerous cases are withdrawn, and bail is granted easily and there are acquittals.

Additionally, there are challenges in obtaining evidence from foreign countries. In several foreign countries where refineries are situated, the possession, acquiring and transportation of unwrought precious metals is not an offence. This leads to various challenges to obtain information and evidence from these countries.

The Environmental Enforcement Fusion Centre (EFFC) is not a permanent structure within the Department of the Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment (DFFE) but contract based. The EFFC is a significant contributor to the NPA's success, both from a digital forensic and financial forensic perspective, additionally, in the identification of syndicated activities and linkages, that enabled the centralisation of many cases. The Minister has motivated for a permanent structure, which has been approved, however it is not yet in operation.

Financial forensic investigation capabilities and support in general are still a challenge, with the SFC and the EFFC being

over extended. There is a need to expand the capabilities of these units.

The availability of foreign interpreters is also a challenge as the most significant smugglers of rhino horn, plants and reptiles are foreigners and problems in securing interpreters for court cases have led to cases being withdrawn and/or prosecutors being forced to find interpreters themselves. The DPP EWG (Environmental Working Group) has contributed by developing a comprehensive database relating to foreign interpreters needed in the prosecution of wildlife cases.

The protection of prosecutors prosecuting rhino poaching cases, especially in Mpumalanga, remains a concern, as they face threats from high-profile accused.

Stakeholder engagements

The NPA was represented at the World Customs Organisation conference on illegal wildlife trade. During the event, topics of the preservation of evidence, chain of custody and prosecutor-guided investigations in complex wildlife crime matters were presented on. NPA also participated in a high-level prosecutorial delegation alongside counterparts from Nigeria, Thailand, Kenya, and Botswana, strengthening peer-to-peer engagement on prosecutorial strategy.

The OCC represented NPA in the UNODC Intergovernmental Expert Group (IEG) on Crimes that Affect the Environment (CAE), which was convened in terms of UNTOC resolution 10/6. The IEG was mandated to review the application of the Convention in addressing such crimes and focused specifically on identifying gaps in the international legal framework, and considering possible responses, including the feasibility and merits of a potential Additional Protocol. OCC played an active role in the 2nd session, when it participated as an African panellist for agenda item, 'Consideration of

possible responses to the gaps identified, including the possibility, feasibility and merits of any additional protocol to the Organised Crime Convention' and made a presentation on the feasibility of an additional protocol, including how such a protocol would assist in addressing the legislative gaps identified during the first meeting of the IEG.

Engagements with regions and SAPS, NPA and the CIT companies on Project Leopard, aimed at dismantling wildlife trafficking syndicates and protect South Africa's biodiversity has resulted in a decrease in these types of cases. The meetings were held at the same time as the group met to address ATM bombings.

Regarding essential infrastructure offences, the National Energy Crisis Committee (NECC) continues to meet regularly, with active participation from the NPA. The committee monitors cases involving damage to Eskom infrastructure and promptly addresses security-related risks and concerns. This collaborative stakeholder approach has contributed significantly to mitigating threats to critical infrastructure and supporting Eskom's efforts to maintain electricity supply stability.

On extortion at construction/business sites, stakeholder engagement through the National Priority Committee is showing impact in addressing extortion offences. The committee has tasked the Department of Public Works to provide reports monthly on any project which may have stopped because of extortions taking place. The intention was to ensure that SAPS is involved immediately to assist with investigations which will lead to prosecution. It is noteworthy that during March 2026, the Department of Public Works reported that **no project** was stopped because of extortion. This highlights the impact which stakeholder engagements have in fighting crime.



Performance

Table 25: Conviction rate of some organised crime types, 2025/26

OUTPUT INDICATOR	ACTUAL PERFORMANCE 2025/26
 Conviction rate in Serious Organised Crime	94% (162/173)
 Conviction rate in essential infrastructure prosecutions	79% (441/562)
 Conviction rate in cybercrime prosecutions	86% (30/35)
 Conviction rate in environmental crime	90% (483/537)

A total of 8 725 drug trafficking cases were finalised with convictions across all Divisions.

Figure 16: Drug trafficking per Division

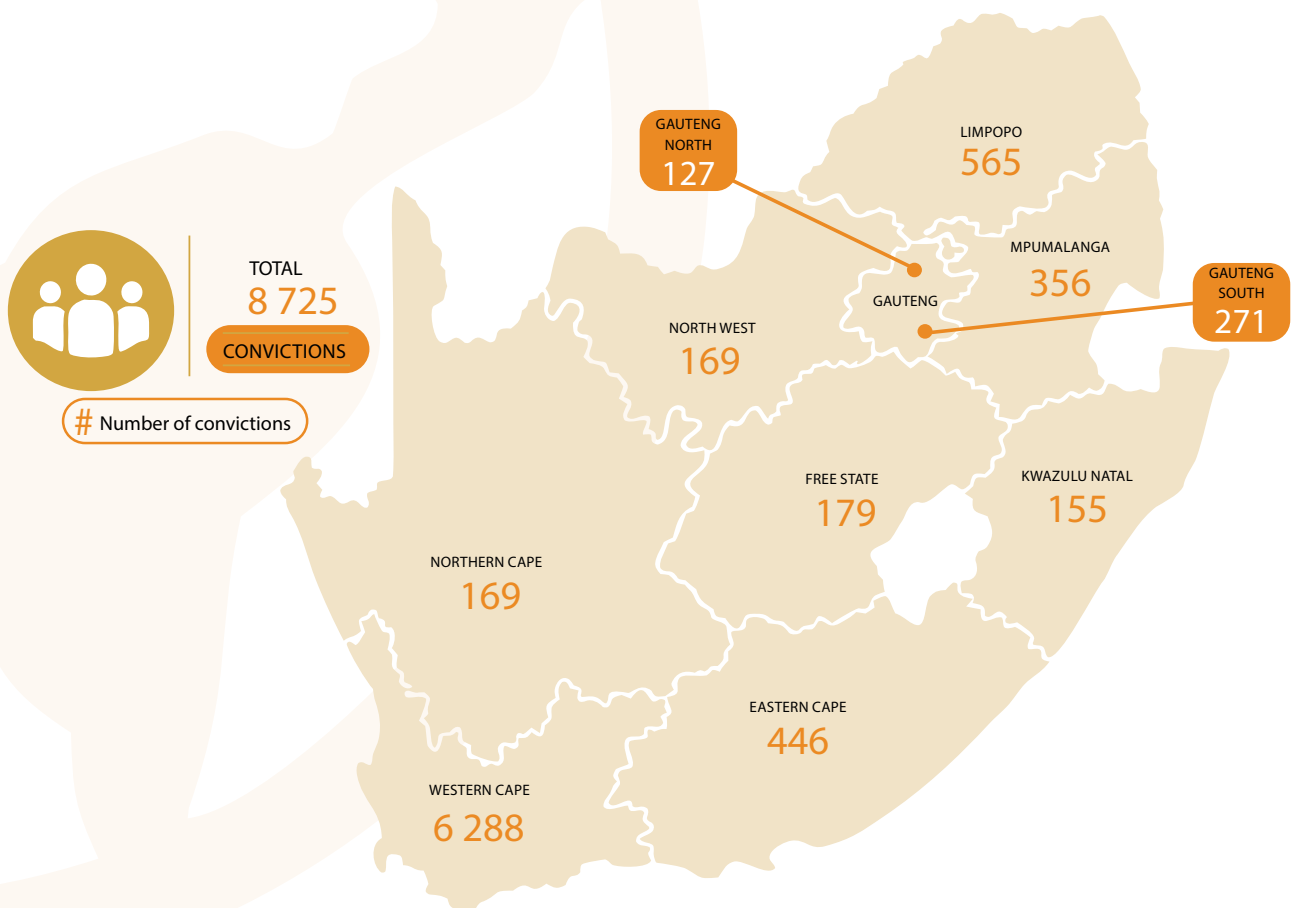
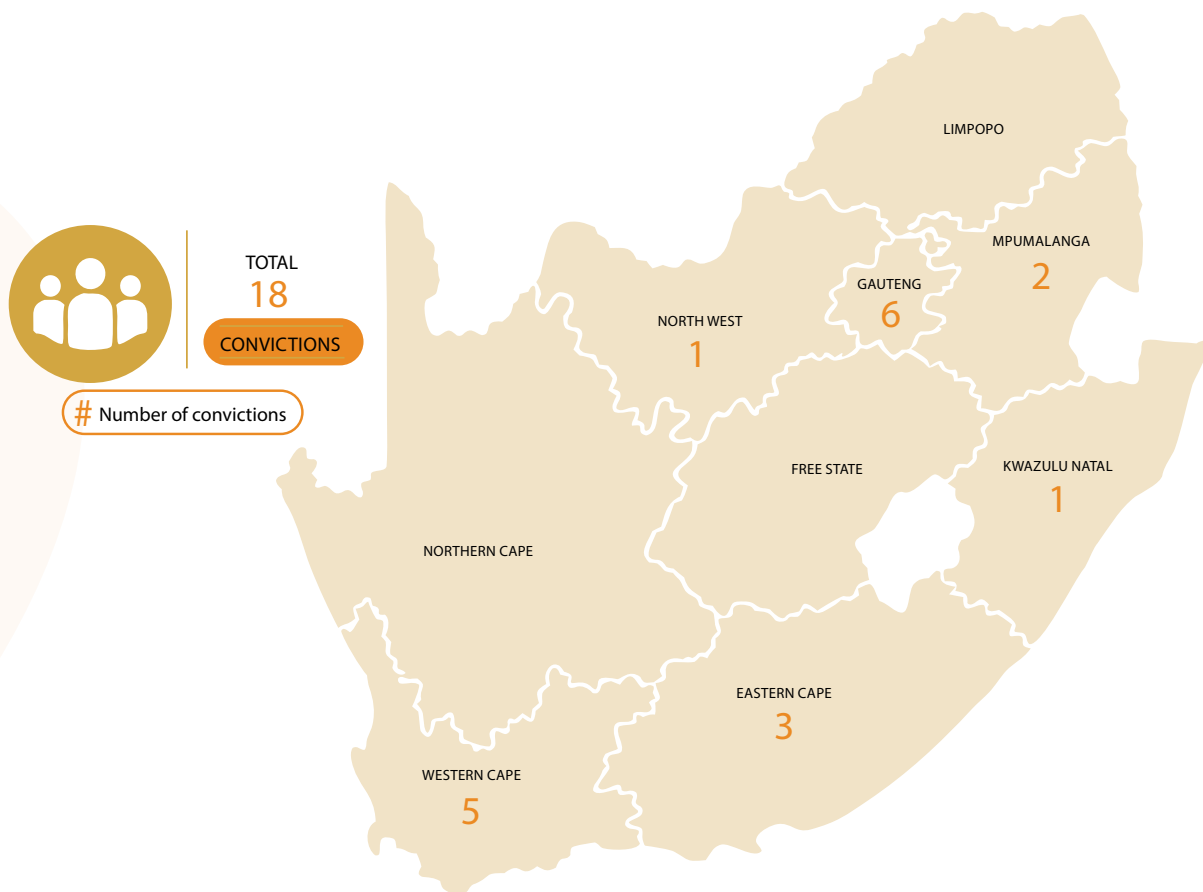


Figure 17: Trafficking in Persons convictions



There are currently 68 Trafficking in Persons cases on the court roll.

Capacity

The OCC forms part of the NPS establishment. The OCC prosecutors in the regions (and their budget allocation) fall within the establishment of the DPP offices, whilst the OCC at the National Office fall within the Head Office establishment. OCC has a total number of 153 positions which are broken down to 18 DDPP, 29 State Advocates, 83 Senior State Advocates, two Senior Public Prosecutors, 12 Regional Court Prosecutors and nine Admin staff.

Money laundering and terror financing trainings were rolled out in NG, SG, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, KZN, and NCD. This was done with the intention to strengthen skills for the upcoming FATF mutual evaluation of South Africa.

TiP training was rolled out in all the Divisions. Money laundering was covered as part of the programme. TiP is considered high proceeds generating crime in terms of the country's National Risk Assessment. It was, therefore, critical to understand money flows relating to this crime as well as to identify more cases that have money laundering.

Essential infrastructure crimes training was conducted in SG because there are many cases in this province. SG ranks the highest amongst the provinces in terms of finalisation of cases as well as the sentences imposed.

Illegal mining training was conducted in KZN, NCD and FSD where the practice is rife. The issue of prosecuting chrome has two schools of thought. Some say you cannot prosecute for possession of chrome and can only prosecute if a person is caught mining. The position now is that persons are charged for theft as well as for possession of precious metals in contravention of Precious Metals Act of 37 / 2005. Accordingly, an increase in prosecution for such offences as well as the identification of racketeering prosecutions has been realised.

Illicit wildlife trade training was conducted, and it covered money laundering, racketeering, investigative techniques during the FishFORCE training aimed at curbing illegal and unregulated fishing spanned a period of three weeks in three provinces: ECD, WCD and Gauteng. It was a joint training between the SAPS Stock Theft Unit, NPA and the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment. This enhanced the money laundering investigations, and an increase in money laundering convictions pertaining to the illicit wildlife trade has been realised.



Noteworthy Cases

S vs Mabunda and Other Seven

(Limpopo Division)

The accused engaged in a series of serious crimes in Malamulele, including attacking a police station, taking police officers hostage, stealing firearms, and carrying out ATM bombings using explosives. Accused 6 and Accused 8 entered into plea agreements, while the separate trial of the remaining accused was postponed to 9 November 2026. Accused 6 was charged with multiple offences, including robbery, attempted murder, malicious damage and firearm possession, and received a 20-year sentence. Accused 8 faced more serious charges, including murder, and was sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment.

15 – Year Prison Sentence for Damaging Essential Infrastructure

(Mpumalanga Division)

The Belfast Magistrate's Court sentenced Almeida Alberto Ndeve (33), to 15 years' imprisonment for damaging essential infrastructure belonging to Transnet. He was also sentenced to an additional 12 months' imprisonment for contravening the

Immigration Act. Ndeve's conviction follows a spike in copper cable theft in the Fairview railway area in Machadodorp. In response, Transnet increased security patrols. On the evening of 21 May 2024, Ndeve and a group of unknown individuals were caught in the act of cutting copper cables. While his accomplices managed to flee, Ndeve was apprehended on the scene in possession of stolen copper cables and arrested. During the investigation, it was also established that Ndeve was residing illegally in South Africa, leading to an additional charge under the Immigration Act.

Former Eskom Contractor Gets 35 years for Tampering with Essential Infrastructure

(Mpumalanga Division)

In February 2026 the Ermelo Regional Court sentenced a former Eskom contractor, Simon Majaonke Shongwe (46), to a combined term of 35 years' imprisonment for tampering with essential infrastructure in 2022 at the Howden Power Station in Ermelo. On 10 November 2022, the accused deliberately committed an act of sabotage at the power station by removing bearing oil drain plugs and a dipstick and disposing of them in a trench. Eskom incurred losses exceeding R22 million as a result of the incident.

South Africa

National Prosecuting Authority
South Africa

National Prosecuting Authority
South Africa

National Prosecuting Authority
South Africa





Specialised Tax Unit

The Specialised Tax Unit (STU) within the NPS, is mandated to prosecute serious and complex tax cases, such as VAT Fraud, tax evasion, customs and excise, and crimes linked to illicit financial flows. It comprises of a small head office component, and prosecutors appointed in the offices of the DPP throughout the country.

The STU receives cases from the SARS Crime Investigation Unit (CIU), Debt Collection Unit, and Syndicated Tax Unit. The collaboration between the STU and SARS is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Commissioner for SARS and the NDPP in 2019.

Key achievements

The NPA and SARS have been successful in ongoing efforts to disrupt and dismantle the illicit economy, organised corruption, and fraud linked to customs and tax processes. Prosecutions for tax and related offences resulted in direct imprisonment for many offenders.

Through the Honey Badger Project with SARS, aimed at encouraging tax compliance and obtaining outstanding tax and VAT returns, the amount of Admission of Guilt (AOG) fines paid by offenders amounted to R 1 534 500.00, and the revenue collected by SARS as a result of taxpayers submitting tax returns amounted to R 5 971 611.42.

The STU and SARS Debt Collection Unit initiated a project called honey badger to address the persistent challenge of non-filing of tax and VAT returns by the taxpayers. The main objective of this project is to encourage tax compliance amongst the taxpayers.

The project commenced in August 2022, and it was piloted in Gauteng Local Division and subsequently in North West, Mpumalanga, Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, and Northern Cape Divisions.

In the current financial year, the SARS Debt Collection Unit handed over 322 cases for prosecution; 139 cases were enrolled, of which 82 cases were finalised during the year. The amount of Admission of Guilt (AOG) fines paid amounted to R 1 534 500.00, and the revenue collected by SARS because of taxpayers submitting tax returns amounted to R 5 971 611.42.

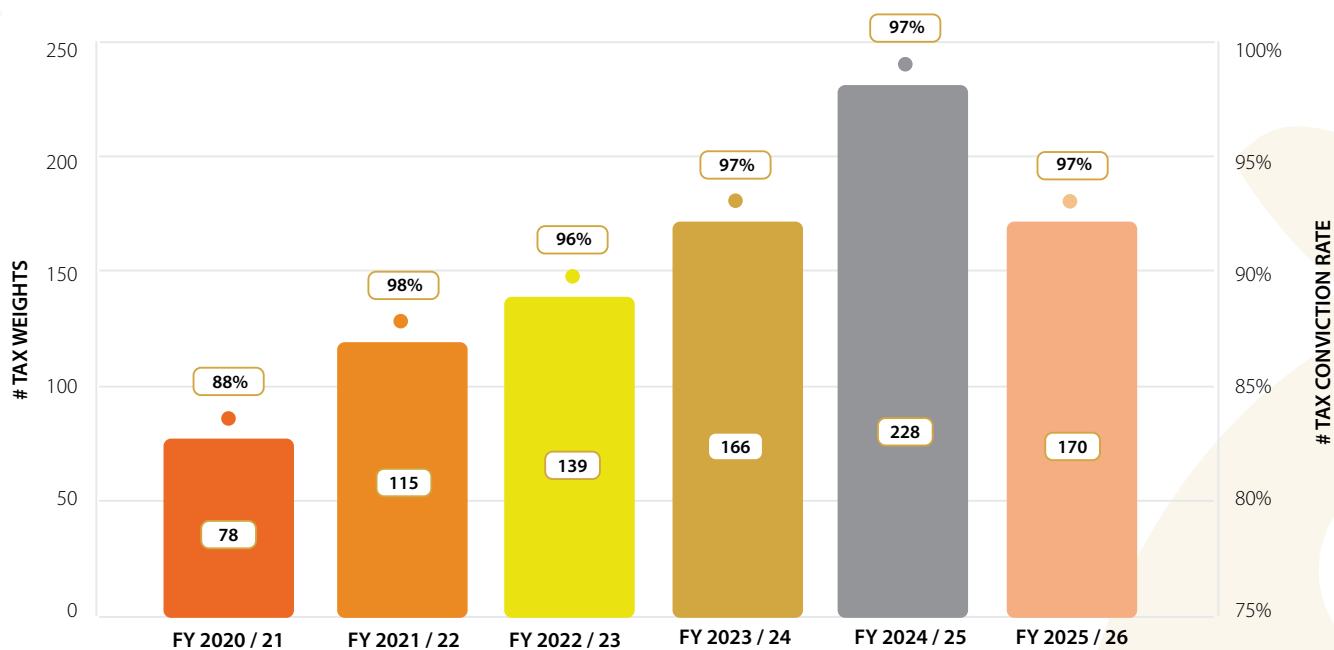
Performance

The unit finalised 170 cases with 97% convictions, exceeding the target of 90%. Through the Honey Badger Project with SARS, aimed at encouraging tax compliance and obtaining outstanding tax and VAT returns, the amount of Admission of Guilt (AOG) fines paid by offenders amounted to R 1 534 500.00, and the revenue collected by SARS as a result of taxpayers submitting tax returns amounted to R 5 971 611.42.

Table 26: Complex tax



Figure 18: Conviction Rate and Number of Verdict cases over the last 6 years



STU Image 1: The Launch of the Honey Badger Project in the Limpopo Division



STU Image 2: The Launch of the Honey Badger Project in the Mpumalanga Division



Noteworthy Case

Illicit Cigarettes Leads to Jail Time and Forfeiture of Vehicles

(Limpopo Division)

The Polokwane Specialised Commercial Crimes Court convicted Francis Chovera and three others in respect of offences related to illicit cigarettes. All four accused were convicted and sentenced to four years direct imprisonment.

In terms of section 87(2) of the Customs and Excise Act, 91 of 1964, all three motor vehicles used by the accused were forfeited to the state. In terms of section 87(1) of the Customs and Excise Act 91 of 1964 the cigarettes were also forfeited to the state.





International Cooperation Component

Key achievements

Working with Divisions, the ICC contributed to legal certainty on the power to request extradition of fugitives on behalf of the Republic as expounded by the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) and later the Constitutional Court (CC) in the case of **Schultz v Minister of Justice and Others and State v Mokhesi and Others (the Cholota matter)**. The fact that the Extradition Act, 1962 is silent on the handing of outgoing requests gave rise to different interpretations, but now the law is clear and there is uniformity on how outgoing requests for extradition are dealt with.

After the ICC engagement with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DOJCD) and other stakeholders, the interdepartmental committee on Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) and extradition (IDC) was revived on 10 February 2026. The IDC is crucial as stakeholders *inter alia* identify causes for delays in the processing and execution of requests and work together to find solutions. For instance, one of the burning issues was the delay in appointing investigating officers to assist in the execution of incoming MLA requests. Working together to find a solution, Interpol NCB Pretoria was engaged leading to the appointment of a police captain to assist with appointments and for the NCB Pretoria itself to work directly with prosecutors. This has resulted in improved turnaround time for the execution of incoming MLA requests.

Challenges

There are various challenges that have impacted the ICC's ability to achieve its targets, such as unreasonable turnaround time for processing requests by stakeholders and delays in executing incoming requests due to unavailability of investigating officers; delays and/or poor communication from other countries; protracted litigation in extradition matters; refusal by some countries to provide South Africa with undertaking relating to imposition of death penalty; and some countries do not extradite their own nationals; and the need for undertakings relating to possible life sentences

in matters where assistance with either MLA or extradition is sought from Mozambique.

As international cooperation needs to be provided timely to assist with the investigation and prosecution of cases, unreasonable delays defeat this purpose. For incoming requests, delays could result in affected countries not cooperating when South Africa seek their assistance. Reciprocity is the bedrock of international cooperation.

Protracted litigation on extradition matters could weaken the strength of the case for which a fugitive is sought because, with passage of time, witnesses may no longer be available, or they may no longer in the best position to assist the prosecution.

To mitigate these challenges, the DOJCD being the key stakeholder, has been engaged with a view to improving turnaround time for processing both incoming and outgoing requests for international cooperation. To this end, an official from the ICC was seconded to the DOJCD from December 2025 to act as a director for MLA and extradition directorate. This intervention has been helpful as it led to improved timeframes for processing requests on the side of the central authority. The engagement with Interpol and NCB Pretoria has led to an improved timeframes for executing incoming requests.

Relating to death penalty undertakings, engagement with the Government of Botswana is ongoing and a timeline to finalise internal consultation in that country was agreed upon. In seeking a solution, the matter was escalated to Minister of Justice who is also engaging the executive authority of Botswana.

On the non-extradition of own nationals, it was recommended that a bilateral extradition treaty with the Government of Mozambique should be concluded to address issues that are pertinent to our two countries and not covered by the SADC Protocol on Extradition to which both countries are signatories. The draft extradition has thus far been formulated after the technical teams meet to negotiate the instrument.

Furthermore, the Office of the Attorney General of Mozambique was engaged on the requisite assurances relating to possible life sentences in matters where South Africa needs assistance. The matter was clarified and as result, South Africa provides the assurances where appropriate.

Stakeholder Engagements

The engagements have resulted in shorter timeframes for finalising incoming requests. During the previous FATF assessment, the average time for executing incoming requests was 12 to 24 months. The average time for executing incoming requests is currently between 6 to 12 months.

Use of Electronic systems and Digitisation

The ICC has been instrumental in the development of the Extradition and MLA Repository (EMREP system) which should be an integral case management system which is being developed by the Integrated Justice System (IJS). The system is envisaged to be used by all key stakeholders to track progress in the processing and execution of requests as well as generating requisite reports. By March 2026, the EMREP system was at its advanced stage of development and relevant officials have been trained to utilise it.

Performance

About incoming requests, the ICC processes a matter within two working days, and the outgoing matters are dealt with within five working days. Although the target was 100%, 70% of these matters were dealt with within the stipulated timeframe. The 100% target was not met due to need for more resources within the component.

The HR&D (OD section) is being engaged to assess the need for more resources. Training of prosecutors on international cooperation and practice was put in place for Offices of the DPPs to submit draft request documents in Word prior to transmission to enable the ICC to work proactively as matters for international cooperation are identified.

Capacity

The ICC is headed by a Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions (DDPP) and has three Senior State Advocates and two administrative assistants. Since December 2025, of the Senior State Advocates was seconded to the DOJCD.

The expanding work of the ICC due to amongst others, the obligations imposed on the NDPP by the Cybercrimes Act, work relating to FATF, OECD, the UNODC and other international and regional obligations, necessitates the need for more resources. Engagement with the OD section is ongoing in this regard. The ICC is covered by the budget of the NPS.





Court Preparation Services

A specialised victim focused service that prepares victims and witnesses for court. It explains the court process, clarifies roles, and reduces anxiety. It builds confidence and readiness so witnesses can give their best evidence safely.

Role of Court Preparation in the NPA

Court Preparation ensures victims and witnesses are informed, supported, and ready to give their best evidence. It improves case readiness, reduces delays and withdrawals, and strengthens prosecutorial efficiency. Rooted in dignity and psychological safety, it provides tailored support to vulnerable groups and advances meaningful access to justice.

Table 27: Court Preparation Services Performance

NO OF VIS COMPLETED	TOTAL WITNESSES ASSISTED	NO OF VIS USED BY PROSECUTOR	% VIS USED
10 515	146 420	3 274	2,95

Court Preparation Officers (CPOs) facilitated extraordinary 146 420 court preparation and support sessions across all divisions, underscoring their indispensable role within the criminal justice system. A total of 10 515 VISs were facilitated during the reporting period, of which prosecutors formally presented 3 274 during court proceedings.

The Court Preparation Officers (CPOs) delivered 1 258 community outreach programmes, underscoring the NPA's victim centred approach. These initiatives educated communities on NPA services and promoted the Court Preparation Programme, while strengthening partnerships with government



Investigating Directorate Against Corruption

Key achievements

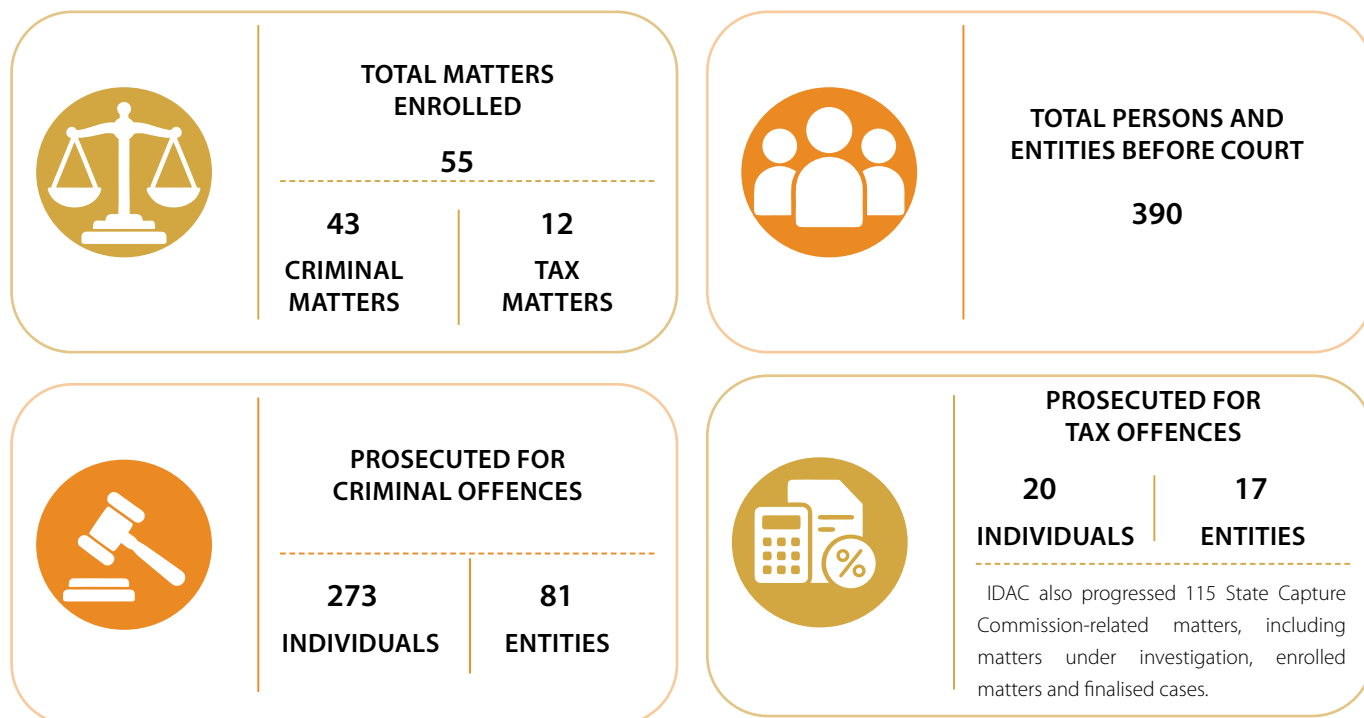
The 2025/26 financial year marked a consolidation period for the Investigating Directorate Against Corruption (IDAC) following its transition into a permanent specialised anti-corruption capability within the National Prosecuting Authority. IDAC continued to implement its prosecutor-led investigative model to address serious, high-profile and complex corruption matters affecting state capability, institutional integrity and public confidence.

IDAC exceeded its annual target for authorised investigations, achieving 19 authorised investigations against a target of eight. The directorate also achieved its annual enrolment target by enrolling seven state capture, complex corruption and related matters, and strengthened its anti-money laundering enforcement capability by instituting three money-laundering prosecutions against a target of two and finalising three money-laundering matters.

Since inception to March 2026, IDAC has enrolled 55 matters, comprising 43 criminal matters and 12 tax matters, with 390 persons and entities before court. This includes 273 individuals and 81 entities prosecuted for criminal offences, and 20 individuals and 17 entities prosecuted for tax offences.

IDAC also progressed 115 State Capture Commission-related matters and finalised significant matters including S v Angelo Agrizzi, S v Yakub Ahmed Suleman Bhikhu & Homix (Pty) Ltd, S v Raphael Bricker & Green Blossom Pty Ltd and S v Tshepo Khoza.

Figure 19: Cumulatively, since inception to March 2026, IDAC achieved the following operational outputs



Key convictions finalised during the reporting period included

- S v Angelo Agrizzi;
- S v Yakub Ahmed Suleman Bhikhu & Homix (Pty) Ltd;
- S v Raphael Bricker & Green Blossom Pty Ltd; and
- S v Tshepo Khoza.

The Directorate also executed a significant anti-corruption operation involving the arrest of businessman Vusumuzi "Cat" Matlala, his associate and 12 SAPS officials in relation to alleged corruption involving the SAPS Medicare 24 tender.

A further institutional achievement was the establishment of the Governance, Performance and Institutional Assurance function (GPIA). GPIA translates IDAC's national and international anti-corruption obligations, strategic priorities, Operational Manual and SOP architecture into operational logic, standardised procedures, internal controls and verifiable reporting systems.

These institutional achievements are strategically significant because they position IDAC to become a mature, auditable and high-impact anti-corruption capability within the NPA. With appropriate NPA support, IDAC can operate not only

as a specialised unit, but as the NPA's flagship model for complex corruption investigation, prosecution, institutional accountability and verified performance reporting.

A major brand identification initiative was undertaken by IDAC during the reporting period to advance its institutional branding and mandate-visibility work. IDAC provided the conceptual basis for the development of an institutional emblem. The proposed IDAC emblem was presented before EXCO, and the process of formally branding IDAC is underway. This initiative supports institutional identity, stakeholder recognition and public confidence in IDAC as a permanent specialised anti-corruption capability within the NPA.

Challenges

IDAC operates within a complex investigative and litigation environment involving high-volume documentary evidence, financial investigations, digital evidence, transnational illicit financial flows and coordinated litigation strategies in complex corruption matters.

The central challenge is that IDAC's permanent anti-corruption mandate is not yet fully matched by a fit-for-purpose institutional support platform. This affects the Jakarta

Principles relating to mandate clarity, permanence, adequate resources, competent personnel, operational autonomy and effectiveness.

Judicial case management remains a further challenge. Given the scale, complexity and public significance of IDAC matters, sustained engagement with the judiciary is necessary to support effective case management, mitigate court backlogs and ensure appropriate judicial capacity in specialised corruption matters. This includes appropriately skilled and vetted presiding officers, assessors where legally appropriate, and mandatory pre-trial conference directives or equivalent mechanisms for complex corruption trials.

To mitigate these challenges, IDAC continues to implement a prosecutor-led multidisciplinary investigative model integrating prosecutors, investigators, forensic accountants, digital analysts and specialist support personnel. IDAC also collaborates with SARS, the Asset Forfeiture Unit and the Digital Evidence Unit to strengthen financial investigation, asset recovery, digital evidence management and litigation readiness.

With proper accommodation of IDAC's specialised needs, the NPA can position IDAC as its flagship anti-corruption unit: a prosecutor-led, evidence-driven, digitally enabled, auditable and internationally aligned capability capable of delivering high-impact corruption enforcement outcomes. Conversely, if IDAC is required to operate through support frameworks designed for ordinary prosecutorial work, its specialised mandate will remain constrained.

Stakeholder engagements

IDAC continued strengthening strategic institutional collaboration across the criminal justice system and associated anti-corruption stakeholders. Collaboration with SARS contributed directly to the successful finalisation of tax-related corruption prosecutions, including *S v Tshepo Khoza*, which involved tax fraud linked to SAPS procurement corruption.

Collaboration with the AFU ensured that parallel financial investigations and asset-tracing processes accompanied major state capture prosecutions, strengthening the recovery of proceeds of crime and supporting South Africa's FATF-related anti-money laundering obligations. FATF Recommendation 30 requires countries to ensure that competent law-enforcement authorities have responsibility for money-laundering and associated predicate-offence investigations, including proactive parallel financial investigations in major proceeds-generating offences. IDAC also maintained coordinated engagements with investigative, intelligence and prosecutorial stakeholders in advancing major State Capture Commission investigations involving Transnet, Eskom, SSA, SAPS, Bosasa, SAA and related entities.

These engagements contributed to the advancement of complex investigations; enrolment of high-profile matters and disruption of illicit financial flows associated with organised corruption networks.

This relationship is directly relevant to the Jakarta Principles. A specialised anti-corruption capability cannot achieve mandate clarity, permanence, competent staffing, adequate resources, operational effectiveness, accountability and credible public reporting through operational effort alone. These outcomes require an enabling institutional environment.



Table 28: Performance of IDAC indicators 2025/26



To address delays and operational pressures impacting complex corruption litigation, IDAC implemented the following interventions:

- Strengthened multidisciplinary investigative teams;
- Used the Digital Evidence Unit to support management and processing of voluminous digital evidence;
- Enhanced coordination with SARS and the AFU;
- Prioritised trial-readiness and evidential consolidation in legacy matters;
- Intensified integrated financial investigations linked to corruption prosecutions; and
- Used pre-trial conferences and trial-readiness engagements, where available, to narrow issues, identify procedural blockages, improve disclosure management, support case-flow planning and reduce avoidable trial delays.

The use of pre-trial conferences remains important despite the absence of a uniform mandatory directive specifically tailored to IDAC-type complex corruption matters. Although existing court practice recognises pre-trial and trial-readiness mechanisms in certain contexts, the absence of a consistently applicable mandatory framework for complex corruption matters means that IDAC must actively pursue pre-trial engagement as a practical case-management tool.

These interventions contributed to improved enrolment outcomes, strengthened financial investigation capability, enhanced evidential readiness and advancement of major state capture prosecutions.

Capacity

During the reporting period, IDAC continued strengthening institutional capacity following the establishment of its permanent mandate. The wacross prosecutorial, investigative, forensic financial, digital evidence, governance, document-control and data functions in response to increasing operational demands.

During the 2025/2026 financial year, IDAC commissioned the following training initiatives, which serves to enhance its ability to manage large scale corruption investigations involving evidential, financial, digital and transnational elements:

- Financial investigations;
- Digital evidence management;
- Complex corruption litigation;
- Asset tracing and recovery; and
- Anti-money laundering enforcement.

Given the evolving nature of complex corruption, illicit financial flows, cyber-enabled offending, procurement manipulation, professional-enabler conduct and money-laundering methodologies, IDAC's training needs and curriculum must be continuously assessed and updated to ensure that staff remain capable of responding to emerging crime trends and investigative methods.



Noteworthy Cases

S v Angelo Agrizzi

(IDAC, State Capture Commission Investigation)

Former Bosasa Chief Operations Officer Angelo Agrizzi entered into a section 105A plea and sentence agreement in relation to corruption and money-laundering offences. This matter arose from State Capture Commission investigations into corruption involving Bosasa and public officials. Agrizzi pleaded guilty to three counts of corruption and one count of money laundering. He received sentences amounting to 40 years' imprisonment, wholly suspended for five years on strict conditions linked to continued cooperation with IDAC investigations.

The matter represented a significant strategic outcome in advancing accountability relating to state capture corruption networks and associated illicit financial flows.

S v Yakub Ahmed Suleman Bhikhu & Homix (Pty) Ltd

(IDAC, State Capture Commission Investigation)

The accused and associated entity were convicted on 81 counts, including money laundering, fraud, forgery and uttering. This matter originated from investigations into Transnet-related state capture activities involving the laundering of corrupt proceeds through corporate entities. The matter highlighted the use of corporate structures to facilitate and conceal corrupt financial flows associated with state capture. The conviction reinforced IDAC's strategic focus on dismantling complex financial-crime networks underpinning systemic corruption.

S v Tshepo Khoza

(IDAC, State Capture Commission Investigation)

The accused was convicted of tax fraud involving approximately R3,6 million and sentenced to direct imprisonment. This matter involved tax fraud linked to corruption proceeds arising from SAPS procurement processes associated with the Forensic Science Laboratory. The conviction demonstrated IDAC's integrated approach to complex corruption and financial crime by using tax-enforcement mechanisms alongside broader anti-corruption investigations.





Asset Forfeiture Unit

Key achievements

The 2025/2026 reporting period saw increased co-operation and collaboration with key partners in the criminal justice system (CJS), to enhance its powers to seize criminal assets and maximize its effect in the fight against crime, and particularly, organised crime. In the 2025/2026 period AFU recorded significant achievements including:

- **The Tembisa Hospital** case is a matter of high public interest, involving large scale corruption and procurement fraud at the hospital. The investigation into the matter was prompted by the murder of a whistleblower. The AFU secured large preservation orders to the collective value of R373m.
- **The Asbestos case** which is a State Capture related matter dealing with the corrupt awarding of contracts involving high ranking officials in the Free State. The AFU was able to link the money syphoned from the department to properties purchased, preservation order and forfeiture to the value of 32 million were granted. The recovery process has commenced.
- The AFU reported C-ADR recoveries of R174 million in the OCM/Templar matter, contributing substantially to the recovery proceeds of unlawful activities.

The AFU has enhanced its regional and international collaboration by finalising Memorandums of Understanding with India and the Kingdom of Eswatini. The MoUs have been submitted for approval and signature. Similarly, the AFU has concluded the renewal of an MoU with the Basel Institute for Governance.

International networks tracing of state capture proceeds with counterpart jurisdiction is starting to bear results through the support and cooperation of the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative of the World Bank. With the facilitation by the World Bank, the AFU has managed to secure one-on-one meetings with several jurisdictions such as AFU counterparts in China, India, the UAE, Kazakhstan and Hong Kong.

The Asset Recovery Hub (ARH) was established to provide a vehicle to pilot the implementation of certain limited objectives of the Anti-Financial Crime Coalition (AFCC). The

ARH is made up of functionaries from parties to the AFCC – FIC, Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (DPCI), and National Prosecuting Authority's Asset Forfeiture Unit (NPA AFU).

The AFU received two awards at the ARINSA AGM held from 1 to 5 December 2025 in Zimbabwe. The first award was for the excellent work that the AFU is doing as the co-secretariat of ARINSA. The second award was received as appreciation to the AFU from Zimbabwe for assisting Zimbabwe to establish their asset recovery regime.

Challenges

The unit is dependent on high-value cases being referred. The unit has several strategies to source cases, however, if cases are not referred to it, it limits the AFU's ability to achieve high-value targets. In the year under review, many cases were referred and finalised which were of lower value. Notwithstanding, the value of a case, is not an indicator of the impact or importance of the case.

The AFU continues to operate within a salary disparity which impacts AFU investigators and affects staff retention and sustainability.

Linked to the challenge above is the fact that the investigative powers of AFU investigators are limited. This results in dependency outside of the AFU, to gather evidence which is required for an AFU case evaluation.

The impact of the AFU is diluted by competing mandates of other law enforcement and non-law enforcement agencies.

The challenges are mitigated by the AFU participating in several structures and initiatives where cases could be sourced from. These include the Fusion Centre, the Asset Recovery Hub, the National Priority Crimes Operational Committee, the Health Sector Anti-Corruption Forum, the Inter-Agency on Illicit Financial Flows, the Organised Crime Desk of the NPA and the IDAC Steering Committee. At the provincial level, the Regional Heads regularly engage with stakeholders such as the SCCU, the DPPs in general and SAPS units such as the DPCI to source cases.

Stakeholder Engagements

There are several multi-disciplinary structures where the AFU serves with prosecutors and other stakeholders. These include the National Priority Crime Operational Committee's Case Management Committee, the Fusion Hub, the Asset Recovery Hub, the NPA Money Laundering Desk, the Shared Forensics Services Steering Committee, the Inter-Agency Working Group on Illicit Financial Flows, the Health Sector Anti-Corruption Forum, the State Capture Case Management Committee (DPCI), IDAC Task Force, the SARS/IDAC Coordinating Committee and the South African Money Laundering Inter-Agency Task Force.

The AFU has a remarkable record for returning assets to foreign jurisdictions. To date, the AFU has frozen R212 million, forfeited R113 million, and returned R82 million to foreign jurisdictions. During the period under review, the AFU froze R23 million, forfeited R17.4 million and returned R4,3 million to foreign jurisdictions.

In partnership with the UNODC, the AFU co-manages the Asset Recovery inter-agency network of southern Africa (ARINSA) Secretariat. The unit implemented several programs to empower regional partners in the SADC region and beyond. The AFU implemented a prosecutor placement program, which placed and trained 150 foreign asset recovery practitioners between 2012 and 2020. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the program evolved to have AFU staff conduct in-country training programs in various countries. The training is tailored to the specific legal frameworks and

requirements of the respective jurisdictions. To date, the AFU has trained a further 123 participants in countries such as Lesotho, Namibia and the Seychelles.

Participation in these structures made it possible for the AFU to engage with peers in jurisdictions where State Capture moneys were transferred to.

During the period under assessment, the AFU attended the OECD phase four country visit meetings. Input was prepared and provided for the OECD country report, and the AFU was further required to address the OECD assessors on the country's ability to address foreign bribery committed both inside and outside the country during the in-person sessions. The input provided was well received by the assessors and was incorporated into the final country report. The framework for seizure, confiscation and forfeiture as well as practical examples and statistics were included in the country report.

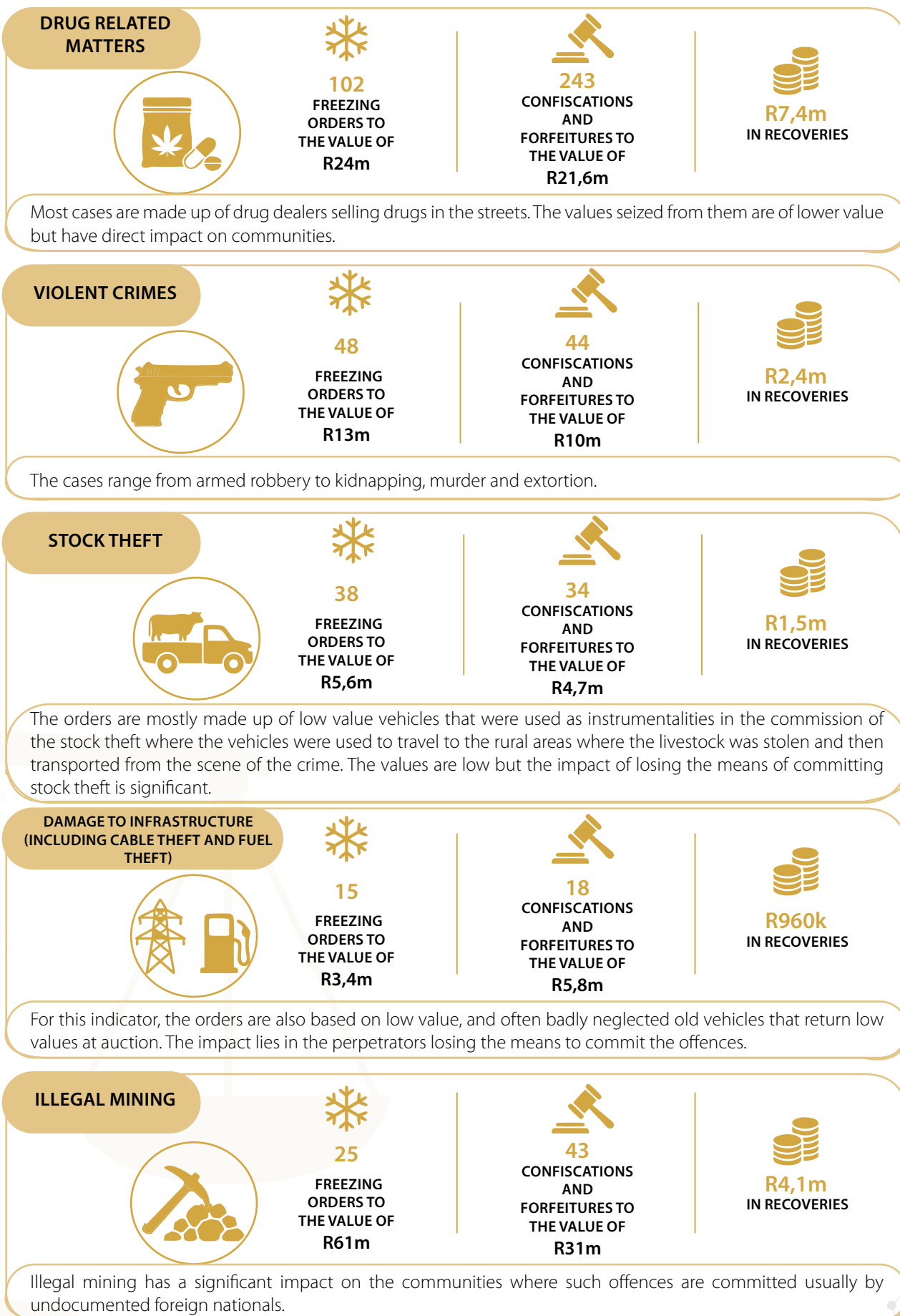
Communications

On 18 March 2026 the NDPP attended an official handover function. The function celebrated the restoration of immovable property to the rightful owner, the Mahikeng Local Municipality. The immovable property was part of the Marang Estate Social Housing Project where immovable property was fraudulently transferred from the title of the Municipality.

AFU had a direct impact on the community by supporting cases dealing with drugs, stock theft, illegal mining, cable theft and damage to infrastructure and violent crimes.



Figure 20: AFU Results



Service delivery improvement

Another example is the participation of the AFU in the border management project in Limpopo. The importing of illicit cigarettes has become a major challenge with millions in excise duties lost on an annual basis. Through this focus the AFU has managed to greatly increase the numbers of orders obtained in the smuggling of illicit cigarettes.

Performance

The AFU has six (6) main indicators. In previous financial years and for part of the financial year under review, corruption-specific indicators, which are sub-sets of the overarching indicators, were also included as these specific indicators were reported on in terms of the Medium-Term Development Framework. The corruption-specific indicators are included even though the indicators fell away with the approval of the Medium-Term Development Framework.

Table 29: Performance of AFU Indicators 2025/26

OUTPUT INDICATOR	ACTUAL PERFORMANCE 2025/26
 Number of completed confiscation forfeiture cases	732
 Value of completed forfeiture	R467m
 Number of Freezing Orders	481
 Value of freezing orders	R858m
 Value of recoveries	R532m
 Success rate of litigated cases	99%

The most significant highlight over the past five years was the successful implementation of C-ADR and the recoveries made in State Capture cases. From 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2026 the AFU has recovered R6,72 billion. This constitutes 49% of all recoveries made by the AFU since 1999. This means that the total recoveries almost doubled during the past five years. R4,82 billion was paid into CARA and R2,92 billion was returned to victims.



National Prosecuting Authority
South Africa



Noteworthy Cases

Tembisa Hospital Matter

(AFU Gauteng: Johannesburg)

Pursuant to the whistleblower, Babita Deokaran's report detailing suspected fraud and other irregularities at Tembisa Hospital Supply Chain Management, a report that ostensibly led to her assassination, National Treasury appointed forensic accountants to investigate the allegations.

One of the legs related to a grouping of 14 companies, linked to the Maumela family, which received payments totalling R410 607 739,71 during the period from January 2019 to August 2022. Extensive practices of "cover quoting", a form of bid rigging, were identified. The essence of the *modus operandi* was that several related entities were used to submit quotes for the goods or services, with prices rigged to ensure that one predetermined entity would win the bid. There was evidence of tampering with bid documents. There were numerous instances of false declarations, such as directorships of companies and false classifications to facilitate the supply of medical goods. Fraudulent or expired B-BBEE certificates were also submitted with the bids.

The AFU in Johannesburg obtained two preservation orders in this matter. The first order was against the property of Maumela on 14 August 2025 for an amount of R326 million, and the second order against the property of Mazibuko was obtained on 27 August 2025 for an amount of R47 million. The forfeiture processes have commenced.

Forfeiture of Properties and Hotel

(AFU Limpopo)

During January 2020, Howard Mashaba allegedly purchased four properties owned by government in Kremetart, Giyani, in Limpopo Province from a person who purportedly worked at the Department of Public Works (DPW). Mr Mashaba evicted certain tenants who had lease agreements with the Provincial DPW and demolished the properties. On one of the properties, he built a hotel that was nearing completion.

In terms of Chapter 6 of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act, 121 of 1998 (POCA), the AFU obtained a preservation order and a subsequent forfeiture order on 13 February 2026 to the value of R22,700,000.00, inclusive of the improvements made by Mashaba to the properties.

Forfeiture Order of Gold Bearing Material

(AFU North West)

The Asset Forfeiture Unit secured a forfeiture order in respect of gold-bearing material weighing approximately 39,058 metric tons, with an estimated value of R16 000 000,00. The material constituted proceeds of unlawful activities and/or instrumentalities of an offence referred to in Schedule 1 to POCA.

The case emanates from investigations into illegal mining activities that occurred between 2016 and 2020. During this period, certain suspects and entities would remove gold-bearing material from a dormant mine and transport it to a processing plant situated in Stilfontein, Klerksdorp. This contravened section 4(1), read with sections 1 and 20(1)(a), of the *Precious Metals Act 37 of 2005*, as the suspects and entities did not possess a refining licence.

Forfeiture in Diamond Investment Scheme

(AFU Gauteng: Pretoria)

The High Court in Pretoria granted the AFU a final forfeiture order against ZencoCare (Pty) Ltd, a company linked to an unlawful diamond investment scheme involving Louis and Desiree Liebenberg.

The order made in terms of the POCA covers R4 million plus interest held in a Standard Bank account. Investigations revealed the funds were the proceeds of a fraudulent scheme run through the Forever Diamonds and Gold group of companies, which promised lucrative short-term returns on diamond parcels that never existed. Instead, investor funds were misused to pay earlier participants, in what authorities describe as a Ponzi-type operation.

ZencoCare, directed by Desiree Liebenberg, transferred R5 million to attorneys in 2024. Of this, R1 million was paid to Eskom for mining-related activities, whilst the remaining R4 million was preserved and has now been forfeited to the State. The money had originally been earmarked for the purchase of West Coast Resources, a Northern Cape diamond mining company.



Office For Witness Protection

The Office for Witness Protection (OWP) continues to play a critical role in strengthening the administration of justice by ensuring the safety, security, and well-being of witnesses whose testimony is essential to the successful investigation and prosecution of serious and organised crime. Through the implementation of comprehensive witness protection measures, the Office enables witnesses to provide evidence without fear of intimidation, threats, or retaliation.

Key achievements

The OWP maintained its historic records, ensuring that no witness or related person harmed, threatened or killed because of placement on the Witness Protection Programme over the past 26 years. The office achieved 100% attendance of protected witness at judicial proceedings, ensuring that witnesses are available to provide testimony when required. In addition, all formal complaints lodged and submitted to the Minister in terms of Section 14 of the Witness Protection Act, as well as those lodged with government institutions and other public or private organisations regarding treatment while on the Programme, were addressed and resolved effectively.

Challenges

Despite the OWP's continued success in achieving its strategic objectives, several challenges impacted its operations during the reporting period. The nature of the Office's operations requires a clear separation between covert witness protection activities and overt administrative functions. Balancing these functions within existing operational structures

continues to present challenges, particularly in ensuring the confidentiality and security requirements associated with witness protection.

The requirement to utilise suppliers registered on the Central Supplier Database presents challenges for the Office, given the confidential nature of witness protection operations. The Office continues to experience challenges in filling vacant and newly approved posts. Delays in recruitment and the availability of suitably qualified personnel place additional pressure on existing staff.

The prolonged period that criminal proceeding takes, along with the delay in prosecution cases which involve protected witnesses, as well as the non-prioritisation of the cases, contributes to witnesses and related persons remaining on the Programme for longer periods. This increases operational costs and places additional demands on the Office's resources.

Allowances paid to protected witnesses and their related persons remains a challenge, especially when considering the increasing cost of living and budgetary constraints. It is important that the well-being of protected persons be considered alongside available finances.

Protected witnesses and related persons may, at times, have expectations that extend beyond the scope and mandate of the Witness Protection Programme. These are created by stakeholders and partners.

The challenge relating to the location of the Office and the adequacy of allowances provided to protected witnesses and related persons is currently receiving attention at the Ministry level.



Table 30: Performance of OWP indicators 2025/26

OUTPUT INDICATOR	ACTUAL PERFORMANCE 2025/26
 Number of witness, and related persons threatened, harmed or killed while on the witnesses' protection programme	0%
 % of witness and related persons who walked off the programme	1,4%
 % of witnesses who attended judicial proceeding	100%
 % of witnesses and related persons successfully discharged and resettled	100%
 % resolution of formal grievances	100%

- During the reporting period no witnesses and related persons were harmed, threatened, or killed while on the witness protection programme for reason placed on the programme. Target 100% - achievement 100%.
- During the reporting period 100% of witness attended judicial proceedings – all requests for judicial proceedings were met. Target 100%.
- During the reporting period 100% of witnesses and related persons, were successfully discharged and resettled. Target 100%.
- During the reporting period there was a 100% resolution of formal complaints lodged by witnesses.

Stakeholder Engagements

During the reporting period, the OWP continued to strengthen collaboration with key stakeholders and enhance awareness of witness protection services across the criminal justice sector.

The OWP participated in onboarding and orientation training sessions within the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), where officials were provided with an overview of the witness protection framework and the role of witness protection in supporting the administration of justice. The Office also contributed to Trafficking in Persons training programmes, highlighting the importance of witness protection.

To further strengthen cooperation and operational effectiveness, the OWP conducted ongoing engagements

and training sessions with members of the SAPS and prosecutors.

In addition, the Acting Director held various meetings with delegated officials from the International Criminal Court (ICC) aimed at promoting cooperation and sharing expertise in the field of witness protection.

Capacity

The approved establishment of the OWP comprises 196 posts, of which 69 were vacant during the reporting period. Training interventions during the reporting period focused on enhancing the specialised operational capabilities required for witness protection. In-house training programmes were conducted to strengthen the knowledge and skills of operational officials in protection methodologies, risk management, operational planning, and witness handling.

The skills level within the Office remains adequate to support the delivery of its core functions. Operational officials possess specialised expertise in witness protection and continue to receive targeted training to ensure that their skills remain aligned with evolving operational requirements.

To further strengthen its resource base and support operational requirements, the Office submitted a bid for Criminal Assets Recovery Account (CARA) funding. The additional funding sought through CARA is intended to complement the existing budget and enhance the Office's capacity



Legal Affairs Division

The Legal Affairs Division (LAD) serves as the in-house legal team of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and is responsible for managing all civil litigation involving the organisation. As the NPA's legal representative, the LAD is committed to safeguarding the interests of the NPA by providing professional, effective, and efficient legal services.

The Division handles matters instituted through both the action procedure, including letters of demand and summonses, and the application procedure, including notices of motion and related court processes

Key achievements

The Regional Capacity initiative has strengthened operational efficiency and improved responsiveness to the needs of prosecutors and State Attorneys. It also ensures that business unit heads are informed of the factors contributing to civil litigation against the NPA, particularly matters resulting in adverse outcomes, and are apprised of findings relating to skills gaps, training and mentoring requirements, or potential misconduct. During 2025, most of the newly-created regional capacity posts were successfully filled, further strengthening the Division's ability to provide effective litigation support and oversight.

The LAD provided ongoing legal support and representation to prosecutors, contributing to the successful defence of such applications and ensuring the integrity of prosecutorial processes. In addition, the Regional Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were finalised, approved, and implemented during 2025.

A great deal of effort has been made to address the completeness and accuracy of the contingent liability register, and the LAD contributed to a clean audit for the NPA in 2025/2026. The lack of a NPA digitised system requires continued engagement with Information Management Systems to procure a system that will address this need.

Challenges

Civil litigation against the NPA continues to be influenced by procedural inefficiencies within the Office of the State Attorney. In some instances, legal practitioners institute or pursue claims not solely on the merits of the matter, but with the expectation of recovering legal costs arising from missed deadlines, unopposed applications, or failures to respond timeously to legal notices.

As a result, the number of claims instituted against the NPA increased significantly from 986 in 2023/24 to 1 558 in 2024/25, representing a 58% increase. This trend underscores the importance of strengthening litigation management processes, improving coordination among stakeholders, and ensuring timely responses to legal processes to mitigate avoidable costs and reduce litigation risks.

During the 2025/26 reporting period, the significant increase in delictual claims observed in 2024/25, compared to 2023/24, stabilised. The LAD received 1 580 new delictual claims during 2025/26, compared to 1 558 claims received in 2024/25, reflecting only a marginal increase. This stabilisation can largely be attributed to the focused interventions implemented by the LAD, supported by the strengthened regional capacity.

A new directive by the Acting Judge President in Gauteng made mediation in all matters compulsory before a trial date can be obtained by a plaintiff. Attorneys are exploiting the directive by reviving very old matters from 2015, 2016 or earlier under the guise of mediation. In several matters, where state attorneys did not respond thereto with detailed reasons why a specific matter was not suitable for mediation, as required by the mediation protocol, the NPA ran the risk of being declared a delinquent party which can be followed by a default judgment. The protocol does not require the NPA to settle by way of mediation, but the NPA must engage therein to limit and resolve issues so far as possible. The LAD

is playing an active role in dealing with mediation matters and resolving concerns caused by lack of attention by state attorneys. It obviously puts a further strain on the LAD's human resources and has a financial impact. Aside from each party having to stand in for the mediator's costs, any oversight by the state attorney leads to further legal costs.

The LAD has, in spite of challenges, been able to ensure that the costs related to settlement agreements and orders

against the NPA are limited and limited the loss of matters, by way of default in the offices of the state attorneys, to four matters.

This can largely be attributed to the focused approach of the LAD to monitor and manage defaults by conducting root cause assessments in respect of lost cases, and to ensure accountability. Default judgments are managed by bringing rescission applications where possible.

Performance

The LAD achieved a success rate of **81,3%** in defending claims related to malicious prosecution and unlawful detention, representing a commendable improvement in litigation outcomes.

Table 31: Summary Of Matters Dealt with 2025/2026

OUTPUT INDICATOR	ACTUAL PERFORMANCE 2025/26
 Number of claims received	1 580
 Number of civil trials	329
 Number of delictual claims lost or settled	21
 Number of delictual claims lost or settled	362

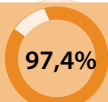
The LAD has experienced fluctuating trends in litigation activities over the past six-years, with notable changes in the number of claims received, civil trials conducted, claims lost or settled, and motions dealt with.

The number of claims received declined steadily from 1 129 claims in 2020/21 to 986 claims in 2023/24, indicating a gradual reduction in new claims over this period. However, a significant increase was recorded in 2024/25, when claims rose sharply to 1 558, representing the highest number during the period under review. In 2025/26, the number of new claims remained relatively stable at 1 580 claims.

The number of civil trials increased consistently from 285 trials in 2020/21 to a peak of 418 trials in 2023/24, Civil trials remained relatively stable at 410 in 2024/25, before declining to 329 in 2025/26.

Regarding delictual claims lost or settled, the LAD maintained relatively low numbers throughout the reporting period. The number of claims lost or settled decreased from 10 cases in 2020/21 to only seven cases in 2021/22, before increasing to 19 cases in 2022/23 and 22 cases in 2023/24. The highest number was recorded in 2024/25 with 23 cases, followed by a slight improvement to 21 cases in 2025/26.

Table 32: Performance of LAD indicators 2025/26

OUTPUT INDICATOR		ACTUAL PERFORMANCE 2025/26	
	% of default judgments		3,6% 4/112
	% of success in defended matters		81,3% 91/112
	% of savings on amounts claimed		97,4% 321 660 325
	% of civil actions dealt with within 5 days		100% 1 580/1 580

LAD continued to effectively manage default matters during 2025/26, with only four of the 112 finalised matters resulting in default judgments.

Despite the significant increase in the number of claims received during the 2025/26 financial year, the LAD maintained a commendable success rate of 81,3% in defending claims and lost only 21 matters.

The NPA incurred liability amounting to R8,478 million during the 2025/26 financial year, representing a significant increase from the R5,506 million recorded in 2024/25. The increase is largely attributable to the Cato Manor pay-outs, which constituted a substantial portion of the total liability.

Several other matters that resulted in losses were attributable to inefficiencies within the Office of the State Attorney, as well as inadequate performance by legal representatives, including counsel and correspondents. These factors contributed to avoidable losses and adversely affected litigation outcomes.

Despite these challenges, the NPA achieved a 97,4% saving against the total amounts claimed in finalised matters, demonstrating the effectiveness of the LAD in limiting the State's financial exposure.

Stakeholder engagements

In 2025/26, LAD partnered with SAPS Legal Services to formalise a working relationship through a structured stakeholder engagement mechanism and will continue implementation thereof in conjunction with state attorneys, to ensure uniformity in our approach. By enhancing our cooperative efforts, we contribute to streamlining of processes and ensure that joint actions reflect the highest standards of accountability and professionalism.

To support this initiative, Terms of Reference were developed, resulting in the establishment of Regional Litigation Committees (RLCs) comprising representatives from SAPS, the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID), the State Attorney, and the NPA/LAD. These committees provide a platform for coordinated case management, information sharing, and the resolution of litigation-related challenges. The long-term objective is to establish and operationalise RLCs in all provinces to enhance collaboration and improve the management of civil litigation matters involving the respective institutions.

EXCO is provided with monthly reports on the LAD's performance, including updates on finalised matters and significant litigation cases. To promote continuous improvement and accountability, officials conduct root cause analyses on all unsuccessful cases to identify contributing factors, lessons learnt, and appropriate corrective measures. Emerging risks and trends are monitored, analysed, and addressed proactively to strengthen litigation management, mitigate future exposure, and improve overall performance.

A number of significant matters were handled during the reporting period but are ongoing in 2026 for example Adv. Du Plessis SC's attempt to interdict the NPA from prosecuting him, the NPA's attempts to have the Omotoso acquittal reversed, the Cato Manor claims where settlement is challenged by the MK party and the constitutional challenge to the prosecution of Matshela Koko, former CEO of Eskom.



Eastern Cape Division

Key achievements

The Division's strategic focus includes increasing the successful prosecution of serious violent crime, including corruption, sexual offences, organised crime, murder, robbery with aggravating circumstances and GBVF matters. All units collaborated in the successful prioritisation and finalisation of corruption and money laundering cases. The money laundering cases where pleas were taken have also improved.

To further accelerate the finalisation of commercial crime cases, the division established a new commercial crime unit, informally known as 'SCCU LITE'. This innovative unit brings together Regional Court prosecutors from general prosecution to focus exclusively on commercial crime matters outside the SCCU's purview. The SCCU LITE has benefited from skill transfers from the SCCU, resulting in promotions and appointments of its prosecutors as SCCU advocates.

Challenges

Interlocutory applications brought by defence counsels to adopt the Stalingrad approach has resulted in numerous delays and postponements in the high-profile trial matters. This was raised in stakeholder meetings with the judiciary and court roll planners and pre-trial conferencing is being strictly adhered to, to properly case manage each matter before a trial date has been set.

The lack of judicare counsels from Legal Aid South Africa has also contributed to fewer High Court trials being finalised. Accused in gang matters fire counsels on the trial date to delay proceedings. The killing of witnesses before the trial date remains a constant challenge.

The prosecutors became the targets of random killings, especially at the Engcobo Magistrate's Court, which was

targeted, and the division lost two prosecutors within three months. Thereafter, another prosecutor, Tracey Brown, was killed outside her home in Gqeberha, while an attempted assassination of an SPP in Kariega was also in the news.

Load shedding, water shortage and connectivity issues have affected the court hours. Coupled with frequent protests relating to municipal service delivery, blocking roads and shutting down towns for weeks on end, these disruptions cause lower finalisation rates and fewer court hours. Stakeholders have committed to working around the schedule to keep the courts going, especially at courts where there are no generators.

The DOJ server regularly being down has affected the communication with the prosecutors who all rely on DOJ network to communicate. This adversely affects the capturing of cases on ECMS.

The lack of accommodation in respect of the DPP offices and the prosecutors at courts remains a challenge.

The Organised Crime Unit has a huge workload with a very limited staff component. With the focus area in the province being serious violent crime, and with the Eastern Cape being considered as the most violent province in the country, an increase in staffing at this component is sorely needed. Mthatha still does not have a dedicated organised crime unit and all five advocates are seconded from General Prosecutions, despite an intervention and assessment. Vacancies are filled slowly, and the urgent need for posts to be established in the High Court for organised crime matters still exists. Efforts have been made to transfer skills and move the more experienced Regional Court prosecutors into this Unit and pair them with the more experienced Organised Crime Unit prosecutors in East London and Gqeberha where the prosecutor head count allows for secondment.

Stakeholder engagements

DEEC, Regional Efficiency Enhancement meetings (REEC) and PEEC meetings take place regularly and can address the various challenges with different stakeholders.

Aside from the PEEC meeting, the Acting Judge President has a quarterly Roll Management meeting before the start of each term. At the meeting, the rolls of the four high courts are discussed with the roll planners to iron out any challenges regarding the lack of judiciary and to give priority to partly heard matters. This engagement has proved to be effective as the four local divisions no longer work in isolation and are often able to reassign a judge to another local division to give priority to a long outstanding, partly heard matter there. Daily feedback and a hands-on approach have eased roll planning in the Mthatha High Court. Virtual pre-trial meetings between legal aid and the State have proven successful in the Mthatha High Court where high-profile cases are involved.

Meetings are held with SAPS, NPA, Home Affairs as well as NGO'S with regard to trafficking in persons and information was shared, prosecution guidance was given before arrest. Community initiatives are planned together so that the different role players are jointly involved in imbizos and community education. When a case of trafficking is reported, all parties meet to discuss the way forward and ensure that priority is given to support of the victims, the gathering of evidence and enrolment of the matter.

The division is involved with Business Safety Steering Committee Forum comprising of businesses, NPA and SAPS, which comes up with strategies geared towards a safer Nelson Mandela Bay. The Eyes to Ears Project is geared at setting up a Command Centre involving SAPS and security companies. The farming sector has agreed to fund this project. The Consumer Council Retail Industry has also agreed to share their records regarding hijackings, business robberies, etc., and has also offered to set up a database for the province.

With the increase in extortion cases in construction and where businesses are forced to pay protection fees, the extortion meetings are aimed at collaborating between SAPS, NPA and the Bargaining Council Civil Engineering Industry and sharing information and databases.

Performance

During the reporting period, consistently high conviction rates were achieved across the three court fora, namely the District Courts, Regional Courts and High Courts. The district court and high court conviction rates exceeded 90%, whilst the regional court achieved 84%. This remains a significant indicator of the effectiveness of the prosecutorial function.

The sustained performance reflects effective prosecution strategies and strong collaboration within the criminal justice system. The division has achieved a 100% conviction rate for cybercrime and complex tax prosecutions.

The prosecution of femicide cases further underscores the NPA's commitment to combating gender-based violence and ensuring justice for victims. These outcomes demonstrate the effectiveness of specialised prosecutorial interventions, victim-centred approaches, and enhanced coordination with stakeholders involved in the investigation and prosecution of gender-based violence matters. These measures resulted in an increase in finalised cases.

Collectively, these achievements reinforce public confidence in the criminal justice system and demonstrate the division continued commitment to delivering justice, protecting vulnerable victims, and effectively prosecuting serious and complex crimes.

Peer-review and in-service mentoring arranged between SPPs and control prosecutors to learn best practices from one another are ongoing with the buy-in from other stakeholders. Sharing best practices between peers during peer reviews and in monthly and quarterly meetings have ended up in prosecutors being mentored and received practical in-service training. District Court prosecutors are used in Regional Courts to enable career pathing and seconding prosecutors and advocates between units became the norm. Backlogs in the Regional Courts were addressed and reduced during this financial year.

Capacity

The staff establishment of the division on 1 April 2025 was 737. The staff establishment on 31 March 2026 is 741. Between March 2026 and 30 April 2026 three experienced personnel retired, including the Director of Public Prosecutions; Chief Prosecutor Mthatha subcluster and Assistant Director Fleet and Facilities Management DPP Mthatha.

State advocate posts and admin posts were increased through the filling of vacancies as well as the creation of additional posts, which in turn led to accommodation shortages. ECMS training as well as POWER BI training was prioritised, despite network, router and ECMS challenges experienced.

Prosecutors requested ongoing practical training sessions to screen and deal with challenges experienced in the prosecution of Regional Court matters. The Training Committee continued with a training session for prosecutors and sessions covered the following topics, linkage to the offence; pointing out; the arrest; application for postponements - section 342A; difficult child witnesses;

chain evidence; hearsay evidence; circumstantial evidence; unconstitutionally obtained evidence; and fruits of the poisoned tree.

Gqeberha, Makhanda and East London and Mthatha admin staff attended First Aid level 1 and 2 training. This is critical training required to be compliant with OHS requirements.

Employee wellness, in collaboration with OHS, arranged an annual divisional event in Mthatha where the different offices were engaged in several sporting activities and wellness programs were hosted. Information sessions are held to provide information regarding pensions, retirement etc., to staff.



Free State Division

Key achievements

The Division's key focus during the 2025/26 was on the number of persons sentenced for corruption and the institution, as well as the finalisation of money laundering matters. These efforts resulted in 49 persons sentenced for corruption, 21 money laundering cases prosecuted, and 39 money laundering cases finalised.

The Division held a launch for the *In the Shadow of a Prosecutor Project (ITSOAP)*. As part of this project, the division partnered with the University of the Free State to expose law students to the work of the prosecuting authority. The program provides students with practical exposure to the operations of the NPA, including court processes, docket preparation, and the daily responsibilities of prosecutors by *shadowing* prosecutors at work. This is a huge achievement for the division and the NPA at large. During the 2025/2026 performance cycle our courts received over 235 students, who, through the project, managed to shadow prosecutors and learn about our processes. The students were awarded certificates at the completion of their shadowing programme. A new programme for 2026/2027 has since commenced.

Due to the success of the ITSOAP project in the 2025/2026 performance cycle, the Free State Division approached the University of the Free State with a request to create a short

course for health care workers to educate them on court processes, mainly how to testify in court. The need arose due to the reluctance by many health officials to embark on forensic work. The reluctance can be attributed to fear of the court room and not knowing what to expect. A team was created comprising NPA, UOFS and DOH members. This team's core focus was to help develop the content for the short learning course, which was done from June 2025. The module for the program has recently been finalised and enrolment for this SLP will commence during the 2026/2027 performance cycle. This is yet another remarkable success for the Free State. It speaks to collaboration and legacy building.

During the 2024/2025 performance cycle, the Division managed to successfully extradite Ms Moroadi Cholota, an accused person in the famous Asbestos matter involving the previous, Free State Premier, Mr Ace Magashule. In June 2025, the High Court found that it lacked jurisdiction to hear the case against Ms Cholota and she was excused from the court proceedings. The Free State team engaged senior counsel and took the decision of the High Court on appeal to the Constitutional Court. The Constitutional Court found that the High Court had jurisdiction and must proceed with the trial against Ms Cholota. The accused is currently standing trial in the Bloemfontein High Court.

The Division has also successfully objected to numerous interlocutory applications made by the infamous Thabo Bester and Nandipha Magudumane in the internationally recognised prison break popularly known as “The Beauty and the Bester”.

The Division has also convicted famous and wealthy attorney Jan Gysbert Maritz (*S v Maritz*) who for over 18 years, groomed and molested his stepdaughters. After pleading to the charges, the accused changed his attorney and made an application to the court to have the Judge, who took down the plea, recuse himself. The application for the recusal was rejected, the accused then approached both the SCA and CC with the same application and failed. In all instances the state vehemently opposed these applications and was successful. The accused was eventually sentenced to life imprisonment. The FSD AFU unit proceeded with an application for the final forfeiture of the farms belonging to the accused and was successful.

The Division reported its first Cybercrime conviction in December 2025, which was *S v Lebeko* (J. Harrington and R Eksteen). This conviction was a joint effort by the Serious Organised Crime and Serious Commercial Crimes Unit and signifies the critical importance of addressing cyber-related crimes.

Challenges

The Division had a challenge with backlog cases in the Welkom Cluster. This challenge was addressed by the 100-day Challenge Project, which seeks to address finalisation rate in the Regional Courts. The Judge President also urged the judiciary to ensure that case flow management meetings are held to improve the utilisation of court hours.

The movements and lack of permanent magistrates at specific courts led to postponements and slower finalisation of matters, thus contributing to the increase in case backlog.

The Free State experiences challenges with internet connectivity in the lower courts and issues with the server. Routers have been dispatched to all offices, but they have proven to be unreliable. The Free State Senior Public Prosecutors are now part of a WhatsApp group to be able to report the router issues.

Justice college and SOCA trainings have been moved from in-person to virtual, though this solution saves money and is the fastest means to share knowledge, although connectivity issues are still a huge problem. This results in lower attendance and frustration amongst participants. The engagement is not as robust as in-person and results in candidates needing to be retrained.

Stakeholder engagements

The Division has partnered with the Provincial GBVF Priority team to reduce the turnaround time for gender-based violence and femicide related cases in the division. The task team had a successful interview with the Central University of Technology (CUT) radio station on the new GBV legislations reaching out to over 28 000 audience. Engagement was held with Phuthaditjhaba SAPS and NPA to address challenges with performance and 40 detectives were trained, which contributed to the improvement in the conviction rate. At the end of the performance cycle, the femicide prosecutions in the division achieved a 92% conviction rate on femicide matters and a 74,3% conviction rate for sexual offences.

Various meetings with the DOH and the DOJ were held to resolve the crisis of shortage of beds at the Free State Psychiatric Hospital. In March 2026, DOH indicated how the issue was discussed at NEEC and that a wing had been identified at the psychiatric hospital to accommodate more patients. The wing only needed refurbishing, the delegate from DOH assured the stakeholders that the wing would be refurbished from April 2026. This is after numerous pleas for accommodation made by both NPA and the Department of Correctional Services.

A joint stock theft awareness workshop was held in Hoopstad, attended by key stakeholders including National Prevention Forum, Red Meat Producers Organisation, Red Meat Industry Services, SAPS, Department of Agriculture, NPA and the farming community in Hoopstad. The workshop aimed to foster collaboration, promote awareness, and empower stock farmers to support investigation and prosecution. Key discussion points included: Roles in combating stock theft; impact on the red meat industry; prosecution and investigation of stock theft; and the importance of early reporting. Following the workshop, a screening program was initiated. Approximately 150 stock theft dockets were submitted for screening in November 2025, and the review process is underway. The screening program is reviewing cases that were reported but not enrolled due to lack of evidence, may have been previously closed or put on hold, they are reassessments for potential reinvestigation or further evidence collection, and could be reopened or redirected for prosecution. This is to ensure cases are prosecuted are court ready and identify witnesses for further investigation.

Communications

The division issued 62 media statements and media releases. The media communications covered a wide range of serious and high-profile criminal matters. All media statements and releases were distributed extensively to local, regional, and national media platforms, including print, digital, radio, and television media outlets. The dissemination strategy ensured that communities remained informed about the work of the NPA and developments within the criminal justice system.

During the reporting period, the Free State Division continued to attract extensive national media attention due to several high-profile and sensitive matters prosecuted within the province.

Performance

The different task teams developed were instrumental in enhancing the performance of the division. The Anti-Corruption task team was created for dedicated cluster prosecution teams to deal with corruption and corruption-related cases falling outside the mandate and case selection criteria of the SCCU has finalised 41 matters, secured a 83% conviction rate and sentenced 39 persons for corruption. The Essential Infrastructure task team has finalised a total of 26 matters with a 76% conviction rate and the highest sentence achieved in these matters was a 20-year direct imprisonment.

The High Court roll is closely monitored through the office of the Judge President and the DPP office and issues are addressed immediately. The following initiatives have had a positive effect on the High Court role:

A pre-trial conference is held by a judge in respect of each matter on the court roll to ascertain the readiness of the case and to address any other issues that may cause delays. Section 105A of Act 51 of 1977 is also fully utilised where appropriate, as well as Section 212B and other tools within the Criminal Procedure Act. The rolls are planned well in advance and only once the matter is trial-ready is it remanded for such. The Division has also not been restricted by the term and recess periods, should a possible date for a matter fall within the recess, this is not seen as an impediment. The Division was the first to successfully lead witnesses' testimony virtually.

Capacity

The divisions establishment comprised 352 officials, this translated into a vacancy rate of 16,95%.

To enhance capacity in the division different training initiatives were conducted, money laundering training facilitated by the FIC as well as the SCCU Deputy Director. The impact can be seen on the 2025/2026 performance as the division reported the highest number of money laundering matters instituted and finalised.





Gauteng Local Division

Key achievements

During the reporting period, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) in the Gauteng Local Division (GLD) operated within a challenging environment marked by institutional pressures, resource constraints, and the profound loss of colleagues. Notwithstanding these adversities, the Division remained resolute in its constitutional mandate to prosecute without fear, favour or prejudice. Management maintained a firm focus on optimising available resources, curbing unnecessary expenditure, and strengthening operational efficiency. Central to this effort was the sustained resilience, professionalism, and dedication of prosecutorial and support staff, which enabled the Division to continue delivering on its core mandate in a high-demand environment.

The Division enhanced its coordinated governance through structured committees and task teams, aimed at improving interdepartmental collaboration, strengthening financial oversight, advancing innovation, promoting training and skills development, and ensuring effective utilisation of case management systems. This included the following:

- NPA/AFU Committee, aimed at increased AFU referrals and section 18 applications,
- Anti-Corruption Task Team, aimed at the monitoring of all corruption-related matters,
- Innovation Team, aimed at analysing existing processes and devising innovative solutions,
- Community Prosecutions Initiative Committee, aimed at improving implementation and operation of identified sites,
- Regional Training Forum, aimed at skills development in this Division,
- Budget Committee, with the purpose of managing finances and resources allocated to this Division,
- Employment Equity Committee, which aims at balancing equity during the recruitment process,

- ECMS Committee, which aims to address challenges in the operation of ECMS and to inculcate usage of the system in the Division, and
- Enterprise Risk Committee, which aims to identify, mitigate and report on risks.

The Division has implemented a Sexual Offences Prosecutors Enhancement Project (SOPEP) to bolster mental health wellness of dedicated sexual offence prosecutors. SOPEP is a strategic intervention initiated by the Division to address systemic, operational, and psychosocial challenges affecting prosecutors tasked with sexual offences matters. The initiative arises from a recognised need to mitigate the adverse impact of high caseloads, secondary trauma, and limited institutional support.

The Division further extended its reach through international cooperation, managing extradition processes and mutual legal assistance requests in collaboration with national authorities.

Challenges

During the reporting period, the Division continued to perform its prosecutorial mandate within an increasingly complex and resource-constrained environment. While commendable progress was achieved across specialised portfolios, a range of systemic, operational, and case-specific challenges significantly impacted efficient and effective prosecutions within acceptable timeframes.

A significant concern arose at District Court level, where a disproportionate volume of matters related to contraventions of immigration legislation. It is estimated that approximately 50% of cases on the court roll and 80% of finalised matters fall within this category, creating a risk of systemic backlog and misallocation of prosecutorial resources. This imbalance diverts resources away from more serious offences and undermines broader performance indicators, which are primarily aligned to Regional Court prosecutions. Thus, requiring better co-ordination between NPA, Department of Home Affairs and Correctional Services.

Across all portfolios, a recurring challenge relates to human resource constraints, particularly at senior prosecutorial levels. High vacancy rates, uneven distribution of experienced prosecutors, and excessive caseloads have limited the ability to effectively manage complex and high-impact cases.

In response, the Division has prioritised capacity building and institutional strengthening, including targeted recruitment initiatives, the deployment of experienced prosecutors to critical areas, and comprehensive training programmes for both prosecutors and investigators. The continued use of prosecutor-guided investigations (PGI) has been emphasised to improve case quality, ensure early prosecutorial involvement, and reduce delays associated with incomplete or inadequate investigations.

A further systemic challenge arose from investigative deficiencies and inter-agency coordination failures. These included delays in the referral of cases, inadequate intelligence gathering, reluctance to pursue financial investigations, and limited cooperation between key stakeholders such as SAPS, DPCI, SARS, and other entities. The existence of silo-based operations and misaligned performance indicators has contributed to inefficiencies.

Operational challenges arising from the complexity of litigation remained a persistent factor affecting performance. Matters within organised crime, corruption, and commercial crime portfolios are inherently complex, involving voluminous documentation, multiple accused persons, and extensive pre-trial processes such as disclosure, representations, and interlocutory applications. Defence strategies frequently contribute to delays, resulting in prolonged trial durations and a growing number of partly heard matters.

During the reporting period, multiple portfolios within the ODPP experienced operational and systemic challenges impacting service delivery. These included administrative understaffing, system disruptions affecting digital court platforms, judicial capacity constraints, delays in investigations and source documentation, and inefficiencies in docket and case management. Capacity limitations, particularly due to unfilled prosecutorial posts, further contributed to delays in complex matters, while high caseloads and inter-agency dependencies adversely affected turnaround times and finalisation rates.

The AFU experienced operational inefficiencies during the reporting period due to human resource shortages, limited investigative capacity, inadequate administrative support, and weak inter-agency coordination, resulting in delays in case finalisation and reduced effectiveness.

Stakeholder engagements

The Division actively engaged a wide range of stakeholders across the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) cluster, including SAPS, the Judiciary, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DOJ&CD), Legal Aid South Africa, the Department of Correctional Services, the Department of Home Affairs, and other relevant partners. These engagements were advanced through structured platforms, such as case flow management committees, Provincial and Regional Efficiency Enhancement Committees, and dedicated law enforcement stakeholder forums, as well as through ad hoc operational interactions aimed at resolving specific challenges.

The Divisional Annual Operational Planning and Stakeholder Conference provided a key platform for informing stakeholders of the Division's strategic priorities, operational targets, and performance expectations. Complementing this, the Divisional Law Enforcement Stakeholder Engagement meetings enabled the identification of operational challenges and the development of measurable solutions, with participation from a broad range of departments and entities.

At a cluster level, stakeholder participation yielded notable improvements in coordination and prosecutorial performance. In the East Rand, Johannesburg, and West Rand clusters, structured engagements with SAPS focused on improving investigative quality, strengthening evidentiary standards, and enhancing trial readiness through early prosecutor-investigator consultation and docket screening processes. Collaboration with the judiciary addressed case flow inefficiencies, while partnerships with Legal Aid South Africa and other stakeholders contributed to reducing unnecessary delays and improving trial progression.

During the reporting period, the portfolio managers in the Office of the DPP maintained active and structured engagement with key stakeholders, including the judiciary, SAPS, IPID, SARS, the State Attorney, Interpol, DPCI, and court registries, to support effective case management and service delivery.

Performance

During the reporting period, the Division maintained a structured and accountable performance management framework, with responsibility vested in portfolio managers, Chief Prosecutors, the Performance Information Manager and ultimately the Governance Co-ordinator. Performance information was systematically collected, verified and interrogated monthly, supported by cluster inspection

teams and the Divisional Inspection Team, who ensured the integrity of data through comparison of manual records and SharePoint submissions. Performance oversight was further strengthened through monthly divisional EXCO engagements, where performance against indicators was rigorously assessed and management was required to account and propose corrective measures, as well as through quarterly review processes where performance was analysed from divisional to court level.

Notwithstanding challenges with the fluidity of the case management systems (ICDMS/ECMS/ICMS) impacting the consistency of extracted data, the Division relied on a combination of system-generated and manually collated information to inform its reporting. Against this backdrop, the Division achieved 13 out of 18 performance indicators, reflecting an overall attainment of 72,2% of its annual targets.

Encouragingly, conviction rates across all three court forums improved compared to the previous reporting period, with a notable increase in the number of District Court matters finalised with verdicts. Significant successes were recorded in priority prosecution areas, including sexual offences, femicide, complex tax matters, money laundering and cybercrime, with the latter achieving a 100% conviction rate. The Division also exceeded expectations in the institution and finalisation of money laundering prosecutions, with most of these matters dealt with by the Specialised Commercial Crime Unit (SCCU).

However, the Division's performance was constrained by its inability to meet five key output indicators, all of which are aligned to the NPA Strategic Plan. These included conviction rate targets for murder, robbery with aggravating circumstances, serious commercial crime, corruption, and essential infrastructure-related offences, each falling marginally below prescribed targets. Of particular concern is that none of the clusters exceeded a 70% conviction rate in murder and essential infrastructure prosecutions, despite improvements noted compared to the previous cycle. Furthermore, while the number of persons sentenced for corruption increased significantly, this did not translate into proportionately higher conviction rates, and critically, no serious corruption prosecutions were finalised by the SCCU during the period under review.

Operational inefficiencies further impacted performance outcomes. The utilisation of court hours across all forums remained unacceptably low, with average sitting times of 2:09 in the High Court, 3:24 in the Regional Court and 3:52 in the District Court. This underutilisation directly affected case finalisation rates and, consequently, conviction rate performance. In addition, the decreased enrolment of new cases across all forums, coupled with an increase

in outstanding rolls, contributed to a growing backlog. This trend is particularly pronounced in the Specialised Commercial Crime Court (SCCC), where fewer enrolments resulted in an apparent reduction in finalised matters rather than improved efficiency.

The escalation of backlog cases remains one of the most significant challenges confronting the Division. Comparative analysis indicates a consistent increase across all forums, with the High Court backlog rising from 40,3% to 43,8%, Regional Courts from 49,7% to 55,8%, District Courts from 17,4% to 20,9%, and the SCCC from 76,1% to 84,5%. This upward trajectory underscores systemic constraints in case flow management, judicial capacity utilisation, and prosecutorial output.

In conclusion, while the Division demonstrated resilience and achieved notable successes in several priority areas, overall performance was tempered by underachievement in key strategic indicators, insufficient utilisation of court time, and escalating case backlogs. Going forward, it is imperative that the Division consolidates its gains by sustaining improved conviction rates, while directing focused interventions towards underperforming indicators. Enhanced utilisation of court hours, targeted backlog reduction strategies, and strengthened performance monitoring mechanisms will be critical to improving prosecutorial effectiveness and ensuring alignment with the strategic objectives of the National Prosecuting Authority in the forthcoming financial year.

Capacity

During the 2025/26 financial year, the Division demonstrated steady progress in strengthening its human resource capacity and operational effectiveness. The vacancy rate improved marginally from 11% in April 2025 to 10% by March 2026, reflecting incremental success in recruitment and retention efforts. This resulted in an increase in filled posts from 504 to 513, while vacant positions decreased from 68 to 59. Notably, the composition of personnel shifted, with a reduction in Regional Court Prosecutors offset by an increase in State Advocates, indicating a realignment of capacity to meet evolving operational demands.

A disproportionate number of officials, both legal and administrative, were on extended periods of temporary incapacity leave during the reporting period. Under the auspices of the ADPP, these applications were more closely scrutinised prior to making a recommendation regarding the approval and/or extension thereof by managers.

During the reporting period, the Division implemented a comprehensive and structured training programme aligned with the strategic objectives of the National Prosecuting

Authority and the Divisional Annual Training Plan. A total of 49 internal training interventions and 14 external stakeholder interventions were delivered, collectively capacitating 2 352 participants, comprising 998 prosecutors and officials and 1 354 external stakeholders. The Division attained 97% of its planned training targets, reflecting an elevated level of compliance with annual training objectives and an effective rollout of capacity-building initiatives across the Division.

The training programme was strategically directed at strengthening prosecutorial competence in priority crime areas, including sexual offences, gender-based violence and femicide, serious violent crime, cybercrime, corruption, money laundering, human trafficking, and organised crime. Additional focus was placed on the law of evidence, digital evidence, and specialised prosecutorial skills required to address emerging crime trends. Training interventions were delivered through a combination of workshops, practical sessions, and subject-specific engagements, ensuring both theoretical grounding and practical application.

The outcomes of the training programmes have been significant and measurable. There has been a demonstrable enhancement in prosecutorial capacity, particularly in the handling of complex and priority offences. Prosecutors are better equipped to manage case preparation, analyse evidence, and conduct trials effectively, contributing to improved performance in court. Furthermore, the training interventions facilitated greater consistency in the application of legal principles and prosecutorial discretion, while strengthening adherence to legislative requirements and policy directives. The incorporation of specialised and high-impact training has also contributed to improved responsiveness to evolving crime patterns, particularly in cybercrime and organised criminal activities.

A notable achievement during the period was the Division's successful stakeholder training programme, which

enhanced inter-agency collaboration within the criminal justice system. Key stakeholders, including the SAPS, Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department (JMPD), Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Police Department (EMPD), and SIU, were capacitated on critical aspects such as the use of force, evidence handling, and crime scene management. This initiative significantly strengthened cooperative governance, improved the quality of investigations, and contributed to more effective case outcomes.

Despite these achievements, the Division encountered several challenges affecting the optimal delivery of training. These included the limited availability of subject matter experts, operational pressures within courts restricting attendance, low participation in virtual training platforms, and budgetary constraints affecting the scope of interventions. In addition, incomplete Personal Development Plan (PDP) submissions hindered accurate training needs analysis and planning. Nevertheless, remedial measures were identified, including the development of internal subject matter experts, strengthening of attendance and nomination processes, and improved compliance with PDP requirements.

The Division performed well during the reporting period, with measurable impact on prosecutorial effectiveness and service delivery.

Ongoing efforts will focus on sustaining gains made, addressing identified challenges, and ensuring a highly skilled prosecutorial workforce capable of delivering on its constitutional mandate.

The SCCU reported a shortage of experienced staff at senior levels to deal with complex commercial crime cases.

As a result of the high vacancy rate in the Regional Courts in the Division, some Regional Courts in all three Clusters were staffed with experienced District Court Prosecutors, to prosecute in these courts





Gauteng Division Pretoria

Key achievements

There has been an improvement in the number of corruption and money laundering cases finalised and the division has seen an increase in the number of money laundering cases at the plea and finalisation stage compared to previous financial years. This area of prosecution forms part of management discussions with the aim of improving and achieving performance targets set. The recent appointment of the Chief Prosecutor for the Pretoria cluster will help stabilise the cluster and the division. The 100% conviction rate in both Complex Tax Cases and Serious Organised Crime cases set the trend for our future performance. The conviction rate in sexual offences compared to the previous years has improved. The conviction rate in respect of Serious Commercial Crimes is very high at a staggering 93,9%. We have substantially reduced the vacancy rate in both middle management and general office staff. We have fully integrated the Moretele and Garankuwa courts into the Pretoria cluster after the demarcation following the rationalisation of the lower courts process. Likewise, Brits Magistrate's Court has been fully integrated into the North West Division. We managed to fill the critical vacancy of SPP Community Prosecutions, which is essential for our visibility in our communities.

The Court Preparation Officers continued to perform well under difficult circumstances to prepare vulnerable groups, such as women and children, to testify in court. There were more Victim Impact Statements (VIS) drafted in the year under review than in previous years. The use of these VIS often led to exceptionally good sentences. The number of VIS facilitated increased by 36% from the previous year and the number of VIS used in court increased by 18% during the same period.

Our visibility in the media has greatly improved and there were more media statements issued communicating our achievements compared to previous years. The media continued to cover the trial of the murder of Senzo Meyiwa, which remains one of the cases that have been reported on the most. Prosecutors achieved the very first convictions and sentences in the TRC cases. This has resulted in the prosecution and conviction of people who thought they would never account to justice or serve lengthy prison sentences.

The division has significantly improved stakeholder engagement compared to the past. The DPCI, Organised Crime, Forensic Science Laboratory, Legal Aid SA, SARS and other role players were invited to both our quarterly review sessions and planning sessions. This has improved cooperation between the division and its stakeholders, resulting in more efficiency in our work. There have not been cases delayed due to outstanding DNA, ballistic or any other report from FSL.

A formidable team from the NPA has made history by securing the first successful conviction in TRC matters before the High Court. Their unwavering pursuit of justice led to the landmark sentencing of former Reaction Unit 6 Section Leader, Johan Marais (66), to 15 years of direct imprisonment for the premeditated murder of student activist and Congress of South African Students (COSAS) member, Caiphus Nyoka. The team recognised during the Senior Management Conference on 20 August 2025 by receiving Best Performing Team (TRC matters) Award.

Challenges

The consistent rise in vacant posts, coupled with prolonged appointment processes, is leading to unsustainable workloads and reduced efficiency. Two contract posts also ended, and only one remains. Contract prosecutors are handling high-profile matters. These prosecutors have invested months getting acquainted with the voluminous dockets. Bringing in a new prosecutor midstream would be a setback. These are some of the difficulties experienced when contract positions are not renewed, further contributing to staffing issues.

The slow finalisation of cases in specialised units is mainly caused by delaying tactics by the defence and the unavailability of foreign language interpreters. Complex cases require extensive evidence collection and forensic analysis before they are ready for enrolment.

The Community Prosecutor was assisted by two Senior Public Prosecutors in the Pretoria and Vaalrand Clusters, which was a temporary arrangement. The Division has two clusters with vast areas, especially in the Vaalrand cluster. This led to the Community Prosecutor not being able to attend all engagements or commitments and an application will be made to consider the creation of a second post.

Water cuts and disruptions result in a loss of criminal court days and ultimately have a negative impact on finalisation rates. Inadequate accommodation, resourcing and the lack of maintenance of infrastructure remain challenges that fall outside the scope of the NPA.

There are too many partly heard matters both in the regional and high courts and most of these matters are simply voluminous and these trials must run their full course, delaying the enrolment of other cases that are also trial-ready. Consideration is being given to the opening of another High Court to hear some of the latter matters.

A decision was taken to appoint Community Prosecution Champions across the clusters to assist the Community Prosecutor in fulfilling the role and being able to attend all stakeholder meetings or engagements.

Stakeholder engagements

The division is represented in the PEEC, EEC and the Case Flow Management meetings in all tiers and districts. The division is also represented at the SCCU Unit Commanders meeting relating to commercial cases as well as corruption matters.

The division also attend the monthly Provincial Projects Evaluation Committee (PPEC), chaired by the Head of the DPCI considering proposals for the registration of projects, evaluating projects, monitor progress and give instructions to the investigation team.

The Provincial Major Investigations Committee is similarly chaired by the head of the DPCI in the province. Unlike the PPEC meeting, this meeting focuses on major investigations, which are complex investigations of syndicates which do not meet the criteria for registration as projects, but which warrant dedicated focus to conduct investigations successfully. Many of the cases currently prosecuted by the Organised Crime Unit in the DPP office emanate from major investigations.

Provincial Organised Crime Secretariat meetings (POCS) chaired by provincial commander of the Organised Crime Units of the general detectives of the SAPS is also attended. In addition to the stakeholders mentioned above, the SAPS general detectives also attend the POCS meetings. The POCS consider and evaluate provincial crime trends and recommends a strategy to deal with the emerging crime trends. Investigations would then be conducted by the general detectives or by the DPCI if so referred.

SARS and NPA partnership: The relationship between SARS and the NPA is governed by a memorandum of understanding which was recently signed by the National Director of Public Prosecutions and the Commissioner of SARS. The MOU governs the relationship between the two (NPA and SARS) and provides for cooperation between the two entities both during investigations and prosecutions. The MOU provides for both parties to provide dedicated capacity (STU within the NPA) and Criminal Investigation Unit within SARS. There is also a provision for continuous engagement between the two. Over the years the relationship has had challenges which weren't insurmountable.

Cooperative Agreements with the three Metros on workstreams for closer and better collaborations on issues of mutual interests affecting them, common understanding and collaboration.

The Provincial and District joint meetings were attended to by NPA representatives to deal with matters that affect the lower court.

Communications

Communications disseminated 139 press releases to update the public about the court outcomes of the high-profile cases in the division. In order to amplify the NPA's voice communications conducted 64 media interviews with different media houses, such as the SABC, eNCA, Newzroom Afrika, MDN TV, Kaya FM, You FM, SABC Radio, Sunday World, Talk Radio 702, Power FM, Voice of the Cape (VOC) and Jacaranda FM about some of the high-profile cases in the division, such as the appearance of the High Court Judge at the SCCU, the case of the scholar transport driver, the case of the alleged killer of witness D in Brakpan, amongst other cases.

All statements issued in the regions are shared on all social media platforms of the NPA. The purpose is to ensure that we reach as many people as possible through all our social media platforms, not rely on traditional media to carry out our message for us.

Performance

The division continued to achieve the targets set for the conviction rate in the High Court, Regional Court and District Court. The Organised Crime Component and the Specialised Tax Unit achieved 100% conviction rates. There has been an increase in the number of persons sentenced for corruption and the number of prosecutions instituted involving money laundering charges and the number of cases finalised involving money laundering charges within the division. Also, the division saw an increase in the number of femicide murder cases finalised and all these cases were prosecuted in the high courts.

There has been an improvement in the number of corruption and money laundering cases finalised and the division has seen a huge increase in the number of money laundering cases at the plea stage. This area of prosecution forms part of management discussions and stakeholder engagements with the aim to improve and achieve performance targets set. During the PEEC meeting, the backlog at Tsakane magistrate court was discussed. A decision was taken to create a second court to deal with the extra case load. Legal Aid also provided a permanent practitioner for the extra court. At that time, the backlog was at 700 cases. Cases that were trial-ready were escalated to Legal Aid and most of them were finalised within a short period of time. The backlog from the District Court has since been reduced by 50% from what it was when the initiative was taken. The extra court is currently working properly as a permanent court and no longer as a backlog court.

In relation to the regional courts, at the REEC meeting the Regional Court President requested to be provided with the

percentages of the backlogs in these courts. The impression was that the backlogs were caused by lengthy bail applications. Regional Courts are sometimes used as courts of first instance where there are enough courtrooms in any establishment. It has since become clear that bail applications are not responsible for backlogs in the Regional Courts. This will be further investigated as we have eliminated bail applications as the cause of backlogs. Also established that the courts are sitting for very few hours due to several factors. Insufficient use of court hours has a ripple effect in that it affects our finalisation rate and equally increases the backlog. If the court hours are used optimally, then the percentage of backlogs will be substantially reduced.

Capacity

At the beginning of April 2025, the Gauteng Division Pretoria had 446 filled posts and 43 vacancies, resulting in a vacancy rate of 9,84%.

The region experienced growth in the number of regional prosecutors (LP5–LP6), from 88 in April 2025 to 95 in April 2026, an increase of seven. During the same period, vacancies in this category decreased from 5 to 0. Conversely, the number of vacancies for junior state advocates increased from 5 to 10.

Four new posts for state advocates were approved to enhance the capacity of the Organised Crime component. The recruitment process is underway. The interviews for the critical posts of a Deputy DPP (Special Tax Unit) and a Deputy DPP (General Prosecutions) were recently conducted. The money laundering and terror financing training held resulted in increased prosecution of money laundering cases as the prosecutors' abilities to identify ML offences were enhanced.

Some of the administrative staff were trained in typing, which continued to increase performance as the chamber workflow was continuously attended to speedily.





KwaZulu-Natal Division

Key achievements

The KwaZulu-Natal Division in conjunction with SAPS, under the auspices of Project Hope, has yielded the successful finalisation of two cases which were recently concluded in the KwaZulu-Natal Division of the High Court, sitting in Pietermaritzburg. The key objective of the project was to concentrate efforts on outstanding murder cases including those not previously enrolled and newly registered cases.

The two murder cases were finalised with conviction which resulted in severe sentences. In the first case, one of the three co-accused was sentenced to two terms of life and 51 years' imprisonment, whilst the other two co-accused were sentenced to six terms of life and 35 years' imprisonment each.

In the second case, the accused was sentenced to an effective 30-years' imprisonment after he pleaded guilty (in terms of Section 105A of the Criminal Procedure Act) to robbery with aggravating circumstances and two counts of murder.

During the 2025/2026 financial year, a Money Laundering Desk was established where attention was focussed on the provincial money laundering database. This has since evolved into a FATF Desk which both monitors performance in money laundering, cybercrime, ICC and AFU matters as well as offers training to the attendees on the FIC operations and other related fields of expertise. It must be stated that all clusters and units are represented at this platform.

The DPP has created the POCS structure to address Organised Crime with the feeder units. POCS is a joint meeting with SAPS Organised Crime to monitor specific projects, guide further investigation through PGI methodology and ensure the expeditious enrolment of project related cases.

Another remarkable achievement of the division is the implementation of the Provincial SharePoint platform for

the uploading of the portfolios of evidence relating to the performance information. To date, most clusters have uploaded the case related portfolios of evidence, thus ensuring that audit data is available without having to locate the hard copies.

During the 2025/26 financial year, the Strategy Office embarked on audit exercises with the various clusters and units. This was to ensure alignment between the monthly cluster/unit statistics and the data captured on SharePoint for audit purposes. This exercise was the first to be undertaken across the country. The audit exercise revealed that, if such comparisons are absent, there would be serious under reporting of performance information. This exercise was presented at the Performance Information Managers forum with a view to roll out the concept.

Challenges

The division faced numerous challenges in respect of its various performance areas, such as low Regional Court performance, targets not met for conviction rate in robbery with aggravating circumstances and conviction rate in corruption. In respect of the money laundering cases, it has been noted that the number of cases involving money laundering charges has decreased. In terms of the sexual offences matters, the main challenge remains to be on the large number of cases not finalised.

As solution to these challenges, the Regional Court President and the Chief Prosecutors identified the top five courts where performance is low. These meetings are chaired by the Regional Court President. It has been proposed that these meetings be more regular than sitting only before the PEEC. The Chief Prosecutors do meet and analyse the performance. To improve the flow of cases they are sharing cases, especially where there are busy court rolls, with nearby courts with low court rolls.

In addressing the challenges in dealing with corruption cases, the Money Laundering desk has begun providing training sessions to NPA and SAPS. This is a joint session, and it also deals with the FATF obligations. There is also a need to revisit training on Section 252A. The issue will be addressed with the managers, particularly the Chief Prosecutors, especially the prosecutors in the outlying areas who do not always have easy access to the subject matter experts.

To resolve the issue of decreased number of cases involving money laundering charges, the region has decided, through the Money Laundering desk, to increase the number of training sessions on the issue. When there was an increased number of training sessions on the subject matter, there had been an increase in the number of these cases. The training is a joint session with SAPS, and it is now case-based rather than theory-based. This is so that there is better understanding. However, the challenge remains regarding financial investigations.

In trying to properly monitor the performance regarding sexual offence matters, there has been a database created for all the clusters wherein the performance regarding the sexual offence matters is monitored. Since the database is intended to be shared with the judiciary, it indicates the new number of cases enrolled, the individual court hours for the courts dealing with the sexual offence courts, the number of sexual offences matters outstanding and finalised, and the number of sexual offences matters in a backlog. This has been of great assistance as one is able to monitor the actual numbers for the actual courts.

There is regular training provided and led by SOCA. It is further proposed that NPA looks at creating a specialised sexual offence unit, like the OCC and SCCU where prosecutors who are dealing with these matters are only linked to the dedicated courts. Not all courts have the resources to also deal with these matters.

It is hoped that with further engagement with the relevant stakeholders, there will be an increase in the finalisation of all performance indicators, especially at the Regional Court.

Stakeholder engagements and the impact thereof

Regarding the NPA involvement in the division PEEC structure, the DPP has ensured consistent attendance both by the High Court coordinator and the Lower Court representative. To drive discussions, the Judge President is presented with detailed performance data of every Regional Court by the DPP.

In the division, the NPA is again consistently represented at the PROVJOINTS structure as well as the Provincial Priority

Committees, such as those focused on Rural Safety and Transport conflict – Taxi Violence, to name a few. This ensures that the NPA is represented at all strata of the JCPS cluster. The attendance at the PROVJOINTS has allowed for the NPA to follow up on cases related to various JCPS initiatives such as the non-ferrous case prioritisation as well as Rural Safety related cases. It has ensured that the PROVJOINTS role players have a central NPA nodal point to coordinate case management.

The DPP has ensured that her office is consistently represented at the Provincial Technical JCPS cluster meetings chaired by the Head of Department of the Department of Community Safety and Liaison. This has ensured that the NPA participates in all issues pertaining to the JCPS cluster and forms part of the Action Work Group to generate specific reports.

The DPP attended two structures to address Organised Crime with the feeder units – POCS, a joint meeting with SAPS Organised Crime and PPC, the Provincial Priority Committee meeting with DPCI (the Hawks). At these fora various projects are pursued with PGI and feedback from the joint stakeholders, including the DPP's Organised Crime Component. The purpose of this structure is to ensure that investigations are prioritised, concluded and matters enrolled.

The DPP has also resorted to engaging the Judge President around performance of all Regional Courts. Prior to this, there was only a general overview provided to the Judge President whereas now there is engagement on a microscopic level.

Communications

The Division has successfully utilised the Viva Engage platform. It has further hosted maintenance webinars during the past financial year. The region has, in addition, created content for NPA TV, a case in point is the sentencing proceedings in the S v Sibusiso Ncengwa matter. The NPA provided live coverage of the same, including interviews with the Prosecutors.

Performance

Performance management in the Division was prioritised via the two-day PROMANCO – provincial meetings of senior managers. There has been a material deviation from the previous format of PROMANCO. Performance information is presented and followed up at subsequent meetings. It must be stated that 75% of the two-day sessions is focussed on performance improvement and statistics interrogation. The tangible outcome of the performance reviews is that managers take accountability for performance of their respective units. The Division has managed a steady above satisfactory state of performance and is expected to follow

an improved trajectory. The DPP has created a platform (DDPP Forum) for all Deputy Directors of Public Prosecutions which sits monthly to identify and address challenges emanating from the High Court environment. Several key decisions have been implemented by this forum such as the electronic discovery of case information to defence representatives. Also, this forum maintains close management of the Backlog Project in the High Courts.

The DPP has similarly created a platform (CPP Forum) for the Lower Courts represented by the Chief Prosecutors. The aim of this forum is to interrogate the Lower Court performance and address challenges in these courts. Tangible outcomes were the identification of Priority Courts to focus resources on and activate material impact in the improvement of the productivity of these courts.

Capacity

In the KZND, the vacancy rate at the beginning of the 2025/2026 cycle was 11,61% (total establishment of 761) and the vacancy rate as of 31 March 2026 was 9,46% an improvement of 2,15%. The level of occupation that had the improved growth was District Court with the absorption of ex-aspirants and State Advocate because of promotions. The decline was seen on Regional Court as result of promotions, resignations and retirements.

The DPP arranged several information sharing sessions for Senior Managers with topics ranging from Money Laundering (ML) and Financial Investigations to Cybercrime. The immediate outcome of the information sharing session was an exponential increase in the number of money laundering cases identified and reported on.

Added to this initiative, the KZND SCCU embarked on joint training where cluster prosecutors and law enforcement were trained on Money Laundering, Documentary Evidence, PGI, Cybercrime, Corruption, and understanding the Role of Forensic Auditors and Reports at the Instance of the DPP.





Limpopo Division

Key achievements

The Division implemented a comprehensive programme of targeted training interventions for prosecutors and Court Preparation Officers, covering key areas such as cybercrime, fisheries and environmental crimes, child justice, human trafficking, sexual offences, domestic violence, corruption, money laundering, and DNA evidence, as well as practical competencies including court technique, litigation writing, post-mortem processes and the utilisation of ECMS through specialised computer training. These interventions were informed by identified skills gaps and were aimed at strengthening both specialised knowledge and operational capacity. As a result, the Division recorded notable improvements in prosecutorial effectiveness, case preparation quality, and overall court performance, thereby contributing to enhanced service delivery and a more responsive, victim-centred criminal justice system.

District Courts continue to demonstrate their consistent ability to achieve performance targets. The effective utilisation of Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (ADRM) remains instrumental in the speedy finalisation of cases, contributing significantly to improved case flow management. This achievement is further attributable to the high level of commitment and dedication demonstrated by prosecutors, reflecting the Division's unwavering commitment to ensuring access to justice.

The High Court's continues to prioritise cases to facilitate their timely and efficient finalisation. Although targets were not achieved on a few occasions, the Division remains among the top performers in terms of finalisation rates. This performance is a testament to the dedication and professionalism of our advocates, who consistently go beyond expectations to ensure that matters are trial-ready and that cases on the court roll are expedited without unnecessary delays.

Challenges

The Division continues to experience persistent challenges impacting overall performance, particularly within the Regional Courts. The underperformance of these courts is largely attributed to external systemic constraints, most notably delays in the appointment of permanent Regional Court magistrates, resulting in reliance on acting appointments. This has contributed to inefficiencies, weak case flow management, and a consistent backlog in cases.

Infrastructure and resource constraints at court level remain a critical impediment to optimal service delivery. Many courts are faced with inadequate and poorly maintained infrastructure, including unhygienic conditions, insufficient office space, a shortage of courtrooms, and unreliable ICT systems. Dependence on the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD) for ICT support, coupled with inadequate provision of interpreters, recording equipment, and essential utilities such as water and electricity, continues to disrupt court operations. In some instances, court renovations and demarcation changes have led to a loss of court hours and increased pressure on already limited resources.

Despite these challenges, the Division continues to leverage stakeholder engagement platforms, including PEEC and REEC as well as Case Flow Management (CFM) meetings, to proactively address systemic issues. Notable progress has been achieved through targeted interventions, such as the conversion of a periodically sitting Regional Court into a fully operational daily court, which has resulted in improved case finalisation rates and a reduction in backlog. These collaborative efforts remain critical in driving sustainable improvements and enhancing overall performance within the Division.

Stakeholder engagements

Strategic engagements through the PEEC yielded significant operational improvements, most notably the transition of a previously periodical Regional Court sitting to a daily sitting schedule. This intervention contributed to improved case finalisation rates and a reduction in court backlogs, thereby enhancing access to justice and the overall efficiency of the criminal justice system.

Collaboration with the SAPS also resulted in notable improvements in investigative and evidentiary processes. Concerns regarding the continued use of outdated and constitutionally non-compliant templates for recording admissions and confessions before Justices of the Peace were formally raised. This engagement led to a marked shift towards the adoption and implementation of constitutionally compliant documentation.

The Division further prioritised stakeholder and community engagement through participation in annual law exhibitions and career fairs hosted by universities. These platforms provided valuable opportunities to engage with students, legal practitioners, academics, and other stakeholders, promoting awareness of prosecutorial careers and the work of the National Prosecuting Authority.

Community outreach initiatives, coordinated by Senior State Advocates and the Communications Unit, continued to strengthen public engagement and legal awareness.

Communications

The Communications Unit has demonstrated a proactive and strategic approach to enhancing public awareness of the National Prosecuting Authority's (NPA) role within the criminal justice system. Significant efforts have been directed towards communicating court achievements, facilitating outreach and awareness campaigns, and establishing media engagement platforms. Through radio slots and other media collaborations, community prosecutors, senior public prosecutors, and advocates have been afforded opportunities to educate the public on key aspects of the justice system.

Collaboration has remained central to the Unit's operations, particularly in partnering with community prosecutors and SOCA-TCC during the *16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children*. Awareness campaigns were successfully conducted across multiple communities.

Performance

The Division demonstrated strong and consistent performance during the reporting period, with several key output indicators being achieved. The consistent achievement of these indicators demonstrates the Division's

ability to maintain high prosecutorial standards, prioritise serious and priority crimes, and contribute meaningfully to the administration of justice.

To address areas of underperformance and improve the efficiency of court processes, the Division strengthened its engagement with key judicial stakeholders, including the Regional Court President, Cluster Heads, and the Judge President. These engagements provided a platform to identify operational challenges affecting court performance and facilitated bilateral interventions aimed at resolving identified constraints. The collaborative approach enhanced coordination among stakeholders and contributed to improved case management and court efficiency. In addition, targeted efforts were undertaken to increase the utilisation of plea and sentence agreements in terms of section 105A of the Criminal Procedure Act, as well as admissions in terms of section 220.

Capacity

The skills level of the prosecutorial team remained at the required standard to effectively deliver on the core mandate of the National Prosecuting Authority. The division continues to benefit from a capable and competent prosecutorial workforce with the necessary knowledge, skills, and experience to fulfil its prosecutorial functions and support the administration of justice.

To address potential future skills gaps and ensure continued professional development, managers were encouraged to identify and facilitate relevant in-house training opportunities. In addition, prosecutors participated in various capacity-building initiatives and specialised training programmes made available through donor-funded interventions. These initiatives contributed to the enhancement of prosecutorial competencies and supported the development of specialised skills required to meet emerging challenges within the criminal justice environment.

Despite ongoing financial constraints that limited the full implementation of certain employee wellness initiatives, staff morale within the division remained positive throughout the reporting period. Budgetary limitations affected the implementation of some health and wellness programmes, including sports and wellness activities and the physical attendance of staff development and morale-building workshops. Nevertheless, employees continued to demonstrate resilience, commitment, and professionalism in carrying out their responsibilities, thereby contributing to the continued delivery of the division's core functions.



Mpumalanga Division

Key achievements

The division has since its 2019 proclamation benefitted from leadership stability after the first permanent Director of Public Prosecutions, Adv. Nkebe Kanyane was appointed as the head of SCCU as Special Director. Over time Mr Sonja Ntuli was appointed on an acting capacity until his recommendation as the permanent DPP for the Mpumalanga division. Mr Ntuli is assisted by four deputy directors of public prosecutions, two of whom are heads of the specialised units. The Division also has three chief prosecutors who are heading the three clusters in the province. The Division also has a local DDPP office at Middelburg with its own premises and currently headed by one deputy director of public prosecutions.

The Division was also able to create four special units, the Specialised Commercial Crimes Unit, the Specialised Tax Unit, the Organised Crime Component and the Asset Forfeiture Unit. A special court was created to deal with commercial crimes to expedite finalisation of these cases, even though more is needed.

The Organised Crime Component is also part of a Provincial Task Team and National Rapid Response Team, which is the operational anti-trafficking front-line response, providing a coordinated and rapid response when suspected cases of trafficking in persons are reported and/or are pending in the criminal justice system.

The Component has managed to enrol high profile/priority cases as per its mandate and selection criteria. Trial proceedings have commenced in some of the matters, albeit with limited resources. The component has managed to successfully prosecute numerous cases with convictions.

Challenges

The key challenge that affected performance and operations for the division remains the electricity interruptions caused by load shedding and cable theft. Water interruptions are also a major contributor to delays in courts and offices being closed early resulting in reduced court hours.

In the new financial year, DOJ & CD has indicated that it will be providing generators and JoJo tanks for some courts and boreholes will be drilled to provide a constant supply of water to the courts.

The courts sit for limited hours. The witnesses come to court only for their cases to be postponed, thereby creating unnecessary fruitless costs. In some instances, Court Recording Technology (CRT) machines are broken because of load shedding, and records are lost, creating a need for the manual reconstruction of records.

Another key challenge is frivolous applications by legal practitioners to delay finalisation of cases and accused frustrating court processes by changing attorneys, thereby causing delays.

Lack of capacity from the judiciary, acting judges and termination of contracts of acting magistrates and retirements are other challenges experienced.

Outbreak of infectious diseases in prisons causes delays because legal practitioners are not allowed to have access to their clients in prison for purposes of consultations. In other cases, the accused are not brought to court and cases are remanded for future dates.

The Division further experienced performance challenges in terms of achieving targets on trio crimes. To mitigate this challenge, the Chief Prosecutors had training fora on trio crimes; thereafter, the division saw its performance improving

on this specific target. Through joint planning between SAPS and OCC the reported crimes reduced, especially CIT by breaking the line of supply to robbers, especially firearms. Furthermore, the DPP specialised units were afforded an opportunity to attend training offered by the banks on the use and provision of financial records.

The division also saw an improvement in prosecuting sexual offences cases due to the opening of the seventh TCC in the region of Kabokweni, Themba Hospital, in partnership with Vodacom.

Stakeholder engagements

The PEEC meetings are held monthly and have been broken down into two REEC meetings which are chaired by the JP to deal with challenges at local levels.

There are also scheduled meetings attended by DPCI and DPP, and those attended between DPCI and specialised units, SCCU, STU, OCC and AFU. The OCC attends meetings with organised crime component within the SAPS, and has meetings with BMA, DSD and Home Affairs.

SIU also has scheduled meetings with SCCU and AFU. STU has meetings also with SARS and customs.

NPA is part of PROVJOINTS meetings headed by Provincial Commissioner and head of the SANDF.

The Eskom Task Team is a joint project between the NPA, SAPS and Eskom to analyse all centralised dockets, identify the priority matters that deal with incidents that directly impact on the operation of Eskom and load shedding. The identified cases are then referred to PCMC for further analysis and profiling, PCSI for asset and financial investigations, and to the Investigating Officers to comply with any queries raised by the NPA. These matters will thus be prosecution driven investigations. The impact of these meetings will assist in identifying targets for major investigations relating to syndicates when it comes to Eskom-related offence.

The Essential Infrastructure meetings were initiated to deal with the theft of chrome due to the increase in chrome theft in Witbank. The meeting sits regularly to ensure that we curb the cases relating to chrome theft. The intention is also to identify major targets on whom the focus can fall for the purpose of registering a major investigation project to address the essential infrastructure challenges.

The copper and mining fora meetings are hosted by SAPS and were initiated to assist in guiding investigations relating to ferrous and non-ferrous metals cases. The meeting is hosted by SAPS and challenges relating to cases of copper and mining are discussed. The meetings also provide statistics

monthly in relation to such cases and guides investigators on upcoming criminal trends, which provides an opportunity to deal with such.

Provincial Task Teams and Provincial Rapid Response Teams are constituted by provincial government departments and institutions and responsible for contributing to the development of a coordinated anti-trafficking response in South Africa at the provincial level. The teams develop and execute provincial anti-trafficking action plans in line and in compliance with NPF. Such plans will ensure the provision of training and capacity building activities targeting all relevant stakeholders, public awareness and outreach initiatives and research activities.

Communications

The Communications Unit has become a strength of the Division. It maintains a database categorised into print and electronic media, which is used to communicate organisational successes and the outcome of key cases to internal staff and the public. Social media has played a pivotal role in ensuring that the NPA reaches a wider audience. These platforms have been utilised to ensure that the successes of the Division receive both provincial and national coverage. On 10 October 2025, the Communications Unit, in collaboration with SOCA, successfully hosted a webinar on maintenance, which received media coverage across various platforms.

On the 27 November 2025, the NPA hosted GBVF media coverage outside courts and offices, with the theme 'NPA men against GBVF', in collaboration with various radio stations, different stakeholders, DOJ, Family Advocate, State Attorney and Legal Aid. This initiative was led by the DPP and the former ADPP.

The Communications Unit in the Division has also established strong working relationships with media houses such as Rise fm, Ligwalagwala FM, Voice of the Cape FM (VOC), Moutse FM, and Radio Laeveld. Through these partnerships, prosecutors are interviewed on a range of legal matters in different languages, making legal information accessible to a broader audience. Community engagement remains a priority. Communication continues to educate local communities about the work of the NPA, while also using these platforms to listen to public concerns and clarify common misconceptions.

The ongoing partnership with the Safer South Africa Foundation continues to play a vital role in raising awareness among high school learners about the criminal justice system. To keep staff informed, the Division publishes a regular newsletter that highlights community engagement

efforts and performance indicators across various clusters. This is complemented by an internal bulletin, published frequently to update members on the latest developments within the Division.

Performance

The divisional performance is monitored and managed by conducting quarterly review meetings by the management team of the division. During the quarterly reviews, both indicators which were achieved, and non-achieved indicators are interrogated. This is done to understand what the shortcomings were and to address them. Where targets are not met, interventions are discussed, documented, and tracked. We have also seen as a division decline in hi-jackings, and business robberies and money laundering cases being enrolled and prosecuted. There is also a decline in rhino poaching cases due to diligent work of all stakeholders.

Capacity

The Mpumalanga Division has a staff establishment of 330 in the 2025/2026 financial year, 280 of these posts were filled and 50 are vacant, making an overall vacancy rate of 15% in 2025/2026.

LAD Mpumalanga has been established in the previous financial year, and three permanent posts have been filled.

AFU Mpumalanga has the establishment of 12 permanent posts in the 2025/26 financial year, seven of these posts was filled and five (41%) are vacant.

SOCA Mpumalanga had an establishment of 20 posts in the 2025/26 financial year, 15 of these posts were filled and five (25%) are vacant.

Joint training with stakeholders on Essential Infrastructure crimes were held in Ehlanzeni, Gert Sibande and Nkangala regions aimed at clearly defining the role of the stakeholders and determining when NPA must intervene in such types of crimes. Critical training on cybercrime, corruption, fraud, interlocutory applications, admissibility of evidence and money laundering was held on 3-5 September 2025 involving NPA prosecutors and relevant external stakeholders. The training has had an impact on achieving convictions in commercial crimes prosecutions in the division.





Northern Cape Division

Key achievements

During the 2025/2026 reporting period, the Division achieved 16 out of its 18 indicators. This is an achievement rate of 88,9%.

One of the indicators not met was a conviction rate of 86,2% in serious, complex, commercial crime against a target of 90%. A positive development here, however, was the fact that the SCCU showed a significant improvement in the number of cases finalised (29 matters finalised to 15 matters finalised the previous financial year). The SCCU also identified 49 new matters in the past financial year of which 38 have been enrolled already.

The second target not achieved was the conviction rate of 69% in aggravated robbery offences. The target was 74%.

A key achievement in the Kimberley cluster of the Division was reaching the target for the conviction rate in sexual offences, which has been a challenge to achieve in the past three performance years. Overall, the Division improved to a conviction rate of 81% in sexual offences in comparison to the conviction rate of 72,1% the previous year.

The Division performed particularly well in achieving high conviction rates in the High Court (96,6%), District Court (94,7%), femicide prosecutions (94,1%) and environmental crime prosecutions (100%).

Furthermore, the Division improved significantly in the number of people convicted for corruption (nine) and the number of money laundering prosecutions finalised (19).

Challenges

The staff vacancies remain a challenge, especially in the specialist units. This is mainly due to the slow rate of filling approved posts and the lack of suitable candidates to appoint.

Accommodation for staff, specifically at the office of the DPP and at the Galeshewe Court, presents a challenge and meetings will have to be arranged with the Regional Court

President to find solutions. Prosecutors need to be involved in roll planning.

The increase in *Stalingrad* delaying tactics associated with matters that fall within the mandate of SCCU and OCC, as these matters are highly litigated, affects the finalisation of cases and prosecutors were given training on how to deal with *Stalingrad* tactics. The referral of old cases to SCCU creates challenges in that it is difficult to obtain bank statements and cell phone evidence in such matters. The limited budget at the SCCU impact of financial commitment to forensic financial investigation and to mitigate the challenge, financial data analytical tools and programmes for SAPS were introduced.

The social ills, like the abuse of alcohol and drugs, by complainants and witnesses impacts negatively on the quality of their evidence. To mitigate the challenge, witnesses undergo court preparation by Court Preparation Officers (CPO's). The DPP issued a circular whereby all witnesses, where possible, must be referred to a CPO before consultations with the prosecutor.

Stakeholder engagements

POCA awareness as well as stakeholder relationship training sessions were rolled out to various districts within the province. The training sessions were held at Kuruman, Springbok, Kimberley, De Aar and Keimoes and were attended by SAPS members, prosecutors and Border Management officials. The initiative yielded excellent results, as AFU received a high number of referrals of cases that negatively impacted the community, Kuruman had a high number of stock theft cases and by the end of December 2025, the vehicle pound was cleared with 20 vehicles used in stock theft forfeited to the State. The awareness program further strengthened the relationship of AFU with various stakeholders. Referrals were received from the Gambling Board, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment and Border Management.

The division attended meetings at the NPA/SARS National Working Committee meeting and the NPA/SARS Regional Committee to enhance stakeholder relations. Both meetings show tangible results and are a very important contribution towards the successful prosecution of the tax matters. The National Working Committee meeting is where both the NPA and SARS discuss all challenges relating to tax cases and the administration thereof. An updated Memorandum of Understanding was signed between SARS and the NPA in 2025. The differences in the Prosecution Involved Investigation Methodology (PII) document versus the Prosecution Guided Investigation Methodology (PGI) were resolved and SARS agreed that PII will be followed.

The division attended the Mental Health Steering Committee meetings, PPE Steering Committee meetings, Defensor Steering Committee meetings, Project Dune Steering Committee meetings and the Project Chow Steering Committee meetings to deal with specific criminal investigations which are guided by SCCU.

The ECMS stakeholder meeting is attended by NPA, SAPS, the DOJ and the ECMS champions from both clusters. The meetings have had a definite impact in that the backlog has significantly decreased.

The performance review session with the SAPS initiative led to a clear increase in the conviction rates in murder, robbery and sexual offences. Though the annual target of aggravated robbery was not achieved, the investigation of these cases has improved as detectives are now discussing cases on first appearance. The target for the conviction rate on sexual offence was achieved after non-achievement in the past three years.

Communications

During the NPA's March Against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), the Division received extensive national exposure through coordinated media engagement. The Northern Cape march was covered by the SABC radio and television platforms. The coverage was flighted during prime-time news bulletins on both radio and television platforms, significantly enhancing the visibility of the Division's anti-GBVF initiatives.

The division successfully coordinated radio and television interview opportunities for the SOCA Unit following a webinar on maintenance hosted in Kimberley. The webinar generated significant national media interest, with major broadcasters such as eNCA and Newzroom Afrika. Interviews with SABC News and Newzroom Afrika were held, while colleagues from Gauteng and Cape Town assisted the Northern Cape Division doing additional interviews with eNCA and the

Cape Town media centre. This collaboration demonstrated the effectiveness of coordinated communications support across divisions.

During the 2025/2026 financial year, the Communications Unit successfully coordinated multiple radio slots without a dedicated budget through the support and partnership of the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) Northern Cape office.

The division has successfully established and maintained a structured internal communications system through the utilisation of the Northern Cape Bulletin. The bulletin serves as an internal communication tool aimed at promoting information sharing among officials within the division and ensuring that colleagues remain informed about developments, achievements, events, and operational activities within the division. In addition, the Unit continues to use official NPA social media platforms to ensure that the work of the Division receives maximum digital exposure and public engagement.

The division has negotiated some free airtime slots with some community radio stations in the absence of slots bought by GCIS. A slot was allocated for 28 July 2025 at 08:30 and a radio interview was conducted with a Senior State Advocate of SCCU on corruption and fraud. The role of the prosecutor in fighting corruption and fraud was discussed.

Performance

The division did particularly well in relation to the conviction rates in the high and lower courts, sexual offences, femicide prosecutions, the clearance rate on decision dockets and also on corruption and money laundering prosecutions. Training of prosecutors and SAPS took place on a regular basis to improve in those areas where it was needed.

The Division communication approach was very active in promoting the brand of the NPA in the Northern Cape.

The division was able to maintain and improve on stakeholder relationships in the past financial year.

Capacity

The Division's personnel establishment was 229, with a vacancy rate of 42, resulting in a vacancy rate was 18%. The vacancy rate has increased by 4%. The significant increase in the vacancy rate was primarily attributed to the creation of new positions within the SCCU and Organised Crime Component, as well as delays experienced in the recruitment and appointment processes. These delays were largely caused by the reliance on external panel members, whose availability was often limited, thereby prolonging the selection process. Furthermore, the province experienced challenges

in attracting suitably qualified candidates from outside the Northern Cape to fill critical positions. An additional contributing factor to the limited interest from prospective candidates was the withdrawal of the resettlement policy. As a result, officials became less willing to accept appointments in other provinces, towns, or cities, as relocation costs would need to be covered from their own personal funds.

The division held training on Cybercrime Training for advocates, which was presented and attended by NPA and SAPS. This was to train the police officials on how to conduct investigations in this specialised field. In the two months

following the training, the division successfully finalised and obtained convictions in two cybercrime matters.

Training on procurement fraud was conducted as the division regularly deals with cases involving procurement and supply chain fraud and corruption. This training assisted state advocates in better understanding and identification of possible crimes committed herein.

The CIPC Training on beneficial ownership was held and assisted the State Advocates to guide investigations to ultimately hold responsible the actual persons who benefit from these crimes.



North West Division

Key achievements

The division's one focus area was to restore collaboration between the partners in the larger Justice Cluster, especially the SAPS and DPCI, which would benefit the people of the North West and boost its image.

The foundation of the division's performance stems from an effort to foster collaboration between Stakeholders. The NPA in the North West, in collaboration with the SAPS and DPCI (Hawks), held a Conference where a pledge to support each other was voiced and the communal goal, namely service excellence, was enforced. The conference was attended by approximately 500 delegates.

For the division to become a well-oiled crime-busting machine, the NPA and the police must work together in harmony, have absolute trust in one another and respect each other. The effort can be achieved by dealing with corrupt elements and those who may sabotage the administration of justice.

To achieve the objectives and to enhance efficiency, the conference introduced training teams from NPA, SAPS and DPCI. The idea was to learn more about the environment in which all the organisations were operating, while also touching on various concepts of crime to impart knowledge to attendees.

Although the conference was held almost four years ago, the division still benefits from the foundation laid in the relationships between partners in the criminal justice system.

The benefit is ongoing and still forms the basis of the way we do business even in 2026 and in the future. Training sessions are still being held at different locations and it is encouraging to witness that many delegates from the NPA, SAPS and DPCI are positively participating.

This initiative has built capacity and good relationships within the criminal justice system and the result will lead to service excellence that will benefit the people of the North West. The results of the training are visible.

Performance

The Division continues to thrive and achieved 81,25% of its allocated targets, even in the difficult environment it operates under. As part of the division's performance to curb GBVF, a key case ended in the conviction of Solly Moabi for six counts of rape. He was sentenced to six life terms in the Tlhabane Regional Court. To curb the scourge of corruption, the Vryburg Regional Court convicted Kagisano Molopo Local Municipality CFO, Morufa Moloto, for corruption relating to tenders.

With an eye on achieving targets, Back-to-Basics training continued to be rolled out across the division. The sessions took place in Mmabatho, Vryburg, Potchefstroom, Klerksdorp, Rustenburg and Ga-Rankuwa and included training on Section 252A; cybercrime and fraud; ethics and code of conduct; Section 18 forfeiture/POCA; SAPS commanders manual; photo identification; pointing out; admissions; crime scene management; forensic leads; stock theft; sexual offences and role of forensic social workers; the relationship between prosecutors and investigating officers; trafficking in persons; the role of the Investigative Psychology Unit; trafficking in drugs and firearms; racketeering; bail applications; and money laundering. The stakeholder methodology played a role in the improvement of how cases are handled at the investigation and finalisation of matters in court.

Challenges

The regional spokesperson left this office just when the division was starting to get "good stories" out in the public space. There is a huge void which is hampering our ability to amplify our voice in our communities.

No provision was made for additional state vehicles since the appointment of more prosecutors/advocates at both DPP office and lower courts, and to mitigate the challenge, advocates were encouraged to use their privately owned vehicles. Qualifying employees were also motivated to structure a vehicle allowance.

Capturing cases on ECMS is time consuming due to intermittent connectivity. Other challenges are cases not appearing from ICDMS (SAPS) and inaccurate capturing by ICMS (DOJ Clerks). The dual system that was adopted to mitigate the variance between manual data and ECMS had doubled the workload of performance information management. To mitigate the challenge, data capturers were appointed to offer some reprieve to Lower Court Prosecutors and help capture cases on to ECMS.

The high backlog is the cumulative knock-on effect of these challenges which impact the smooth operational running of our courts, leading to reduced court time and therefore the inability to deal effectively with the backlog. Measures are in place to prioritise old and partly heard matters to ensure they are finalised as quickly as possible. The division encourages Plea Bargain Agreements in terms of Section 105 in matters that qualify, to finalise cases efficiently, without compromising the interests of justice.

The security of prosecutors is a major concern as the office of the DPP is in the Mega City Mall. The location is not ideal and poses a security risk. The Security and Risk Manager is utilised to assist in safeguarding prosecutors allocated to high profile matters or matters where we believe there is security risk. Protection services offered by the NPA are also applied for when required.

Shortages of Interpreters, especially foreign interpreters is an issue. Prosecutors are required to play an active role to try to ensure that cases where foreign languages are used are prioritised. Prosecutors are required to check with the relevant persons in charge of arrangements for interpreters.

Old infrastructure at Lower Courts results in prosecutors sharing offices (sometimes as many as three per office), the solution for this lies with the Department of Public Works. However, there is some relief in office space issue, such as in Potchefstroom, which has been revamped. The Rustenburg Court now completed the first phase of a four-phase revamp project.

Stakeholder engagements

The relationship with stakeholders continues to be a priority as performance was enhanced due to trainings conducted and attended by both Prosecutors, the SAPS and DPCI.

The relationship between the SAPS and DPCI in general is considered very good. An open-door policy has been adopted, resulting in problems being resolved quickly at the highest level, should it be necessary. The stakeholders have a common understanding and goal of serving the people of

the North West. The divisional motto is *"the shortest route to a solution is the best route"* referring to high level engagement at the earliest opportunity to address stubborn challenges.

All the units within the Division have forged strong relationships with stakeholders to bolster performance. The division actively participates in the DEEC, REEC and PEEC forums. Challenges in court operations and issues related are discussed and mutually agreeable solutions are sought, implemented and monitored. All other units like SCCU, Organised Crime, Specialised Tax and the Asset Forfeiture Units are active participants in their respective bodies and forums aimed at bolstering performance.

Communications

The North West Division has registered a reasonable amount of success with its communication aims. The Division managed to have 104 media reports published reporting on the work and successes of the Division in various media.

The division has incorporated the Community Prosecution Initiative and enhanced public participation through exhibitions to promote the NPA's image in the public domain. The division also established working relationship with the media to profile and share the success stories to be shared on the intranet (Ithala).

The Division continued to reinforce communication by updating media timeously on forthcoming high-profile cases that are on the Court roll to attract interest. It has created and expanded a solid media database for the dissemination of statements, advisories, and responses to queries. It does regular follow-ups on high-profile cases for media profiling and sharing in the broader Communicators Forum.

The Division managed to take its rightful place in the media space in publishing the convictions as well as responding to media enquiries. A seamless working relationship with the SAPS and DPCI Communication Unit has been established for information sharing purposes, to inform media timeously on important cases.

The DPP and her management team have also embarked on Cluster visitations to engage Prosecutors on their performance but also to note the challenges that hinders them from performing well. Social activities include Heritage Day celebrations, weekly sports activities with other Government Departments and farewell functions for employees exiting the establishment.

The division has engaged in various Outreach Programmes in various Clusters, partnering with various stakeholders that include community formations, government departments and the SAPS. The SPPs also attend and are afforded the opportunity to engage with members of the public on different subject matters that include GBVF, abuse of women and children, drug and substance abuse and other serious violent crimes. These activities have been published in our internal newsletter.

Capacity

The division's vacancy rate was 15%, with an establishment of 319, of which 48 posts are vacant. Most vacancies at the High Court were filled and very few Junior State Advocate and Deputy Director posts are to be filled. At the lower courts, all clusters have permanently appointed Chief Prosecutors. A higher number of vacancies mainly remain at the District Court, Regional Court Prosecutors and the administration levels.

The regular trainings have effectively improved the skills level of the regional staff is at such a level that the officials can deliver on the core function of the NPA. The division has skilled and experienced Prosecutors and transfers skills across to enhance skills even further. Managers are urged to monitor the quality of work rendered by their subordinates and to give training and guidance where necessary.





Western Cape Division

Key achievements

The reporting period under review was characterised by a heightened focus on delivery in identified priority areas within a demanding environment marked by competing operational, governance and strategic imperatives. Throughout the period, the division remained committed to advancing its core mandate and ensuring that key organisational objectives were translated into measurable outcomes. The Director of Public Prosecutions placed particular emphasis on driving performance, strengthening accountability and maintaining momentum in priority initiatives, while ensuring effective coordination across the Division. Through targeted interventions, enhanced oversight and a results-driven approach, the Division sought to improve operational effectiveness, address emerging challenges and sustain progress in areas critical to the achievement of its strategic objectives.

The division continued to place significant emphasis on stakeholder engagement, public outreach and community awareness initiatives as part of its broader commitment to promoting access to justice, strengthening public confidence in the criminal justice system and fostering meaningful partnerships with the communities it serves.

During the reporting period, several awareness and engagement programmes were undertaken in collaboration with various stakeholders, targeting diverse audiences and addressing issues of strategic importance. These initiatives included engagements aimed at supporting and empowering survivors of gender-based violence, awareness programmes for students and youth, and outreach activities involving foreign learners and members of migrant communities.

Collectively, these engagements provided valuable platforms to raise awareness of the role of the National Prosecuting Authority, enhance understanding of legal rights and available support mechanisms, and encourage constructive dialogue on matters affecting vulnerable and marginalised groups.

Some of the key initiatives undertaken during the reporting period are discussed in greater detail in the paragraphs that follow.

Stakeholder Engagements

DPP Western Cape in conjunction with SAPS hosted an event to honour and celebrate survivors of Gender-Based Violence. The occasion recognised the courage and resilience of women who had endured traumatic experiences and provided prosecutors and partners with an opportunity to affirm their support for survivors as they navigate the criminal justice system. More importantly, it underscored the NPA's commitment to dignity, healing, and victim support by bringing together justice-sector role players and partner organisations in a visible demonstration of solidarity with vulnerable groups.

DPP Western Cape together with Safer South Africa welcomed learners from Sinenjongo High School and Buren High School. The initiative aimed to expose young people to the role of the National Prosecuting Authority within the criminal justice system and to promote crime prevention through education and community empowerment. The programme was interactive and educational, with prosecutors, state advocates and court preparation officers explaining the work of the NPA and delivering presentations on social context, child justice, cyberbullying, gender-based violence and child pornography.

A significant initiative undertaken by the office was the hosting of three students from the University of Missouri through a collaborative programme with the University of the Western Cape. The students were based in the office and exposed to the workings of the South African criminal justice system through structured engagements with prosecutors, state advocates and support staff. The programme offered practical insight into case management, courtroom processes and the broader prosecutorial mandate, and was coordinated by our Adv. Evadne Kortje, who oversaw the arrangements to ensure a seamless and educational experience.

The WC Environmental Crime Forum (ECF) convened regularly during the reporting period and continued to serve as an important platform for coordination, information-sharing, and the resolution of operational challenges within the environmental crime portfolio. Through the Forum, updates were received from environmental nodal points across clusters, significant matters were monitored, and practical challenges were addressed in collaboration with stakeholders, including SAPS, BOCMA, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, and the SPCA. The Forum also facilitated attention to broader trends and emerging issues, including the potential role of money laundering in environmental matters, thereby strengthening oversight and inter-agency cooperation in this specialised field. In addition, environmental training was arranged for prosecutors and presented by FishFORCE, an academy at Nelson Mandela University for training officials. The training was well received and contributed meaningfully to strengthening prosecutorial capacity in environmental matters.

Performance

The Division recorded strong overall prosecutorial performance during the reporting period, with conviction rates across most court levels meeting or exceeding planned targets. These results reflect sustained efforts to strengthen prosecutorial effectiveness, improve case management and enhance collaboration with criminal justice stakeholders.

A notable achievement during the year was the significant improvement in the sexual offences conviction rate, the planned target was achieved following interventions aimed at improving prosecutorial readiness, victim support, case preparation and managerial oversight. This progress demonstrates the division's commitment to addressing gender-based violence and ensuring justice for victims of sexual offences.

The High Court, Regional Court and District Court all maintained conviction rates above their respective annual targets. The High Court continued to demonstrate strong performance in the prosecution of serious and complex matters, while the Regional Courts achieved consistent performance in the adjudication of serious offences, including violent and sexual offences. District Courts also performed exceptionally well, reflecting effective case screening, sound prosecutorial decision-making and efficient court management.

Organised crime prosecutions remained a strategic priority. The division continued to focus on complex impact cases aimed at dismantling criminal networks and addressing serious threats to community safety.

Performance relating to infrastructure-related crimes remained below expectations. Given the significant economic and social impact of these offences, additional attention will be directed towards improving investigative support, enhancing specialised training and strengthening collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

The division achieved several important operational milestones. These included the implementation of the Section 18 initiative, the expanded use of plea and sentence agreements and Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (ADRM), as well as the continued strengthening of the Director of Public Prosecutions' footprint within the lower courts. These initiatives contributed to improved efficiency, enhanced service delivery and greater responsiveness within the prosecutorial environment.

Capacity of the Division

The Division experienced moderate growth in its approved establishment during the 2025/26 financial year, increasing from 722 posts as 1 April 2025 to 742 posts as 31 March 2026, inclusive of the Specialised Commercial Crime Unit (SCCU) and funded vacancies. This growth reflects the Division's ongoing commitment to strengthening prosecutorial and support capacity in key operational areas.

Management had identified gaps in particular, labour relations management amongst newly appointed officials in supervisory posts. A workshop was convened to upskill and support these officials on the roles of chairing a disciplinary and serving as the Employer Representative to expedite the processing and finalisation of all Labour Relations matters.

The outcomes of the training interventions have contributed to a general improvement on operational performance and the overall development of officials.

APPENDIX

Composition of Structures

Advisory Panel

The SCCU Advisory Panel, was established in March 2022, continues to be a tool that assists the DNDPP and the NDPP in complex representations and reviews. The mandate of the panel is to provide advice, make suggestions and offer guidance on complex commercial crimes or corruption cases presented to the panel members by prosecutors and investigators.

Business Safety Steering Committee Forum

Businesses, NPA and SAPS form part of a group that develops strategies geared towards a safer Nelson Mandela Bay. The Eyes to Ears Project is establishing a Command Centre involving SAPS and security companies, which is funded by the farming sector. The Consumer Council Retail Industry has agreed to share their records regarding hijackings and business robberies and has offered to set up a database for the province.

Case Flow Management meetings

Case Flow Management meetings are comprised of representatives from the NPA, Legal Aid South Africa, the judiciary and court administration (the DoJ&CD or the Office of the Chief Justice). They may also include, *inter alia*, SAPS and the Department of Correctional Services. These meetings are convened at the local level to identify blockages and contributing factors to poor courts performance, and to find ways to jointly address these. At the lowest level, the local Case Flow Management meetings are used for more operational discussions monthly and, where required, some aspects may be escalated to the PEEC held quarterly. Progress reports are also provided annually to the National Efficiency Enhancement Committee (NEEC) chaired by the Chief Justice.

Copper and Mining Forum

Hosted by SAPS, monthly meetings are held to guide investigations relating to ferrous and non-ferrous metals cases and discuss challenges relating to copper and mining cases. The meetings also provide statistics and discuss criminal trends.

Counter Terrorism Functional Committee and its sub-committees

A multi-disciplinary committee comprising of PCLU, DPCI, CATS, State Security Agency, SAPSCI, FIC, Defence Intelligence, DIRCO, DHA, etc. The role of the CTFC is to ensure that all issues relating to terrorism and terror financing (TF) are addressed. The CTFC also ensures that all TF FATF obligations and recommendations are attended to and addressed.

District Efficiency Enhancement Committee

The DEEC is a judiciary-led structure aimed at improving efficiency in the District Courts within a province. Issues that it is unable to resolve relating to case flow management are escalated to the PEEC. The DEEC is comprised of the relevant stakeholders, including Chief Prosecutors or other representatives from the NPA.

DPP Case Management meetings

The DPP Case Management meeting was established as a collaborative forum to oversee the management of NPS' high impact cases in the specialist components and/or units. Enhancing the skills of specialist resources and support in training and development is also high on the agenda. This meeting is convened in tandem with NOMM, and the composition of the members are the same as NOMM.

DPP Environmental Working Group

The DPP Environmental Working Group was established in September 2022 and has since met on a biannual basis. The objectives of this Working Group include, *inter alia*, sharing best practice in the investigation and prosecution of environmental crime, addressing challenges, proposing legislative amendments and discussing and initiating the centralisation of cross-border cases to ultimately ensure more effective and successful prosecutions. In addition, real time information pertaining to arrests is shared, which significantly enhances collaboration between prosecutors and law enforcement agencies.

Eskom Task Team

This operational task team analyses all the centralised dockets and identifies priority matters that deal with incidents directly impacting on the operations of Eskom. Once priority matters are identified, the dockets are referred to the Priority Crime Management Centre for further analysis and profiling, DPCI: Priority Crime Specialised Investigations for asset and financial investigations, and for investigating officers to comply with any queries raised by the NPA. The task team identifies targets for major investigations, specifically related to syndicates committing offences against Eskom.

An oversight committee reviews the progress made on dockets or cases identified by the task team and addresses any challenges that the operational committee might be experiencing regarding investigations and the finalisation of cases. The oversight committee provides feedback to NATJOINTS regarding the progress of the task team. The oversight committee also liaises with Eskom regarding any media briefings to be made.

Essential Infrastructure

The meeting sits once a month to address the increase in chrome theft in Witbank, including identifying major targets to focus on for registering a major investigation project.

Executive Committee

The ExCo of the NPA was established by the NDPP to tackle the high-level strategic matters of the organisation. It is comprised of the NDPP, DNDPPs and the Special Advisor to the NDPP. ExCo also leads the organisation's preparedness for accountability to the external environment, such as the media, parliament and the general public.

Extortion Forum

With the increase in extortion cases in the construction industry and businesses being forced to pay protection fees, the Extortion Forum meetings are a collaborating between SAPS, NPA and the Bargaining Council Civil Engineering Industry aimed at sharing information and databases.

Financial Action Task Force

FATF is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog. The inter-governmental body sets international standards that aim to prevent money laundering and terror financing activities and the harm they cause to society. As a policy-making body, FATF works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.

With more than 200 countries and jurisdictions committed to implementing them, FATF has developed recommendations or standards that ensure a co-ordinated global response to preventing money laundering (ML) and terror financing (TF). They help authorities identify, detect, sanction, and prevent ML and TF. FATF also works to stop funding for weapons of mass destruction (proliferation financing).

FATF reviews ML and TF techniques and continuously strengthens its standards to address new risks, such as the regulation of virtual assets, which have spread as cryptocurrencies gain popularity. FATF monitors countries to ensure they implement FATF standards fully and effectively and holds countries that do not comply to account.

Fusion Centre

In 2020, the ACTT established a Fusion Centre. The Fusion Centre was formed by the SIU, DPCI and NPA as a coordination point and key resource centre for dealing with all corruption-related cases and other illicit activities associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The aims are: i) to ensure prompt coordinated action by said enforcement agencies to expedite the investigation, prosecution and recovery of assets; and ii) to provide an immediate response by law enforcement and corruption-fighting agencies to cases or incidents of corruption, fraud, abuse or maladministration related to COVID-19 procurement irregularities.

Integrated Task Force

The Integrated Task Force was established to coordinate and prioritise the responses of the relevant law enforcement agencies to the recommendations of the State Capture Commission. The members of the Integrated Task Force include the DPCI, SIU, FIC, SARS and the relevant components of the NPA (AFU, IDAC, SCCU, STU, NPS Ops and relevant DPPs).

While the IDAC was established to, *inter alia*, lead the investigation and prosecution of any unlawful activities identified by the State Capture Commission, some matters were already being investigated by DPCI and SIU. The Integrated Task Force brings the relevant entities together to ensure that matters arising from the State Capture Commission are speedily dealt with, duplication of efforts is avoided and progress on investigations and prosecutions is monitored.

International Association of Prosecutors

The International Association of Prosecutors, the only worldwide organisation of prosecutors, was established in 1995 at the UN offices in Vienna. It is comprised of more than 183 organisational members from over 177 different countries, as well as many individual members. The main impetus leading to its formation was the rapid global growth of serious transnational crime, particularly drug trafficking, money laundering and fraud.

International Cooperation Component

The International Cooperation Component is responsible for the management and coordination of incoming and outgoing requests for extradition and MLA. With its objective being efficient coordination of requests for international cooperation in criminal matters and continuously working towards enhancing collaboration and cooperation, the Component participates in a number of national and international fora, *inter alia*: i) interdepartmental meetings coordinated by DIRCO, DPSA and the DoJ&CD; ii) Interdepartmental Committee on MLA and Extradition coordinated by the DoJ&CD; iii) Interdepartmental Working Group on the FATF Mutual Evaluation Report coordinated by the FIC; iv) meetings with counterparts from other countries on invitation and in conjunction with the DoJ&CD, DIRCO and the DPSA or the FIC; and iv) UN meetings that pertain to international cooperation.

Management Committee

The ManCo of the NPA was established to provide oversight and ensure delivery on key organisational responsibilities. ManCo is meant to hold the NPA's management accountable for setting operational goals and ensuring delivery. ManCo is comprised of the NDPP, DNDPPs, SDPPs, DPPs and Chief Directors.

Missing Persons Task Team

The MPTT was established in the NPA in 2005 in terms of the approved recommendations in the TRC Final Report, which stated that government should set up a Task Team to trace the fate and whereabouts of persons who disappeared in political circumstances between 1960 and 1994. The MPTT is a small multi-disciplinary team that uses archaeology, forensic anthropology, historical research and DNA testing, and works closely with other relevant government departments and organisations. The MPTT aims to recover the remains of the disappeared for their families or to facilitate symbolic reburials where remains cannot be recovered. The MPTT has benefitted from training by the Equipo Argentino de

Anthropologia Forense, better known as the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team, who first applied forensic science to human rights cases of disappearances. The MPTT also has special projects including the Gallows Exhumation Project, which involves tracing the remains of political prisoners who were sentenced to death and executed, and the Exile Repatriation Project.

National Efficiency Enhancement Committee

The NEEC was established by the judiciary and is chaired by the Chief Justice. The NEEC's primary objective is to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the courts. The NEEC identifies challenges that undermine efficiency and employs its collective wisdom behind closed doors to find solutions without compromising the Constitution and the law. The NEEC is comprised of the Chief Justice, President of the SCA, Judge President of the Gauteng Division of the High Court, Judge President of the Northern Cape High Court, a judge representing the Judicial Case Management Committee, Regional Court Presidents, National Commissioners of SAPS and Correctional Services, Directors-General of the Departments of Public Works, Justice, Health and Social Development, the Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of Legal Aid South Africa, the Chief Executive Officer of the Road Accident Fund, the NDPP and Head of the NPS, Chief Magistrates, representatives of the Law Society of South Africa and the General Council of the Bar.

National Fuel Pipeline Committee

Established to address the damage and theft of fuel from the Transnet Pipeline, the meetings are held on a quarterly basis, chaired by the DPCI and attended by the OCC.

National Intersectoral Committee on Trafficking in Persons

The National Intersectoral Committee on Trafficking in Persons (NICTIP) is co-chaired by the DoJ&CD and the NPA. From within the NPA, members include representatives from SOCA, OCC and the Trafficking in Persons Provincial Task Teams. Other members include international partners such as the UNODC and IOM, as well as Office of the Chief Justice, SAPS, DSD, DHA, DIRCO, Department of Employment and Labour, SARS, Border Management Authority, FIC, South African Anti-Money Laundering Integrated Task Force and representatives from various NGOs such as National Freedom Network, A21 and the Salvation Army. NICTIP meets on a quarterly basis.

National Operations Management Meetings

The NOMM was established to consider the NPA strategy, consider and agree on the Annual Operational Plan for the NPS, and coordinate and oversee progress against such plans. The head of the NPS is the chairperson and the members include all DPPs from the divisions, SDPPs responsible for specialised units within the NPS, DDPPs in the NPS Head Office responsible for cross-cutting functional areas, the NPS Operations Management component and the head of administration for the NPS Head Office. The NOMM identifies challenges, discusses and addresses issues, and develops innovative solutions and responses to improve efficiency, effectiveness and the performance of the NPS. Members discuss matters affecting human and other resources and other operational and strategic matters that need to be resolved by units outside of the NPS or to be escalated to ExCo or ManCo.

National Priority Crime Operational Committee (NPCOC)

NPCOC is a multi-disciplinary body established in April 2023 (replacing the former Anti-Corruption Task Team). It coordinates law enforcement and state agencies to tackle serious organised crime, commercial crime, and public corruption. NPA forms part of the key member agencies involved in this committee.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

The OECD is an international organisation in which governments work together to find solutions to common challenges, develop global standards, share experiences and identify best practices to promote better policies for better lives. South Africa became a partner of the OECD in 2007.

Provincial Efficiency Enhancement Committee

The PEEC is a judiciary-led structure aimed at improving case flow management in the provinces. The PEEC is comprised of relevant stakeholders, including the DPPs. The PEEC is mandated to enhance access to justice by ensuring, among others: i) the cooperation and commitment of all relevant stakeholders in the efficient and effective adjudication of disputes in the courts; ii) the proper implementation of norms and standards; and iii) the proper understanding and support of case flow management. The Heads of Courts are required to report on the progress of the PEECs to the Chief Justice.

Provincial GBVF Priority Task Teams

The Provincial GBVF Priority Teams are comprised of senior provincial members from the NPA DoJ&CD and SAPS. The teams have a clear mandate to enhance efficient and expeditious investigations, prosecutions and finalisations, and to reduce the turnaround time of GBVF cases in the provinces. The teams visit all the Districts and TCC's and meet with local NPA and SAPS management to discuss factors affecting investigations and successful prosecution of cases. The teams screen and review dockets withdrawn and struck off the roll with a view to re-enrolment.

Provincial Major Investigations Committee

Chaired by the head of the DPCI in the province, this meeting focuses on major investigations that do not meet the criteria for registration as projects but are sufficiently complex to warrant dedicated focus. Many of the cases currently prosecuted by the OCC in emanate from Major Investigations.



Provincial Organised Crime Secretariat

Attended by SAPS general detectives and chaired by the various heads of the OCCs, these meetings consider and evaluate provincial crime trends and recommend strategies to deal with these. Investigations are then conducted by the general detectives or by the DPCI if so referred.

Provincial Projects Evaluation Committee Stakeholder

Chaired by the head of the DPCI in the province, this monthly meeting considers proposals for the registration of projects, evaluates projects, monitors progress and issues instructions to investigation teams.

Provincial Trafficking in Persons Task Teams

The teams constituted by provincial government departments and institutions are responsible for contributing to the development of a coordinated anti-trafficking response at the provincial level. The teams develop and execute provincial anti-trafficking action plans in line and compliance with the

Trafficking in Persons National Policy Framework. Such plans provide for training and capacity building activities targeting all relevant stakeholders, public awareness and outreach initiatives, and research activities.

Regional Efficiency Enhancement Committee

The REEC is a judiciary led structure aimed at improving efficiency in the Regional Courts within a province. Issues that it is unable to resolve relating to case flow management are escalated to the PEEC.

Trafficking in Persons Rapid Response Team

Meetings are held with SAPS, NPA, DHA and NGOs, where information is shared, and prosecutorial guidance is given. Community initiatives are planned together so that the different role players are jointly involved in Imbizos and community education. When a case of trafficking in persons is reported, all parties meet to discuss the way forward and ensure that priority is given to supporting the victims, gathering evidence and enrolling the matter.

PREAMBLE

We, the people of South Africa,

Recognise the injustices of our past;

Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land;

Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country; and

Believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity.

We therefore, through our freely elected representatives, adopt this Constitution as the supreme law of the Republic so as to -

Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights;

Lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people and every citizen is equally protected by law;

Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person; and

Build a united and democratic South Africa able to take its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.

May God protect our people.

Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika. Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso.

God seën Suid-Afrika. God bless South Africa.

Mudzimu fhatutshedza Afurika. Hosi katekisa Afrika





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RP300/2026

ISBN: 978-0-621-52384-3