



11 May 2015

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES OF DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES 2015 BUDGET AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1. INTRODUCTION

This document provides a brief overview of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) 2015 budget and planning documents from a regional perspective. Selected issues are highlighted for follow-up / engagement with the department in areas where the Select Committee oversees the DCS in line with the mandate of the NCOP.

The comprehensive analysis of the 2015/16 Budget Vote and Strategic Plans of the Department of Correctional Services is provided as a separate document.

2. SELECTED BUDGET AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES WITH REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS

2.1 BUDGET VOTE¹

The DCS receives R20 617.6 billion in 2015/16, representing 13 per cent of the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster; and three per cent of the national budget. The DCS allocation increased nominally by R895.8 million or 4.54 per cent compared to 2014/15.

The budget is expected to grow to R23.1 billion in 2017/18 at an average annual rate of 5.5 per cent, mainly due to increased spending on (a) compensation of employees (currently comprising 68 percent of the budget) and (b) infrastructure. R178 million is allocated for the construction of perimeter security fencing and an intercom installation.

Over the medium term the Department will focus its spending on improving conditions of corrections and remand facilities, rehabilitation and the reintegration of inmates into communities.² R100 million is allocated in 2015/16 year for the creation of 787 additional bed and support facilities at Standerton.

¹ Mathabathe, M (2015). Budget Analysis Vote 18: Correctional Services: Summary and Analysis of the 2015/16 Budget and Annual Performance Plan (APP) of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS). Research Unit, Information Services Section, Parliament of South Africa.

² National Treasury (2015). Estimates of National Expenditure. p316



The DCS 2015/16 Budget Vote of R20 617.6 billion consists of five Programmes:³

Programme 1: Administration	R 3 697.3 billion
Programme 2: Incarceration	R 13 080.9 billion
Programme 3: Rehabilitation	R 1 152.0 billion
Programme 4: Care	R 1 796.3 billion
Programme 5: Social Reintegration	R 891.2 billion

Together, **Administration and Incarceration** receives the largest portion (81.3 per cent) of the budget due to their labour intensive nature, followed by Care (8.71 per cent), Rehabilitation (5.6 per cent) and Social Integration (4.32 per cent).⁴

Cabinet approved reductions of R177.7 million in 2015/16, R222.6 million in 2016/17 and 245.2 million in 2017/18 on goods and services (contractors, computer services and audit costs), and on machinery and IT equipment, and to a lesser extent on the compensation of employees.

*The department's establishment of 42 006 funded posts is expected to remain stable over the medium term.*⁵

*The 2 673 vacancies (mainly under Administration and Incarceration) at the end of September 2014, is attributed to the natural attrition and lengthy recruitment processes. The spin-off of the delay is that the savings allows it to fund the DCS's additional establishment of 1 526 posts.*⁶

2.2 SELECTED STRATEGIC / BUDGET PRIORITIES

- **On 26 November 2014 there were 157 476 persons in custody** of which 70 355 were under Community Corrections. Of the latter, 51 379 were parolees and 17 399 were probationers, while 1 577 were awaiting trial.⁷
- **The Department has prioritised improving conditions of corrections and remand facilities, rehabilitation and the reintegration of inmates into communities.**
- **There are 24 dedicated remand detention centres nationally.**
- **On 26 November 2014 the department launched a new R10 million⁸ audio-visual system to connect the 53 offices of the Correctional Supervision and Parole Board (CSPB).**

³ National Treasury (2015). ENE p318

⁴ National Treasury (2015). ENE p316

⁵ National Treasury (2015). ENE p316

⁶ National Treasury (2015). ENE p316

⁷ SA News Newsletter (2014). 'Technology enables victims to participate in parole hearings', 26 November 2014.

⁸ The funds came from the Criminal Asset Recovery Account (CARA).



Collectively, the Parole Boards consider approximately 54 000 submissions for parole placements per year. The Audio Visual System will reduce travel costs for offenders and their relatives and also facilitate victims' involvement in the parole process.

- **The target to reduce escapes is a maximum of 36 in 2016/17** (R178 million is allocated for erecting perimeter security fencing).
- The DCS also wants to **reduce the number of reported assaults to 5546.**⁹
- **The roll-out of electronic monitoring is expected to reach 1500 offenders in 2017/18.** Electronic monitoring is an alternative sentencing mechanism aimed at easing overcrowding in prisons.

COMMENTS / QUESTIONS

(i) **Investigation into the awarding of the contract for the supply of electronic monitoring devices:** The Minister of Justice and Corrections indicated in his reply to a Parliamentary question on 23 April 2015¹⁰ that the investigation into the awarding of the contract for the supply of electronic monitoring devices was expected to be completed by end April – (a) was this completed; (b) what was the outcome of the investigation; which regions / centres have been affected by the investigation?

(ii) **Performance of correctional centres / staff:** In March 2015 the Department awarded gold medals to 11 top performing officials in the following categories from the following centres:¹¹

Batho Pele - **Rustenburg Correctional Centre** (Limpopo, Mpumalanga & North West Region)
Good Governance - **Krugersdorp Correctional Centre** (Gauteng)
Masibambisane Award: **Kokstad Management Area** (KwaZulu-Natal)
Public Safety Award - **Allandale Management Area** (Western Cape)
Education and Training: **Empangeni Management Area** (KwaZulu-Natal)

Which centres in which regions were the (a) best and (b) worst performing in 2014/15?

(iii) **Provision of additional bed spaces to ease overcrowding:**

(a) At which centres are the double-bunk system used and how does this affect the calculation of bed spaces in particular, and overcrowding in general?

(b) Which centres in which regions are currently the most overcrowded; and

(c) Does the department and/or the Judicial Inspectorate of Correctional Services monitor whether overcrowded centres with high numbers of remand detainees are utilising the bail protocols to relieve overcrowding?

⁹ National Treasury (2015). ENE p316

¹⁰ Masutha, M (2015). Reply to Question NO: 780 (NW930E) on 23 April 2015. Parliament of South Africa.

¹¹ SA News newsletter, 20 March 2015



(iv) **Mthatha (Wellington) Centre of Excellence¹² – visit by Constitutional Court Justice Froneman and staff on 10 July 2014 (i.t.o section 99 of the Correctional Services Act):¹³**

The department should provide an update regarding the following reported challenges:¹⁴

(a) **Overcrowding:** The capacity of Mthatha (Wellington) is 720 inmates, but it had 1 335 sentenced offenders and 13 remand detainees. There were at least 500 inmates over the capacity, while awaiting trial facilities were 32 per cent over-crowded.

(b) Long periods of detention for a large number of awaiting trial detainees (ATDs) were attributed to court adjournments or lack of finality of other charges.

(c) **Psychiatric and medical services / facilities:** **Psychiatric patients** (including state patients) were held in the same facilities as the general inmate population. **Medical supplies** were received from a pharmacy in East London because there were no government-approved pharmacists in Mthatha. The process took two weeks which caused delays.

(d) **Remote hearings:** Audio visual facilities to allow ATDs to attend hearings remotely (TV Court) in order to avoid travel and delay was not operational in Mthatha.

(e) **Lack of tertiary education opportunities:** There were no educational opportunities at tertiary level or technological programmes beyond Grade 12. The “library” had no books or reading materials.

(f) **Effectiveness of rehabilitation unclear:** Due to the shortages of social workers it was unclear whether sentencing plans setting out behavioural interventions and programmes could be implemented effectively.

(g) **Inadequate nutrition and kitchen facilities:** The kitchen had a lack of green vegetables for a year, pots and utensils were old and damaged ones had not been replaced; broken windows had not been replaced.

(i) **Inadequate / faulty telephone facilities:** There was only one landline which had been faulty for a few months.

(j) **Prisoner complaints:** no warm clothes for winter; inadequate school programmes; no feedback on appeals and other requests (e.g. sentence reductions); confusion about eligibility for medical parole; gangsterism was rife in the prison.

(v) **DCS officials arrested in Worcester in 2014 in connection with drug trafficking and corruption (linked to Junior Cisco Yakies gang)¹⁵**

¹² A Centre of Excellence is specifically designated by the DCS to be a model of change within the broader correctional system especially regarding the rehabilitation of offenders and encouraging their reintegration and participation in society.

¹³ Constitutional Court judges aim to visit two prisons per year. The purpose of the visit is to (a) enquire about the problems that the staff and inmates have (with the focus on the general everyday conditions and operational challenges confronting the facility); and (b) observe the administrative system of a particular centre.

¹⁴ Constitutional Court of South Africa (2014). Report: Mthatha (Wellington) Centre of Excellence. Visit by Justice Froneman, accompanied by his law clerks Matthew Truscott, Nerima Were, Raisa Cachalia and Thulani Ngcobo.

¹⁵ Department of Correctional Services (2014). ‘5 Department of Correctional Services officials arrested in Worcester’. Media Statement from Western Cape Media Centre. 10 July 2014.



(a) *The department should provide an update whether more officials and prison gang members were /will be arrested in connection with this investigation.* (b) At which prison(s) is the said gang more prevalent? (c) What strategies are in place and have any successes been recorded to address gangsterism in prison? (d) Which other centres have been implicated regarding DCS staff involvement in facilitating gang and other criminal activities. (e) How many DCS officials were suspended and/or dismissed in this regard at the latest date for which information is available? (f) What strategies are in place and how successful are they in ensuring the rehabilitation of gang members and their reintegration into society as law abiding citizens?

(vi) **Firearm competency certificates:** The Minister indicated in April 2015¹⁶ that **'not all officers who carry a firearm while on duty are in possession of a competency certificate as required by the Firearms Control Act'** due to backlog in the printing of certificates by the Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority (SASSETA); and because ***some officials who were trained in the use of firearms prior to the promulgation of the Firearms Control Act 'have not yet been trained due to the high number that need to be trained, a constrained training budget and shortages of resources and skilled firearm instructors in the Department'***.

(a) Has this situation with SASSETA been addressed and (b) is the firearm training need addressed in the 2015/16 budget?

All new recruits / learners enrolled in the Correctional Services Learnership since the promulgation of the Firearms Control Act, have been trained in the Firearm Skills Programme – 6 010 learners and 3 786 correctional officials were trained between 2008 and April 2015.

(vii) **Prison visitor waiting rooms:** (a) ***Who is responsible for cleaning prison visitor centres on weekends?*** (b) Regarding the department's **'plough back'** campaign as a means of enhancing rehabilitation and social integration of offenders and which includes school repairs and cleaning programmes undertaken by parolees, probationers and ex-offenders in most of the regions – are they also involved in cleaning correctional facilities? (c) ***Whether the renovation of waiting rooms will also include increasing the quality and the number of booths or replacing them with more accessible facilities where visitors can interact more effectively with prisoners, especially in high volume centres like Pollsmoor?*** (d) What training is given to staff who interact with visitors especially on *Batho Pele* principles? (e) Who monitors whether visitors are adequately informed about what to expect, waiting period, the state of the visitors' waiting rooms and ablution facilities¹⁷, etc. when they report to visitor reception?

¹⁶ Masutha, M (2015). Reply to Question No. 807 on 15 April 2015. Parliament of South Africa.

¹⁷ On 3 May 2015 the waiting rooms and ladies' toilet at Pollsmoor were dirty; there were no paper towels, soap or toilet paper and the door locks inside the ladies' toilet were broken.



REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES CONCERNS / CHALLENGES¹⁸

FREE STATE / NORTHERN CAPE REGION: INMATE POPULATION 23 270

The current ratio of Nurses (106) is 1: 220
Doctors (4): 1:5 818
Dentists (29): 1: 802
Pharmacists (4): 1:5 818

General: Shortage of equipment / outdated equipment; lack of space at some centres; **some centres only has one nurse and when she is absent offenders are treated by custodial staff;** offenders arrive late or never arrive for clinics due to shortage of security staff. **TB testing is done for inmates, but staff are currently not tested for TB.**

LIMPOPO, MPUMALANGA AND NORTH WEST REGION

High Inmate populations: Barberton Max (1113) Nelspruit (1180) and Mogwase (1012)

Nurses: Barberton Management Area (MA) (27); Bethal (16); Witbank MA (13); Rustenburg MA (18). The current ratio at Rustenburg MA of **Doctors** is 1:2 504 and **Pharmacists** is 1:2 504

General: Inadequate infrastructure for e.g. consultation, counselling; lack of maintenance; outdated equipment; lack of space at some centres; **some centres only has one nurse and when she is absent offenders are treated by custodial staff;** offenders arrive late or never arrive for clinics due to shortage of security staff. **TB testing is done for inmates, but staff are currently not tested for TB.**

WESTERN CAPE REGION

The current ratio of Nurses (175) is 1: 164
Medical practitioners (2): 1: 14 409
Pharmacists (5): 1:5 763

General: outdated facilities; lack of space; insufficient staff for treatment; outdated IT system; **TB testing is done for inmates, but staff are only tested on request.**

KWAZULU- NATAL

The current ratio of Nurses (113) is 1: 264
Medical practitioners (2): 1: 14 242

¹⁸ Department of Correctional Services (2015). Written responses to request for information by Parliamentary Researchers. 4 March 2015.



Pharmacists (2): 1: 14 242

General: suicide attempts with prescribed medication issued; overcrowding poses risk of spreading diseases like TB; limited mobility (exercise) which contribute to risk of contracting diabetes and hypertension; artificial ventilation at some facilities not always reliable. **TB testing is done for inmates, but staff are only tested on request.**

EASTERN CAPE REGION

The **current ratio** of Nurses (141) is 1: 131

Medical practitioners (1): 1: 18 459

Pharmacists (4): 1: 4 637

General: TB testing is done for inmates, while staff are tested on a voluntary basis.

GAUTENG REGION

The **current ratio** of Nurses is 1: 380

1 x Medical practitioner per regional hospital

General: Inadequate infrastructure for provision of medical services and e.g. small windows do not conform to infection prevention and control policy which advocates for ventilation. **No TB testing is done for staff.**

