

Budgetary Review and Recommendation Report of the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services: Correctional Services, dated 31 October 2023.

The Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services, having considered the financial and non-financial performance of the Department of Correctional Services and the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services for 2022/23, reports as follows:

PART I

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Section 5(2) of the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act 9 of 2009 requires the National Assembly, through its committees, to submit budgetary review and recommendation reports (BRRR) on the performance of national departments accountable to Parliament. The BRR report is generally informed by a committee's interrogation of, amongst others, national departments' estimates of national expenditure, strategic priorities, measurable objectives and forward-funding needs; National Treasury-published expenditure reports; the relevant annual reports and financial statements; and the Auditor General of South Africa's (AGSA) audit findings; as well as observations made during all other oversight activities.
- 1.2 The Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services (the Committee) oversees the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) and the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services (JICS). To this end, the Committee monitors the implementation of, and adherence to, policies such as the white papers on Corrections and Remand Detention; compliance with applicable legislation; adherence to principles of good governance and sound financial management; and service delivery in line with their mandates.

2. Process followed.

- 2.1 The Committee received a briefing from the Auditor-General of South Africa on the 10th October 2023 on the Audit Outcomes of Departments under the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services.
- 2.2 On the same day, 10th October 2023, the Committee received a Political Overview of the Annual Performance for 2022/23 Financial Year from the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services.
- 2.3 The Committee received a briefing from the Department of Correctional Services and the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services on their Annual Reports for 2022/23 Financial Year on 12 October 2023.
- 2.4 Copies of all the presentations are available from the committee secretariat.

3. Department of Correctional Services' strategic goals for 2022/23

- 3.1. The first goal identified in the Department's 2022/23 Annual Performance Plan was to ensure that remand detention processes are effectively managed by ensuring that remand detainees attended courts as determined by relevant legislation; are held in secure, safe and humane conditions; provided with personal wellbeing programmes; and relevant services are provided to awaiting trial persons, thus contributing to a fair and just Criminal Justice System.
- 3.2. A further goal was to ensure that all sentenced offenders are incarcerated in safe, secure and humane facilities and are provided with healthcare and effective rehabilitation programmes in line with their correctional sentence plans to enable their successful placement into society after their lawful release.
- 3.3. The last goal was to ensure that all offenders, parolees and probationers were successfully reintegrated back into society as law-abiding citizens through provision of social reintegration programmes.

4. Audit outcome

4.1. The Department has received unqualified audit outcome without findings for 2022/23

Table 1: Audit outcomes between 2019/20-2022/23

Financial Year	Total number of findings	Audit Outcome	Area(s) of Qualification/Matters of emphasis
2019/20	214	Qualified	Irregular Expenditure not fully recorded
2020/21	148	Qualified	With matters of emphasis (including under-spending of the vote, non-compliance with laws and regulations especially in relation to procurement and contract management, as well as irregular expenditure amounting to R1.4 billion).
2021/22	130	Unqualified	With matters of emphasis relating to the uncertainty of the outcome of exceptional litigation. The AG mentioned that DCS is a defendant in various lawsuits and the outcome of those cannot be presently determined and no provision for any liability that may result has been made in the financial statement. The AG also noted that the Department materially underspent the budget by R596, 738 million.
2022/23	110	Unqualified	Uncertainty on the outcome of exceptional litigation.

- 4.2. The AG has put emphasis on matter relating to uncertainty on the outcome of exceptional litigation. The AG indicated that the Department is a defendant in various lawsuits and the outcome of those cannot be presently determined and no provision for any liability that may result has been made in the financial statement.
- 4.3. There has been a decrease in the number of findings from 130 in 2021/22 to 110 in 2022/23.
- 4.4. Performance reporting. The programmes Incarceration and Social Reintegration were audited for usefulness and reliability of information. The report was as follows:
- The AG could not identify any material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information under both programmes.
- 4.5. Expenditure management. The AG reported that effective and appropriate steps were not taken to prevent irregular expenditure amounting to R194 770 000 as required by section 38(1)(c) (ii) of the PFMA and treasury regulation 9.1.1. The AG further indicated that the majority of irregular expenditure was caused by non-compliance with treasury regulation 16A 6.1 as the procurement of goods was split into parts or items of lesser value to avoid complying with the requirements of the SCM regulations.
- 4.6. Procurement and contract management. The report of the AG notes that some goods and services of a transaction value above R1 000 000 were procured without inviting competitive bids and deviations were approved by the accounting officer but it was practical to invite competitive bids as required by treasury regulation 16A 6.1 paragraph 3.3.1 of NTA 02 of 2021/22, paragraph 4.1 of NTI 03 of 2021/22 and TR 16A6.4.
- 4.7. Material irregularities. The AG reported that the Department of Correctional Services failed to settle arbitration award and related interest within 30 days from the date of the court award judgement as required by treasury regulation 8.2.3. Due to late payment, the Department incurred additional interest of R1 180 234 million.

5. Expenditure for the 2022/23 Financial Year.

6.1 For the 2022/23 financial year, the Department of Correctional Services had adjusted budget of R26, 536 billion. Of this amount, the Department spent R26, 429 billion (or 99.60%) resulting in R106, 744 million under-spending.

6.2 The adjusted budget and spending per economic classification for 2022/23 was as follows:

Table 2: Expenditure per economic classification 2022/23

Economic classification	Adjusted budget (R'000)	Actual expenditure (R'000)	Percentage actual expenditure	Available Budget (R'000)
Compensation of employees	18 298 036	18 238 036	99.7%	60 000
Goods and services	6 948 596	7 172 111	102.4%	(169 839)
Interest on rent and land	-	3 178	-	(3 178)
Transfers and subsidies	722 453	624 440	86.4%	98 013
Payment of capital assets	566 899	391 475	76.3%	121 748
Payment of financial assets	-	-	-	-
Total	26 535 948	26 429 240	99.6%	106 744

6.3 In terms of economic classification:

- The Department recorded underspending of R60 million under Compensation of Employees due to funded vacant posts.
- With regard to Transfers and Subsidies, there was overspending of R98 013 million mainly on leave gratuity due to service terminations that were lower than anticipated.
- With regard to Payments for Capital Assets, there was under-expenditure of R121 748 million mainly on the item: Building and Other Fixed Structures due to lower expenditure on Capital Works Programme than anticipated.
- With regard to Goods and Services, there was overspending of R170 million mainly on item: Fleet Services due to high repairs and maintenance costs as well as spares and accessories which went up drastically in the year under review.

7. Performance in 2022/23

7.1. Overall, the Department achieved 39 of the 45 planned targets and 6 targets were not achieved.

7.2. The following indicators were not achieved in the period under review:

- Percentage of investigations finalized for reported allegations.
- Percentage compliance to the EE plan for SMS (females).
- Business case for revenue generation and retention mechanism
- Number of sites where Mesh Network and Integrated Security System are installed.

- Percentage of overcrowding in correctional facilities in excess of approved bed-space capacity.
- Percentage of Information Systems (IIMS) implemented as per MISSTP.

8. Programme performance in 2022/23

8.1. Programme 1: Administration

8.1.1. The purpose of this programme is to provide strategic leadership, management, and support services to the Department.

8.1.2. The Administration programme achieved 8 (or 62%) out of 13 planned targets for 2022/23.

Table 3: Administration -Selected performance 2022/23

Performance Indicator	Planned Target 2022/23	Actual Achievement 2022/23
Percentage of Information Systems (IIMS) implemented as per MISSTP	12%	NOT ACHIEVED 10%
Percentage of youth employed within the Department	20%	ACHIEVED 38%
Percentage of correctional facilities including PPPs inspected on conditions and treatment of inmates	56%	ACHIEVED 56%
Business Case for revenue generation and retention mechanism .	Draft Business Case for revenue generation and retention mechanism	NOT ACHIEVED

8.1.3 The Department did not achieve their target for IIMS in the year under review and this was ascribed to ongoing litigation between the Department and the service provider.

8.1.4 The target for Correctional Centres including PPPs inspected on conditions and treatment of inmates was achieved in the period under review.

8.1.5 The Department managed to achieve its target for youth employment when performance was recorded at 38% against the target of 20%.

8.2. Programme 2: Incarceration

8.2.1. The purpose of the programme is to provide safe and secure conditions of detention consistent with maintaining the human dignity of inmates. It is also responsible for the administration, profiling and consideration of offenders for releases or placement into community corrections.

8.2.2. There are three sub-programmes for Incarceration: Security operations; Remand detention; and Offender management.

8.2.3. Overall, the Incarceration programme achieved six out of seven (or 86%) planned targets for 2022/23.

Table 4: Incarceration - Selected performance 2022/23

Performance Indicator	Planned Target 2022/23	Actual Performance 2022/23
Reduction in unnatural deaths in correctional centres and remand detention facilities per year	0.032% or less	ACHIEVED 0.027%
Reduction in escapes	0.031%	ACHIEVED 0.017%

Performance Indicator	Planned Target 2022/23	Actual Performance 2022/23
Number of infrastructure projects completed	1	ACHIEVED 8
Reduction of overcrowding	32% or less	NOT ACHIEVED 46%
Percentage of profiles approved for placement by the Correctional Supervision and Parole Boards	45%	ACHIEVED 64%

8.2.4. The Department attributed the non-achievement of reduction of overcrowding to an increase in offender population by 13 833 in the period under review.

8.2.5. The Department achieved its target for assaults and escapes due to effective implementation of National Escape Prevention Strategy and the National Assault Prevention Strategy.

8.2.6. The Department managed to complete 8 infrastructure projects in the period under review against the target of only one project.

8.3. Programme 3: Rehabilitation

8.3.1. Programme 3 is responsible for providing needs-based programmes and interventions to facilitate the rehabilitation of inmates and to enable their social reintegration into communities. The programme has the following sub-programmes: Correctional programmes; Offender development; and Psychological, social and spiritual services.

8.3.2. Overall, the programme achieved all 11 planned targets for the year under review.

Table 5: Rehabilitation - Selected performance in 2022/23

Performance Indicator	Planned Target 2022/23	Actual Performance 2021/22
Percentage of offenders participating in long Occupational Skills programmes	90%	ACHIEVED 99%
Percentage of offenders participating in Further Education and Training	85%	ACHIEVED 99%
Percentage of sentenced offenders with Correctional Sentence Plans who have completed correctional programmes.	80%	ACHIEVED 95%
Percentage of inmates who are involved in psychological services per year.	22%	ACHIEVED 33%

8.3.3. Selected achievements include:

- Offender participation in long skills programmes were 16 593 (99%), while those participating in short skills were 14 579 (99%). A further 950 (99%) offenders participated in Further Education and Training.
- A total of 52 058 offenders participated in psychological care services.

8.4. Programme 4: Care

8.4.1. The purpose of this programme is to provide needs-based healthcare programmes and services aimed at maintaining the wellbeing of inmates. There are two sub-programmes under the Care programme, namely Health and Hygiene Services and Nutritional Services.

8.4.2. Overall, the programme achieved seven out of seven targets planned for 2022/23.

Table 6: Care - Selected performance 2022/23

Performance Indicator	Planned Target 2022/23	Actual Performance 2022/23
Percentage of therapeutic diets prescribed for inmates	Less than 12%	ACHIEVED 6%
Percentage of identified inmates tested for COVID-19	100%	ACHIEVED 100%
Percentage of inmates screened for hypertension	90%	ACHIEVED 255%
Percentage of inmates who have recovered from COVID-19	85%	ACHIEVED 100.10%
TB Cure rate	91%	ACHIEVED 94%

8.4.3 The Department ascribed the achievement of TB cure rate of offenders to effective monitoring and management of patients on treatment as well as compliance with TB guidelines.

8.4.3 The Department also achieved its target on percentage of offenders screened for hypertension. This was largely due to intensified screening of inmates due to their vulnerability.

8.5. Programme 5: Social Reintegration

8.5.1. The Social Reintegration programme provides services focused on offenders' preparation for release, effective supervision of offenders placed under community corrections and the facilitation of their social reintegration into their communities. The programme has the following sub-programmes: Supervision; Community reintegration and Office Accommodation: Community corrections.

8.5.2. The programme achieved six out of six planned targets for 2022/23.

Table 7: Social Reintegration - Selected performance 2022/32

Performance Indicator	Planned Target 2022/23	Actual Performance 2022/23
Percentage of parolees without violations per year	97%	ACHIEVED 99%
Percentage of probationers without violations per year	97%	ACHIEVED 99%
Number of victims participating in Restorative Justice programmes	3500	ACHIEVED 16 951
Number of offenders/parolees and probationers participating in Restorative Justice programmes	2500	ACHIEVED 5 758
Number of economic opportunities facilitated for offenders, parolees, and probationers	36	ACHIEVED 592

- 8.5.3 The Department managed to ensure that 16 951 victims and 5 758 offenders/parolees and probationers participate in Restorative Justice programmes in the period under review.
- 8.5.6 The Department also managed to facilitate 592 economic opportunities for offenders, parolees and probationers in 2022/23 period.

9. Expenditure for First Quarter of 2023/24

- 9.1. The Department of Correctional Services was allocated R26.03 billion for 2023/24. At the end of June 2023, total expenditure was at R6.8 billion or 26.1% of the total appropriation. This equates to an over-spending by R332.3 million when compared to the projected spending plan of R6.461 billion for the Quarter. In terms of performance, of the 36 planned targets for the First Quarter, 33 were achieved and only 3 were not achieved.
- 9.2. At the end of the First Quarter 2023/24, programme spending was as follows:
- The Administration programme spent an amount of R1.31 billion (26.6%) against planned expenditure of R1.180 billion, resulting in overspending by R130.2 million. The over-spending was mainly on compensation of employees due to the implementation of the 2023/24 wage agreement as per the PSCBC Resolution 02 of 2023.
 - The Incarceration programme spent 26.6% or R4.02 billion of the projected budget for the quarter of R3.839 billion, which resulted in under-spending of R178.9 million in the first quarter of 2023/24.
 - The Rehabilitation programme spent 23.3% or R527.4 million of the projected spending plan of R523.3 million. This translated to an underspending of R3.9 million.
 - The Care programme spent R649.3 million or 26.2% against projected expenditure of R601.4 million. This translates to overspending of R47.8 million in the first quarter.
 - The Social Reintegration programme spent 23.2% or R288.2 million from the planned expenditure of R308.8 million. This translates to underspending of R20.6 million.

PART II

10. JUDICIAL INSPECTORATE OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES' (JICS)

10.1. JICS' Statutory mandate and mission

- 10.1.1. JICS is established under section 85 of the Correctional Services Act 111 of 1998 as an independent office under the control of the Inspecting Judge. Its object is to facilitate the inspection of correctional centers and to report on the treatment of inmates and conditions of incarceration.
- 10.1.2. Its mission includes the prevention of human rights violations through the monitoring of mandatory reporting systems on deaths, mechanical restraints and segregations (solitary confinement) in correctional centers. It also maintains the independent complaints system for inmates.

10.2. Financial Performance at the end of 2022/23

- 10.2.1. For 2022/23, the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services was allocated a budget of R81.2 million. At the end of March 2023, the total expenditure for JICS was R78 million.

10.3. Inspections, Investigations, Complaints and Mandatory Reporting in 2022/23 financial year

- 10.3.1. The Inspectorate scheduled a total of 136 inspections in correctional centres across the country for 2022/23 financial year and conducted all 136 planned inspections, which equates

to 56% of all correctional facilities in the country. In addition to 136 inspections, another 54 unannounced inspections were conducted, bringing total inspections to 190. JICS has rated 15 centres unsatisfactory, 147 satisfactory and 28 good.

- 10.3.2. Some of the centres rated unsatisfactory included; Bizzah Makhathe Medium D; Ficksburg; Sasolburg; Johannesburg Medium A; Johannesburg Medium B; Umzinto; Stellenbosch; Patensie; and Kirkwood.
- 10.3.3. The most common reasons highlighted by JICS why facilities were rated unsatisfactory included; extreme overcrowding; dilapidated infrastructure; lack of proper hygiene; inadequate management; and shortage of food to maintain the prescribed diet of inmates.
- 10.3.4. JICS' report also highlighted that in 2022/23 the Minister approved parole placement for 362 inmates serving life sentences. Additionally, 631 lifer profiles were submitted to the NCCS during the period under review with 510 profiles sent back for further review by the Minister.
- 10.3.5. The JICS reported that the number of complaints from internal and external sources decreased from 471 (in 2021/22) to 410 (in 2022/23). The highest number (203) of complaints related to assaults (inmate on inmate), followed by assaults of inmates by officials (86), transfers (36) and parole (32).
- 10.3.6. Mandatory reporting is regulated by the Correctional Services Act 111 of 1998. Mandatory reporting includes: Death of an inmate (Section 15); Segregation (Section 30); Mechanical restraints (Section 31); and Use of force (Section 32). For the year under review, there were 101 unnatural deaths reported by DCS to JICS. A total of 16 suicide cases were recorded with the majority being from Gauteng and Kwazulu-Natal and Western Cape. In addition to unnatural deaths, JICS received 425 reports of natural deaths in correctional facilities.
- 10.3.7. Section 30(7) of the Correctional Services Act, 1998 provides that inmates who have been segregated may refer the matter to the Inspecting Judge, who must decide thereon within 72 hours. The JICS indicated that no accurate statistics of the number of inmates who were segregated could be obtained due to the dysfunctional DCS electronic system. For the period under review, 3 670 cases of segregation on inmates were reported.
- 10.3.8. The JICS also recorded only 25 cases of Mechanical restraints in the 2022/23 financial. According to JICS, the ongoing implementation of the electronic reporting system may contribute to the perception of underreporting by DCS. JICS also noted that no appeals were received for the year under review.
- 10.3.9. The JICS recorded a total of 470 cases of use of force in the year under review. This is a decrease from 471 reported in 2021/22.

10.4. **Community and stakeholder engagement in the 2022/23**

- 10.4.1. In the year under review, JICS actively collaborated and participated in partnership meetings with various stakeholders to address concerns and findings related to its mandate within correctional centres. In the year under review, a total of 79 meetings were attended with some of these engagements being arranged and hosted by JICS. These meetings provide a platform for discussions on a range of topics and decisions influenced by issues such as: case backlog and delays in court processes; complaint management and referral system; overcrowding and conditions in correctional centres
- 10.4.2. JICS actively engaged with various stakeholders and communities to enhance their understanding of correctional matters and promote rehabilitation and reintegration.

10.5. **First Quarter 2023/24 Expenditure and Performance of JICS**

- 10.5.1. For 2023/24, the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional was allocated a total of R78.7 million. At the end of June 2023, the total expenditure was R23.4 million including commitments.

- 10.5.2. There was overspending by 31.44% under Goods and Services for the first quarter of 2023/24. The reason provided for overspending is commitments of the previous financial year which were only cleared in the new financial year.
- 10.5.3. There was also overspending under Capital Assets 56.26% and reason provided was due to previous financial year's commitments that were only cleared with the new financial year's budget.
- 10.5.4. In the first quarter, JICS had 86 permanent approved and funded positions on their fixed establishment. A total of 78 posts were filled and 8 were vacant. In addition to permanent posts, there were 225 ICCV posts of which 217 were filled and 8 were vacant.
- 10.6. **Inspections, Investigations, Complaints and Mandatory Reporting in the First Quarter of 2023/24**
- 10.6.1. In the first quarter of 2023/24 financial year JICS scheduled 36 inspections and all of them were conducted. In addition, there were six unannounced inspections conducted in the first quarter.
- 10.6.2. The Inspectorate reported that, for the first quarter of 2023/24, there were only 17 investigations conducted and the majority (four) of the investigations were conducted in the JICS's Gauteng Region.
- 10.6.3. JICS received a total of 166 complaints in the first quarter and most of these complaints were received from ICCVs, inmates and their families. These complaints included assaults, parole and transfers.
- 10.6.4. In terms of mandatory reporting, a total of 40 unnatural deaths were recorded for the first quarter. The majority (30) of these were recorded as 'unknown other'. In addition to unnatural deaths, JICS also recorded a total of 141 natural deaths in correctional centres across the country. The largest category (40) of natural deaths were recorded as "Natural causes". Gauteng recorded the highest number of deaths (51) while Kwazulu-Natal recorded the lowest (9).
- 10.6.5. Segregation recorded a total of 968 reports in the first quarter of 2023/24. The Free State/Northern Cape recorded the highest number of segregations (328), while the Kwazulu-Natal recorded zero. JICS reported that due to the dysfunctional electronic system of reporting, the accuracy and numbers of reports by DCS could not be verified.
- 10.6.6. In terms of Mechanical Restraints' reports, JICS recorded seven cases for the first quarter of 2023/24. Reasons given for the use of mechanical restraints included: safety of others (4) and safety of inmates (2), and prevention of damage to property (1).
- 10.6.7. A total of 97 cases of the use of force were recorded by the Department and submitted to JICS in the first quarter. JICS has emphasized that, due to manual reporting, the number of reported cases of the use of force has drastically declined.

PART III

11. Department of Correctional Services: Committee observations and Recommendations

- 11.1 The Committee congratulates the Department for achieving another unqualified audit opinion from the Auditor General and for reducing audit findings from 130 (in 2021/22) to 110 (in 2022/23). The Committee urges the Department to work on further reducing these audit findings.
- 11.2 The Committee also congratulates DCS on reducing fruitless and wasteful expenditure from R75 989 million (in 2021/22) to R953 000 (in 2022/23). The Committee, again, encourages the Department to further reduce this.

- 11.3 The Auditor-General has again put emphasis on matters relating to uncertainty on the outcomes of exceptional litigation. The AG indicated that the Department is a defendant in various lawsuits and the outcome of those cannot be presently determined and no provision for any liability that may result has been made in the financial statement. The Committee is concerned that this has consistently been raised by the AG and therefore requests the Department of Correctional Services to outline how they intend to address this issue.
- 11.4 Overcrowding of correctional centres continues to be a concern for the Committee as it compromises the rehabilitation of inmates and places the safety and security of inmates and officials at risk. The Committee has noted with concern the increase in overcrowding from 32% (in 2021/22) to 46% (in 2022/23). The Committee is also concerned that some of the measures to reduce overcrowding including Bail Protocol, Sec 49G of the Correctional Services Act, and Sec 631 of CPA are not bearing fruit. The Department is requested to look for other alternative approaches to reduce overcrowding to an acceptable level.
- 11.5 Although the Department achieved its target on Long Occupational Skills Programmes, the Committee is concerned with the significant decrease in the number of offenders participating in such programmes from 39 560 (in 2021/22) to 16 593 (in 2022/23). The Committee encourages the Department to ensure that more offenders participate and benefit from available skills programmes which will provide them with skills that will be used upon release to minimize reoffending.
- 11.6 The Committee is also concerned about the low targets set by the Department in some instances while over-achieving those targets. The Committee believes that these achievements do not have a significant impact on service delivery.
- 11.7 The Committee commends the Department for significantly reducing escapes from 117 (in 2020/21) to 22 (in 2022/23). The Department is urged to work towards zero escapes in correctional facilities across the country to ensure that communities are safe.
- 11.8 The Committee is disappointed that, again, the target for IIMS roll-out was not achieved in 2022/23 financial year. The Department ascribed this to the ongoing litigation with the service provider. The Committee requests the Department to keep it updated regarding progress in this litigation.
- 11.9 The Committee commends the Department for the continued implementation of their Self-Sufficiency and Sustainability Framework. The Committee urges the Department to expand this and ensure that more inmates benefit from this. In addition, the Department is also requested to share information with other government departments, especially the Departments of Health and Education on the costs of production for bread so that they can be able to pay less and save government expenditure.
- 11.10 The Committee believes that the Department has worked very hard during this period and has proven that they were up to the task. The Committee further believes that there is still room for improvement.
- 11.11 Having noted some challenges still facing DCS including issues such as overcrowding, vacancies and IT systems especially IIMS, the Committee will schedule a meeting with DCS to get their plans on how they intend addressing some of those issues.
- 12. Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services (JICS) – Committee's Observations and Recommendations.**
- 12.1 The Committee commends DCS and JICS for having improved their working relationship. The Committee urges DCS and JICS to work together in addressing some of the challenges still facing JICS in carrying out the mandate.

- 12.2 The Committee has noted that, again, the number of unnatural deaths reported by JICS differs significantly from those reported by DCS. The Committee calls upon DCS and JICS to find alternative ways to address this.
- 12.3 As in the previous years, the Committee again notes the challenges faced by JICS with respect to mandatory reporting as a result of the manual reporting system and the recent introduction of the e-Corrections. The Committee continues to be concerned about the accuracy and reliability of the information available as some reports are recorded and reported manually. The Committee will continue to engage with the Department of Correctional Services to get regular updates on the implementation of the new e-Correction system.

13. Appreciation

- 13.1 The Committee wishes to thank the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services and Deputy Minister of Correctional Services, staff in the Ministry, National Commissioner and the staff of the Department of Correctional Services for their assistance in this process.
- 13.2 The Committee also wishes to thank the Inspecting Judge and the staff of the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services for their co-operation in this process.
- 13.3 The Committee wishes to thank the Auditor General South Africa for the support provided to the Committee.

Report to be considered.