

---

**NATIONAL FORENSIC OVERSIGHT &  
ETHICS BOARD (DNA BOARD)**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023**

---

**OFFICIAL SIGN OFF**

---

Adv. K Kgantsi  
Director: DNA Board Secretariat

Signature: 


Date: 16 October 2025

Mr. R Sono  
Acting Chairperson: DNA Board

Signature: 

Date: 18/10/2023

Mr. TL Ramaru  
Acting Secretary for Police Service

Signature: 

Date: 18/10/2023

Mr. CC Mathale  
Deputy Minister of Police

Signature: 

Date: 25/10/2023

**Approved by:**  
Gen. BH Cele  
Minister of Police

Signature: 

Date: 16/01/2024

## CONTENTS

<b>PART A – GENERAL INFORMATION</b> .....	6
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b> .....	11
<b>2. OPERATIONAL PLAN</b> .....	11
<b>PART B - PERFORMANCE</b> .....	13
<b>3. COMPLAINTS MANAGEMENT</b> .....	13
<b>4. DNA ANALYSIS PERFORMANCE</b> .....	13
4.1. Finalisation of case exhibits against the registered entries.....	13
4.2. Down Management of Backlog.....	14
4.3. Routine and Non-Routine Case Exhibits.....	14
4.4. DNA Intelligence (inclusive of Reference Index).....	15
4.5. Number of DNA Cases with Matches and Serial Case Reports.....	16
4.6. Buccal samples finalised after receipt and registration.....	16
4.7. Total GBV Casework in Progress.....	18
<b>5. QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM</b> .....	19
<b>6. THE NATIONAL FORENSIC DNA DATABASE (NFDD)</b> .....	19
<b>7. STATUS OF ACQUISITIONING OF CODIS SOFTWARE FOR THE NFDD</b> .....	21
<b>8. EXTRACTION OF BUCCAL SAMPLES FOR PRIORITISED SCHEDULE 8 OFFENCES BY DETECTIVES</b> .....	21
<b>9. FORENSIC INVESTIGATIVE LEADS</b> .....	23
9.1. Finalisation of Forensic Investigative Leads.....	23
9.2. Follow-up on establishment of Forensic Investigative Units in Provinces.....	23
<b>10. MONITORING THE AVAILABILITY OF EVIDENCE COLLECTION KITS</b> .....	25
<b>11. MONITORING OF TRAINING ON BUCCAL SAMPLE COLLECTION</b> .....	25
<b>12. CONCLUSION</b> .....	27

<b>PART C- GOVERNANCE</b> .....	29
<b>13. GOVERNANCE</b> .....	29
13.1. Composition of the Board .....	29
13.2. Board Meeting Attendance .....	30
<b>14. BUDGET</b> .....	33

**LIST OF TABLES**

Table 1: Routine, Non- Routine and DNA Intelligence .....	15
Table 2: DNA Cases with matches and DNA Serial Case Report.....	16
Table 3: Total GBV Casework in progress .....	18
Table 4: Various Indices of NFDD for the period 2022/23 FY .....	21
Table 5: Number of buccal samples collected in compliance with Section 36 (D) of DNA Act..	22
Table 6: Baseline of Forensic Investigative Leads for Follow-up by Investigators.....	24
Table 7: Status of Forensic Investigative Leads (FIL) on CAS system as at 31 March 2023 (FIL captured on CAS/ICDMS from 1 January 2025).....	25
Table 8: Number of trained members on buccal sample collection for period 2022/23 FY.....	26
Table 9: Composition of the Board 2022/23 FY .....	29
Table 10: Board meeting attendance 2022/23 .....	30
Table 11: Outline of Board's Sub-Committee and Functions.....	32
Table 12: Budget Allocation and Expenditure - DNA Board 2022/23 FY.....	33

**LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 1: Finalisation of 90% of case exhibits against the registered entries: 2022/23 FY.....	13
Figure 2: Down management of Backlog 2022/23 FY.....	14
Figure 3: Buccal samples profiles from receipt.....	17
Figure 4: Buccal sample profiles from registration.....	18
Figure 5: Maturity of NFDD for 2022/23 FY.....	20

**The Annual Report of the National Forensic Oversight and Ethics Board describes and details the activities of the DNA Board for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.**

This report has been prepared for submission to the Executive Authority and the Parliament of South Africa in line with the requirements of the Public Finance Management Act (No 1 of 1999) and the Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Amendment Act (No 37 of 2013).

The National Forensic Oversight and Ethics Board (DNA Board) is a statutory body mandated to provide regular oversight over processes and systems related to the use of forensic DNA as a means of strengthening criminal investigations.

## PART A – GENERAL INFORMATION

### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

<b>AOP</b>	<b>Annual Operational Plan</b>
<b>CAS</b>	Case Administration System
<b>CSPS</b>	Civilian Secretariat for Police Service
<b>CODIS</b>	Combined DNA Index System
<b>DNA</b>	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
<b>DNA Act</b>	Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Amendment Act (No. 37 of 2013)
<b>ED</b>	Executive Director
<b>FBI</b>	Federal Bureau of Investigations
<b>FIL</b>	Forensic Investigative Leads
<b>FSL</b>	Forensic Science Laboratory
<b>FDM</b>	Forensic Database Management
<b>FY</b>	Financial Year
<b>GBVF</b>	Gender Based Violence and Femicide
<b>ICDMS</b>	Integrated Case Docket Management System
<b>JCPS</b>	Justice, Crime Prevention and Security
<b>MP</b>	Member of Parliament
<b>NFDD</b>	National Forensic DNA Database
<b>NPA</b>	National Prosecuting Authority
<b>POA</b>	Plan of Action
<b>QMS</b>	Quality Management System
<b>RI</b>	Reference Index
<b>SANAS</b>	South African National Accreditation System
<b>SAPS</b>	South African Police Service
<b>SCM</b>	Supply Chain Management
<b>SLA</b>	Service Level Agreement
<b>TID</b>	Technical Indicator Description

## **FOREWORD BY THE MINISTER OF POLICE**



I am pleased in my capacity as Executive Authority of the National Forensic Oversight and Ethics Board (DNA Board), to table this 2022/23 Annual Report for submission to Parliament. The report focuses on and describes the activities of the DNA Board in the period from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023 in detail.

The DNA Board provides ethical oversight over the National forensic DNA Database (NFDD) and manages complaints related to the extraction, retention and use of all Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) samples and forensic DNA profiles. The Board's core functions include monitoring the implementation of the provisions of the DNA Act and making proposals to myself on improvements to legislation related to the overall operation and administration of the NFDD.

Furthermore, the Board oversees the collection and storage of specimens and conducts oversight over the performance and functions of the Forensic Science Laboratories (FSL) and NFDD. The Board has the overarching duty of ensuring compliance with all ethical aspects associated with DNA thus ensuring that the required minimum quality standards are adopted and maintained.

During the reporting period, the Board worked with relevant stakeholders to ensure the promulgation of the DNA Act 8 of 2022. The amendment seeks to address deficiencies related

to the sampling of offenders serving sentences for Schedule 8 offences. The amendment was necessitated by the expiry of the DNA Act's transitional period. Continuing the convicted offender sampling program is critical because the convicted offender index in the NFDD provides an important link for the resolution of unsolved cases and the apprehension of repeat offenders. Another major legislative breakthrough was the President's proclamation on Section 36D (1) of the DNA Act, which provides for the compulsory collection of buccal DNA samples from persons arrested, charged or convicted in respect of certain offences listed in Schedule 8 of the Act.

The DNA Board conducted nationwide inspection visits to the four FSLs and carried out assessments to identify operational and capacity challenges and gaps that could negatively impact laboratory efficiency. There was also a focus on overseeing the process of acquiring the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and I am pleased to announce that the Service Level Agreement (SLA) in that respect has been finalised between the two institutions. The NFDD will be equipped with a system software that will enable our local crime laboratories to conduct familial searches and to store and compare DNA profiles from crime scene evidence and convicted criminals.

In light of the ongoing threat of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), a national crisis that requires fundamental behavioral changes in our society but also requires cooperation by all government institutions, the DNA Board exercised its oversight function over the FSL and the NFDD to ensure that ethical, legal and other safeguards are in place. In this regard, the DNA Board has worked with the FSL in advancing efforts to reduce the backlog in the analysis of DNA samples, but also to prioritise the analysis of evidence that directly supports cases ready for trial.

I hereby formally table this Annual Report to Parliament.



HON B H CELE, (MP)

MINISTER OF POLICE

DATE:

19/01/2024



## **A WORD FROM THE ACTING CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL FORENSICS OVERSIGHT AND ETHICS BOARD (DNA BOARD)**

It pleases me as the Acting Chairperson of the DNA to present this Annual Report for tabling before the National Assembly.

The DNA Board was appointed in May 2020, and from its inception the Board has worked towards its mandate as set out under section 15Z of the Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Amendment Act No. 37 of 2013 (DNA Act).

Over the 2022/2023 financial year the Board undertook oversight visits to all four Forensic Science Laboratories (FSL) in the country. The Board's aim was to see exactly how each of the Laboratories operate. Furthermore, the Board wanted to establish any areas of concern, so that it could collaborate on developing recommendations to the Minister as well as to the FSL where necessary.

At its four legislated quarterly engagements with the South African Police Service (SAPS), the Board has actively engaged the relevant SAPS Division on the signing of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the SAPS and the Federal Bureau for Investigations (FBI), regarding the on-boarding and incorporation of the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) into the National Forensic DNA Database (NFDD). These Databases are systems which allow Detectives to actively search DNA profiles collected from perpetrators and crime scenes against profiles loaded onto the Database to link suspects to crimes.

The DNA Board was intrinsically involved in the down management of the DNA Backlog that was ring-fenced and prioritized in June 2021. The Board continually engaged the SAPS on progress reports regarding the clearing of the ring-fenced backlog. The Board is happy to report that most of the ring-fenced backlog has been cleared. The Board continues to actively work with the SAPS to ensure that DNA Backlogs remain within globally accepted levels and to ensure mechanisms that are put into place remain capable of keeping DNA Backlogs within acceptable levels.

Over the Board's tenure, the NFDD has shown steady growth, this is encouraging. Over time the Board expects the NFDD to see further growth based on the project of sampling offenders in line with Promulgation of the DNA Act 8 of 2022.

Another key legislative enactment is that of section 36D(1) of the DNA Act, which provides for the compulsory collection of buccal DNA samples from persons arrested and charged for offences listed under Schedule 8 of the DNA Act.

The Board is not detached from the scourge of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), which has gripped the country. The DNA Board has alongside the relevant SAPS Division through a joint project with the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), undertaken to prioritise the processing of DNA samples which are on the court roll and ready to be tried.

The Board looks forward to continued progress in matters related to the NFDD and the management of DNA.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Sono', is enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval. The signature is written in a cursive style.

**MR RAYMOND SONO**

**ACTING CHAIRPERSON: NATIONAL FORENSIC OVERSIGHT AND ETHICS BOARD**

**DATE: 18/10/2023**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The National Forensic Oversight and Ethics Board (hereafter referred to as the DNA Board) is an independent statutory body established in terms of section 15V of the *Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Amendment Act, No. 37 of 2013* (hereafter referred to as the DNA Act).

---

The Board's statutory obligations are defined by section 15Z of the DNA Act and include:

- a. Providing regular independent and effective governance and oversight over the overall operations of the National Forensic DNA Database (NFDD);
- b. Ensuring that ethical, legal, and social implications of the use of the forensic DNA in criminal investigations are considered;  
and
- c. Receiving and assessing complaints from any affected person regarding any alleged violations relating to the abuse of DNA samples and forensic DNA profiles and any security breaches in the database and or processes.

## **2. OPERATIONAL PLAN**

During the reporting period, the DNA Board continued to engage with relevant stakeholders within the SAPS nodal points to complete all oversight reports and ensure an effective DNA database that enhances the South African Police Criminal Investigation Service.

Among the Board's key initiatives during the period under review, was the review of the operational plans from previous financial years, as a means of improving the Board's oversight mechanisms to improve the performance of the FSL and the NFDD. This included inspection visits to all four laboratories across the country and the preparation of an advisory report for the Minister.

Areas of concern identified were integrated by the Board into its operational plan during the reporting period, these included:

- Monitoring the performance of DNA analysis, including the down-management of DNA case examination backlog;
- Overseeing the SAPS contract management systems, particularly those providing supplies to the FSL;
- Following up on the finalisation of amendments to various sections of the DNA Act;
- Following up on progress in respect of the acquisition of the CODIS Software for the NFDD;
- Monitoring compliance by detectives with the Presidential Proclamation, which mandates the collection of buccal samples from persons arrested and charged with Schedule 8 offenses;
- Pursuing the implementation of Regulation 12 of the DNA Regulations in relation to the establishment of dedicated units to track and investigate forensic evidence leads;
- Monitoring the finalisation of Forensic Investigative Leads by Investigators;
- Monitoring compliance with the DNA Act with regard to training SAPS members on the collection of buccal samples; and
- Monitoring the implementation of Convicted Offender Sampling project.

## PART B - PERFORMANCE

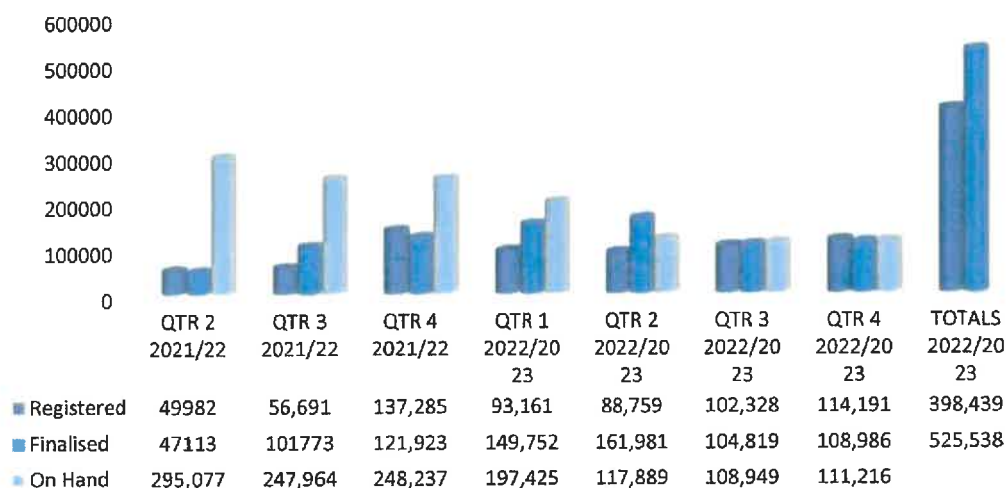
### 3. COMPLAINTS MANAGEMENT

Section 15Z (1) (d) of the DNA Act prescribes the manner in which the DNA Board handles complaints from the public. During the reporting period, the Board received two complaints, related to delays in the laboratory's processing of DNA samples. Both complaints received were resolved to the complainants' satisfaction.

### 4. DNA ANALYSIS PERFORMANCE

#### 4.1. Finalisation of case exhibits against the registered entries.

Figure 1: Finalisation of 90% of case exhibits against the registered entries: 2022/23 FY

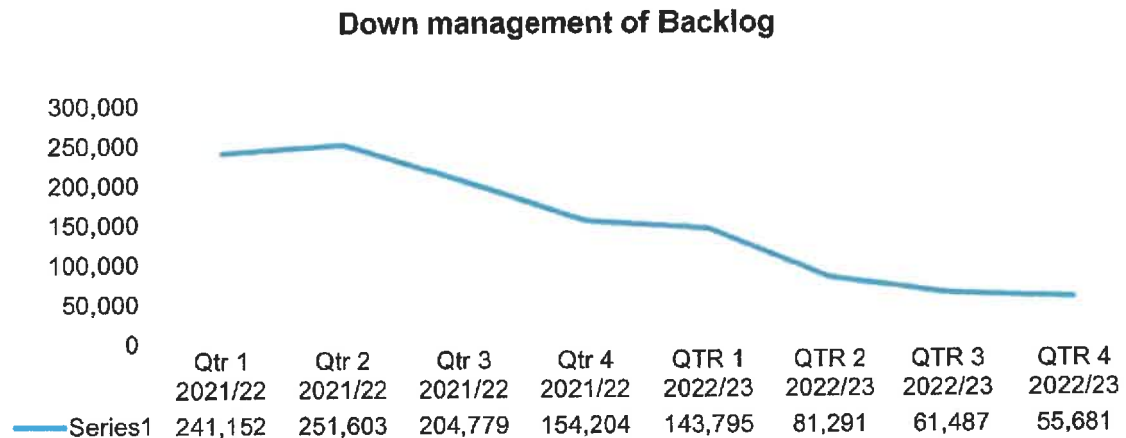


The performance level of the country's forensic science laboratories has steadily declined over the 2021/22 financial year due to various factors mainly related to supply chain management challenges and the ripple effects of Covid-19. However, as can be seen in Figure 1 above, there was a completion rate of 525,538 cases during the reporting period, 2022/23, compared to the 398,439 registered during the reporting period. The total number of cases finalised is higher than those registered because it

included the backlog carried over from the previous financial year. The set target of 90% was achieved.

#### 4.2. Down Management of Backlog

Figure 2: Down management of Backlog 2022/23 FY



An analysis of data for the 2022/23 financial year as depicted in the above table, shows an improvement in the reduction of the backlog by 63.8% from 154 204 cases at the end of 2021/22 financial year to 55 681 at the end of 2022/23 financial year.

#### 4.3. Routine and Non-Routine Case Exhibits

An analysis of the finalisation rate of Routine case exhibits (court driven cases) as per the below (table 1), demonstrates stagnancy over the past three financial years, the result being unmet targets, as reflected under the current reporting period. Only 18.87% (2 400/12 719) of Routine case exhibit entries were completed within the stipulated 35 calendar days against the 75% AOP target. The finalisation rate of Non-Routine case / Complex Exhibits has demonstrated a decline, with a finalisation rate of 45.10% (313/694) against the FSL's 70% target, within the 113 calendar days.

#### 4.4. DNA Intelligence (inclusive of Reference Index)

DNA Intelligence exhibits are exhibits that are generated from matters where there are no suspects identified e.g. samples taken from a crime scene where a suspect has not been identified or the exhibit is not linked to a particular suspect. For the period under review, 82.66 (79 000 / 95 573) of the DNA intelligence exhibits entries were completed with the specified 90 calendar days. This means the target of 80% as per the FSL TID has been achieved. This represents a commendable progress compared to 2021/22 financial year where only 8.8 (22 244/ 253 428) DNA intelligence exhibits were completed (see table 1).

Table 1: Routine, Non- Routine and DNA Intelligence

<b>CASE CATEGORY</b>	<b>TARGETS</b>	<b>ACTUAL PERCENTAGE &amp; NUMBER COMPLETED</b>
<b>Routine Case Exhibits</b>	75% completed within 35 calendar days	QTR1: 2022/2023: 21.13% [3 280 / 15 524] QTR 2: 2022/2023: 16.9% [4 353/25 839] QTR 3: 2022/2023: 19.98% [3 439 /17 216] <b>QTR4: 2022/2023: 18.87% [2 400/12 719]</b>
<b>Non Routine Case Exhibits</b>	70% completed with 113 calendar days	QTR1: 2022/2023: 93.96% [544 / 579] QTR 2: 2022/2023: 93.3% [403/ 432] QTR 3: 2022/2023: 90.07% [399 /443] <b>QTR 4: 2022/2023: 45.10% [313/694]</b>
<b>DNA Intelligence (Including RI)</b>	80% completed within 90 calendar days	QTR1: 2022/2023: 53.38% [71 344 / 133 649] QTR 2: 2022/2023: 50.21% [68 134/] QTR 3: 2022/2023: 73.12% [63 733/ 87 160] <b>QTR 4: 2022/2023: 82.66% [79 000/95 573]</b>

#### 4.5. Number of DNA Cases with Matches and Serial Case Reports

As per the below table (table 2), a total of a total of 10 404 DNA cases with matches (inclusions for arrested suspects and exhibits with the same station CAS number) were completed during 2022/23 financial year. This is commendable considering that during 2021/22 financial year, only 3 828 DNA cases were matched to the arrested suspects. For the 2022/23 financial year, 1589 case serial case reports were issued, an uptick from the previous financial year (2021/2022) which indicated a finalisation of 779 serial case reports.

Table 2: DNA Cases with matches and DNA Serial Case Report

<b>Number of DNA cases with matches (inclusions) finalised</b>	<b>FY:2020/2021 - 1 302 cases</b>
	<b>FY: 2021/2022 - 3 828 cases</b>
	<b>QTR1: 2022/2023: 1 978</b>
	<b>QTR 2: 2022/2023: 2 953</b>
	<b>QTR 3: 2022/2023: 2 657</b>
	<b>QTR 4: 2022/2023: 2 816</b>
	<b>TOTAL 2022/2023: 10 404</b>
<b>Number of DNA serial case reports (number of offenders) finalised</b>	<b>FY: 2021/2022: 779 serials</b>
	<b>QTR 1: 2022/2023 – 541 serials</b>
	<b>QTR 2: 2022/2023 – 400 serials</b>
	<b>QTR 3: 2022/2023 – 395 serials</b>
	<b>QTR 4: 2022/2023 – 253 serials</b>
	<b>TOTAL 2022/2023: 1 589</b>

#### 4.6. Buccal samples finalised after receipt and registration

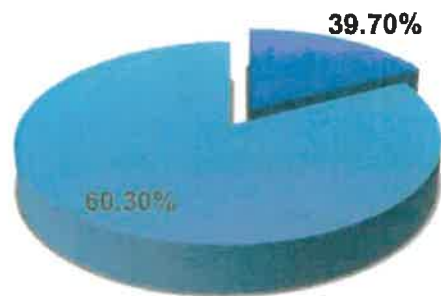
The Act requires that forensic DNA profiles must be finalised within 30 days from date of receipt at the laboratory. Figure 2 below shows that during the reporting period, only 39.70% (30,703/77,330) buccal sample profiles were completed within the prescribed time period, with the remaining 60.30% being completed outside the 30 calendar days.



Similarly, Figure 3 demonstrates that for 2022/23 financial year, only 46.24% (35 758/ 77 330) were finalised within 30 calendar days after registration, 53.76% of samples were still completed, albeit outside the stipulated finalisation period.

Figure 3: Buccal samples profiles from receipt

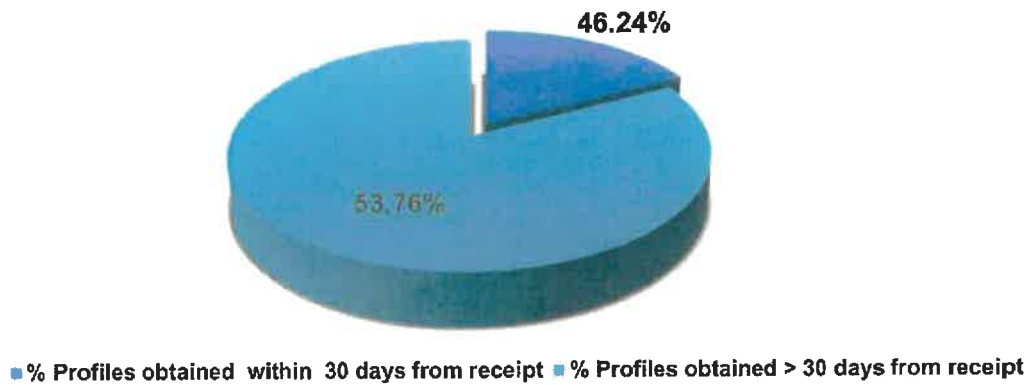
FY: 2020/2021: 2.10% [50 /2 383]  
FY 2021/2022: 1.45% [3 477/ 247 241]  
FY: **2022/2023: 39.70% [ 30 703/ 77 330]**



■ % Profiles obtained within 30 days from receipt ■ % Profiles obtained > 30 days from receipt

Figure 4: Buccal sample profiles from registration

FY: 2020/2021: 5.20% [124/2 383]  
 FY 2021/2022: 1.9% [4 697/ 247 241]  
 FY: 2022/2023: 46.24% [ 35 758/ 77 330]



#### 4.7. Total GBV Casework in Progress

Table 3: Total GBV Casework in progress

Cases with suspects (Court bound cases)		Intelligence cases	
Province	Number of cases	Province	Number of cases
Eastern Cape FSL	1 646	Eastern Cape FSL	2 763
Gauteng FSL	7 966	Gauteng FSL	17 637
KwaZulu-Natal FSL	768	KwaZulu-Natal FSL	1 643
Western Cape FSL	2 293	Western Cape FSL	2 282
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12 673</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24 325</b>

The gender-based violence casework presented in Table 3 (above) includes two categories, namely cases with suspects being tried in court and secondly, intelligence casework from gender-based violence cases that require follow-up. Due to the sensitivity

of these matters, it was decided between the NPA and the SAPS to prioritise these matters in order to combat the scourge of GBV facing the country.

During the period under review, there were 12 673 trial ready cases wherein reports were prioritised by the FSL, this is an uptick of 2180 reports from the previous financial year where 10 493 cases were prioritised.

## **5. QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

An accredited QMS plays a vital role in achieving, maintaining, and improving the accuracy and reliability of Forensic DNA profiles produced. Accreditation is only a best practice guideline and not a legislative obligation. However, adhering to accredited standards enables laboratories to demonstrate their ability to operate competently and to deliver trusted results, thereby promoting confidence in their work.

Since 17 February 2017, the Section: FDM has sustained the certification compliance of ISO 9001 (Certificate number: SABS LD 5588). The Section: FDM undergoes regular surveillance assessments and/or audits by the authorised certification body, the South African National Accreditation System (SANAS), to continuously monitor its conformance to quality management and for purposes of improvement.

## **6. THE NATIONAL FORENSIC DNA DATABASE (NFDD)**

The National Forensic DNA Database is established in terms of section 15G (1) of the DNA Act to facilitate and enable the management and coordination of comparative searches. The overall increase in the number of forensic profiles loaded onto the NFDD over the reporting period impacts positively on the overall maturity of the database. The below figure (see figure 5) demonstrates that the NFDD has grown from 856 814 profiles loaded at the end of the previous financial year, to 1 163,963 loaded profiles at the end of the 2022/23 financial year.

Figure 5: Maturity of NFDD for 2022/23 FY

### Maturity of NFDD



In addition to overall maturity, the performance and effectiveness of the NFDD is assessed through a series of profiles loaded into the various indices. In particular, the aim is to ensure a higher number of loaded profiles in the indices for convicted, arrestee and crime scene indices.

Table 4 (below) shows that 55,617 and 191,151 profiles were loaded into the crime scene and arrestee indices, respectively. While the Convicted Offenders Index appears to remain consistently low at 7,427. The numbers are expected to rise as the Convicted Offenders Sampling Project gains momentum.

Table 4: Various Indices of NFDD for the period 2022/23 FY

<b>INDICES</b>	<b>LOADED</b>	<b>EXPUNGEMENT</b>
Elimination Index	15 417	-
Crime Scene Index	55 617	-
Convicted Offender Index	7 427	-
Missing Persons/ Unidentified	7 393	-
Investigative Index	10 604	8 280
Arrested Index	191 151	9 428
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>290 106</b>	<b>17 708</b>

## **7. STATUS OF ACQUISITIONING OF CODIS SOFTWARE FOR THE NFDD**

The Board actively monitors the project plan and progress on the implementation of the entire process related to the integration of the CODIS software into the NFDD. Following the acquisition of CODIS and the finalisation of the SLA between FBI and the SAPS, a policy on the implementation of CODIS to conduct familial searches will be developed in collaboration with identified stakeholders.

## **8. EXTRACTION OF BUCCAL SAMPLES FOR PRIORITISED SCHEDULE 8 OFFENCES BY DETECTIVES**

The collection of buccal samples for prioritised schedule 8 offences is an obligation prescribed by section 36D of the DNA Act, after a proclamation was made by the President of the Republic of South Africa (RSA) on 14 January 2022.

As per the below table (see table 5), there is a decline in compliance by 2% compared to the previous financial year (2021/22), where the laboratory recorded an 83%

compliance rate in the extraction of buccal samples. It should be noted that at the time, the performance outcome was judged based on an AOP target of 70%, as this was prior to the President's proclamation of the Act. For the current reporting period, 2022/23, the compliance rate stands at 81, 7%, meaning that the target of 100% has not been achieved by the SAPS in compliance with the DNA Act.

A total of 362,686 Schedule 8 offenders were arrested and charged during the reporting period, however only 296,574 (81.7%) buccal samples were collected. A total of 66,112 perpetrators were not sampled.

Table 5: Number of buccal samples collected in compliance with Section 36 (D) of DNA Act

<b>Province</b>	<b>Number of persons arrested and charged in Schedule 8 Offences</b>	<b>Number of buccal samples taken from persons arrested in Schedule 8 offences</b>	<b>% Taken</b>
<b>2021/22 FY</b>	<b>154 879</b>	<b>15 242</b>	<b>83%</b>
<b>Eastern Cape</b>	49 425	37 956	76.79%
<b>Free State</b>	27 773	25 124	90.46%
<b>Gauteng</b>	75 862	63 232	83.35%
<b>KwaZulu-Natal</b>	57 311	51 144	89.23%
<b>Limpopo</b>	27 594	23 248	84.25%
<b>Mpumalanga</b>	22 065	18 779	85.10%
<b>North West</b>	23 818	19 233	80.74%
<b>Northern Cape</b>	15 121	13 253	87.64%
<b>Western Cape</b>	63 717	44 605	70.00%
<b>Total for 2022/23 FY (National)</b>	<b>362 686</b>	<b>296 574</b>	<b>81.77%</b>

## 9. FORENSIC INVESTIGATIVE LEADS

### 9.1. Finalisation of Forensic Investigative Leads

Regulation 8 of the DNA Act prescribes that “*forensic investigation leads must be reported to the relevant investigative officers and teams for follow-up within 35 calendar days of the review by the forensic analyst at the NFDD*”. At the beginning of each financial year, the NFDD issues a baseline of leads to be followed up, 50% of which need to be finalised at the end of the financial year.

### 9.2. Follow-up on establishment of Forensic Investigative Units in Provinces

Regulation 12 of DNA Act provides that ‘*The National Commissioner must establish and maintain units in every Province specially dedicated to the follow-up and investigation of forensic investigative leads*’. These units have not yet been established for various reasons cited by the SAPS, namely budget and resource constraints.

For the reporting period, at the beginning 2022/23 FY, 2 216 DNA profiles possibly linking perpetrators to crimes were issued for further follow-up and investigation. A total of 56.85% (1260/2 216) person-to-crime (known leads) were finalised. On the other hand, 650 crime-to-crime (unknown leads) were issued at the beginning of the financial year and 56.92% (370/650) were finalised, see table 6 (below).

The goal of finalising 50% of leads was achieved. However, the slow rate at which these leads are being followed up is a concern because the record of leads issued during the financial year under review does not take into account the historical record of 16 503 person-to-crime leads as well 8 291 crime-to-crime leads that still require follow-up, see table 6 (below). This therefore highlights the importance of accelerating the establishment and resourcing of Forensic Investigation Units in the Provinces.

Table 6: Baseline of Forensic Investigative Leads for Follow-up by Investigators

PROVINCE	DNA PERSON-TO-CRIME				DNA CRIME-TO-CRIME			
	FORENSIC INVESTIGATIVE LEADS		FORENSIC INVESTIGATIVE LEADS		FORENSIC INVESTIGATIVE LEADS		FORENSIC INVESTIGATIVE LEADS	
	AOP Baseline	Finalised DNA Person-to-Crime	Finalisation DNA Person-to-Crime	AOP Baseline	Finalised DNA Crime-to-Crime	Finalisation DNA Crime-to-Crime	AOP Baseline	Finalised DNA Crime-to-Crime
<b>Eastern Cape</b>	342	194	56.72%	73	55	75.34%		
<b>Free State</b>	221	124	56.10%	72	21	29.16%		
<b>Gauteng</b>	378	170	44.97%	180	91	50.55%		
<b>KwaZulu-Natal</b>	273	157	57.50%	27	13	48.14%		
<b>Limpopo</b>	147	65	44.21%	70	22	31.42%		
<b>Mpumalanga</b>	143	86	60.13%	55	35	63.63%		
<b>North West</b>	209	101	48.32%	47	29	61.70%		
<b>Northern Cape</b>	111	74	66.66%	18	15	83.33%		
<b>Western Cape</b>	392	289	73.72%	108	89	82.40%		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2 216</b>	<b>1 260</b>	<b>56.85%</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>56.92%</b>		



Table 7: Status of Forensic Investigative Leads (FIL) on CAS system as at 31 March 2023 (FIL captured on CAS/ICDMS from 1 January 2025)

Type of FIL Status Outcome	DNA Person-to-Crime	DNA Crime-to-Crime
<b>Case Finalised -Acquitted</b>	440	122
<b>Case Finalised - Convicted</b>	2 285	413
<b>Case Withdrawn – SPP</b>	3 324	1 186
<b>Case Withdrawn – Complainant</b>	1645	446
<b>Finalised: Victim / Complainant Cannot Be Traced</b>	305	105
<b>Lead Under Investigation</b>	5 553	4 248
<b>Suspect Arrested</b>	1 531	185
<b>Undetected/Suspected Cannot Be Traced</b>	1 420	1 586
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16 503</b>	<b>8 291</b>

#### 10. MONITORING THE AVAILABILITY OF EVIDENCE COLLECTION KITS

At the end of the reporting period, all procurement contracts were reported to be in place, except for the DNA isolation kit contract, which was pending completion of the tender process. The Board also noted that systems have been put in place to monitor the availability of evidence collection kits at all police stations through inventory and weekly reporting. However, the Board is concerned that some provinces are still not fully compliant and this results in inventory running out while the late order is still being processed at headquarters. The consequence of this is non-compliance with Section 36(D) in the sampling of all persons arrested and charged with Schedule 8 offences.

#### 11. MONITORING OF TRAINING ON BUCCAL SAMPLE COLLECTION

Section 15T (2) of the DNA Act prescribes that the National Commissioner and the Executive Director (ED) must develop awareness and training programmes for the SAPS

and the IPID regarding the DNA Act and its regulations, so as to give effect to the Act and its provisions, specifically on the training of relevant officials on extracting buccal samples. Table 8 (below), depicts the total number of members trained in buccal sampling for the period under review. The number of trained members, 38 256, has substantially improved compared to the previous financial year where only 3 734 were trained on the collection of buccal samples.

Table 8: Number of trained members on buccal sample collection for period 2022/23 FY

<b>PROVINCE/ DIVISION</b>	<b>2014/ 2015</b>	<b>2015/ 2016</b>	<b>2016/ 2017</b>	<b>2017/ 2018</b>	<b>2021/ 2022</b>	<b>2022/ 2023</b>	<b>Competent members</b>
<b>NAT HEAD OFFICE (HQ)</b>	67	498	145	57	20	982	982
<b>Eastern Cape</b>	768	1539	1187	850	346	4880	4879
<b>Free State</b>	672	1622	670	586	48	3653	3652
<b>Gauteng</b>	590	2287	2066	1220	3066	7554	7553
<b>KwaZulu-Natal</b>	704	1894	1444	1539	38	5507	5506
<b>Limpopo</b>	396	1309	605	577	48	2650	2649
<b>Mpumalanga</b>	324	1359	554	533	12	2851	2851
<b>North West</b>	244	847	546	512	32	1893	1893
<b>Northern Cape</b>	259	1497	601	497	32	2674	2672
<b>Western Cape</b>	854	2499	1938	895	88	5612	5598
<b>(IPID &amp; NFOEB)</b>	-	17	4	4	4	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>4937</b>	<b>15323</b>	<b>9760</b>	<b>7270</b>	<b>3734</b>	<b>38 256</b>	<b>38 235</b>

## **12. CONCLUSION**

The end of the 2022/23 financial year marked a significant reduction in DNA backlog. Although the Board would have preferred complete eradication, the progress made by SAPS is still appreciated.

The lack of proper inventory monitoring is a cause for concern as it can lead to accumulated backlogs. The shortage of crime kits and buccal samples might have a ripple effect to the compulsory collection of buccal samples from individuals arrested and charged with Schedule 8 offences and this remains a concern for the DNA Board. The DNA Board will continue to engage the FSL and Division: Supply Chain Management in this regard to ensure sustainable systems of inventory optimisation.

As the number of officers trained to collect oral samples increases, it is expected that the level of compliance with the requirements of the DNA Act at the national level will also improve.

The NFDD is showing a steady growth. The Board is expecting a significant growth in the convicted offender index, following the enactment of the DNA Act No.8 of 2022 in respect of the implementation of the mandatory requirement to sample convicted offenders.

The downward trajectory in the analysis completion rate of buccal specimen profiles after receipt and registration has been a concern over the past financial years. It appears, the laboratory is faced with the challenge of fully meeting the standard of processing all oral samples after receipt and registration within the prescribed 30 days, as this goal has not been achieved for the last three consecutive financial years.

Following the signing of an SLA between the SAPS and the FBI regarding the integration of the CODIS software into the SAPS systems, South African Criminal Justice System will be able to reap the benefits of the software by conducting familial searches as well as linking crimes and identifying potential suspects by matching DNA profiles from crime scenes with profiles of convicted criminals.

Forensic Investigation Units have not yet been established by the SAPS. Although track and trace facilities have been developed in the provinces as an interim measure to follow-up on candidate leads, these track and trace facilities can never fully do the work that established and fully equipped FIUs could do. This status remains worrying as investigative leads will help solve several crimes.

The DNA Board will continue to engage the SAPS on all matters that require urgent attention to ensure full compliance to the DNA Act and to ensure general realisation of the use of DNA evidence in the entire Criminal Justice value chain.

## PART C- GOVERNANCE

### 13. GOVERNANCE

#### 13.1. Composition of the Board

The DNA Board has developed its internal governance rules and procedures as prescribed under Section 15X (2) of the DNA Act, these are supported by the associated Sub-Committee Terms of Reference (TORs), which in turn provide a framework for the effective and efficient functioning of the operations of the DNA Board. During the period under review, the sub-committees and the Board's Secretariat have continued to play a central role in ensuring that the Board realises its functions as prescribed in section 15Z of the DNA Act.

Table 9: Composition of the Board 2022/23 FY

NAME	DESIGNATION	PUBLIC SERVANT / CIVILIAN
<b>Adv. Lindi Nkosi Thomas</b>	Chairperson	Advocate of the Supreme Court of South Africa
<b>Mr. Raymond Sono</b>	Deputy Chairperson	Civilian member
<b>Mr. Takalani Ramaru</b>	Member	Public Service member: Secretary for Police Service
<b>Mr. Lucky Mthethwa</b>	Member	Public Service: Department of Correctional Services
<b>Ms. Ooshara Sewpaul</b>	Member	Public Service member: Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
<b>Dr. Karen Ehlers</b>	Member	Civilian member
<b>Dr. Nkosinathi Myeza</b>	Member	Civilian member
<b>Adv. Rehana Rawat</b>	Member	Civilian member
<b>Mr. Daniel Morema</b>	Member	Civilian member

During the financial year under review, Adv. Lindi Nkosi Thomas resigned from her position as Chairperson in November 2022. In compliance with legislation, the Deputy Chairperson of the Board, Mr. Raymond Sono, has actively assumed the duties of the Chairperson, until the position is filled.

## 13.2. Board Meeting Attendance

Table 10: Board meeting attendance 2022/23

Date	Meeting Description	Attendance
01 April 2022	Public Relations Sub-Committee and Inaugural meeting	Four members/ Two DNA Secretariat officials
04 May 2022	Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Amendment Bill, 2021: Clause by Clause deliberation and adoption	Seven members/ Two DNA Secretariat officials
11 May 2022	Criminal Law (Forensic Procedures) Amendment Bill, 2021: Clause by Clause deliberation Clause by clause deliberation	Six members/ Two DNA Secretariat officials
19 May 2022	DNA Board and SAPS FSL Joint meeting	Seven members/ Two DNA Secretariat officials Seven SAPS Representative
08 June 2022	Further deliberations on the South African Police Service on Crime Statistics for Fourth Quarter from January to March 2021/2022 financial year. Follow-up meeting on the turnaround strategy of the Forensic Science Laboratory, including the implementation of the procurement of forensic consumables, maintenance of FSL machinery, the development of the Forensic Exhibit Management (FEM) system, replacement of the PCEM system and progress on litigation regarding FDA.	Seven members/ Two DNA Secretariat officials
15 June 2022	Planning Sub- Committee Meeting	Four members/ Two DNA Secretariat officials
24 June 2022	DNA Board briefing the Minister of Police	Seven members/ Two DNA Secretariat officials
21-22 July 2022	Oversight Visit to Cape Town Forensic Science Laboratory by the Board 21 & 22 July 2022	Four members/ One DNA Secretariat official
12 August 2022	Finance/Budget & Risk Sub-Committee Inaugural Meeting	Two members/ Two DNA Secretariat officials
17 August 2022	Verification of data on DNA Board's 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Progress Report	Two members/ Two DNA Secretariat officials Two SAPS FSL officials

18 August 2022	DNA Board Meeting & Joint Meeting Between DNA Board and Saps FSL	Five members/ Two DNA Secretariat officials Five SAPS officials
25-26 August 2022	Oversight Visit to Eastern Cape: Port Elizabeth Forensic Science Laboratory	Four members/ Two DNA Secretariat officials
15-16 September 2022	Oversight Visit to Durban Forensic Science Laboratory	Six members/ Two DNA Secretariat officials
21 September 2022	PR Sub-Committee discussing the News24 Interview	Three Board members/ Two DNA Secretariat officials
06 October 2022	Pre-briefing on the annual report 2021/2022 to the Minister of Police	Seven members/ Two DNA Secretariat officials
13 October 2022	Stakeholder Engagement Meeting: DNA Board, Division SCM and Division: Detectives & Forensic Services	Five members/ Two DNA Secretariat officials
14 October 2022	Verification Sub-Committee Meeting	Two members/ Two DNA Secretariat officials Two SAPS officials
19 October 2022	Consideration of the 2021/22 Annual Report of the DNA Board.	Six Board Members/ Two DNA Secretariat officials
17 November 2022	DNA Board Meeting and SAPS FSL Joint meeting	Seven members Three DNA Secretariat officials
17 November 2022	DNA Board Meeting and SAPS FSL Joint meeting	Seven Board members (Three DNA Secretariat officials)
17 February 2023	DNA Board Meeting and SAPS FSL Joint meeting	Seven members/ Two DNA Secretariat officials Eight SAPS officials

Table 11: Outline of Board's Sub-Committee and Functions

<b>SUB-COMMITTEE</b>	<b>FUNCTIONS</b>
<b>Planning Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Develop and continuously updates Board's Plan of Action.</li></ul>
<b>The Public Relations Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ensuring transparency and accountability;</li><li>- Promoting awareness of the Board's existing functions;</li><li>- Broadening media awareness, as well as expanding an online presence and communication services from a central point of communications.</li></ul>
<b>Assessment Committee (complaints)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Overseeing compliance with ethical and privacy issues and dealing with complaints</li></ul>



## PART D - FINANCIALS

### 14. BUDGET

Table 12: Budget Allocation and Expenditure - DNA Board 2022/23 FY

Financial Allocation	Sum of Current Budget	Sum of Total Expenditure	Balance
<b>NFOEB</b>	<b>3,780,000.00</b>	<b>2,752,148.96</b>	<b>995,383.25</b>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>	<b>3,663,000.00</b>	<b>2,666,541.80</b>	<b>973,990.46</b>
<b>COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES</b>	<b>2,776,000.00</b>	<b>1,820,639.82</b>	<b>955,360.18</b>
SALARIES AND WAGES	2,411,000.00	1,620,247.18	790,752.82
SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS	365,000.00	200,392.64	164,607.36
<b>GOODS AND SERVICES</b>	<b>897,000.00</b>	<b>845,901.93</b>	<b>18,630.28</b>
ADMINISTRATIVE FEES: PAYMENTS	0.00	4,458.00	5,380.50-
ADVERTISING	0.00	67,695.50	67,695.50-
MINOR ASSETS	0.00	3,899.00	3,899.00-
AUDIT COST:EXTERNAL	180,000.00	28,052.00	151,948.00
CATERING:DEPARTML ACTIVITIES	12,000.00	12,366.30	366.30-
COMMUNICATION	64,000.00	14,941.00	49,059.00
COMPUTER SERVICES	0.00	72,324.60	72,324.60-
CONSULT:BUSINESS&ADVISORY SERV	32,000.00	259,926.98	227,926.98-
FLEET SERVICES(F/SER)	0.00	8,037.00	8,037.00-
CONS SUPPLIES	0.00	1,800.00	1,800.00-
CONS:STA,PRINT&OFF SUP	10,000.00	6,202.39	3,797.61
TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE	599,000.00	359,529.16	207,925.55
VENUES AND FACILITIES	0.00	6,670.00	6,670.00-
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>	<b>107,000.00</b>	<b>85,607.21</b>	<b>21,391.97</b>
<b>BUILDINGS &amp; OTHER FIX STRUCT</b>	<b>21,000.00</b>	<b>20,553.18</b>	<b>446.82</b>
BUILDINGS--	21,000.00	20,553.18	446.82
<b>MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>86,000.00</b>	<b>65,054.03</b>	<b>20,945.97</b>
OTHER MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT	86,000.00	65,054.03	20,945.97
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,780,000.00</b>	<b>2,752,148.96</b>	<b>995,383.25</b>

An analysis of the budget of the DNA Board and its Secretariat for the 2022/23 financial year indicates that there was underspending on compensation of employees. This underspending was as a result of the vacant position of Head of the Secretariat, of the DNA Board, the position was filled in November 2022. In terms of financial allocations, the Board is remunerated from the Goods and Services financial allocation, which is inclusive of travel, accommodation and related expenses.

The DNA Board is funded entirely from funds appropriated to the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service. As such the DNA Board does not submit audited financial statements. Annually audited statements that are submitted, form part of the CSPS Annual Report.