

LEGAL AID SOUTH AFRICA

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN 2023/2024

**Approved by the Board on 26 November 2022
Submitted for approval by the Minister of Justice and Correctional
Services on 31 January 2023**



LEGAL AID SA ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN 2023-2024

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Executive Authority Statement

It is my pleasure to present this Legal Aid South Africa five-year Strategic Plan 2020-2025 prepared by the Board and Management. Legal Aid SA is an autonomous statutory body created to deliver legal aid in South Africa. Given the social and economic inequalities as a result of our sordid history, the intervention by the State through Legal Aid SA is imperative.

Legal Aid SA is a testament of our democratic era's commitment to access to justice for all. Our system of legal aid underpinned by our constitutional values has proved itself to be amongst the best in the world.

No doubt the current economic challenges as well as COVID-19 faced by both South Africa and the global community will have an impact on some of the strategic objectives Legal Aid SA has set out. These challenges, though not insurmountable, will fundamentally transform the landscape of our legal system and the manner in which Legal Aid SA conducts its business.

The Strategic Plan will guide the Legal Aid SA mandate to assist millions of indigent South Africans to access justice regardless of their socio-economic status. This Strategic Plan has also factored in the new responsibility that arises as a result of the government's policy direction on land justice. This inevitably increases the scope of work for Legal Aid SA. The Land Court Bill, once approved by Parliament into an Act, will transform the current Land Claims Court dispensation and result in significant changes in the resolution of land disputes. The Land Court Bill seeks to extend legal aid representation to a party involved in matters concerning land reform at State expense if such party cannot afford legal representation. Legal Aid SA will therefore be resourced to provide critical support to enable access to justice in land matters.

Consequently, Legal Aid SA took over the legal representation function (and related budget) currently undertaken by the Land Rights Management Facility of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development from 01 January 2022. This development fundamentally places Legal Aid SA at the centre of efforts towards land justice in South Africa.

I am very proud of Legal Aid SA's successes. It has evolved into a high performing organisation, which has delivered more than 90% of its Business Plans annually, received 21 consecutive unqualified audits since 2002/03 and has been accredited as a Top Employer for the past 13 years, and Leader of the Public Sector category for the past six years.

Legal Aid SA continues to champion the rights of all persons to access justice through the provision of independent, accessible and quality legal aid services in criminal and civil matters. Between 2020 and 2022 Legal Aid SA assisted over 650,000 new matters of which 87% are criminal matters and 13% are civil matters.

The provision of legal advice, in order to empower communities on their legal rights and responsibilities, benefits more than 300,000 people annually via its national footprint of 64 Local and 64 Satellite Offices; the Legal Aid Toll-free Advice Line and consultations with remand detainees.

Notwithstanding the challenges associated with budget cuts and shortfalls, Legal Aid SA has sustained its service efforts of advancing constitutionalism and the rule of law within the Integrated Criminal Justice System. The organisation is part of dedicated forums that promote dialogue and representations on access to justice through collaborations and partnerships to advance the legal interests of vulnerable groups in societies.

It is with great pleasure that I present the Legal Aid SA Strategic Plan (SP) 2020-2025. The outcomes in this Strategic Plan are congruent with government's priorities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ronald Lamola', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Ronald Lamola, (MP)

Minister of Justice and Correctional Services

Accounting Authority Statement

During the previous Strategic Plan period, 2015-2020, the Board remained fully constituted, has been effective in upholding its responsibilities and continued to provide leadership and guidance in its oversight of the performance of Legal Aid SA. Presentations made annually to the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services resulted in commendation for the organisation's excellent performance. In order to assist so many indigent and vulnerable people to access justice and protect their human rights, Legal Aid SA has had strong and efficient financial management, governance and human resources systems in place.

As the Accounting Authority, the role of the Board is to provide strategic direction and ensure fulfilment of Legal Aid SA's mandate. In so doing the Board approves a Strategic Plan (SP) which sets out the vision, mission and strategic objectives of the organisation.

The vision for the 2020-2025 period is *"A dynamic South Africa in which constitutional rights are realised to ensure a just society for all"* and the mission is *"To remain a leader in the provision of equal access to justice to indigent and vulnerable persons by rendering quality legal services."*

The Board of Legal Aid SA adopted a stakeholder-inclusive approach in the development of this SP 2020-2025. We discussed and approved the methodology for the Legal Aid SA SP 2020-2025 and were involved in the development of the SP through workshops with Management and participation in stakeholder forums. The Legal Aid SA SP 2020-2025 has been crafted taking into account the government priorities as stated in the NDP 2030 and the MTSF 2019-2024, the mandate of the organisation and the available resources. In addition, Legal Aid SA has participated in the Land Court Bill legislative process and through the newly formed Land Rights Management Unit ensures implementation of its extended mandate to enable indigent litigants access to legal representation in land-related matters.

The Board will monitor the implementation of the SP and report on this through Quarterly Performance Reports and Annual Reports, in compliance with statutory requirements.

The Board will continue to exercise its oversight role to ensure that Legal Aid SA maintains high levels of service excellence in delivering on its mandate, enabling access to justice to uphold the rights enshrined in our Constitution, as well as ensure the sustainability of the organisation.



Judge Motsamai Makume

Board (Accounting Authority) Chairperson

Accounting Officer Statement

Legal Aid South Africa is a Schedule 3A National Public Entity. The mandate and objects of Legal Aid SA are succinctly described and detailed in the preamble to the Legal Aid SA Act (39 of 2014), in the following terms:

“To ensure access to justice and the realisation of the right of a person to have legal representation as envisaged in the Constitution and to render or make legal aid and legal advice available; for that purpose, to establish an entity called Legal Aid South Africa with a Board of Directors and to define its objects, powers, functions, duties and composition; to provide for the independence and impartiality of Legal Aid South Africa; ...”

The Strategic Plan (SP) sets the direction for the organisation, our policy priorities, impact statement, objectives and outcomes for a five-year period, as approved by the Board and the Executive Authority, within the scope of available resources. The implementation of the SP is aimed at fulfilling the constitutional mandate to deliver quality legal aid and legal advice services to indigent and vulnerable persons as well as building a sustainable organisation.

During the previous strategic planning period, 2015-2020, the overall focus was on increasing organisational maturity, sustaining high performance and excellence in all segments of the organisation and positively touching the lives of many more South Africans to ensure the outcome of quality justice for all.

Guided by our vision, mission and values, Legal Aid SA succeeded in delivering on its constitutional mandate in the period 2020- 2022. We have successfully increased the maturity level of each segment of the organisation and measured our performance against this.

In financial year 2020-2021, the first year of implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025, the COVID-19 pandemic had an adverse effect on legal service delivery and court coverage, intake of new matters and finalisation of matters was lower than initially planned. In 2021-2022, the second year of implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025, Legal Aid SA managed to increase the number of indigent and vulnerable people assisted with legal representation and advice compared the first year of implementation. A total of 860,382 persons were provided with legal representation and advice in the first two years of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025. A total number of 29 new Impact Litigation matters were approved during the four-year period, with the outcome of these matters having had a positive impact beyond just for those people involved in the litigation, as the cases litigated focus on the protection of constitutional rights. The organisation met more that 90% of the set targets in the Business Plans in 2020-2022 and 84% in 2021-2022.

The national footprint has remained unchanged at 64 Legal Aid SA Local Offices and 64 Satellite Offices, supported by six Provincial Offices as well as the National Office. Limited staff resources were supplemented by the use of a mixed model delivery system, which entails entering into strategic partnerships with practitioners in private practice through our Judicare and Agency Agreement model, as well as with legal sector NGOs and University Law Clinics through Co-operation Agreements.

Despite unfavourable economic circumstances and having to manage budget cuts and shortfalls, the organisation followed good governance by utilising 95% of its allocated budget of R2,022 billion in the 2021-2022 FY and received its 21st unqualified audit and 14th clean audit.

In the 2021-2022 financial year Legal Aid SA was named a Top Employer in South Africa for the 13th year, as well as Industry Leader in the Public Sector for the sixth year. Recruitment levels were over 90% and the percentage of legal staff including paralegals averaged 77%. The staff turnover rate (excluding contract staff) has remained at less than 6%.

Legal Aid SA's new IT legal administration application, electronic Legal Aid Administration 2016 (eLAA) went live in October 2019. The system has been continuously enhanced and upgraded to meet business needs.

The focus during this strategic planning period is on ensuring equal access to justice for all to build a just society. This will be done through achieving long-term organisational development, improving maturity levels and outcomes, and delivering sustainable high performance.

This will include improving the alignment of demand to supply of criminal legal aid services and implementing alternative delivery models for improved efficiency. In civil legal aid, greater focus will be given to constitutional priorities such as land and social issues and improving the sustainability of the civil legal aid offering to clients.

Particular focus will be given to land-related matters post the transfer of the legal representation component of the Land Rights Management Facility (LRMF) from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) to Legal Aid SA, effected on 01 January 2022. The Legal Aid SA Land Rights Management Unit (LRMU) received 740 files with a contingent liability of R144,686,671 from the DALRRD. Funding over the four-year period 2022/23 to 2025/26 has been confirmed by the National Treasury as funding to be transferred to Legal Aid SA.

To ensure a seamless handover the LRMF Panel of Attorneys were allowed to proceed with the matters provided they were accredited on the Legal Aid SA Judicare System and compliant with National Treasury CSD requirements. To date 185 Legal Practitioners across the 9 Provinces are accredited on the Judicare System to provide legal representation in land related matters.

Legal Aid South Africa is currently building internal legal delivery capacity and infrastructure to handle the land related matters in-house. We have opted for a decentralised service delivery model per Province and Region to localise and improve accessibility of the legal aid services in land matters.

Attention will also be given to the legal empowerment of clients through enhancing client engagement in the conduct of their matters. Legal Aid SA will continue to play a role in improving the efficiency and accessibility of the justice system in order to positively impact on public confidence in the justice system.

A focus on strengthening financial management and maintaining clean audit outcomes as well as implementing best practises and Codes on Governance will contribute to the sustainability of the organisation. The organisation will review the Legal Aid SA Act, Regulations and Manual so that the regulatory framework remains responsive to the context in which we operate.

The organisational culture will be strengthened and the Employment Value Proposition will be repositioned to maintain a values-based, high performance, agile workplace. Legal Aid SA will embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution in order to optimise the impact of advancements in technology on the business.

Legal Aid SA is committed to the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 which focuses on the realisation of the mandate in an effective and efficient manner.

I look forward to the continued support of the Board and Executive Authority as well as staff and stakeholders in the implementation of the Legal Aid SA Strategic Plan 2020-2025 as we work together to protect and defend the rights of indigent and vulnerable persons.



Ms Mantiti Kola

Chief Executive Officer (Accounting Officer): Legal Aid South Africa

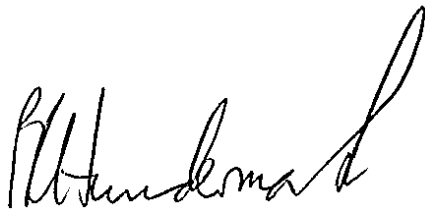
Official Sign-off

It is hereby certified that this Annual Performance Plan 2023-2024:

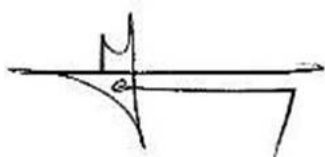
- i. Was developed and compiled by Management of Legal Aid SA under the guidance of the Board (Accounting Authority).
- ii. Was deliberated on and approved by the Board (Accounting Authority) at the Board Meeting held on 26 November 2022.
- iii. Takes into account all the relevant legislation, policies and other mandates for which Legal Aid SA is responsible.
- iv. Accurately reflects the impact and outcomes that Legal Aid SA will endeavour to achieve over the period 2020-2025, given the resources made available in the MTEF for 2023-2026.



Ms Mpho Kgabi: Acting National Operations Executive



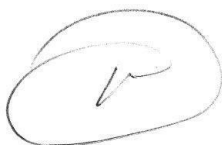
Mr Patrick Hundermark: Chief Legal Executive



Mr Sethopo Mamotheti: Chief Operations Officer



Ms Tintswalo Mofokeng: Chief Financial Officer



Mr Thabiso Mbhense: Legal Executive: Land Rights Management



Ms Mantiti Kola: Chief Executive Officer (Accounting Officer)

Approved by:



Judge Motsamai Makume: Board (Accounting Authority) Chairperson



Mr Ronald Lamola, (MP)

Minister of Justice and Correctional Services

Executive Authority

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

4IR	Fourth Industrial Revolution
A-G	Auditor-General
AVR	Audio Visual Remand
BP	Business Plan
CAs	Candidate Attorneys
CAO	Community Advice Office/s
CJS	Criminal Justice System
CPI	Consumer Price Index
DoJ&CD	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
EVP	Employee Value Proposition
FY	Financial Year
GRAP	Generally Recognised Accounting Practice
ICJS	Integrated Criminal Justice Strategy and Framework
IJS	Integrated Justice System
IT	Information Technology
JCPS Cluster	Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster
MTSF	Medium Term Strategic Framework
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NT	National Treasury
PAIA	Promotion of Access to Information Act
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
PPI	Performance Progression Increase
PSCBC	Public Service Co-ordinating Bargaining Council
SAPS	South African Police Service
SASSETA	Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority
SCM	Supply Chain Management
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SOE	State-owned Enterprise
SP	Strategic Plan
UN	United Nations

1. PART A: OUR MANDATE

1.1. Constitutional Mandate

Legal Aid SA derives its mandate from the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996).

The Constitution of RSA (Act 108 of 1996)

Section 35(2) "Everyone who is detained, including every sentenced prisoner, has the right -

(a) ...

(c) to have a legal practitioner assigned to the detained person by the state and at state expense, if substantial injustice would otherwise result, and to be informed of this right promptly; ..."

Section 35(3) "Every accused person has a right to a fair trial, which includes the right -

(a) ...

(g) to have a legal practitioner assigned to the accused person by the state and at state expense, if substantial injustice would otherwise result, and to be informed of this right promptly; ...

(o) of appeal to, or review by, a higher court."

Section 28(1) "Every child has the right,

(a) ...

(h) to have a legal practitioner assigned to the child by the state, and at state expense, in civil proceedings affecting the child, if substantial injustice would otherwise result; ..."

Section 34 "Everyone has the right to have any dispute that can be resolved by the application of law decided in a fair public hearing before a court or, where appropriate, another independent and impartial tribunal or forum."

1.2. Legislative and Policy Mandates

The Legal Aid South Africa Act (Act No. 39 of 2014) as read with the Regulations (Policy Provisions) and Legal Aid Manual (Procedural Provisions) as well as other national legislation which gives effect to the rights and obligations enshrined in the Constitution.

1.2.1. Legislative Mandates

Legal Aid South Africa Act 39 of 2014

(Assented on 9 December 2014; Date of Commencement 1 March 2015)

To ensure access to justice and the realisation of the right of a person to have legal representation as envisaged in the Constitution and to render or make legal aid and legal advice available; for that purpose to establish an entity called Legal Aid South Africa with a Board of Directors and to define its objects, powers, functions, duties and composition; to provide for the independence and impartiality of Legal Aid South Africa; to provide for the appointment of the Board of Directors and qualification for membership thereof; to provide for the appointment of a chairperson and a deputy chairperson; to provide for the term of appointment of a member of the Board of Directors; to provide for the termination of membership of the Board of Directors; to provide for meetings of the Board of Directors, quorum and procedure; to provide for the establishment of committees by the Board of Directors; to provide for the delegation of powers and the assignment of duties or functions of the Board of Directors; to provide for the appointment of a chief executive officer and his or her functions; to provide for the appointment of employees and the designation of certain officials as agents of Legal Aid South Africa and their terms and conditions of employment; to provide for the protection of client privilege in certain circumstances; to provide for the recovery of costs by Legal Aid South Africa; to provide for the finances of Legal Aid South Africa; to provide for the provision of legal aid by direction of courts in criminal matters; to provide for the making of regulations; to provide for the compilation of a Legal Aid Manual; to provide for the amendment or repeal of laws; to provide for transitional arrangements; and to provide for matters incidental thereto.

Objects of Legal Aid South Africa

3. The objects of Legal Aid South Africa are to—

- (a) render or make available legal aid and legal advice;
- (b) provide legal representation to persons at state expense; and
- (c) provide education and information concerning legal rights and obligations, as envisaged in the Constitution and this Act.

Powers, functions and duties of Board of Directors

4. (1) The Board may do all that is necessary or expedient to achieve the objects referred to in section 3, including the following:

- (a) Provide legal services, representation and advice, by—
 - (i) employing legal practitioners and candidate attorneys;
 - (ii) employing paralegals, who are persons that are not legal practitioners but have knowledge and understanding of the law, its procedures and its social context acquired through training, education, work experience or a national registered qualification in paralegal practice; and
 - (iii) procuring the services of legal practitioners in private practice by entering into contracts or agreements with them and other entities.

- (b) Determine, in consultation with the Minister and the Minister of Finance, its own staff establishment and the terms and conditions of employment for its staff as provided for in section 18.*
- (c) Purchase or otherwise acquire, hold or alienate any—*
 - (i) movable property; or*
 - (ii) immovable property with the approval of the Minister acting in consultation with the Minister of Finance.*
- (d) Hire or let any movable or immovable property.*
- (e) Fix conditions subject to which legal aid is to be rendered, including—*
 - (i) conditions in accordance with which any rights in respect of costs recovered or recoverable in any legal proceedings or any dispute in respect of which the aid is rendered, are ceded to Legal Aid South Africa; and*
 - (ii) the payment of contributions to Legal Aid South Africa by persons to whom legal aid is rendered.*
- (f) Provide legal representation at state expense as envisaged in the Constitution and this Act, where substantial injustice would otherwise result and render or make legal aid and legal advice available.*
- (g) Conduct programmes to promote public awareness of constitutional and other legal rights and public understanding of the objects, role and activities of Legal Aid South Africa.*
- (h) Pay out of the funds of Legal Aid South Africa such remuneration and allowances to members of the Board, their alternates and any committee members appointed in accordance with section 13 who are not in the full-time service of the State, as may be determined by the Minister of Finance from time to time.*
- (i) Do all things and perform all functions necessary for, or incidental to, the attainment of the objects of Legal Aid South Africa.*
- (2) The Board is the accounting authority of Legal Aid South Africa in accordance with section 49 of the Public Finance Management Act, and is charged with the responsibilities referred to in that Act.*

Other Legislation and Codes Impacting on the Delivery of Legal Aid

The following laws also require the government to provide legal assistance to the indigent:

- (I) Criminal Procedure Act (sections 73, 309, 309B, 309C, 309D & 316) – Legal Representation in Trial and Appeals
- (II) The Child Justice Act (sections 82(1) & 83(2)) – Legal Representation for Children in Child Justice Court (no child may be refused legal representation)
- (III) Children’s Act 38 of 2005, (section 55(1)) – Legal Representation of Children in matters dealt with in the Act
- (IV) Labour Relations Act 66 of 1995 (section 149) – currently unfunded
- (V) Mental Healthcare Act 17 of 2000 (section 15)

- (VI) Restitution of Land Rights Act 22 of 1994 (section 22) - funding and mandate transferred with effect from 01 January 2022
- (VII) Prevention of Illegal Eviction from and Unlawful Occupation of Land Act 19 of 1998 (section 4(5)) – currently unfunded
- (VIII) Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act 4 of 2000 (section 10(5))
- (IX) Refugees Act 140 of 1998 (section 27(b))
- (X) Protection of Personal Information Act, Act No. 4 of 2013
- (XI) Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Act, 1996 (Act No. 3 of 1996) - funding and mandate transferred from 01 January 2022
- (XII) Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, Act No. 3 of 2000
- (XIII) The Extension of Security of Tenure Act, 1997 (Act No. 62 of 1997) – funding and mandate transferred from 01 January 2022

Legal Aid SA is able to provide assistance in these instances if budget permits, in accordance with the policy provisions contained in Regulations as per section 23 of the Legal Aid South Africa Act (39 of 2014). Due to our budget and resource limitations, there are criteria that determine qualification for and exclusions to assistance. All other proposed legislation or proposed amendments to legislation, insofar as they impact on Legal Aid SA's mandate and/or clients' rights, are monitored and commented on as part of the legal research agenda. This is to ensure that clients' rights are protected and the mandate of Legal Aid SA is not extended without concomitant funding.

Public Finance Management Act (PFMA)

Legal Aid SA is a National Public Entity listed in Schedule 3A of the Public Finance Management Act, Act 1 of 1999 (PFMA) and complies with the requirements of the PFMA and National Treasury Regulations which provide guidelines that must be upheld and implemented for the realisation of good governance. The Public Finance Management Act regulates financial management in all spheres and levels of government to ensure that all revenue, expenditure, assets and liabilities are managed efficiently, effectively and economically.

King IV Report on Corporate Governance

The King Report on Governance for South Africa 2016, together with the King Code of Governance Principles 2016, contains 17 governance principles, of which 16 apply to Legal Aid SA.

1.2.2. Policy Mandates

National Development Plan (NDP) 2030

The NDP is a long-term vision for the country which provides a broad strategic framework to guide key government choices and actions, and focuses on the critical capabilities needed to transform the economy and society. The plan highlights that accelerated development in South Africa requires the active support of all citizens; leadership in all sectors that puts the country's collective interests ahead of narrow, short-term goals; and radically improved government performance.¹

There is a focus on building safer communities and achieving a crime-free South Africa. The following are the main goals of the NDP that relate directly to Legal Aid SA:

- i. Strengthening the CJS (Accelerating implementation of the plans to improve the criminal justice system),
- ii. Building safer communities using an integrated approach.

Medium-Term Strategic Framework 2019-2024

The MTSF outlines the country priorities of the electoral mandate and provides a medium-term roadmap for developing five-year institutional plans to enable the achievement of the NDP goals. The MTSF promotes coordination and alignment of priorities across all spheres of government and with non-government stakeholders and assists with integrating all components of national development into mainstream planning processes.²

Budget Prioritisation Framework

Government plans are implemented at different levels across the three spheres of government (national, provincial and local) and across a large number of public entities and state-owned enterprises. The Budget Prioritisation Framework aims to guide allocation of budget towards the achievement of government priorities.

The Budget Prioritisation Framework's objective is to establish the strategic framework for the decision-making on budget priorities that are required to advance the goals of the NDP using limited resources.³

¹ Revised Framework for Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans; Issued by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation; page 20

² Revised Framework for Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans; Issued by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation; page 20

³ Revised Framework for Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans; Issued by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation; page 20

Integrated Criminal Justice Strategy and Framework (ICJS) and Integrated Implementation Plan (IIP)

The ICJS Framework was approved by Cabinet in March 2017. The ICJS Integrated Implementation Plan (IIP) is based on the NDP 2030 and the seven priorities of the 2019 sixth administration of the Republic of South Africa. The IIP focuses on an integrated approach through the implementation of cross-cutting and integrated interventions across the CJS value chain to ensure that the outcome of a transformed, efficient, effective, victim-friendly, modernised and integrated Criminal Justice System is achieved, leading to improved service delivery, improved quality of life and safety for all. Numerous challenges within the CJS have been identified and will be addressed by the IIP.

African Union Agenda 2063

Agenda 2063 is a strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of Africa over the next 50 years. It builds on and seeks to accelerate the implementation of past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development.

Agenda 2063 has the following aspirations: an integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance; an Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law; a peaceful and secure Africa; an Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics; an Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children; and Africa as a strong, united and influential global player and partner. These aspirations have priority areas which are aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals.⁴

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030

The SDGs seek to end poverty and hunger in the world; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. Countries committed to the SDGs aim to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities.

⁴ Revised Framework for Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans; Issued by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation; page 20

The SDGs are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, the economic, the social and the environmental. There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals which demonstrate the scale and ambition of the global agenda.⁵

The adoption of the United Nations (UN) Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Matters continues to play a critical role internationally to guide sustainable development. This is paving the way for the development of legal aid systems and increased access to justice by indigent persons in all member countries. Of particular relevance to Legal Aid SA is the inclusion of access to justice in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG 16, Target 16.3 calls upon countries to: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all. However, the common set of measures that have been agreed upon to track progress towards the goals and monitor the actions taken to achieve the SDGs are very narrow and focus only on criminal justice to the exclusion of civil justice.

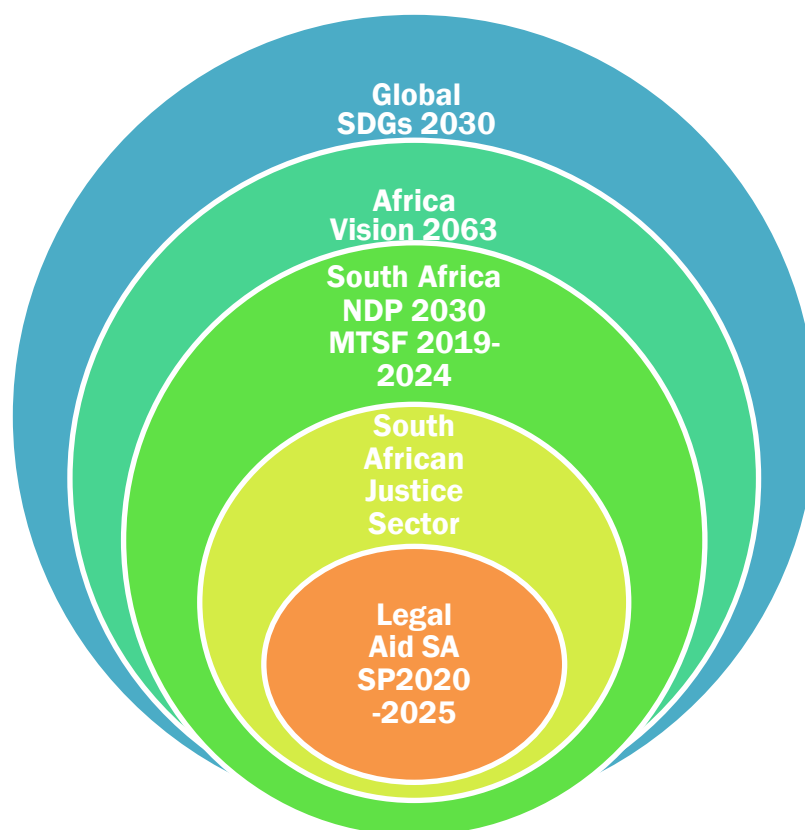


Figure 2: Policy Mandates

⁵ Revised Framework for Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans; Issued by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation; page 20

1.3. Institutional Policies and Strategies Related to the Five-year Planning Period

The organisation will continue to implement its Strategic Plan in accordance with its constitutional and legislative mandates as well as the policies mentioned in section 3.2.2. above, namely:

- i. National Development Plan 2030
- ii. Medium-term Strategic Framework 2019-2024
- iii. Budget Prioritisation Framework 2020
- iv. Integrated Criminal Justice Strategy and Framework (ICJS) and Integrated Implementation Plan (IIP)
- v. African Union Agenda 2063
- vi. Sustainable Development Goals 2030

1.4. Relevant Court Rulings

Various court rulings have an impact and the organisation has to adapt policies and operations as these court rulings are made. The following Court Orders have an impact on Legal Aid SA:

i. Life Esidimeni 19 March 2018

For the first time in SA legal history, Constitutional Damages were awarded to litigants in the Esidimeni Arbitration which developed the jurisprudence in respect of the law of damages. Although the Arbitration award by the former Deputy Chief Justice is not binding authority, it does open the debate on when Constitutional Damages is appropriate. This issue is now being taken further with Legal Aid SA funding the appeal to the SCA in the Daniel Komape matter where the court *a quo* refused to award Constitutional Damages to the family. This ensures that the courts decide the issue of when it would be appropriate to award Constitutional Damages where the law of Delict is not able to provide an adequate remedy. In this way Legal Aid SA contributes to the development of the law to reflect our constitutional values where the law is skewed against indigent persons.

ii. Anton Meyer v Legal Aid South Africa

Judgment of the Gauteng High Court, Johannesburg, in 2015 in which section 22 of the Legal Aid SA Act (replacement of section 3B) was considered and the court found that the applicants did not qualify for legal aid assistance.

Section 22 of the Legal Aid SA Act replaced section 3B of the Legal Aid Act 22 of 1969, which was the relevant section that came under consideration before the SCA in the Porritt and Bennet matter. In this matter the court considered whether the applicant had dismissed the onus to show that he has a lifestyle that is consistent with his alleged inability to afford the cost of his own legal representation. The court found that the applicant's application to Legal Aid SA did not contain a full disclosure of all relevant facts and documents pertaining to his inability to afford the cost of his own legal representation. The court therefore found that the applicant did not discharge the onus and therefore he did not qualify for legal assistance at State expense.

iii. **Magidiwana v Legal Aid South Africa and others (Marikana)**

The North Gauteng High Court ordered Legal Aid SA on 14 October 2013 to forthwith take steps to provide legal funding to the applicants for their participation in the Marikana Commission of Inquiry. The judgment may have far reaching implications for Legal Aid SA's sustainability. Whereas it may be desirable to fund legal representation for poor/indigent persons who have standing before commissions of inquiry, it is our view that this has to be done on a sustainable basis with a proper balancing of competing rights.

It is accordingly a concern to us that our mandate has been extended by court order in a matter that is uniquely polycentric.⁶ It is therefore submitted that the provision of legal representation, including the nature and extent thereof, before commissions should be clarified in our enabling legislation and should be properly funded to ensure a sustainable legal aid scheme.

Legal Aid SA applied for leave to appeal to the Constitutional Court after the Supreme Court of Appeal dismissed its appeal on the grounds that it was academic since Legal Aid SA was funding the miners' legal team albeit in terms of a court order. Legal Aid SA launched this further appeal since the judgment impacts on the sustainability of the organisation and the principles established have wider import than the provision of legal representation at the Marikana Commission of Inquiry. The Constitutional Court judgment was handed down on 22 September 2015. The application for leave to appeal was dismissed as the matter was found to be moot. The court found that the High Court's interpretation of the right to a fair public hearing did not affect the discretionary power of Legal Aid SA, and imposed no obligation on Legal Aid SA to fund legal representation at commissions of inquiry in the future.

⁶ A policy-laden issue; for Legal Aid SA this would entail issues such as who should qualify for legal aid and on what criteria, what fees should be paid to Judicare attorneys.

Although the Constitutional Court dismissed the earlier application for leave to appeal against the decision of the High Court to refuse urgent and interim relief to injured and arrested miners, it nevertheless felt it appropriate to make the following pertinent comments in light of the clear public interests in the Commission's work. The Constitutional Court expressed the view that it would be commendable and fairer to the injured and arrested miners that they be afforded legal representation in circumstances where State organs are given these privileges and where corporations are able to afford huge legal fees. The Constitutional Court noted that while this desirable objective of equality of arms before a commission may not necessarily translate into legal representation at State expense, the object of the Legal Aid Act 22 of 1969 is to render or make available legal aid to indigent persons and to provide legal representation at state expense as contemplated in the Constitution. But this does not mean the courts have the power to order the executive branch of government on how to deploy State resources. The duty of determining how public resources are drawn upon and rendered lies in the heartland of executive government function domain.

The Regulations to the Legal Aid SA Act 39 of 2014, and specifically Regulation 26, has subsequently clarified the provision of Legal Representation at Commissions of Inquiry by Legal Aid SA. It specifically provides that where funds are made available for legal aid by the establishing authority of a commission that legal representation may be made available by Legal Aid SA subject thereto that the commission has certified that the person has standing before that commission.

iv. **Legal Aid Board v The State and Others 2011(1) SACR 166 (SCA) (Porritt and Bennett)**

Here the SCA held that the right to legal representation at State expense where substantial injustice may arise involves two elements, namely the complexity of the case as well as the ability of the accused to afford the cost of legal representation from his/her own resources. In determining if an accused is able to afford the cost of legal representation the provisions of section 3B are applicable. The SCA found that this section makes it clear that this is the court's inquiry and that there is no onus of proof on the accused but that this does not allow the accused to not place information that is within his/her peculiar knowledge before the court. It went further and found that a failure to place such information before the court, in order to assist the court in its inquiry, may well be fatal to their quest for legal assistance at State expense. It also clarified that the court has powers to subpoena witnesses and documents or to place the accused under oath and for them to be cross examined. In this instance it found that the accused, having regard to their lifestyle and information available to the court, were not indigent and it accordingly set aside the order granting the accused legal representation at State expense.

v. **Legal Aid Board v Gary van der Merwe and others (A409/2010) Western Cape High Court, 4 Nov 2010**

This is a matter in which the court ordered that legal aid applicants be granted legal aid assistance after conducting a section 3B court enquiry. Legal Aid SA appealed the order and contended as follows:

Firstly, that the court erred in finding that there will be substantial injustice if applicants were not afforded legal representation. This contention was based on the fact that applicants did not fully disclose their assets and directorship in various companies and/or trusts. It was contended that on record, the legal aid applicants had various trusts and resources which could be used to fund their trial. Legal Aid SA further contested this on the basis that the applicants had failed to submit further information requested or provide answers to the various questions directed to them to explain their assets and income.

Secondly, that the court erred in directing Legal Aid SA to appoint legal representation for the legal aid applicants of the level and competency equal to the level and competency of the legal representation for the State, and that such an order fell outside the terrain of the court and was therefore *ultra vires*. This argument was supported by the SCA decision on the Porritt and Bennett case.

The full bench of the Western Cape High Court upheld the appeal.

vi. **Legal Aid Board (Ex Parte) v Johan Pretorius and Another 2006 JDR 0458 (SCA) Unreported**

The SCA considered in this matter whether section 3B of the Legal Aid Act was applicable in circumstances where accused persons had terminated the mandate of their legal representative and sought the appointment of a replacement practitioner. The issue at hand was the constitutional guarantee to a fair trial. The SCA rejected the view proffered by Legal Aid SA that section 3B was not applicable and that the accused's remedy was to review the decision of Legal Aid SA not to appoint a further legal representative. The SCA upheld the decision of the trial Judge to request Legal Aid SA to submit a 3B Report after he formulated a *prima facie* view that the practitioner could not effectively represent the accused due to his workload in the case. The SCA also pointed out that a trial Judge is best placed to make a decision on the fairness of a trial where this relates to the right to legal representation at State expense and that the Judge was correct in resorting to the provisions of section 3B of the Legal Aid Act when Legal Aid SA refused to appoint a replacement legal representative. In so doing it also found that judicial officers were not bound by the provisions of the Legal Aid Guide.

- vii. **Nkuzi Development Association v Government of the Republic of South Africa 2002 (2) SA 733 (LCC)**, where Moloto J (with Gildenhuys J concurring) declared that in eviction cases, labour tenants and occupiers under the land reform legislation “*have a right to legal representation or legal aid at State expense if substantial injustice would otherwise result, and they cannot reasonably afford the cost thereof from their own resources*”. The court declared that the State was under a duty to provide such legal representation or legal aid through mechanisms selected by it.
- viii. **Bernstein v Bester NO 1996 (2) SA 751 (CC)** at 106 – the Constitutional Court stated that the failure to use a phrase such as “a fair hearing” in the Interim Constitution might justify a conclusion that the framers of the Interim Constitution deliberately chose not to constitutionalise the right to a fair civil trial. The drafters of the final Constitution provided in section 34 that everyone has the right to have any dispute that can be resolved by the application of law decided in “a fair public hearing”.
- ix. **S v Vermaas; S v Du Plessis 1995 (3) SA 292 (CC)**, where the Constitutional Court dealt with the right to legal representation and the fact that a litigant has no choice as to the legal representative where it is provided at State expense.

2. PART B: OUR STRATEGIC FOCUS

2.1 Situational Analysis

Legal Aid SA has used the STEEPLED (Social, Technological, Economic, Environmental, Political, Legal, Ethical and Demographic factors) and SWOT analysis/planning tools to identify the key factors in both the external and internal environment within which Legal Aid SA operates. This enabled us to look at all aspects of the environment that impact on Legal Aid SA. These analysis tools were used to track current and future trends of key sectors in the environment within which the entity operates. These factors have the potential to impact on the performance of the organisation.

Please refer to the Legal Aid South Africa Strategic Plan 2020-2025, Section 4.4. Situational Analysis, for the detailed environmental analysis.

External Environmental Analysis

Social

Crime and violence continue to have an adverse impact on the country, with violence against women and children remaining high. Legal Aid South Africa participates in the National GBV Steering Committee which is tasked with implementing the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide 2020-2030.

Legal Aid SA has placed emphasis on public education and outreach efforts to elevate awareness on GBVF related matters, including a webinar which focused on the three Amendment Acts aimed at strengthening South Africa's response to Gender-Based Violence, namely, i) the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act Amendment Bill; ii) the Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Bill, and iii) the Domestic Violence Amendment Bill.

Large proportions of the population in South Africa are subject to poverty and unemployment. Social grants are the second most important source of income for households after salaries and the main source of income for almost one-fifth of households nationally. The introduction of the R350 social relief of distress grant, which was introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, increased the number of people receiving financial assistance from the government to 29-million. This includes 18-million recipients of social welfare, namely, old age, child support and disability grants and 11-million people who receive the R350 grant.⁷ Given that Legal Aid SA provides services to the poor and vulnerable this impacts on the people that the entity serves.

According to Municipal IQ there has been an increase in service delivery protests in the country since the advent of COVID-19. It was reported that there were more protests in June and July 2022 than in any other month in the last two years. Gauteng had 30% of all protests in the country, followed by the Eastern Cape with 19% and KwaZulu-Natal with 18%.⁸

Legal Aid SA was impacted by the July 2021 unrest in the country. The riots that occurred in KwaZulu-Natal affected some Legal Aid SA Offices Legal Aid SA dealt with a total of 7,285 criminal matters and 1,268 civil matters in Gauteng and Kwa-Zulu Natal relating to the unrest. The majority of the charges relate to possession of stolen property and public violence.

A National State of Disaster was declared as a result of floods in KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape and the North West. The impact of the floods necessitated interventions to respond to the socio-economic needs of communities and for continued service delivery in the affected provinces. The floods have highlighted the potential impact that climate can have on livelihoods and the economy. An all-of-government coordinated approach is needed to put into place measures to plan for and adapt to and to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

⁷ <https://www.timeslive.co.za/politics/2023-01-06-half-of-south-africas-population-are-100-dependent-on-state-welfare/>

⁸ <https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/kwazulu-natal/rise-in-protests-after-covid-19-municipal-intelligence-data-collection-body-finds-d0bb8d0b-e1a2-4067-b715-68ad44027fb9>

The Stats SA GPSJS 2021/22 report, summarises the following:

Household level crime

- *An estimated 1,4 million incidences of housebreaking occurred in 2021/22, affecting 983000 households in South Africa. About 59% of households that experienced housebreaking reported some or all incidences to the police.*
- *An estimated 205000 incidences of home robberies occurred, affecting 155000 households in 2021/22. About 66% of households that experienced home robbery reported some or all incidences to the police.*

Individual level crime

- *An estimated 1,3M incidences of theft of personal property occurred in 2021/22, affecting 1,1M individuals aged 16 years and older. About 31% of individuals who experienced theft of personal property reported some or all incidences to the police.*
- *A total of 246 000 (0,6% of adults aged 16 and older) individuals experienced street robbery in a total of 295 000 incidences. About 34% of the victims reported some or all incidences to the police.*
- *A total of 376 000 (0,9% of adults aged 16 and older) individuals experienced customer fraud in a total of 844 000 incidences. Results show that 44,2% of the victims reported some or all incidences to the police.*

Feelings of safety

- *About 81% of the population felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood during the day while 36,0% felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood during the night. Both figures decreased from 2020/21.*
- *Similarly, rural residents had a greater feeling of safety walking alone in their areas when it is dark than residents in urban areas. About 48% indicated that they have done something to protect themselves against crime.*
- *About 30,4% of the population indicated that they only walk during safer hours and 28,8 % indicated they have taken physical protection measures for their home as the main thing they have done to protect themselves against crime. Only 3,8% indicated they carry a weapon as the main thing they have done to protect themselves against crime.⁹*

Land matters

During the 2020-2021 financial year the Ministers of Justice and Correctional Services, and Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development tabled the Land Court Bill in Parliament in May 2021. The current Bill makes provision for the mandate of Legal Aid SA to include the provision of legal representation to litigants in land related disputes who are not able to afford the cost of their own legal representation.

⁹ Statistics South Africa Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey GPSJS 2021/22 available at www.statssa.gov.za

Legal Aid SA will therefore be resourced to provide critical support to enable access to justice in land matters.

In preparation for the extended mandate in land related legal representation, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development coordinated a transfer of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development's Land Rights Management Facility legal representation function and requisite funding to Legal Aid SA effective 01 January 2022. A Memorandum of Understanding was drawn up to regulate all pertinent matters relating to the transfer of the LRMF to Legal Aid SA including the financial arrangements. The transfer of the function was done between the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and the Minister of Justice in consultation with the Minister for the Public Service and Administration and National Treasury.

Legal Aid South Africa is currently building internal legal delivery capacity and infrastructure to handle the land related matters in-house. An executive (Legal Executive: Land Rights Management) has been appointed to manage this function. We have opted for a decentralised service delivery model per Province and Region to localise and improve accessibility of the legal aid services in land matters.

The National Treasury approved the request from Legal Aid SA to retain R35 million in surplus funds for the establishment and capacitation of the LRMU. The DALRRD availed a budget of R33 million received in April 2022. As per the 2023 MTEF preliminary allocations letter dated 23 November 2022, amounts of R76.6 million in 2023/24, R80.1 million in 2024/25 and R83.7 million in 2025/26 are included to accommodate the migration of the Land Rights Management Facility legal representation functions from Vote 29: Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development to Legal Aid South Africa.

Demographic

According to Statistics South Africa, for 2022 the mid-year population estimate is 60,6 million. Gauteng comprises the largest share of the South African population, and for the period 2016–2021, Gauteng and the Western Cape are estimated to experience the largest inflow of migrants. The provision of legal aid services is based on population, distribution of the population across the provinces, migration patterns and the urban/rural divide.

Economic and Financial

The South African economy continues to be negatively impacted by low economic growth, linked to poverty and unemployment. Load shedding implemented by Eskom also impacts on business and economic growth as it affects operations and productivity, with small businesses being particularly hard hit. South Africa's energy crisis worsened in 2022, with this being the most intensive load shedding year to date. Load shedding continues to negatively affect the economy and is expected to continue into 2023 and beyond. The negative impact on the economy contributes to the high unemployment and poverty rates in South Africa.

The 2023 MTEF Guidelines provide the principles to be taken into consideration for the preparation of the budget. These include i) no additional resources are available for the 2023 MTEF Budget and therefore there should not be any requests for baseline increases; ii) additional allocations to a programme will need to be funded through reprioritisation ; iii) the outcomes of a detailed budget baseline analysis mainly through spending reviews must inform strategic reallocations; iv) there must be adherence to the fiscal consolidation framework and salary adjustments must therefore be guided by the public service wage bill management strategy; v) there will not be a further downward revision for the total non-interest expenditure baseline for 2023/24. However, there will be a nominal baseline increase applied in 2024/25, already apportioned to vote baselines in the 2022 Budget.¹⁰

The Budget Prioritisation Framework (BPF) 2022/23 outlined a strategy of stabilisation and recovery given the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and unrest issues. The BPF 2023/24 needs to demonstrate continuity on priorities for vital reforms and long standing commitments as it will focus on the last year of the current administration. It is noted that significant risks remain to the current outlook, including COVID-19, Russia-Ukraine conflict, inflation, security of energy supply, constrained fiscal outlook.

Political

The sixth Parliament of the Republic of South Africa was established after the National Elections held in May 2019 and the focus is on seven priorities:

- i. Economic transformation and job creation
- ii. Education, skills and health
- iii. Consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services
- iv. Spatial integration, human settlements and local government
- v. Social cohesion and safe communities
- vi. Building a capable, ethical and developmental state
- vii. Building a better Africa and a better world

Legal/Justice

Within the Justice Cluster, the various components of the CJS operate on an intersectoral basis in order to address common challenges that are experienced. Case flow committees are operational at local, provincial and national level to improve efficiency of the criminal justice system. COVID-19 and the various lockdown periods affected stakeholder interaction to some extent however the sector adapted and meetings moved to virtual platforms. Various protocols have been developed and these require departments and entities to work together in a holistic response.

¹⁰ National Treasury Medium Term Expenditure Framework Technical Guidelines 2023

Although no new protocols were concluded, Legal Aid SA has continued to implement all recommendations and existing protocols developed as a result of the CJS Review Committee. The work of specialist committees such as the Intersectoral Committee on Child Justice and the Sexual Offences Committee, continued as normal. Legal Aid SA is represented on the Rules Board and participates in task teams of the Rules Board where changes to the Rules of Courts are considered. We also monitor and provide input into all proposed legislative changes.

Demand for Legal Aid SA services

A review of the criminal and civil statistics dealt with by Legal Aid SA from 2017/18 to 2021/22 shows that the number of criminal cases has decreased over the four-year period 2017/18 to 2020/21, with an increase of 17% between FY 2020/21 and 2021/22. The number of civil cases dealt with has decreased over the four-year period 2017/18 to 2020/21, with a 44% increase between 2020/21 and 2021/22. The number of matters in which legal advice is provided has fluctuated, increasing by 0.9% between 2017/18 and 2018/19, decreasing by 13,6% between 2018/19 and 2019/20 and again decreasing between 2019/20 and 2020/21 by 71,8%. There was an increase of 75% between 2020/21 and 2021/22. The substantial decreases between 2019/20 and 2020/21 are as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdown measures implemented.

	Demand for Legal Aid SA				
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Criminal Total	371,202	362,213	351,061	269,388	314,998
Civil Total	55,415	53,990	51,177	27,818	40,143
Criminal & Civil Total	426,617	416,203	402,238	297,206	355,141
Advice Matters Total	305,239	308,050	266,055	75,624	132,411

International Legal

The implementation of legal aid systems in compliance with the UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems is ongoing globally. Legal Aid SA meets the requirements for the UN Guidelines on access to legal aid and has developed a strong, internationally recognised legal aid system that is sustainable and gives effect to sustainable access to justice. Global indicators on access to justice and civil justice were developed as part of the reporting on SDG Target 16.3, flowing from SDGs 2030.

Technology

The Fourth Industrial Revolution and advances in technology are reshaping the world, the work environment and all aspects of life. Organisations must therefore exploit opportunities to improve organisational efficiencies and systems. With advances in technology come additional cyber security risks.

It is for this reason that Legal Aid SA has developed the Cybersecurity Strategic Plan to ensure that issues of cybersecurity are effectively managed while advancing technological use.

Technology and Media

The usage of social media platforms is growing and organisations have to find ways to use these platforms for marketing as well as manage the risks associated with social media, that is, reputational risks. Legal Aid SA continues to increase its presence in the digital media and social media space and is visible on all media platforms. During COVID-19 the use of social media platforms was particularly useful in providing information to clients when there were restrictions on accessing Legal Aid SA offices.

Technology and Legal

Technology is being integrated in courts and there is continuing development of the Integrated Justice System. Use of technology could result in improved use of court time; improved turnaround time in finalising cases; reduction in unnecessary postponements; access to professionals regardless of location and reduction of fraud and corruption.

Environment

More focus on environmental issues is required as we deal with climate change. South Africa needs to pay particular attention to the management of water, energy and waste. Government has established a Presidential Climate Commission (PCC), an independent multi-stakeholder body established by the President. The purpose of the PCC is to oversee and facilitate a just and equitable transition towards a low-emissions and climate-resilient economy.

Governance and Ethics

The King IV Code on Corporate Governance is in place and Boards are increasingly becoming alive to their fiduciary duties.

People Development/Human Capital Management

The challenges experienced as a result of COVID-19 resulted in companies being more aware of employee wellness and work-life balance as well as rethinking various working options. Remote work options have been introduced or integrated into many jobs and mental health awareness has been highlighted with more interventions in place.

The state of the South African economy, with high inflation and the impact of higher petrol prices has resulted in the unions, including those in the public sector, bargaining for higher salary increases. Recent strikes in key economic sectors have further negatively impacted the economy.

Stakeholder Engagement

The organisation recognises and understands the important role that both internal and external stakeholders play in driving the vision and mission of the organisation. Legal Aid SA works with a wide range of stakeholders and partners which includes the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services; Parliament; stakeholders in the Justice Cluster; law clinics and advice offices; professional legal bodies including international legal bodies; National Treasury and other government departments; Judicare practitioners and Co-operation Partners; our employees and clients; NGOs and CBOs; advocacy groups, and the media. Engagements and relationship management with stakeholders are geared towards supporting business strategy and operation, enhancing good reputation, improving risk management and building organisational values. The organisation is part of dedicated forums that promote dialogue and representations on access to justice through collaborations and partnerships to advance the legal interests of vulnerable groups in societies.

Internal Environmental Analysis

COVID-19

As we continued working under the conditions resulting from the pandemic, the interventions put in place to mitigate the risk and threat of COVID-19 in the 2020-2021 financial year continued. This included:

- The appointment of compliance officers for each office.
- The establishment of a COVID-19 webpage for staff to report any concerns about COVID-19 and the workplace.
- A COVID-19 Steering Committee was established to respond to concerns raised by staff and develop plans to mitigate risks posed by the pandemic.
- A two-teams weekly shifts approach was employed for attendance at the Legal Aid SA offices, enforcing all Health and Safety Protocols.
- Keeping offices closed to walk-in clients while reopening the Legal Aid SA Advice Line, and continuing court coverage as allowed by the Regulations.
- Implementation of a continuous communication programme with internal stakeholders, which included daily COVID-19 updates, staff notices, legal newsflash alerts related to COVID-19.
- The introduction of vaccination related initiatives.

Impact of COVID-19:

As at the end of Q4 2020/21 there was a total of 333 positive cases. Legal staff members (66%) were most affected. Unfortunately, Legal Aid SA suffered eight fatalities due to the pandemic. In the 2021/22 financial year, 373 employees were infected with the Coronavirus. Legal staff members account for 66% of those affected by the pandemic. Unfortunately, Legal Aid SA suffered six (eight in 2020-21) fatalities due to the pandemic.

The province with the highest cumulative number of infections at the end of 2021-2022 was Gauteng, followed by Northern Cape/Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal in the second and third spots, respectively. The vaccination rate was 54.8% as at the end of the 2021-22 financial year. Financial implications relating to COVID-19 expenditure totalled R13,053,340, which included operational expenditure (sanitiser, cleaning, screens, dispensers), Access Point Network (APN) line rental, APN data usage and cell phone allowances.

Service delivery at courts was negatively impacted throughout the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial year as court coverage, intake of new matters and finalisation of matters was lower than initially planned.

Local Offices were affected in various ways due to the pandemic and some were temporarily closed for decontamination.

In order to make effective use of technology IT interventions continued. Microsoft granted Legal Aid SA a six months' pilot licence with 300 users to use their cloud collaboration tool named Microsoft Teams. This tool has enabled the organisation to conduct online meetings, sharing documents and collaborating in real time. The tool was extended to 1,000 users by the end of the 2020-2021 financial year. Whilst COVID-19 has presented the opportunity for more users to work from home remote connections come with the risk of more vulnerabilities. The cybersecurity training environment has been prioritised.

Distribution of Access Point Networks (APNs) – The number of users with remote access increased from 910 in March 2020 to 1,742 by the end of the financial year, using both APN and Virtual Private Network (VPN). This constituted 71.8% of the total staff establishment as at the end of the 2020-2021 financial year. As at the end of the 2021-22 FY, 80% of the Legal Aid SA workforce has remote access to our IT systems, with network and Internet lines upgraded to boost capacity for remote work.

Leave provision was R46,033,194 as at the end of the 2021-2022 financial year, which was a decrease of 6% from R49,114,154 in the 2020-2021 financial year.

Legal and Justice

In the 2021/22 financial year, Legal Aid SA provided legal assistance in 355,141 new criminal and civil matters and legal advice to 132,411 persons, totalling 487,522 persons assisted by the organisation. These matters comprised 314,998 (89%) new criminal legal matters and 40,143 (11%) new civil legal matters. The number of legal matters finalised was 360,655 and of these, 317,546 (88%) were criminal matters and 43,109 (12%) were civil matters. The Legal Aid SA national footprint consists of 64 Local Offices, 24 of which are situated in rural areas and 40 in urban areas, and 64 Satellite Offices; 55 in rural areas and nine in urban areas. All service delivery points were appropriately staffed during 2021-2022, with staff recruitment at 91.8%, which was 2,468 staff at the end of the financial year. The staff turnover rate excluding Candidate Attorneys (CAs) was at 5.2%. The workforce component of Legal Aid SA is generally diverse, in line with annual targets to achieve employment equity goals.

The Legal Aid SA average planned criminal court coverage to District Courts is currently $\geq 80\%$ and Regional Courts is $\geq 90\%$. All High Court matters requiring legal aid in criminal matters are covered. We have improved alignment of practitioner capacity to match court demand, however it is expected that going forward, we will be forced to further reduce our criminal court coverage at the lower courts due to reductions in budget. Civil legal aid services are provided based on a priority assessment in order to manage demand. Legal Aid SA has internal capacity and skills in criminal and civil litigation and the experience levels of practitioners has increased.

Feedback from court stakeholders and clients on practitioner quality is positive. The Stats SA Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey 2018/19 found that people who were represented by Legal Aid lawyers reported an 89% satisfaction rate. A mature legal services quality monitoring and intervention programme, as well as Judicare accreditation programme in place. Legal Aid SA has an advanced system of data collection and interventions to continuously enhance quality of legal aid services. The organisation is a valued role-player in the justice cluster; good partnerships are in place with legal NGOs, law clinics and community advice offices – all aimed at promoting access to justice. Budgets for Co-operation Partners have reduced due to budget shortfalls and continued budget shortfalls may have a further impact.

Given that clients access legal services through visits to the Legal Aid SA offices as the preference is for face-to-face consultations, the provision of office space enables access to legal services and ease of access to offices by clients guides the decision on the location of offices. There are various challenges experienced in the procurement of office accommodation, including escalating lease premiums amid budget cuts; non-responsive tenders; poor maintenance of leased premises and budget cuts. Further, the acquisition and management of office accommodation contributes to the irregular expenditure incurred by Legal Aid SA. The strategic solutions to these challenges include the purchase of buildings by Legal Aid SA, relocation to cheaper areas, reducing office space and merging with Legal Aid SA Provincial Offices and co-habiting with other government departments. Sixteen areas have been identified for office building acquisition, based on historical data on published tenders where there were no responses, property portfolio lease registers, areas with high rental and where irregular expenditure has been experienced.

Anticipated outcomes of the acquisition of properties are reduced rental over the medium to long-term; reduced office space and optimal use thereof; increased owned property portfolio; increased certainty of tenure; and reduced irregular expenditure.

The Minister of Justice and Correctional Services has given his support for this strategy and has approved the purchase of office buildings in terms of the PFMA to address the ongoing challenge of acquiring office lease accommodation.

Women, Youth and People with Disabilities

Legal Aid SA, as an employer of choice mindful of the obligation to create a diverse and inclusive workforce, constantly reviews the employment of women, youth and people with disabilities with the aim of eradicating gaps in the employment of women, youth and people with disabilities. Policies and best practices are in place to advance the interests of these categories of employees and these are regularly reviewed to ensure the achievement of its annual goals and objectives with regard to women, youth and people with disabilities.

Legal Aid SA provides legal services on a demand basis and this includes services to women, youth and people with disabilities. Children are a special vulnerable group and, as such, matters involving children receive priority and we have capacitated all our practitioners with training in dealing with matters involving children. Legal Aid SA has zero tolerance for gender-based violence and legal practitioners are committed to promoting justice for victims of crime. Legal practices are aligned to the Constitution, ensuring the right to a fair trial and respect for human rights.

Youth unemployment remains a major socio-economic challenge and job creation is one of the national priorities flowing from the NDP. Legal Aid SA has a university outreach programme that aims to educate students on the career opportunities available to them to advance their legal careers, beginning with the CA Recruitment Programme. The organisation employs 300 CAs per annum. Employing CAs provides a skills base for legal practitioners within the organisation, provides entry to the legal profession to legal graduates and employing Black CAs and women CAs contributes to the transformation of the legal profession.

Financial

Strong internal controls are embedded within Legal Aid SA's reporting processes including financial reporting aligned to the Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP) Financial Reporting Framework. This has resulted in 21 unqualified audit reports.

Supply chain management policies and procedures are in place and are reviewed and tested through the Internal Audit Coverage Plan. Irregular expenditure has decreased. An Internal Control Unit is in place with the aim of continuously improving the operations and financial control activities to promote efficiency, reduce the impact and likelihood of identified financial and operational risks, and develop sound financial policies and procedures. The Internal Control Unit maintains registers on irregular expenditure, fruitless and wasteful expenditure and losses and damages. Numerous processes and system enhancements have been developed to minimise the recurrence of irregular expenditure.

The MTEF 2021/22 to 2023/24 preliminary allocation letter received on 8 December 2020 indicates that there will be budget baseline reductions totalling R534 million over the MTEF period.

Legal Aid SA is expected to reduce compensation to employees by R225,768,000 and goods and services expenditure by R308,902,000, over the MTEF period. The continued budget cuts are not sustainable as it impacts on staffing and service delivery and will in the medium-term significantly affect the ability of Legal Aid SA to fulfil its mandate. The 2022 MTEF Allocations letter dated 29 November 2021 confirmed a preliminary allocation for 2022/23 of R2,094,147,000 which includes R11,165,000 for the appointment of Specialised Commercial Crimes Court practitioners. The 2023 MTEF Allocations letter dated 23 November 2022 confirmed a preliminary allocation for 2023/24 of R2,189,449,000 which includes an amount of R76,625,000 for the function shift being the migration of the Land Rights Management facility legal representation functions from Vote 29: Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development to Legal Aid South Africa.

Technology

Business intelligence systems are in place for Legal Aid SA core applications (eLAA, SYSPRO and SAP) and data is used to drive operational efficiency and competitive advantage. The organisation will continue to use analytics and business intelligence systems to enhance efficiencies. A Cybersecurity Policy and Strategy, as well as a Cybersecurity roadmap and risk register are in place.

Technology and Legal

The electronic Legal Aid Administration 2016 (eLAA) system continues to be stabilised and enhanced, subsequent to the eLAA (Release 1) having become operational in October 2019. Release 2 development is taking place and the estimated completion date for the eLAA system development is the end of the 2022-2023 financial year. Management information is digitalised and data integrity is continuously addressed. Legal Aid SA has an institutionalised electronic knowledge management system which includes legal support systems.

Governance and Ethics

Legal Aid SA has a fully functional governing Board in place, appointed for a five-year term from 2018/19- 2023/24. Ethics Programmes are conducted and a register of interests is maintained for all staff.

A webpage on monitoring contract expiry dates and a system to process and track deviations is in place and these tools assist in reducing irregular expenditure.

People Development/Human Capital Management

Legal Aid SA has innovative people management practices, high levels of employee retention with low levels of turnover. Evidence of this is the Top Employer SA accreditation of the Legal Aid SA talent management practises.

Maintaining a competitive EVP remains a priority for the organisation and to this end the following EVP aspects were revisited and reviewed: the prior year's Group Life cover was doubled with additional cover benefits ranging from Temporary Disability, Permanent Disability and Critical Illness, professional services membership fees were subsidised, Candidate Attorneys' Practical Legal Training and Board Examination Fees were covered in full, the postgraduate bursary funding ceiling was doubled and the undergraduate bursary funding ceiling was increased by 50%. Employee wellness and health and safety programmes were ramped up to maintain a healthy and happy workforce. There is a continued focus on leadership development which is particularly critical as leaders navigate this time of uncertainty (as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic) together with their teams and effectively manage employee engagement. An independent internal Omnibus Survey confirmed employee satisfaction levels and a positive organisational climate.

Recognising the psychological impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, emphasis has been placed on employee wellness through a well-structured Employee Wellness Programme led by the in-house clinical psychologist and an external service provider.

An Employment Equity Audit was conducted in 2019 in order to prepare the next five-year Employment Equity Plan for 2020-2025. The most prominent areas of under-representation are that of African females at Senior Management levels. Employees with disabilities represent 1,6% of the total workforce; the target is 2%. The approved Employment Equity Plan 2020-2025 is being implemented and the focus during recruitment is on those areas where there are gaps in representation.

3. PART C: MEASURING OUR PERFORMANCE

3.1. Institutional Performance Information

3.1.1. Impact Statement

Impact Statement	Equal access to justice to build a just society
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Outcome/ Programme Unit	Programme	Programme Purpose	Outcome	Outputs	Output Indicator	Annual Target	Quarterly Targets				Annual targets					Key Risk	Risk mitigation	Exist of Deliverables	Budget	Dependencies	MEASUREMENT EXECUTIVE			
											Actual/Actual Performance													
							Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24							2024/25	2025/26	
APP	Objective 1	Empower clients and communities making informed choices about their legal matters, rights and responsibilities.																		NDE				
APP	Outcome 1	Quality client-focused legal aid in criminal matters, particularly for indigent and vulnerable persons.																		1 620 006 272	NDE			
APP	P1	To deliver quality legal aid services in criminal matters that are client-focused, within available resources.																		1 361 563 116	NDE			
APP	P1-1	Access to criminal legal aid services	To cover all criminal courts as per our court coverage targets (DC 280%, RC 200%, HC = All legal aid matters), thereby protecting clients' rights to a fair trial.	Delivering quality client-focused legal aid in criminal matters, particularly for indigent and vulnerable persons.	Legal aid provided to qualifying accused persons.	Court coverage plan	Average planned DC coverage: 2 80% Average planned RC coverage: 2 80% HC planned Coverage: All legal aid matters covered	DC: ≥ 80% RC: ≥ 200%	DC: ≥ 80% RC: ≥ 200%	DC: ≥ 80% RC: ≥ 200%	DC: ≥ 80% RC: ≥ 200%	We had 86% planned coverage of DCs as at the end of the 2020-2021 FY. Our RC planned coverage at the end of FY 2020-2021 was 94%. Our RC planned coverage at the end of FY 2019-2020 was 94%. Representation was provided in all matters that required legal aid in HCs.	We had 86% planned coverage of DCs as at the end of the 2020-2021 FY. Our RC planned coverage at the end of FY 2020-2021 was 94%. Representation was provided in all matters that required legal aid in HCs.	Reporting against the originally titled Annual Performance Plan: Coverage in the DC was 84%. Coverage in the RC was 81%. All legal aid HC matters covered. Reporting against the revised Annual Performance Plan: Planned coverage in the DC was 87.6%. Planned coverage in the RC was 94.4%. All legal aid HC matters covered.	Average planned DC coverage: 2 80% Average planned RC coverage: 2 80% HC planned Coverage: All legal aid matters covered	Planned Coverage Targets: Average DC coverage: 2 80% Average RC coverage: 2 80% HC Coverage: All legal aid matters covered	Planned Coverage Targets: Average DC coverage: 2 80% Average RC coverage: 2 80% HC Coverage: All legal aid matters covered	Accused persons not legally represented at their trials.	Court Coverage Plans	Court Coverage Plan	1 267 541 087	No reduction in budget No unfunded non-constitutional courts being established		
APP	Objective 2	All indigent and vulnerable members of society have equal access to public funded legal services to protect and defend their rights.																		CLE				
APP	Outcome 2	Quality client-focused legal aid, including to indigent and vulnerable persons, in civil matters with a priority focus on land and other constitutional rights matters.																		181 003 811	CLE			
APP	P2	Deliver quality civil legal aid and land services that are client-focused, with a priority for constitutional rights, within available resources.																		181 003 811	CLE			
APP	P2-1	Access to civil legal aid services	Provide legal representation to clients in civil matters thereby protecting clients' constitutional rights.	Delivering quality client-focused legal aid, including to indigent and vulnerable persons, in civil matters with a priority focus on constitutional rights.	Civil clients assisted within available capacity	Civil legal aid matters - number of clients assisted in civil matters	1. Local Office: 200% of out-practitioner target (B recruitment rate of 95%) 2. Local Office: 210% of all out-practitioner matters are civil 3. Co-op: New Matters - As per TID calculations	1. Local Office: 200% of out-practitioner target (B recruitment rate of 95%) 2. Local Office: 210% of all out-practitioner matters are civil 3. Co-op: New Matters - As per TID calculations	1. Local Office: 200% of out-practitioner target (B recruitment rate of 95%) 2. Local Office: 210% of all out-practitioner matters are civil 3. Co-op: New Matters - As per TID calculations	1. Local Office: 200% of out-practitioner target (B recruitment rate of 95%) 2. Local Office: 210% of all out-practitioner matters are civil 3. Co-op: New Matters - As per TID calculations	In the 2019-2020 FY we took on 51 177 new civil matters through our various delivery models. This exceeds the target of 47 580 by 7.4%. Internal practitioners took on 45,034 new matters, which is 86% of the total new civil matters taken in. Co-Operation Partners took on 6,143 new civil matters which is 12% of the total new civil matters taken in. 1,071 instructions were issued to Judicare which is 3.9% of the total new civil matters.	As at the end of the 2020-2021 FY, Legal Aid SA took on 27 818 new civil matters through its delivery mechanisms. This is 54% of the annual target of 51 116. Internal practitioners took on 24,684 new matters, which is 79% of the total new civil matters taken in for the FY. Co-Operation Partners took on 3,134 new civil matters which is 6% of the total new civil matters taken in for the FY. Judicare practitioners took on 1,000 new civil matters which is 4% of the total new civil matters taken in for the FY. Eight new civil matters have been recognised as strategic litigation matters in the FY. As at the end of the 2020-21 FY, Legal Aid SA finalised a total of 35,022 civil matters through its various delivery mechanisms. This is 65% of the annual target of 51 116. Internal practitioners finalised 32,116 civil matters, which is 90.5% of the total civil matters finalised in the FY. Co-Operation Partners finalised 2,906 civil matters, which is 6% of the total civil matters finalised in the FY. Judicare practitioners finalised 1,000 civil matters, which is 3% of the total civil matters finalised for the FY. Our Strategic Litigation Unit finalised 12 civil matters as at the end of the FY.	In the 2021-2022 FY we took on a total of 40,143 new matters through our various delivery models. This is 79% of the target of 50,705. Internal practitioners took on 36,091 new matters which is 89% of the total new civil matters taken in. Co-Operation Partners took on 2,762 new civil matters which is 7% of the total new civil matters taken in. Co-Operation Partners took on 2,762 new civil matters which is 7% of the total new civil matters taken in. Judicare practitioners took on 1,290 civil matters which is 3% of the total new civil matters taken in. 1,071 instructions were issued to Judicare practitioners which is 4% of the total new civil instructions to date. Strategic litigation took on 19 new civil matters in the FY.	Total SA: 077 Internal: 46,289 Judicare: 4,628 Co-op: 3,160	Total: 47 529 Internal: 43,404 Judicare: 965 Co-op: 3,160	Total: 47 529 Internal: 43,404 Judicare: 965 Co-op: 3,160	Total: 47 529 Internal: 43,404 Judicare: 965 Co-op: 3,160	Inadequate delivery of Civil Legal services	Practitioner productivity monitoring programmes	Civil recruitment statistics Civil matters (excluding new and finalised)	174 130 963	No reduction in Budget Civil Mandate remains as currently contained in the Legal Aid Regulations		
APP	P2-2	Access to legal aid services in relation to land matters	Provide legal representation and advice to clients in land matters thereby protecting clients' constitutional rights	Deliver quality client-focused legal aid, in land related matters, particularly for indigent and vulnerable persons	Legal aid provided to clients from land related matters	Number of clients assisted in land related matters	Overall target: 200-matters 50 matters	50 matters	50 matters	50 matters	N/A	N/A	N/A	800 New Matters 740 matters were transferred to Legal Aid SA by LRMF on 1 January 2022.	200 new matters were transferred to Legal Aid SA by LRMF on 1 January 2022.	a minimum of 200 new matters were transferred to Legal Aid SA by LRMF on 1 January 2022.	a minimum of 200 new matters were transferred to Legal Aid SA by LRMF on 1 January 2022.	Inadequate delivery of legal services to farm occupiers, labour tenants and restitution claimants. Inability to meet demand for land related matters	Build capacity within Legal Aid SA to deal with legal representation in land related matters	Land matters statistics	Funds for land matters that will be transferred to Legal Aid SA	LE		
APP	Outcome 3	Quality client-focused legal advice services.																		63 783 000	CLE			
APP	P3	To deliver quality legal advice services that are client-focused, within available resources.																		63 783 000	CLE			
APP	P3-1	Legal advice services	To provide legal advice to clients, thereby ensuring that clients are enabled to resolve their disputes.	Delivering quality client-focused legal advice services.	General advice service provided at all Local Offices	General advice service provided at all Local Offices	General advice service available at all Legal Aid SA offices	69 111	69 111	69 111	69 111	In the 2019-2020 FY, we assisted 286,055 clients with general advice. This is 42 102 (14%) less when compared to the previous FY. Local and Statute Office assisted 109,686 clients, which is 75% of the total clients assisted. RC paragraphs assisted 27 279 awaiting trial or sentenced prisoners at Correctional Centres, which is 10.3% of the total clients assisted. The Legal Aid Advice Line assisted 30,008 clients with telephonic advice, which is 14.7% of the total clients assisted.	In FY 2020-2021, Legal Aid SA assisted 76,634 clients with general advice. The number of clients assisted at the local and satellite offices was 50,209. The number of clients assisted at correctional facilities was 1,503. The Legal Aid Advice Line assisted 23,002 clients.	In the 2021-2022 FY we assisted 152,410 clients with general advice. The number of clients assisted at local and satellite offices was 94,419. The number of clients assisted at correctional facilities was 8,875. The Legal Aid Advice Line assisted a total of 25,116 clients in the FY.	276, 444	276, 444	276, 444	276, 444	General advice service provided at all Local Offices	General Advice BOP: Civil Supervision BOP: Increasing awareness	General advice stats: Advice Line stats	63 783 000	Civil Demand for Advice Services	CLE
APP	Outcome 4	Client-focused strategic litigation services in order to give content to constitutional rights, as well as to increase access to justice for indigent and vulnerable persons.																		5 250 000	CLE			
APP	P4	To undertake strategic litigation, particularly in social justice related matters in order to give content to the rights enshrined in the constitution.																		5 250 000	CLE			
APP	P4-1	Strategic litigation addressing social justice	Provide legal representation to clients in strategic litigation matters relating to constitutional and socio-economic rights as well as the development of relevant jurisprudence within available budget at a 200% success rate.	Delivering client-focused strategic litigation services to clients in order to give content to constitutional rights, as well as to increase access to justice for indigent and vulnerable persons.	Legal representation provided in strategic litigation matters	Client's access to strategic litigation services	4 per quarter (16 matters)	4 new matters	4 new matters	4 new matters	In 2019-2020, the Impact Litigation Unit has assisted 49 matters for recognition as impact matters. The CCAC approved 25 new impact matters. A total budget of R6,428,170.75 was approved for the FY out of a budget of R6,805,362 for the FY 2019-2020. This translates to 75.1% expenditure of the total annual budget. For the FY 2019-2020, 19 matters were finalised. 7 with outcomes, of which 15 matters were finalised with a positive outcome and 2 matters were finalised with a negative outcome. One matter was finalised without an outcome because the funding agreement was not signed as accepting the terms thereof, and another matter a client could not be found to challenge medical council legislation. This translates to an 89% success rate for the matters finalised with an outcome. Seven of the finalised matters were Legal Aid SA matters and 12 finalised matters were external service provider matters.	The SAU assisted 32 matters and the CCAC approved 10 matters within the revised annual budget. The budget utilised is R2 343,036 from the revised annual budget of R3,795,420. This translates to utilization of 77.3% of the revised annual budget. Thirteen matters were finalised in the FY. Eleven of these matters were finalised with a positive outcome. 1 was finalised without an outcome and 1 matter was finalised with a negative outcome. This translates to a 91% success rate for the FY.	In the 2021-2022 FY we assisted 152,410 clients with general advice. The number of clients assisted at the local and satellite offices was 94,419. The number of clients assisted at correctional facilities was 8,875. The Legal Aid Advice Line assisted a total of 25,116 clients in the FY.	16 new matters	16 new matters	16 new matters	16 new matters	Outcome of impact matters not satisfactory. Appropriate impact matters not identified and taken on.	CCAC oversight of impact matters	Impact matter statistics: Impact Litigation Matter Report	5 250 000	No Reduction in Budget Sufficient matters submitted for assessment Approval of matters by CCAC		

Client, Community, Stakeholder and Shareholder Programmes

O Operational Programme Key Performance Indicator	Programme	Programme Purpose	Outcome	Outputs	Output Indicator	Annual Target	Quarterly Targets				Annual targets					Key Risk	Risk mitigation	Detail of Delivery	Budget	Dependencies	Notes RESPONSIBLE OFFICER				
											Actual/Actual Performance											Estimated Performance		MTFP Period	
							Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24							2024/25	2025/26		
APP	Objective 3	A fair, efficient and effective justice system that ensures equal access to justice for all.																			CLE				
APP	Outcome 5	Contribute to the effective functioning of the justice and legal sector thereby promoting the rule of law and increasing access to justice																	7 052 194		CLE				
APP	PS	To participate in justice cluster forums to contribute to improving the efficient functioning of the justice system to improve access to justice.																	7 052 194		CLE				
APP	PS-1	Participate in National and Provincial Efficiency Enhancement Structures	To participate in efficiency enhancement structures, including the NEEC, PEEC and Dav Comm, thereby contributing to the effective functioning of the justice system.	Contributing to the effective functioning of the justice and legal sector thereby promoting the rule of law and increasing access to justice.	Participation in National and Provincial efficiency enhancement structures	Participation in efficiency enhancement structures aimed at improving the functioning of courts and justice system	≥ 90% attendance of all at NEEC and PEEC meetings as per meeting schedules	≥ 90% attendance of all at NEEC and PEEC meetings as per meeting schedules	≥ 90% attendance of all at NEEC and PEEC meetings as per meeting schedules	≥ 90% attendance of all at NEEC and PEEC meetings as per meeting schedules	Legal Aid SA is invited to NEEC and PEEC meetings that are arranged in order to advance the interests of the organisation, as well as contribute to the efficient operation of the justice system as a whole. Legal Aid SA attended the following meetings as at the end of the FY: NEEC meetings - 1, PEEC meetings- 35.	Legal Aid SA was invited to NEEC and PEEC meetings in order to advance the interests of the organisation, as well as contribute to the efficient functioning of the Justice System. Only Five PEEC meetings were held during the FY. No NEEC meetings were held during the FY.	Legal Aid SA attends arranged NEEC and PEEC meetings by invitation, in order to advance the interests of Legal Aid SA, as well as contribute to the efficient operation of the justice system as a whole. 19 PEEC meetings were held during the FY to date and no NEEC meetings were scheduled.	≥ 90% attendance of all at NEEC and PEEC meetings as per meeting schedules	Attendance at NEEC and PEEC meetings as per meeting schedules	Attendance at NEEC and PEEC meetings as per meeting schedules	Attendance at NEEC and PEEC meetings as per meeting schedules	Incomplete/efficient data to monitor efficiency of Justice System.	Facilitating of common indicators across the sector.	Meeting Records	7 052 194	Stakeholder relationships	NONE CLE		
APP	Objective 4	Delivering on our constitutional and statutory mandate thereby ensuring equal access to justice for all, in an independent, accountable and sustainable manner																			BS				
APP	Outcome 6	Account to the Executive Authority (the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services) and Parliament on delivery of mandate, governance and sustainability.																	1 364 139		BS				
APP	PS	To account and provide assurance to the Executive Authority (the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services) and Parliament on performance, governance and sustainability																	1 364 139		BS				
APP	PS-1	Reporting and accountability to the Executive Authority	Report to Executive Authority and Parliament on the Legal Aid SA's performance for the four (4) quarters in a financial year as well as for annual reports over the MTFP period.	Accounting to the Executive Authority (the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services) and Parliament on delivery of mandate, governance and sustainability	4 quarterly performance reports 1 Annual Report.	Accurate quarterly and annual reports submitted immediately to the Executive Authority	4 quarterly performance reports submitted within one month of the end of the quarter 1 Annual Report	1 Quarterly Report 1 Annual Report	1 Quarterly Report	1 Quarterly Report	4 quarterly performance reports submitted within one month of the end of the quarter One (1) Annual Report 2019-2020 was submitted to the Executive Authority.	4 quarterly performance reports submitted within one month of the end of the quarter. One(1) Annual Report 2019-2020 submitted to the EA.	4 quarterly performance reports submitted within one month of the end of the quarter One (1) Annual Report 2020-2021 submitted immediately to the EA.	4 quarterly performance reports submitted within one month of the end of the quarter 1 Annual Report	4 quarterly performance reports submitted within one month of the end of the quarter 1 Annual Report	4 quarterly performance reports submitted within one month of the end of the quarter 1 Annual Report	4 quarterly performance reports submitted within one month of the end of the quarter 1 Annual Report	Failure to account to the Executive Authority & Parliament	Overnight by Board to ensure quarterly performance reports and Annual Report are finalised and submitted to the Executive Authority		852 079		BS		

Finance and Sustainability Programmes

Objectives/Outcomes/ Programme No.	Programme	Programme Purpose	Outcome	Outputs	Output Indicators	Annual Target	Quarterly Targets				Annual targets						Key Risk	Risk mitigation	Proof of Delivery	Budget	Dependencies	RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVE		
											Audit/Actual Performance			Estimated Performance		MTEP Period								
							Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/2023	2023/24	2024/25							2025/26	
APP	Objective 5	An organisation re-inventing and embedding sustainable and agile practices in every segment to positively impact on society, the economy and the environment																						CFO
APP	Outcome 7	Improve financial sustainability and manage the reductions to the budget.																			45 081 963			CFO
APP	P7	To continuously improve financial planning (budgeting) including managing the budget cuts to ensure a balanced budget.																			-			CFO
APP	P7-1	Financial Planning	To ensure balanced financial plans for each year of the MTEP period that balances planned expenditure against revenue.	Improving financial sustainability and managing the reductions to the budget.	Approved balanced MTEP and Budget.	Budget which is balanced	Balanced budget (in consideration of government grant allocation and available cash reserves for Legal Aid SA).			Prepare MTEP 2024/25 - 2026/27 aligned to Strategic Plan	Approved balanced budget for 2019- 2020 was loaded and operational effective 1 April 2019. Draft MTEP 2020/21 - 2022/23 prepared, approved by the Board at the July 2019 meeting. Final Allocation Letter confirmed that there are no budget cuts for financial year 2020- 2021. The year end expenditure against budget is 98%.	The Board approved the MTEF for the period 2020/21-2022/23 in June 2019. The balanced budget for 2020-2021 was approved by the Board on 30 November 2019. The Board approved the Adjusted Legal Aid SA Budget 2020-2021 in November 2020 due to the NT request for entities to reduce their baseline with R104 million from the Compensation of Employees, as part of the Compensation of Employees reductions announced in the 2020 Budget Speech, which was tabled in Parliament during its October 2020 meeting.	MTEF 2022/23-2024/25 was approved by the Board at the November 2021 meeting. Budget 2022/23 was approved by the Board at the February 2022 meeting.	Balanced budget (in consideration of government grant allocation and available cash reserves for Legal Aid SA).	Balanced budget (in consideration of government grant allocation and available cash reserves for Legal Aid SA).	Balanced budget (in consideration of government grant allocation and available cash reserves for Legal Aid SA).	Balanced budget (in consideration of government grant allocation and available cash reserves for Legal Aid SA).	Budget cuts during the 5 year SP period and/or no additional funding allocated to Legal Aid SA.	Lobby government for additional funding	Approved MTEF 2024/25 - 2026/27 Approved Budget -2023/24		Allocation Letter	CFO	
APP	P8	Maintain strong and best practice financial management and reporting to ensure unqualified audit outcome and high financial maturity.																			6 540 495			CFO
APP	P8-1	Financial Reporting	Financial reporting for a financial year immediately presented to National Treasury and the Office of the Auditor-General, which is compliant with relevant standards and regulations. To ensure no over-expenditure and under-expenditure <2% in the budget in the planned period.	Improving financial sustainability and managing the reductions to the budget.	Annual and mid-year Financial Statements.	Financial reporting compliant with relevant standards and regulations	Annual and mid-year Financial Statements compliant with relevant standards and regulations	Annual Financial Statements compliant with relevant standards and regulations	Mid-year Financial Statements compliant with relevant standards and regulations	Draft Annual Financial Statements prepared and approved by the Audit Committee and Board in May 2019 and July 2019. External audit (2019) finalised and unqualified audit opinion was issued by the A-G. Mid-year Financial Statements considered by the Board at the November 2019 meeting. Draft Annual Financial Statements prepared, and will be approved by the Board at the May 2020 meeting.	The Legal Aid SA mid-year financial statements 2020-2021 were prepared and approved by the Board at its November 2020 meeting. The Annual Financial Statements for 2020-2021 were finalised and submitted to the A-G at the end of May 2021.	The mid-year Financial Statements comply with the applicable standards were approved by the Board at the November 2021 meeting. The approved mid-year Financial Statements have been submitted to the external auditors. The interim audit by the external auditors is still in progress.	Annual and mid-year Financial Statements compliant with relevant standards and regulations	Annual and mid-year Financial Statements compliant with relevant standards and regulations	Annual and mid-year Financial Statements compliant with relevant standards and regulations	Annual and mid-year Financial Statements compliant with relevant standards and regulations	Qualified audit reports from the A-G.	Implement Internal Control Framework; Quality check Financial Statements; Keep abreast of developments in finance reporting standards	Annual Financial Statements; Mid-year Financial Statements	6 540 495		CFO		
APP	Objective 6	Sustaining good governance, best practices and maintaining high ethical standards and integrity, high performance and accountability																						COO
APP	Outcome 8	Maintain and enhance good governance.																			3 763 561			COO
APP	P9	To maintain best governance practices (PFMA compliance, King IV guidelines and other relevant statutory requirements).																			3 763 561			COO
APP	P9-1	Compliance with statutory requirements	Governance practices within Legal Aid SA fully compliant to statutory requirements throughout each year.	Maintaining and enhancing good governance	Monthly statutory compliance and deadlines exception listings; Quarterly updated compliance provisions; Quarterly Compliance Reports; Six monthly updated Legislative Universe Reports.	Compliance with statutory requirements including Legal Aid South Africa Act 2014 and PFMA	100% compliance with statutory requirements	100%	100%	100%	Revised quarterly compliance checklists in place. Statutory compliance signed off by Executives. Quarterly Compliance Report presented to the Board.	The compliance universe was updated during the 2020-2021 financial year. Monthly Compliance Checklists were signed off by Executives and the Quarterly Compliance Reports were reviewed and noted by the Board.	i. Compliance universe updated and confirmed annually by all Executives. ii. Monthly Legislative Compliance Checklist is signed off. iii. Quarterly Compliance Reports submitted. iv. Compliance Policy and SOP revised annually. v. Legislative Checklist updated whenever there are changes in legislation or new legislation is introduced.	100% compliance with statutory requirements	100% compliance with statutory requirements	100% compliance with statutory requirements	100% compliance with statutory requirements	Corporate governance failure due to non-adherence to King IV	i. Annual confirmation by Executives of their compliance responsibilities. ii. Monthly sign-off Executive Compliance Checklist. iii. Quarterly Compliance reports to the Board. On	i. One Annual confirmation by all Executives. ii. Twelve Monthly confirmations by all Executives. iii. Four quarterly compliance reports. iv. Annual revised legislative universe. v. Updated legislative Checklist. vi. Annual revised Compliance Policy and SOPs.	3 763 561	Auditor-General Report	CFO CRO	
APP	P10	Maintain and enhance independent monitoring and oversight providing combined assurance																			24 558 500			IAE
APP	P10-1	Risk-based Audit Coverage Plan	Audit Coverage Plan of the organisation independently implemented from line functional management periodically throughout each year over the MTEF to provide independent assurance on governance, compliance in line with the internal control framework and risk management.	Maintaining and enhancing good governance	One Annual Audit Coverage Plan; One Revised Mid-Year Audit Coverage Plan; Audit Reports issued as per the Audit Coverage Plan.	Delivery of annual Audit Coverage Plan	≥95% of Audit Coverage Plan delivered	27	27	27	28	One hundred and forty-four (144) out of 148 audit projects were completed, resulting in a 97% achievement of the annual target as at the end of FY 2019-2020. An additional six projects were completed outside the approved coverage plan, translating to a total overall target achieved of 101%. One hundred and two (102) projects were completed by General Audit. 23 projects completed by Computer Audit and 19 projects completed by Forensic Audit.	One hundred and twenty-four out of 130 Compliance Audit Reports were completed by the end of 2020-2021, resulting in 95% total achievement of the annual target. Six additional audit projects were completed outside the approved annual coverage plan which translates to the overall achievement of 100% (130 out 130) total audit projects for the year. The 124 total reports comprise 86 reports and 1 additional report completed by the General Audit Unit. The Computer Audit Unit completed a total of 21 reports and 4 additional reports. The Forensic Unit completed a total of 17 reports and 1 additional report.	One hundred and ten out of 113 audit projects were completed, resulting in a 87% achievement of annual target as at the end of 2021 - 2022. Three additional projects were completed outside the approved Annual Coverage Plan resulting in the overall achievement of 100% of the Annual target. Sixty-six projects were completed by the General Audit Unit. 20 projects were completed by the Computer Audit Unit along with 4 additional projects and 24 projects were completed by the Forensic Audit Unit along with 1 additional project.	≥95% of Audit Coverage Plan delivered	≥95% of Audit Coverage Plan delivered	≥95% of Audit Coverage Plan delivered	≥95% of Audit Coverage Plan delivered	Poor quality audits finalised	Quality Assurance Programme in place	Finalised and issued audit reports	24 447 242		IAE

Strategic Outcome/ Programme Key	Programme	Programme Purpose	Outcome	Outputs	Output Indicators	Annual Target	Quarterly Targets				Annual targets						Key Risk	Risk mitigation	Proof of Delivery	Budget	Depende ncies	RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVE			
											Audit/Actual Performance			Estimated Performance		MTEP Period									
							Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/2023	2023/24	2024/25							2025/26		
APP	P11	An effective and strategic Board providing leadership and oversight of sustainable performance.																					852 679		BS
APP	P11-1	An effective, functional Board	An efficient Board (Accounting Authority) which is properly constituted in terms of the Legal Aid SA Act (28 of 2014) and which is quorate in its meetings as per its meeting schedule; an effective Board which provides strategic direction and which maintains oversight of performance against the Strategic Plan and APP.	Maintaining and enhancing good governance	Board meetings as per schedule; Governance instruments approved by the Board.	Skilled and effective Board and Board Committees	Properly constituted Board (in terms of Legal Aid SA Act, 2014)	Properly constituted Board (in terms of Legal Aid SA Act, 2014) and Board Decisions made timeously	Properly constituted Board (in terms of Legal Aid SA Act, 2014) and Board Decisions made timeously	Properly constituted Board (in terms of Legal Aid SA Act, 2014) and Board Decisions made timeously	As at the end of 2019- 2020, the Board of Legal Aid SA was not fully constituted. The term of the representative of the Director-General of Justice on the Board ended on 29 February 2020. The new Board was appointed by the Mu in January 2019, effective 1 March 2019. It provided effective and strategic leadership and oversight of delivery on performance of Legal Aid SA. Board Committees were in existence and functioned effectively.	As at the end of the 2020-2021 FY, the Board of Legal Aid SA was not fully constituted. Thirteen out of 14 Board positions were filled. An effective and strategic Board provided leadership and oversight of delivery on the performance of Legal Aid SA. Board Committees were in existence and functioned effectively.	As at the end of 2021-2022, the Board of Legal Aid SA was not fully constituted. Thirteen out of 14 Board positions were filled. An effective and strategic Board provided leadership and oversight of delivery on the performance of Legal Aid SA. Board Committees were in existence and functioned effectively.	Properly constituted Board (in terms of Legal Aid SA Act, 2014) and fully functioning Board	Properly constituted Board (in terms of Legal Aid SA Act, 2014) and fully functioning Board	Properly constituted Board (in terms of Legal Aid SA Act, 2014) and fully functioning Board	Properly constituted Board (in terms of Legal Aid SA Act, 2014) and fully functioning Board	Properly constituted Board (in terms of Legal Aid SA Act, 2014) and fully functioning Board	Lack of effectiveness at Board level due to poor balance, poor understanding of role and poor focus.	Board Structure, Charter and Performance reviewed annually to ensure continuity and common understanding	reviewed Board Charters	852 679			

Internal Business Processes Programmes

APP	Objective/Outcome/ Programme No's	Programme	Programme Purpose	Outcome	Outputs	Output Indicators	Annual Target	Quarterly Targets				Annual targets							Key Risk	Risk mitigation	Proof of Delivery	Budget	Dependencies	RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVE	
								Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Audit/Actual Performance			Estimated Performance		MTEF Period								
												2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26							
APP	Objective 7	Legal Aid South Africa's regulatory framework is responsive to the changing legal, social and economic environment.																							
APP	Outcome 9	Maintain a regulatory framework that incorporates best practices and is responsive to changes in the overall environment																						35 421 154	CLE
APP	P12	Ensure that the Legal Aid Act, Legal Aid Regulations (policy) and Legal Aid Manual (procedures) are reviewed to ensure relevance to changes in the environment.																						2 934 834	CLE
APP	P12-1	Legal aid SA Act	To ensure a sound regulatory environment under which Legal Aid SA operates, thereby ensuring that the legal aid scheme is sustainable, transparent and fair. To ensure that the Regulations setting out legal aid policy are drafted and that the Legal Aid Manual setting out legal aid procedures is drafted for the consideration by the Board.	Maintaining a regulatory framework that incorporates best practices and is responsive to changes in the overall environment.	Legislative framework responsive to business needs	Legal Aid SA founding legislation reviewed.	Legal Aid SA Act reviewed once every two years or as and when required				Legal Aid SA Act reviewed.	The amendments to the Legal Aid SA Act have been approved by the Board. These amendments were excluded by the DoJ&CD on the Judicial Matters Amendment Bill 2018. The amendments have been resubmitted to be considered for inclusion in the 2020 Judicial Matters Amendment Bill.	The Legal Aid SA Act was reviewed as required. There were still outstanding amendments that were to be included in the 2020 Judicial Matters Amendment Bill, but same remains outstanding.	The amendments to the Legal Aid SA Act have been approved by the Board. These amendments were excluded by the DoJ&CD on the Judicial Matters Amendment Bill 2018. The amendments have been resubmitted to be considered for inclusion in a subsequent Judicial Matters Amendment Bill but same is still outstanding.	Legal Aid SA Act reviewed once every two years or as and when required	Legal Aid SA Act reviewed once every two years or as and when required	Legal Aid SA Act reviewed once every two years or as and when required	Legal Aid SA Act reviewed once every two years or as and when required	Legal Aid SA Act reviewed once every two years or as and when required	Legal Aid SA Act becoming outdated and irrelevant	Periodic review and amendment of the Act	Report to Board; Promulgated Amendments to Act, where required	2 934 834	Executive Authority Agreement; Parliamentary Approval	CLE
APP	P12-2	Legal Aid Regulations (Policy)			Policy framework responsive to business needs	Legal Aid SA Regulations remain relevant and up to date.	Legal Aid Regulations reviewed at least once every 2 years or as and when required				Legal Aid Regulations reviewed	The Regulations to the Act with regard to the Means Test were updated in the previous financial year. The revised Means Test came into operation on 20 March 2019. No further amendments to the Regulations were deemed necessary in the 2019-2020 financial year.	The Board submitted proposed amendments to the Regulations to the Executive Authority. The proposed amendments have been tabled before Parliament in Quarter 4. The Select Committee has been briefed on the proposed amendments which must still be considered by the Portfolio Committee.	The Regulations to the Act were reviewed by the Board in 2020-2021 and the proposed amendments to the Regulations were tabled before Parliament for approval. Both the National Assembly and National Council of Provinces approved the amendments. The amendments were duly gazetted by the Minister and came into operation on 6 August 2021. Revised Judicare tariffs were approved by the Board in February 2022 with an increase of 4.02% which came into effect from 1 April 2022.	Legal Aid Regulations reviewed at least once every 2 years or as and when required	Legal Aid Regulations reviewed at least once every 2 years or as and when required	Legal Aid Regulations reviewed at least once every 2 years or as and when required	Legal Aid Regulations reviewed at least once every 2 years or as and when required	Legal Aid Regulations reviewed at least once every 2 years or as and when required	Regulations/policy not responsive to client and community needs.	Periodic Review of policy by Board.	Report to Board; Promulgated Amendment to Regulations where required		Executive Authority Agreement; Parliamentary Approval	CLE
APP	P12-3	Legal Aid Manual (Procedures)			Organisational procedures remain relevant to business needs	Legal Aid manual updated	Annual review or as and when required				Legal Aid Manual reviewed	Legal Aid Manual Version 3 came into operation on 1 June 2019 and Version 4 came into operation on 28 October 2019.	Version 5 of the Legal Aid Manual came into operation on 15 December 2020 after tabling in Parliament and Gazetting by the Executive Authority.	The Legal Aid Manual was reviewed by the Board and the proposed amendments to the Manual were approved. The proposed amendments were submitted to the Executive Authority on 2 December 2021. The amendments were gazetted on 9 March 2022 and will come into operation on 8 May 2022.	Annual review of Legal Aid Manual or as and when required	Annual review of Legal Aid Manual or as and when required	Annual review of Legal Aid Manual or as and when required	Annual review of Legal Aid Manual or as and when required	Annual review of Legal Aid Manual or as and when required	Legal Aid Manual not serving business needs.	Annual Review of procedures	Report to Board; Promulgated amendments to Manual where required		Executive Authority Approval	CLE
APP	Objective 8	An effective, efficient, economic and environmentally responsive supply chain management system supporting client service delivery and internal business processes.																						CFO	
APP	Outcome 10	Sustain strong financial management, supply chain and asset management practices informed by best practice.																						32 486 320	CFO
APP	P13	To maintain an efficient supply chain management framework and practices.																						32 486 320	CFO
APP	P13-1	Supply Chain Management	Maintaining 100% compliance with PPPFA, PFMA and relevant NT regulations on administering procurement of goods and services and managing supply chain management processes.	Sustain strong financial management, supply chain and asset management practices informed by best practice.	Quarterly reports on acquisition of goods/services in excess of R0.5 million, indicating compliance with PPPFA, PFMA and relevant NT regulations.	Compliance with PPPFA, PFMA and relevant NT regulations	100% compliance with PPPFA, PFMA and relevant NT regulations when acquiring goods and services, with specific focus on women, youth and people with disabilities.	100% compliance with PPPFA, PFMA and relevant NT regulations when acquiring goods and services, with specific focus on women, youth and people with disabilities.	100% compliance with PPPFA, PFMA and relevant NT regulations when acquiring goods and services, with specific focus on women, youth and people with disabilities.	100% compliance with PPPFA, PFMA and relevant NT regulations when acquiring goods and services, with specific focus on women, youth and people with disabilities.	100% compliance with PPPFA, PFMA and relevant NT regulations when acquiring goods and services, with specific focus on women, youth and people with disabilities.	Supply Chain Management Policy implemented to ensure 100% compliance with relevant SCM prescripts. There was irregular expenditure incurred for non-CSD registered Sheriffs and non-CSD non-tax compliant landlords for office leases. Reports on the acquisition of goods/ excess of R0.5 million, indicating compliance with PPPFA, PFMA and relevant NT regulations were presented to the Board on a quarterly basis. Quarterly tenders awarded including deviations were presented to the Board at its quarterly meetings.	The relevant legislation (PPPFA, PFMA and Treasury Regulations) have been complied with except for cases where irregular expenditure incurred was identified. The irregular expenditure has been assessed and confirmed in line with the National Treasury, Irregular Expenditure Framework that it is not fraudulent. Consequent management is still in progress. Once concluded, the Irregular Expenditure Report will be submitted to the National Treasury to request condonation.	Quarterly reports for procurement over R500,000 were submitted to the relevant authorities. However, non-compliance instances were identified that resulted in irregular expenditure. The irregular expenditure has been assessed and confirmed in line with the National Treasury, Irregular Expenditure Framework that it is not fraudulent. Consequent management is still in progress. Once concluded, the Irregular Expenditure Report will be submitted to the National Treasury to request condonation.	Implement supply chain management policy and ensure 100% compliance with relevant SCM prescripts.	Implement supply chain management policy and ensure 100% compliance with relevant SCM prescripts.	Implement supply chain management policy and ensure 100% compliance with relevant SCM prescripts.	Implement supply chain management policy and ensure 100% compliance with relevant SCM prescripts.	Implement supply chain management policy and ensure 100% compliance with relevant SCM prescripts.	Non-compliance with PPPFA, PFMA and relevant NT regulations.	Implementation of Internal Control Framework including statutory compliance		32 486 320	CFO	

Employee and Organisational Capacity and Innovation and Learning Programmes

APP	Objective/Outcome/Programme	Programme	Programme Purpose	Outcome	Outputs	Output Indicators	Annual Target	Quarterly Targets				Annual targets						Key Risk	Risk mitigation	Proof of Delivery	Budget	Depend encies	RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVE																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
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								Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25							2025/26																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																															
APP	Objective 9	An appropriately resourced national footprint that is adaptable to changing technological and environmental factors to ensure improved access to our clients, communities, stakeholders and employees.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					

Employee and Organisational Capacity and Innovation and Learning Programmes

Outcome Programme No.	Programme	Programme Purpose	Outcome	Outputs	Output Indicators	Annual Target	Quarterly Targets				Annual targets						Key Risk	Risk mitigation	Proof of Delivery	Budget	Dependencies	Responsible Executive		
											Audit/Actual Performance			Estimated Performance		MTEF Period								
							Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25							2025/26	
APP	P16-2	IT Hardware	Build and maintain an effective, service-oriented Information Systems Architecture and Technology responsive to the daily work requirements of staff and customer needs.		Hardware available to support, maintain and sustain business needs.	Stable hardware platform able to meet performance and availability delivery	IT hardware capacity aligned to business needs and available 99% of the time	Conduct the disaster recovery rehearsal	Upgrade the Disaster Recovery Infrastructure	Replace all hardware according to CARP	Assessment of the virtual environment for effective configuration	Average server availability for 2019-2020 was 99%, which is in line with the performance target	Average server availability was 99.97% in the FY, which was 0.97% above the appetite level.	The average server availability was 99.98%, which is 0.98% above the target of 99%. Two servers and Storage Area Network were procured in 2021-2022 to replace the outdated server as per the Capital Asset Replacement Programme.	IT hardware capacity aligned to business needs and available 99% of the time	IT hardware capacity aligned to business needs and available 99% of the time	IT hardware capacity aligned to business needs and available 99% of the time	Up to date server infrastructure and available 99% of the time	Inadequate hardware infrastructure to meet user demands	i. Up to date CARP ii. Monitoring and review of system utilisation reports	Server Hardware Availability Reports	11 586 992	ISE	
APP	P16-3	IT Software and Applications			Updated, reliable and dependable IT software and applications responsive to business needs.	Maintain and upgrade IT software and applications	IT software and applications fully integrated and available 99% of the time IT software upgrade roadmap in place.	Mobile application specifications developed and approved. External website functionality review	Mobile application tender advertised and approved Migrate sharepoint documents Review call centre functionalities External website enhancements	Mobile application development Review call centre functionalities External website enhancements	Mobile application development Review call centre functionalities & external website	i. The eLAA system was supported and maintained, with 12 bug fixes implemented. ii. 76.12% of all offices migrated to the newer technologies. iii. 30 Local Offices upgraded to 10Mbps. iv. Disaster recovery conducted in Q1 and Q3 of the FY. v. Average systems availability at 98% vi. Cyber security assessment conducted and risks identified with the proposed road map.	Thirty-seven eLAA system bugs developed, tested and deployed eLAA and BYEPRO integration re-designed for better performance. Seven eLAA Release 2 modules developed, tested and deployed. Nineteen user manuals developed and distributed to all users. Average systems availability at 98% which is within the tolerance levels. User satisfaction survey improved from satisfactory levels to good levels. Disaster recovery rehearsal conducted twice in the 2020-2021 FY	Land matters specifications are under development for retrofitting on the eLAA Release 1, with a total of 42 enhancements following the completion of the Business Requirements and Gap Analysis phases for eLAA Release 1 in 2021-2022.	IT software and applications fully integrated and available 99% of the time IT software upgrade roadmap in place.	IT software upgrade roadmap in place. Develop Legal Aid SA mobile application	IT software upgrade roadmap implemented IT software and applications fully integrated and available 99% of the time	Outdated IT software and applications	Upgrade IT software and applications as they become due	IT MIS including i. Report on new applications developed. ii. Number of enhancements on existing applications. iii. User satisfaction survey iv. Disaster recovery rehearsal report	105 759	ISE		
APP	P16-4	Cybersecurity			Resilient cybersecurity environment	Develop and maintain organisational cybersecurity metrics	Cybersecurity roadmap in place	Conduct penetration testing	Review and monitor Cyber Security Risk watch	Cyber Security Risk Assessment & penetration Findings implemented	continuous Staff training on Cyber Security issues.	Cybersecurity Strategy reviewed and approved by the Board. Cybersecurity Risk Register compiled, with mitigation measures effective. Business case was developed and approved by the ISSC for laptop encryption tool to be installed on all laptops.	Cybersecurity Strategic Plan reviewed and approved. Cybersecurity training conducted for all users in 2021-2022. Security penetration testing conducted in 2021-2022. Cybersecurity Committee attended its meeting and reported to the ISSC in 2021-2022.	Cybersecurity roadmap in place	Continuous vulnerability assessment and remediation Implement encryption mechanism on all laptops for data loss protection	Implement the rest of the key controls of Cyber Security	Cyber Security Road Map implemented	exposure and losses of business assets and personal information of employees, clients and key stakeholders.	Implement Cyber Security road map	Cyber Security Road Map implementation report	9 759 043	ALL		

3.1.2. Measuring our Outcomes

MTSF Priority	Priority 6: Social cohesion and safe communities			
Objectives	Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Baseline (2019/20)	Five-year Target
Client, Community, Stakeholder and Shareholder				
<u>Objective 1</u> Empowered clients and communities making informed choices about their legal matters, rights and responsibilities.	<u>Outcome 1</u> Quality client-focused legal aid in criminal matters, particularly for indigent and vulnerable persons.	Number of clients assisted in criminal legal aid matters; Court coverage targets of DC, RC and HC	<u>Court Coverage:</u> Average DC coverage: 86% Average RC coverage: 94% HC coverage: All matters requiring legal aid	<u>Court Coverage:</u> Average planned DC coverage: ≥80% Average planned RC coverage: ≥90% HC planned coverage: All matters requiring legal aid
<u>Objective 2</u> All indigent and vulnerable members of society have equal access to public-funded legal services to protect and defend their rights.	<u>Outcome 2</u> Quality client-focused legal aid, including to indigent and vulnerable persons, in civil matters with a priority focus on land and other constitutional rights matters.	Number of clients assisted in civil matters	<u>Total Civil Matters:</u> 51,777 LO: 45,034 Judicare: 1,810 (13%) Co-op: 4,310 (within budget)	<u>Total Civil Matters:</u> 2020/21: 47,931 2021/22: 48,463 2022/23: 54 077 2023/24: 47,529 2024/25: 47 529 Total: 245,529 <u>Total LO Matters:</u> 2020/21: 45,173 2021/22: 45,625 2022/23: 46,289 2023/24: 43,404 2024/25: 43,404 Total: 223,895 <u>Total Judicare Matters:</u> 2020/21: 1,120 2021/22: 1,120 2022/23: 4,628 2023/24: 965

MTSF Priority	Priority 6: Social cohesion and safe communities			
Objectives	Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Baseline (2019/20)	Five-year Target
				2024/25: 965 Total: 8,798 <u>Total Co-op Matters:</u> 2020/21: 4 596 2021/22: 1,718 2022/23: 3,160 2023/24: 3,160 2024/25: 3,160 Total: 15,794 <u>Land Matters:</u> 2022/23: 800 new matters 2023/2024: 200 new matters 2024/25: 200 new matters Total: 1,200
	<u>Outcome 3</u> Quality client-focused legal advice services.	Number of clients assisted with general legal advice	<u>Total Advice Matters (excluding Call Centre):</u> FY 2019/20: 266,055 Legal Aid Advice Line: 39,008	<u>Total Advice Matters:</u> 2020/21: 228,523 2021/22: 228,523 2022/23: 228,523 2023/24: 228,523 2024/25: 228,523 Total: 1,142,615 <u>Total Legal Aid Advice Line:</u> 2020/21: 47,921 2021/22: 47,921 2022/23: 47,921 2023/24: 47,921 2024/25: 47,921 Total: 239,605

MTSF Priority	Priority 6: Social cohesion and safe communities			
Objectives	Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Baseline (2019/20)	Five-year Target
	<u>Outcome 4</u> Client-focused strategic litigation services in order to give content to constitutional rights, as well as to increase access to justice for indigent and vulnerable persons.	Number of new strategic litigation matters approved; Success rate	<u>Strategic Matters Approved:</u> FY 2019/20: 25 Success rate: 88%	2021/22: 16 new matters 2022/23: 16 new matters 2023/24: 16 new matters 2024/25: 16 new matters
<u>Objective 3</u> A fair, efficient and effective justice system that ensures equal access to justice for all.	<u>Outcome 5</u> Contribute to the effective functioning of the justice and legal sector thereby promoting the rule of law and increasing access to justice.	Participation in relevant structures aimed at improving the functioning of the justice system and courts	<u>Represented at:</u> 1 National Efficiency Enhancement Committee & 9 Provincial Efficiency Enhancement Committees	<u>Represented at:</u> 1 National Efficiency Enhancement Committee & 9 Provincial Efficiency Enhancement Committees
<u>Objective 4</u> Delivering on our constitutional and statutory mandate thereby ensuring equal access to justice for all, in an independent, accountable and sustainable manner.	<u>Outcome 6:</u> Account to the Executive Authority (the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services) and Parliament on delivery of mandate, governance and sustainability.	4 Quarterly Reports and 1 Annual Report submitted timeously to the Executive Authority	4 Quarterly Performance Reports and 1 Annual Report (2018/19), submitted to Executive Authority, the AGSA and Parliament	4 Quarterly Performance Reports submitted within 30 days after the end of each quarter and 1 Annual Report submitted within five months after the end of the financial year to the Executive Authority
Finance and Sustainability				
<u>Objective 5</u> An organisation re-inventing and embedding sustainable and agile practises in every segment to	<u>Outcome 7</u> Improve financial sustainability and manage the reductions to the budget.	Balanced budget	NT MTEF allocation of 2020/21 – 2022/23 translated into a medium-term expenditure budget for Legal	NT MTEF allocation of 2024/25 translated into a medium-term expenditure budget for Legal Aid SA, which is approved

MTSF Priority	Priority 6: Social cohesion and safe communities			
Objectives	Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Baseline (2019/20)	Five-year Target
positively impact on society, the economy and the environment.			Aid SA, which is approved by the Board and submitted to NT Budget: R2,062,468,682 Expenditure: R2,014,039,462 Percentage spent: 98%	by the Board and submitted to NT Budget: R2,6 billion Expenditure: R2,5 billion Percentage spent: 98%
		Financial reporting that is compliant with relevant standards and regulations	Unqualified audit opinion with no matters of emphasis	Unqualified audit opinion with no matters of emphasis
<u>Objective 6</u> Sustaining good governance, best practises and maintaining high ethical standards and integrity, high performance and accountability.	<u>Outcome 8</u> Maintain and enhance good governance.	Statutory compliance (including Legal Aid South Africa Act, 2014 and PFMA)	Revised quarterly compliance checklists in place. Statutory compliance signed off by Executives. Quarterly Compliance Report presented to the Board	Legal Aid SA generally compliant with all relevant pieces of legislation, including the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act (PPPFA) and the PFMA
		Annual Audit Coverage Plan executed/delivered	97% completion of the Annual Coverage Plan in 2019/20	At least ≥95% completion of the Annual Audit Coverage Plan each year
		Properly constituted Board and Board Committees skilled to function effectively	As at the end of 2019-2020, the Board of Legal Aid SA was not fully constituted. The term of the representative of the Director-General of Justice on the Board ended on 29 February 2020.	Properly constituted Board (in terms of Legal Aid SA Act, 2014) and Board Committees skilled to function effectively

Internal Business Processes				
MTSF Priority	Priority 6: Social cohesion and safe communities			
Objectives	Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Baseline (2019/20)	Five-year Target
<u>Objective 7</u> Legal Aid South Africa's regulatory framework is responsive to the changing legal, social and economic environment.	<u>Outcome 9</u> Maintain a regulatory framework that incorporates best practises and is responsive to changes in the overall environment.	Legal Aid SA Act (2014) reviewed once every 2 years or as and when required	Two amendments still awaiting Executive Authority approval and gazetting. The amendments have been resubmitted to be considered for inclusion in the 2020 Judicial Matters Amendment Bill.	Legal Aid SA Act reviewed in 2020, 2022 and 2024 or as and when required and amendments gazetted where required
		Legal Aid Regulations (Policy) reviewed at least once every 2 years or as and when required	All amendments to the Regulations have been gazetted. No further amendments to the Regulations were deemed necessary in the 2019-2020 financial year.	Legal Aid Regulations reviewed in 2021, 2023 and 2025 or as and when required and amendments gazetted where required Review of Regulations 17 and 18 to align to the Land Court Bill
		Legal Aid Manual (Procedures) reviewed annually or as and when required	Two amendments to the Manual have been gazetted and implemented Legal Aid Manual Version 3 came into operation on 1 June 2019 and Version 4 came into operation on 28 October 2019.	Legal Aid Manual reviewed annually and amendments gazetted where required Review of Procedures to provide for Land Court matters
<u>Objective 8</u> An effective, efficient, economic and environmentally responsive supply chain management system supporting client services delivery and internal	<u>Outcome 10</u> Sustain strong financial management, supply chain and asset management practises informed by best practise.	Compliance with PPPFA, PFMA, relevant National Treasury Regulations	Supply Chain Management Policy implemented to ensure 100% compliance with relevant SCM prescripts. There was irregular expenditure incurred	Legal Aid SA compliant with the PPPFA, PFMA and NT Regulations when acquiring goods and services, with specific focus on women, youth and people with disabilities.

MTSF Priority	Priority 6: Social cohesion and safe communities			
Objectives	Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Baseline (2019/20)	Five-year Target
business processes.			for non-CSD registered Sheriffs and non-CSD/ non-tax compliant landlords for office leases. Reports on the acquisition of goods/ services in excess of R0,5 million, indicating compliance with PPPFA, PFMA and relevant NT regulations were presented to the Board on a quarterly basis. Quarterly tenders awarded including deviations were presented to the Board at its quarterly meetings.	
Employee and Organisational Capacity and Innovation and Learning				
<u>Objective 9</u> An appropriately resourced national footprint that is adaptable to changing technological and environmental factors to ensure improved access to our clients, communities, stakeholders and employees.	<u>Outcome 11</u> Consolidate and review the resourcing of our national footprint to ensure adequate staffing, as well as safe and secure facilities for clients and staff, within available resources.	Staffing plans	Staff recruitment at year end at 91.9%. The staff turnover rate is at 5.78%. (excluding CAs and Temporary/ Contract staff)	Staff recruitment at ≥95% based on available budget Staff turnover rate ≤ 6% (excluding CAs and Temporary/ Contract staff)
<u>Objective 10</u> Knowledgeable, informed, self-	<u>Outcome 12</u> Strengthen and continuously	Compliance with Skills Development Act	The Workplace Skills Plan and Annual Training Report were	Submission of the Workplace Skills Plan and Annual

MTSF Priority	Priority 6: Social cohesion and safe communities			
Objectives	Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Baseline (2019/20)	Five-year Target
directed and committed employees competently delivering the organisation's constitutional mandate and strategies in a sustainable manner.	improve the quality and expertise for each segment of the national footprint.		submitted to SASSETA in compliance with the Skills Development Act. Submitted in Q1 as per statutory deadline.	Training Report timeously by the end of April 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 in full compliance with the Skills Development Act
		Employment Equity targets defined as per Employment Equity Plan	Legal Aid SA has a diverse workforce in line with annual targets to achieve employment equity goals, as per the EE Plan and Reports. Overall, African men, Coloured men and people with disabilities are the most underrepresented groups. We still have a challenge with African Males in Senior, Professional, Skilled technical and Semi-Skilled Levels, as well as African Females in Senior and Professional Levels. Disability Recruitment grew from 0.9% to 1.67%, of a target of 2%. Coloured Females in Top & Senior Management and Indian Males in the Skilled and Semi-skilled Levels are also a challenge as these groups are underrepresented.	EE Plan 2025 approved by Board and submitted to the Department of Labour EE Audit and EE Plan in 2025 in place
<u>Objective 11</u>	<u>Outcome 13</u>	Stable and reliable Wide Area Network	Average network	Wide Area Network infrastructure

MTSF Priority	Priority 6: Social cohesion and safe communities			
Objectives	Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Baseline (2019/20)	Five-year Target
Embracing emerging technologies including the Fourth Industrial Revolution to optimise its impact on business and the provision of client services through a responsive and adaptive IT environment.	Enhance and maintain an integrated and service and client-oriented and secured Information Technology system with capacity to integrate stakeholders.	(WAN) & Virtual private network (VPN)	availability was 95.54% in the FY 2019-2020. This is in line with the performance target of 95%.	upgraded to Software Defined Network with the minimum of 10Mbps bandwidth at all branches WAN annual availability 95%
		Stable hardware platform	Average server availability for 2019-2020 was 99%, which is in line with the performance target.	Private cloud infrastructure with 99% of server availability
		IT software and applications maintained and upgraded	The eLAA system was supported and maintained, with 12 bug fixes implemented. ii. 76.12% of all offices migrated to the newer technologies. iii. 30 Local Offices upgraded to 10mbps. iv. Disaster recovery conducted in Q1 and Q3 of the FY. v. Average systems availability at 98%.	Integrated eLAA system with mobile application for clients in Release 2 Hot disaster recovery site
		Organisational cyber security metrics developed and maintained	Cyber Security Strategy in place. Cyber security assessment conducted and risks identified with the proposed road map.	Cyber resilient environment with ongoing staff training programme in place

3.1.3. Explanation of Planned Performance over the Five-year Period

The outcomes identified by Legal Aid SA contribute to the achievement of the constitutional and legislative mandate of the organisation.

Legal Aid SA has used the Balanced Scorecard as its strategic planning tool, viewing the organisation from four perspectives, which are as follows:

- I. Client, Community, Stakeholder and Shareholder (customer perspective)
- II. Finance and Sustainability (financial perspective)
- III. Internal Business Processes (internal process perspective)
- IV. Employee and Organisational Capacity and Innovation and Learning (learning and growth perspective)

The outcomes in Client, Community, Stakeholder and Shareholder are as follows:

- i. Quality client-focused legal aid in criminal matters, particularly for indigent and vulnerable persons.
- ii. Quality client-focused legal aid, including to indigent and vulnerable persons, in civil matters with a priority focus on land and other constitutional rights matters.
- iii. Quality client-focused legal advice services.
- iv. Client-focused strategic litigation services in order to give content to constitutional rights, as well as to increase access to justice for indigent and vulnerable persons.
- v. Contribute to the effective functioning of the justice and legal sector thereby promoting the rule of law and increasing access to justice.
- vi. Account to the Executive Authority (the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services) and Parliament on delivery of mandate, governance and sustainability.

These outcomes link to the NDP 2030 Chapter 12 which focuses on Building Safer Communities, Chapter 11 on Social Protection and Chapter 14 on Promoting Accountability and Fighting Corruption. The relevant priority of the MTSF 2019-2024 is Priority 6 Social Cohesion and Safe Communities. Since Legal Aid SA services are to ensure that indigent and vulnerable persons are able to access justice, this includes women, children and people with disabilities.

Access to justice is a critical component of building safer communities. We provide coverage of specialist courts including Child Justice Courts and Sexual Offences Courts and our practitioners are equipped with the expertise to represent clients. Children are a special vulnerable group and matters involving children receive priority. Children are represented in all Child Justice Courts, as well as Preliminary Inquiry Courts, and we guarantee legal representation to all children in civil matters. Our Remand Detainee Programme incorporates the monitoring of children awaiting trial in correctional facilities for periods greater than one month and these cases are tracked individually. Our civil units provide legal representation for children, most of whom are children in need of care, in the Children's Courts. Through our partnership with the Master's Offices, we assist in the administration of estates in which children are beneficiaries, and place these monies for children with the Guardian's Fund. Legal Aid SA provides representation to vulnerable groups of people in a variety of specialist matters. This includes assistance to women, mental healthcare patients, children, people with disabilities, refugees and the elderly. In the 2018-2019 financial year, Legal Aid SA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Childline SA and strengthened links with the Teddy Bear Foundation, aimed at creating greater access

to legal services for children and caregivers of children. We also linked with the National Movement of Shelters to ensure that people affected by gender-based violence are referred to Legal Aid SA when they need legal services.

Legal advice services are accessible through the toll-free Legal Aid Advice Line and paralegals at all 128 of our offices. Following the findings of a study conducted in the previous financial year on demand for legal aid in the High Courts, general advice capacity was made available at High Courts to decrease the number of unrepresented litigants and ensure that qualifying clients' rights are protected. Linkages with community structures such as Community Advice Offices are a further enabler in the accessibility of legal advice and legal representation. Communities are also empowered on their legal rights through media campaigns and community forums, thereby fostering constitutional values. The cases that are dealt with in strategic litigation matters address social justice issues and the outcomes of these cases often have a positive impact on a broader population.

A well-functioning criminal justice system is critical in achieving safer communities and will result in increasing public confidence in the criminal justice system. Legal Aid SA is a stakeholder in the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster and programmes aligned with the NDP and the MTSF are implemented through the cluster. This includes participation in the National and Provincial Efficiency Enhancement Committees in our commitment to improve the performance of the justice cluster and ensure increased efficiency in finalising criminal cases. Legal Aid SA has to ensure that it fulfils its role in making sure that courts function optimally so that criminal and civil cases where we are providing representation are resolved efficiently to ensure that the rule of law is upheld and access to justice is realised for indigent and vulnerable persons.

The outcomes in Finance and Sustainability are as follows:

- i. Improve financial sustainability and manage the reductions to the budget.
- ii. Maintain and enhance good governance.

These outcomes link to the NDP 2030 Chapter 14 on Promoting Accountability and Fighting Corruption. The relevant priority of MTSF 2019-2024 is Priority 6 Social Cohesion and Safe Communities. Legal Aid SA operates within a strong governance framework, uses public funding responsibly in the execution of its mandate and is accountable. Prudent and best practise financial management has resulted in unqualified audit opinions for the past 21 years. It has an effective and functioning Governing Board and Audit Committee and complies with applicable legislation. A coherent approach to enterprise risk management is maintained and the organisation has managed to uphold a zero tolerance approach to fraud and corruption.

The outcomes in Internal Business Processes are as follows:

- i. Maintain a regulatory framework that incorporates best practises and is responsive to changes in the overall environment.

- ii. Sustain strong financial management, supply chain and asset management practises informed by best practise.

These outcomes link to the NDP 2030 Chapter 12 which focuses on Building Safer Communities, Chapter 11 on Social Protection and Chapter 14 on Promoting Accountability and Fighting Corruption. The relevant priority of MTSF 2019-2024 is Priority 6 Social Cohesion and Safe Communities. The legislative mandate of Legal Aid SA must be responsive to the environment and meet the needs of the business and the people we serve. It is important to ensure that legislation is consistent with the Constitution. As an organisation that utilises public funds we must implement cost-effective measures and adhere to legislation such as the PFMA, PPPFA and National Treasury Regulations and ensure that our Supply Chain Management Policy is in line with the relevant legislation and that controls are in place and adhered to.

The outcomes in the Employee and Organisational Capacity and Innovation and Learning are as follows:

- i. Consolidate and review the resourcing of our national footprint to ensure adequate staffing, as well as safe and secure facilities for clients and staff, within available resources.
- ii. Strengthen and continuously improve the quality and expertise for each segment of the national footprint.
- iii. Enhance and maintain an integrated and service and client-oriented and secured Information Technology system with capacity to integrate stakeholders.

The outcomes in this component of the balanced scorecard link to NDP Chapter 12 which focuses on Building Safer Communities, Chapter 13 on Building a Capable State and MTSF Priority 3 Education, Skills and Health and Priority 1 A Capable, Ethical and Developmental State. Legal Aid SA has a national footprint, with offices located close to public transport and taking into consideration the location of courts that we service. Satellite Office locations mean that historically marginalised communities can access our offices which are appropriately resourced to deliver access to justice. Quality services to clients is a priority since the provision of quality services has a bearing on the outcomes of cases and therefore the lives of clients served. Through a focus on quality services to clients and competent, informed and knowledgeable practitioners, we are able to assure a high quality of legal services is rendered to clients. Training programmes and skills development is ongoing and the organisation has a bursary scheme in place and an Employment Equity Plan for the 2020-2025 period. Modern IT systems are in place to sustain and improve performance which includes a new electronic Legal Aid Administration System (eLAA). Legal Aid SA continues to improve its technology platform along the emerging approaches of the 4th Industrial Revolution.

The organisational enablers to achieve the five-year target include:

- i. Government grant
- ii. Financial planning and reporting
- iii. Adherence to good governance practises
- iv. Skilled and knowledgeable staff
- v. Quality management programmes
- vi. Risk management programmes
- vii. Tools and resources
- viii. Strategies, policies and standard operating procedures
- ix. Stakeholder relationships with legal and justice system stakeholders and linkages with community structures
- x. Commitment to human rights and the rights to access to justice
- xi. Performance management
- xii. Monitoring and evaluation processes
- xiii. Positive organisational culture
- xiv. Leadership
- xv. Employment Value Proposition
- xvi. Resilient cyber security environment

The outcomes identified by the organisation are aimed at fulfilling the organisation's constitutional and legislative mandate. These outcomes are relevant because they plan for and measure performance on all aspects that impact on the organisation, including external and internal factors. All segments are incorporated; client and community and stakeholders, finance and sustainability, internal business processes and employee and organisation capacity.

The legal aid services provided ensure access to justice for the populace, considering the high costs of legal services/representation. Our national footprint and toll-free Legal Aid Advice Line serve as a differentiator in that our services are available for both urban- and rural-based citizens, thus facilitating access to justice.

3.2. Programme Resources

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ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN: 2023/2024

APP Overall Budget Trends (2023/2024) and MTEF period)

[I Resources consideration per Programme over MTEF and Strategic Plan Period](#)

[II Resources consideration per Economic Classification over MTEF and Strategic Plan Period](#)

[III Expenditure Trends over MTEF and Strategic Plan Period](#)

[IV Staff Trends over MTEF and Strategic Plan Period](#)

[I Resources consideration per Programme over MTEF and Strategic Plan Period](#)

		2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
		Audited Outcomes			Adjusted Budget (Current)			
	Balance Scorecard Component							
1	Client, Community, Stakeholder and Shareholder	1 367 649 555	1 471 632 532	1 466 404 584	1 646 951 172	1 620 006 272	1 670 752 013	1 745 935 854
2	Finance and Sustainability	27 432 448	31 835 189	33 806 949	47 059 008	45 081 863	42 468 437	44 379 517
3	Internal Business Processes	16 706 935	20 232 584	23 117 627	36 933 961	35 421 154	32 694 692	34 165 953
4	Employee and Organisational Capacity and Innovation and Learning	543 066 806	521 868 459	554 543 998	653 993 629	569 733 455	596 537 445	619 953 247
5	Additional Programmes	-		-	-			
	Total budget allocations	1 954 855 744	2 045 568 764	2 077 873 157	2 384 937 770	2 270 242 744	2 342 452 588	2 444 434 571

II Resources consideration per Economic Classification over MTEF and Strategic Plan Period

		2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
	Audited Outcomes				Adjusted Budget (Current)			
1	Total salaries and related costs	1 420 182 837	1 538 998 862	1 514 523 247	1 616 018 727	1 799 066 360	1 854 057 475	1 943 997 351
1.1	New funding (Child Justice Act and Children's Act)	-	-					
1.2	New funding (case backlog top up)	-						
1.3	New funding (Court Expansion Programme)	14 534 913		-	-	11 165 000	11 332 000	11 843 000
1.4	Increase in legal capacity (civil capacity)	-	-					
2	Other Expenditure	121 687 510	114 222 850	81 401 261	329 746 332	118 209 105	142 560 635	146 642 917
3	Operating Expenditure	213 180 035	202 334 532	188 132 448	323 187 686	238 602 822	249 152 824	258 838 627
3.1	Contractual obligations	123 528 572	121 400 719	112 879 469	193 912 612	217 894 305	226 729 070	235 543 151
3.2	Non-contractual obligations	89 651 463	80 933 813	75 252 979	129 275 074	20 708 517	22 423 754	23 295 476
4	Capital Expenditure	25 854 054	37 134 916	56 966 227	82 191 280	69 405 712	50 911 066	48 504 390
4.1	Computer Hardware	8 395 221	13 655 165	13 455 396	35 965 025	11 145 721	11 743 578	13 091 581
4.2	Corporate IT	-	-		-	12 170 570	12 170 570	8 083 769
4.3	Land and Buildings	-	-	11 255 833	-			
4.4	Furniture and Equipment	1 121 525	2 738 896	683 491	2 266 463	-	-	
4.5	Building Improvement	2 381 156	6 409 648	1 695 351	6 263 820	2 966 896	1 009 923	1 055 168
4.6	Leasehold Improvement	1 671 616	4 501 347	4 124 581	5 288 632	4 987 282	6 253 727	6 533 894
4.7	Motor Vehicles	4 738 037	5 048 901	19 593 638	24 055 935	13 112 240	14 279 353	14 013 367
4.8	Computer Software - eLAA System Development Funding /ERP System	7 546 499	4 780 958	6 157 937	8 351 405	25 023 003	5 453 915	5 726 611
5	Total expenditure excluding depreciation	1 780 904 436	1 892 691 160	1 841 023 183	2 351 144 025	2 236 448 999	2 308 014 000	2 409 826 285
6	Depreciation	34 295 877	32 849 427	33 877 144	33 793 745	33 793 745	34 438 588	34 608 286
7	Total expenditure including depreciation	1 815 200 313	1 925 540 587	1 874 900 327	2 384 937 770	2 270 242 744	2 342 452 588	2 444 434 571
	Surplus/(Deficit)	248 275 719	120 028 177	202 972 830	-0	0	-0	-0

III Expenditure Trends over MTEF and Strategic Plan Period

- National Treasury implemented budget reductions as per Allocation letter dated 3 December 2020. Legal Aid South Africa's grant allocation was reduced by R182 million in 2021/22, R230.8 million in 2022/23 and R121.8 million in 2023/24 fiscal years. The organisation had received an additional funding of R20 million for 2020/21, R25 million for 2021/22 and R30 million over the MTEF period 2020-23 however the funding for financial years 2020/21 and 21/22 were affected by the budget cuts implemented by National Treasury. The R30 million for 2022/23 will be allocated to courts with known backlogs with a view to its reduction and allocation of resources to our Local Offices where practitioner absence results in poor productivity at regional courts in particular. Legal Aid SA has received additional funding of R34 million over the MTEF period 2023-25. The funds are to capacitate the Special Commercial Crimes Court.
- The expenditure focus over the five-year period is on the delivery of legal services which is the core business of Legal Aid South Africa. More than 70% of Legal Aid SA's budget has been allocated to the Client and Community Component of the Balance Scorecard, which is directly linked to the delivery of legal services. This will continue to be the trend over the MTEF period. The balance of the budget is allocated towards programmes that support the delivery of legal services.
- Budget constraints continue to affect the operations of Legal Aid South Africa. The salaries and related costs budget is also negatively impacted by the cost of living increases which are higher than the macro increases and these have to be absorbed within the baseline allocation.
- The operating expenditure budget has been reduced over the past five-year period, except for expenditure linked to contractual obligations. After the reversal of the baseline reductions, operating expenditures was increased by 5%, a percentage that is in line with the Marco increase.

v. Areas of funding pressures which are linked to contractual obligations are as follows:

- a) Office accommodation
- b) Escalations linked to contracts for security contracts and cleaning services
- c) Substantial increases in municipal services rates and vehicle fuel

vi. Only 2% of the budget has been allocated to capital expenditure. This is not adequate to replace assets as and when they fall due. Legal Aid SA has implemented measures to extend the lifespan of the assets, taking into account the current budget constraints.

IV Staff Trends over MTEF and Strategic Plan Period

POST CATEGORY	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
	Audited outcomes (filled posts)			Filled posts as at 30 September 2022			
i. Legal professionals (legal practitioners including Paralegals)	2 022	2 025	1 896		2 183	2 183	2 183
ii. Non-legal staff	535	546	530		501	501	501
iii. TOTAL (recruited staff)	2 557	2 571	2 426	2 586	2 649	2 649	2 649
iv. Staff establishment at 31 March annually	2 756	2 799	2 799	2 839	2 848	2 848	2 848
v. Includes new/additional posts (refer to note i)							
vi. Staff recruitment (against staff establishment)	92.8%	91.9%	86.7%	91.1%	93.0%	93.0%	93.0%

Notes on Staff Trends

i. In the 2020/21 financial year, 42 positions were identified for abolishment in order to align the organisational structure to the salaries budget. Separately from the 42 positions, 84 new positions were created. The total establishment for the 2020/21 financial year is 2,799 positions.

ii. National Treasury implement baseline reductions of R348 million over the MTEF 2021-24 period, this reductions relates to COE, 115 posts were abolished in order to cover the baseline reductions

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APP Overall Budget Trends -2023/24 and MTEF Period)

V Resources consideration for Client, Community, Stakeholder and Shareholder per Programme
[Resources consideration per Economic Classification over MTEF and Strategic Period](#)
[Expenditure Trends over MTEF and Strategic Period](#)

V(I) Resources consideration

	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
Client, Community, Stakeholder and Shareholder	Audited OutcomeBudget			Adjusted Budget (Current)	Medium Term allocations/estimates		
1 Client, Community, Stakeholder and Shareholder	1 367 649 555	1 471 632 532	1 466 404 584	1 646 951 172	1 620 006 272	1 670 752 013	1 745 935 854
P1 To deliver quality legal aid services in criminal matters that are client-focused, within available resources.	1 154 731 562	1 196 732 585	1 138 844 538	1 209 543 230	1 361 503 118	1 320 059 022	1 357 837 716
P2 Deliver quality civil legal aid and land services that are client-focused, with a priority for constitutional rights, within available resources.	137 117 913	180 746 117	190 089 052	293 057 630	181 053 811	203 363 934	232 718 674
III To increase access points to civil legal aid and respond to needs of the rural poor and different vulnerable groups	-	-				-	-
P3 To deliver quality legal advice services that are client-focused, within available resources.	56 950 324	82 166 690	114 223 261	115 507 726	63 783 009	129 673 099	136 905 602
P4 To undertake strategic litigation, particularly in social justice related matters in order to give content to the rights enshrined in the constitution.	12 197 776	6 849 189	16 788 622	21 944 075	5 250 000	8 570 801	8 965 058
VII To explore, develop and implement new alternative dispute resolution options to improve access to justice						-	-
P5 To participate in justice cluster forums to contribute to improving the efficient functioning of the justice system to improve access to justice.	6 621 980	5 107 951	6 427 153	6 748 511	7 052 194	7 652 811	8 004 840
VIII To implement recommendations of the Criminal and Civil Justice Reviews	-		-				
IX To improve the functioning of the justice and legal sector by building stronger and effective partnerships with stakeholders in the justice sector	-		-				
X Improve awareness, inform and educate communities on constitutional rights and responsibilities							
XI Increasing co-operation with and accountability to stakeholders							
XII Increasing access to justice through partnerships with civil society organisations and the legal fraternity (including pro bono)	-		-				
XIII Supporting developing legal aid agencies (within and outside the country)	-		-				
P6 To account and provide assurance to the Executive Authority (the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services) and Parliament on performance, governance and sustainability	359 287	30 000	31 958	150 000	1 364 139	1 432 346	1 503 963
Total Budget Allocation	1 367 978 842	1 471 632 532	1 466 404 584	1 646 951 172	1 620 006 272	1 670 752 013	1 745 935 854

Programmes indicated with Roman numerals relate to prior years

V(II) Budget allocations per Economic Classifications over the MTEF Period

		2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
		Adjusted Budget (Current)			Adjusted Budget (Current)	Medium Term allocations/estimates		
1	Total salaries and related costs	1 134 614 153	1 265 020 590	1 238 765 503	1 317 204 840	1 501 797 167	1 528 191 378	1 599 292 937
2	New funding (Court Expansion Programme)	22 000 000	15 508 752	-	-	11 165 000	11 332 000	11 843 000
3	Other Expenditure	123 258 907	114 884 001	81 521 228	329 746 332	118 209 105	142 560 635	146 642 917
3.1	Judicare	101 668 849	96 310 311	67 688 832	284 846 990	92 075 047	115 775 516	118 628 639
3.2	Disbursement	6 844 090	7 830 192	3 110 805	8 726 380	7 280 305	7 926 427	8 113 540
3.3	Expert Witnesses	1 102 110	-	54 340	1 601 412	1 281 880	1 627 130	1 650 527
3.4	Co-operation Agreement	11 373 764	8 483 020	8 329 485	11 024 058	9 990 761	9 185 309	9 403 853
3.5	Impact Litigation	1 800 807	1 599 327	2 272 138	21 944 075	5 250 000	5 250 000	6 000 000
3.6	Travel and Circuit Courts	469 287	661 151	65 628	1 603 417	2 331 112	2 796 253	2 846 358
4	Total Expenditure for the Balance Scorecard Component	1 257 873 060	1 379 904 591	1 320 286 731	1 646 951 172	1 620 006 272	1 670 752 013	1 745 935 854
	Surplus/(Deficit)	110 105 782	91 727 941	146 117 853	(0)	(0)	0	0

V(III) [Expenditure Trends over MTEF and Strategic Plan Period](#)

- i. The delivery of criminal legal aid services programme is the largest spending item in this Balance Scorecard Component. This programme provides for the core service delivery of Legal Aid South Africa.
- ii. The delivery of civil legal aid services programme is the second largest item in this Balance Scorecard Component.
- iii. Approximately 90% of the budget is allocated to personnel expenditure, which is directly linked to the delivery of legal services.

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APP Overall Budget Trends 2023/24 and MTEF Period)

- VI 1. Resources consideration for Finance and Sustainability per Programme
 2. Resources consideration per Economic Classification over MTEF and Strategic Period
 3. Expenditure Trends over MTEF and Strategic Period

VI(I) Resources consideration

		2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
	Finance and Sustainability	Budget			Adjusted Budget (Current)		Medium Term allocations/estimates	
2	Finance and Sustainability	25 430 747	33 806 949	37 059 008	47 059 008	45 081 863	42 468 437	44 379 517
P7	To continuously improve financial planning (budgeting) including managing the budget cuts to ensure a balanced budget.	2 456 395	3 189 540	3 412 807	4 119 030	9 366 628	3 988 377	4 187 796.16
P8	Maintain strong and best practice financial management and reporting to ensure unqualified audit outcome and high financial maturity.	5 698 112	6 606 677	7 069 145	5 540 495	6 540 495	8 261 356.02	8 674 423.82
XIV	Sustainable government grant funding	-	-	-				
XV	Client contributions and other revenue streams	-	-	-				
XVI	Increasing sustainable (non-financial) and integrated performance and reporting	-	-	-				
XVII	Sustainable corporate policies and practices	-	-	-				
XVIII	Improve and maintain risk management to optimum maturity level	-	-	-				
XIX	Maintain fraud management practices	-	-	-				
P9	To maintain best governance practices (PFMA compliance, King IV guidelines and other relevant statutory requirements).	2 997 496	3 108 850	3 295 381	3 493 104	3 763 561	3 851 147	4 043 705
XX	An effective and strategic Board providing leadership and oversight of delivery on performance	-				-	-	-
P10	Maintain and enhance independent monitoring and oversight providing combined assurance	19 943 986	20 125 722	22 466 707	33 081 679	24 558 500	25 424 130	26 482 994
P11	An effective and strategic Board providing leadership and oversight of sustainable performance.	739 200	776 160	814 968	824 700	852 679	943 427	990 598
	Total Budget Allocation	25 430 747	33 806 949	37 059 008	47 059 008	45 081 863	42 468 437	44 379 517

Programmes indicated with Roman numerals relate to prior years

VI(II) Budget allocations per Economic Classifications over the MTEF Period

		2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
	Budget				Adjusted Budget (Current)	Medium Term allocations/estimates		
1	Total salaries and related costs	20 037 984	26 524 267	29 412 193	39 029 852	36 280 660	33 250 595	34 950 090
2	Operating Expenditure	5 392 763	7 282 681	7 646 815	8 029 156	8 801 204	9 217 842	9 429 427
2.1	Contractual obligations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.2	Non-contractual obligations	5 392 763	7 282 681	7 646 815	8 029 156	8 801 204	9 217 842	9 429 427
	Total Expenditure for the Balance Scorecard Component	25 430 747	33 806 949	37 059 008	47 059 008	45 081 864	42 468 437	44 379 517
	Surplus/(Deficit)	0	0	-0	0	-0	0	0

VI(III) Expenditure Trends over MTEF and Strategic Plan Period

- i. The largest programme relates to independent monitoring and oversight unit providing combined assurance.
- ii. This programme has a direct impact in ensuring that Legal Aid South Africa achieves and maintains an unqualified audit opinion status.
- iii. Independent monitoring and oversight unit providing combined assurance is the largest programme in the Finance and Sustainability component of the balance scorecard.
- iv. Strong and best practice financial reporting programme is the second largest programme in the Finance and Sustainability Component of the Balance Scorecard.
- v. Programmes relating to the Board and Executive Authority oversight role are included in the Finance and Sustainability Component of the Balance Scorecard.

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APP Overall Budget Trends 2023/24 and MTEF Period)

VII Resources consideration for Business Processes (Internal) Component and per Programme
Resources consideration per Economic Classification over MTEF and Strategic Period
Expenditure Trends over MTEF and Strategic Period

VII(i) Resources consideration

	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
Business Processes (Internal)	Budget			Adjusted Budget (Current)	Medium Term allocations/estimates		
3 Business Processes (Internal)	16 706 935	20 232 584	23 117 627	36 933 961	35 421 154	32 694 692	34 165 954
XXI To adjust the mixed model service delivery model to improve court coverage and delivery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
XXII To review and improve on matrix and risk-based management	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
XXIII To refine and develop legal service delivery and support models to improve sustainability. Efficiency and effectiveness of delivery and functioning of the justice system	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P12 Ensure that the Legal Aid Act, Legal Aid Regulations (policy) and Legal Aid Manual (procedures) are reviewed to ensure relevance to changes in the environment.	1 009 945	1 105 329	1 917 919	5 734 253	2 934 834	2 948 381	3 095 800
P13 To maintain an effective supply chain management framework and practices.	15 696 990	19 127 256	21 199 707	31 199 707	32 486 320	29 746 311	31 070 154
XXIV Ensuring good financial management	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
XXV Maintain integrated, accurate and timeous management information (support and legal functions)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Budget Allocation	16 706 935	20 232 584	23 117 627	36 933 961	35 421 154	32 694 692	34 165 954

Programmes indicated with Roman numerals relate to prior years

VII(ii) Budget allocations per Economic Classifications over the MTEF Period

	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
	Budget			Adjusted Budget (Current)	Medium Term allocations/estimates		
1 Total salaries and related costs	11 017 596	13 590 624	16 041 968	29 858 302	27 471 651	24 287 732	25 364 077
14 New funding (Child Just Act and Childrens Act)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 New funding (case backlog top up)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 New funding (Court Expansion Programme)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17 Increase in Legal capacity (civil capacity)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18 New funding (COLI)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 Operating Expenditure	5 689 339	6 641 960	7 075 659	7 075 659	7 949 503	8 406 960	8 801 876
2.1 Contractual obligations	4 705 587	5 536 632	5 338 869	5 338 869	5 998 219	6 358 113	6 650 586
2.2 Non-contractual obligations	983 752	1 105 329	1 736 790	1 736 790	1 951 283	2 048 848	2 151 290
3 Total Expenditure for the Balance Scorecard Component	16 706 935	20 232 584	23 117 626	36 933 960	35 421 154	32 694 692	34 165 953
Surplus/(Deficit)	-	-	0	-	0	0	0

VII(iii) Expenditure Trends over MTEF and Strategic Plan Period

- Supply chain management framework and practices is the largest programme in this Balance Scorecard Component.
- This programme ensures compliance with the relevant supply chain management prescripts including PFMA, PPPFA and relevant National Treasury regulations and instructions. It ensures that all Bid Committees are functional and operate effectively throughout the period under review.
- With effect from 2015/16 onwards, the good financial management programme was incorporated into the supply chain management framework practices.

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VIII Resources consideration for Employee and Organisational Capacity and Innovation and Learning per Programme

Resources consideration per Economic Classification over MTEF and Strategic Period

Expenditure Trends over MTEF and Strategic Period

VIII(I) Resources consideration

		2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
	Employee and Organisational Capacity and Innovation and Learning	Budget			Adjusted Budget (Current)	Medium Term allocations/estimates		
4	Employee and Organisational Capacity and Innovation and Learning	552 461 273	543 066 806	521 868 459	554 543 998	569 733 455	596 537 446	619 953 247
XXVI	Expand and maintain the national footprint, including the physical and ICT service points, to improve access, especially in rural areas	-	-	-				
XXVII	Building a segment of the national footprint which in partnership with other delivery/supply agents (including pro bono) improve access to justice	-	-	-				
P14	Appropriately staff all Legal Aid SA offices, within available resources.	450 084 834	449 555 619	420 494 694	452 446 849	478 307 868	493 618 341	508 119 009
XXVIII	To implement interventions to improve and monitor the quality of legal services to deliver desired outcomes	-	-	-				
P15	To strengthen and continuously improve the quality and expertise for each segment of the national footprint.	55 056 765	52 282 673	57 433 971	57 707 395	52 788 512	60 543 361	63 328 355.46
XXIX	Legal research undertaken to support delivery of quality legal services, to inform legal aid policy and protect client's rights	-	-	-				
XXX	Legal support interventions implemented to support delivery of quality legal service (including legal resources and experts)	-	-	-				
XXXI	Independent Legal Quality Assurance (LQA)	-	-	-				
XXXII	Talent and career management (including recruitment and succession planning)	-	-	-				
XXXIII	Competency and skills development	-	-	-				
XXXIV	Build a learning and innovative organisation (including implementation of a knowledge management strategy)	-	-	-				
XXXV	Employer brand	-	-	-				
XXXVI	Employee Value Proposition		-	-				
XXXVII	Maintain a Competitive Rewards and Remuneration System		-	-				
XXXVIII	Develop and maintain a value-based leadership pipeline	-	-	-				

P16	Annual review and approval of IT strategy, IT Architecture Framework, IT Maturity and IT Policies with continuous maturity assessments for competitive advantage.	47 319 674	41 228 514	43 939 795	44 389 754	38 637 075	42 375 743	48 505 883
XXXIX	Modernise Information and Communication Technology (ICT) client platform for effective social media networking							
	Additional Programmes							
	Total Budget Allocation	552 461 273	543 066 806	521 868 459	554 543 998	569 733 455	596 537 446	619 953 247

Programmes indicated with Roman numerals relate to prior years

VIII(II) Budget allocations per Economic Classifications over the MTEF Period

		2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
		Adjusted Budget			Adjusted Budget (Current)	Medium Term allocations/estimates		
1	Total salaries and related costs	222 701 826	220 337 038	230 303 583	234 601 593	244 681 882	279 659 769	296 233 247
14	New funding (Child Just Act and Childrens Act)				-	-		
15	New funding (case backlog top up)				-	-		
16	New funding (Court Expansion Programme)				-	-		
17	Increase in Legal capacity (civil capacity)				-	-		
18	New funding (COLI)				-	-		
2	Operating Expenditure	222 190 025	224 445 189	146 058 764	189 680 835	221 852 116	231 528 022	240 607 324
2.1	Contractual obligations	133 314 015	135 197 825	88 686 131	113 808 501	133 111 269	197 694 000	207 840 054
2.2	Non-contractual obligations	88 876 010	89 247 365	57 372 633	75 872 334	88 740 846	14 384 929	48 462 956
3	Capital Expenditure	55 886 551	37 134 916	56 966 227	86 467 825	69 405 712	50 911 066	48 504 390
3.1	Computer Hardware	10 247 642	13 655 165	13 455 396	17 478 563	11 145 721	11 743 578	13 091 581
3.2	Corporate IT	-	-		11 078 223	12 170 570	12 170 570	8 083 769
3.3	Land and Buildings	20 576 156	-	11 255 833	-			
3.4	Furniture and Equipment	774 628	2 738 896	683 491	1 249 408	-	-	
3.5	Building Improvement	1 778 612	6 409 648	1 695 351	2 509 166	2 966 896	1 009 923	1 055 168
3.6	Leasehold Improvement	2 911 782	4 501 347	4 124 581	13 325 936	4 987 282	6 253 727	6 533 894
3.7	Motor Vehicles	12 485 611	5 048 901	19 593 638	26 941 278	13 112 240	14 279 353	14 013 367
3.8	Development Funding	7 112 120	4 780 958	6 157 937	13 885 251	25 023 003	5 453 915	5 726 611
	Total Expenditure for the Balance							
4	Scorecard Component	500 778 402	481 917 143	433 328 574	510 750 253	535 939 710	562 098 857	585 344 961
5	Depreciation	27 879 850	32 849 427	31 684 908	33 793 745	33 793 745	34 438 588	34 608 286
6	Total Expenditure including Depreciation	528 658 252	514 766 570	465 013 482	544 543 998	569 733 455	596 537 445	619 953 247
	Surplus/(Deficit)	23 803 021	28 300 236	56 854 977	-	0	0	0

VIII(III) Expenditure Trends over MTEF and Strategic Plan Period

- The largest programme in this component consists of staffing costs for support employees.
- The second largest programme relate to strengthening and improving organisational competences and expertise required for delivery of quality outcomes
- The third largest programme relates to the ICT infrastructure required to support the national footprint that delivers legal services.
- All capital infrastructure is accounted for under this programme.
- With effect from 2015/2016, some sub-programmes were merged into one, resulting in fewer programmes in subsequent years of the MTEF.
- Capital expenditure for the 2017/18 financial year is higher than the subsequent years due to approved rollover funding which includes the rollover for the procurement of buildings.

3.3. Key Risks and Mitigation

Outcome	Key Risk	Risk Mitigation
<u>Outcome 1:</u> Quality client-focused legal aid in criminal matters, particularly for indigent and vulnerable persons.	Accused persons not legally represented at their trials	Court Coverage Plans
<u>Outcome 2:</u> Quality client-focused legal aid, including to indigent and vulnerable persons, in civil matters with a priority focus on land and other constitutional rights matters.	Inability to meet demand for civil legal aid services Inability to meet demand for land-related matters	Practitioner productivity monitoring programmes Build capacity to deal with legal representation in land-related matters
<u>Outcome 3:</u> Quality client-focused legal advice services.	Clients requiring legal advice unassisted Poor quality of advice services	General Advice SOP Quality Assurance Programme
<u>Outcome 4:</u> Client-focused strategic litigation services in order to give content to constitutional rights, as well as to increase access to justice for indigent and vulnerable persons.	Appropriate strategic litigation matters not identified and taken on Clients' rights not protected	Links to NGOs and CBOs to identify strategic matters Local Office civil managers assist with the identification of strategic litigation matters as part of their performance contracts
<u>Outcome 5:</u> Contribute to the effective functioning of the justice and legal sector thereby promoting the rule of law and increasing access to justice.	Inefficient functioning of justice system	Effective participation in all efficiency committees and other CJS Cluster stakeholder forums
<u>Outcome 6:</u> Account to the Executive Authority (the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services) and Parliament on delivery of mandate, governance and sustainability.	Failure to account to Ministry of Justice	Oversight by Board to ensure quarterly Performance Reports and Annual Report are finalised and submitted to the Executive Authority timeously
<u>Outcome 7:</u> Improve financial sustainability and manage the reductions to the budget.	Financial planning not aligned to Strategies Qualified audit reports from the A-G	Budget to be aligned to Strategy Implement Internal Control Framework Quality check Financial Statements Keep abreast of developments in finance reporting standards

Outcome	Key Risk	Risk Mitigation
<u>Outcome 8:</u> Maintain and enhance good governance.	Non-compliance with statutory requirements Lack of effectiveness at Board level due to poor balance, poor understanding of role and poor focus	Monthly Statutory Compliance Checklists Review of all new legislation, regulations and directives on a quarterly basis Monthly Statutory Deadlines Webpage SOPs for compliance Board structure, Charter and performance reviewed annually to ensure continuity and common understanding
<u>Outcome 9:</u> Maintain a regulatory framework that incorporates best practises and is responsive to changes in the overall environment.	Legal Aid SA Act becoming outdated and irrelevant Regulations not responsive to client and community needs Legal Aid Manual not serving business needs	Board oversight Staff consultation on required amendments Shareholder buy-in
<u>Outcome 10:</u> Sustain strong financial management, supply chain and asset management practises informed by best practise.	Non-compliance with PPPFA, PFMA and relevant NT Regulations	Implementation of Internal Control Framework including statutory compliance
<u>Outcome 11:</u> Consolidate and review the resourcing of our national footprint to ensure adequate staffing, as well as safe and secure facilities for clients and staff, within available resources.	Low levels of recruitment impact negatively on client services Insufficient funding for salaries	Organisational structure aligned to strategic objectives and retention of scarce skills
<u>Outcome 12:</u> Strengthen and continuously improve the quality and expertise for each segment of the national footprint.	Legal Aid SA failing to comply with the Skills Development Act Legal Aid SA workforce not reflecting the demographics of South Africa	Timeous development and submission of the ATP and ATR Defined employment equity targets which inform recruitment and development activities
<u>Outcome 13:</u> Enhance and maintain an integrated and service-oriented and secured Information Technology system with capacity to integrate stakeholders.	Budget constraints unable to meet WAN upgrade demand requirements Insufficient capacity Inadequate hardware to meet user demands	Monitor and review WAN utilisation and advise on need for upgrades Monitor and review System Utilisation Reports

Outcome	Key Risk	Risk Mitigation
	Outdated IT software and applications	Review and realign IT software and applications with business objectives
	Inadequate cyber security environment resulting in data and information loss	Review and update cyber security environment

3.4. Infrastructure Plan

Links to long-term infrastructure plan

No.	Project name	Programme	Outputs	Project Start Date	Completion Date	Total Estimated Cost	Current Year Expenditure	ACTUAL		Budget	Medium-term estimates			
								2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Total new and replacement assets														
1. Building improvements														
Owned Land and Buildings	Building improvements	National office						873 473	1 695 351	925 800	925 800	2 966 896	1 009 923	1 055 168
Total Building improvements								824 030	824 030	925 800	925 800	2 966 896	925 800	1 055 168
2. Leasehold improvements														
Various leased offices	Leasehold improvements	Various Offices						5 676 469	4 124 581	5 460 292	5 460 292	4 987 282	5 453 915	5 726 611
Total Leasehold improvements								5 406 161	5 406 161	5 460 292	5 460 292	4 987 282	5 460 292	5 726 611
3. Maintenance and repairs														
Owned Land and Buildings	Maintenance and repairs	Various Offices						700 082	1 370 056	939 393	1 382 286	1 330 209	1 399 666	1 472 773
Total Maintenance and repairs								638 927	646 306	939 393	1 382 286	1 330 209	1 399 666	1 472 773

4. PART D: Technical Indicator Descriptions (TID)

Client, Community, Stakeholder and Shareholder	
Indicator Title	Planned Court coverage in the District Courts, Regional Courts and High Courts
Definition	<p>Refers to the percentage of District and Regional Court days that Legal Aid SA has planned practitioner capacity to cover the various courts in order to provide legal representation.</p> <p>In the High Court, this refers to 100% of matters on the court roll that require legal aid at each division of the High Court.</p>
Source of data	Legal Aid SA Local Offices provide court coverage plans on a bi-annual basis and produce staff deployment plans on a monthly basis.
Method of calculation/assessment	<p>A webpage has been created to collect the information from our Local Offices for the lower courts and this data is analysed. The percentage that a court is covered is determined by the number of days that our practitioners cover the courts divided by the total number of days that the court sits in a typical month.</p> <p>For High Courts, information is obtained directly from our system, noting that clients who require legal aid have to complete an application form which is recorded on our system.</p>
Assumptions	Accurate information provided/recorded on court coverage plans and staff deployment plans.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: dependent on request for services. • Target for youth: dependent on request for services. • Target for people with disabilities: dependent on request for services.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution to spatial transformation priorities: N/A. • Spatial impact area: All criminal court seats in the country serviced by Legal Aid SA employees.
Calculation type	Non-cumulative
Reporting cycle	<p>Lower court coverage calculation is completed bi-annually and reported quarterly.</p> <p>High Court reporting is done quarterly.</p>
Desired performance	Higher coverage is preferred.
Indicator responsibility	NOE
Indicator Title	Number of clients assisted in civil matters
Definition	Refers to the number of civil matters in which Legal Aid SA provides legal representation.
Source of data	All internal and Judicare instructions for civil legal aid are captured on the Legal Aid SA legal aid administration system. Co-operation Agreement statistics are provided by Co-operation Partners in quarterly reports to Provincial Offices.
Method of calculation/assessment	<p>Target:</p> <p>Internal practitioners – The target for new matters is set by calculating the number of new matters each category of civil practitioners is required to undertake in a year, multiplied by an anticipated recruitment rate of 95% for the financial year (Recruitment rate).</p>

	<p>This is then set at 90% of the calculated number to determine the new matter target for the year for internal practitioners.</p> <p>Judicare – The Judicare target is calculated at 10% of the actual total new Judicare matters for the previous FY.</p> <p>Existing Co-operation Agreement Partners – The new matter target per partner is determined as follows: 1. Calculating the average number of cases finalised by each co-operation partner in the preceding 3 financial years (excluding any terminated agreements) and adjusting the average number of new matters over the 3 FY's by the % increase or decrease in new matters over the 3 Financial Periods.</p> <p>New Co-operation Agreement Partners – The matter target for a new partner is determined as follows: 2. Only in the event that a new Co-Operation service provider is appointed, then the approved Co-Operation Agreement Budget for a new partner is divided by the cost per case achieved by an existing partner, undertaking similar legal work, in the FY preceding the year in which the new agreement is implemented.</p> <p>Actual: The number of civil matters for both internal practitioners and Judicare is calculated from the eLAA data that is collected in all legal aid instructions captured on the system. The actual number of new civil matters for Co-operation Partners is determined from the data that is submitted by the partners to the Provincial Offices as per the requirements.</p>
Assumptions	Functional administration system and accurate statistics from Co-operation Agreement Partners.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	Disaggregated data will be made available for women, children and youth.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	Civil legal services are made available within the magisterial districts covered by each Local Office.
Calculation type	Cumulative (Year to Date)
Reporting cycle	Quarterly
Desired performance	Actual performance that is higher than targeted performance is desirable.
Indicator responsibility	CLE
Indicator Title	Number of clients assisted in land matters
Definition	Refers to the number of land matters in which Legal Aid SA provides legal representation and advice.
Source of data	Judicare and internal instructions for land matters to be captured on the Legal Aid SA legal administration system.
Method of calculation/	Referrals for legal representation in land matters received through the DALRRD and Commission on Restitution of Land Rights.

assessment	Some (740) matters transferred to Legal Aid SA by the Land Rights Management Facility (of the DALRRD) at the beginning of Q4: 2021/22.
Assumptions	Functional administration system and accurate statistics from Judicare practitioners.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	Disaggregated data will be made available for women, children and youth.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	Civil legal services in land matters are made available within the magisterial districts covered by each Local Office.
Calculation type	Cumulative (Year to Date)
Reporting cycle	Quarterly
Desired performance	Actual performance that is higher than targeted performance is desirable.
Indicator responsibility	LE: LRM
Indicator Title	Number of clients assisted with general legal advice
Definition	Refers to the number of consultations in which Legal Aid SA provided legal advice.
Source of data	Our paralegals and staff providing legal advice capture the client details and advice details on the walk-in client webpage and the Call Centre staff capture the client and advice details on the Thetha Nathi webpage. Advice provided by Remand Detainee paralegals is captured on the Remand Detainee webpage.
Method of calculation/ assessment	<p>Target:</p> <p>The target for advice matters is set at the same number of advice matters as achieved in the previous financial year. The target is not adjusted from the previous financial year as the target is dependent on demand and the available capacity.</p> <p>Actual:</p> <p>The number of advice matters is calculated from the legal advice services data that has been recorded on the walk-in client, Remand Detainee and Thetha Nathi webpages.</p>
Assumptions	Functional administration system (webpages).
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	Civil advice services are made available at all 128 offices as well as identified outreach sites in rural areas serviced by Satellite Offices.
Calculation type	Cumulative (Year to Date)
Reporting cycle	Quarterly
Desired performance	Actual performance that is higher than targeted performance is desirable.

Indicator responsibility	CLE
Indicator Title	Number of new strategic litigation matters approved Success rate for strategic litigation matters
Definition	Refers to the number of matters in which legal representation is provided where the impact is far-reaching and not always focused on an individual client.
Source of data	The Impact Litigation Unit maintains schedules of matters that are assessed, approved by the Constitutional Case Management Committee (CCMC), finalised and handled by the Unit.
Method of calculation/ assessment	<p>The matters that are funded/taken on are approved by the CCMC with a set budget for each matter approved. The number of matters that can be funded/taken on by the Unit must be done within the budget that is made available annually. The success rate is set at 90% of matters with outcomes. The CCMC determines the required outcome which may not always be that the case should be won, but could be to ensure clarity of the law or equality of arms. Where a matter does not have an outcome, it will not be included in the denominator and remunerator to determine the success rate. This would be where the client/s cannot be found and do not give instructions so that a matter can be taken to an outcome stage.</p> <p>The number of matters assessed, approved and finalised are calculated manually by the Unit, including the available budget after deducting the amounts approved by the CCMC for new matters.</p>
Assumptions	Accurate statistics for strategic litigation matters.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	N/A
Calculation type	Cumulative (Year to Date)
Reporting cycle	Quarterly
Desired performance	Actual performance that is higher than targeted performance is desirable.
Indicator responsibility	CLE
Indicator Title	Participation in relevant structures aimed at improving the functioning of the justice system and courts
Definition	The attendance of Legal Aid SA representatives at identified structures that are aimed at improving the functioning of the justice system.
Source of data	Minutes of meetings of all committees.
Method of calculation/	Minutes of meetings are provided by relevant secretariats.

assessment	
Assumptions	Minutes of meetings recorded and distributed.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	N/A
Calculation type	Cumulative
Reporting cycle	Depends on the sittings of the structure concerned.
Desired performance	Attendance at all meetings of the different structures by Legal Aid SA representatives.
Indicator responsibility	NOE
Indicator Title	4 Quarterly Reports and 1 Annual Report submitted timeously to the Executive Authority
Definition	Quarterly and Annual Reports.
Source of data	Individual and team work performance from legal and support staff in respect of deliverables in our APP and which are recorded on the eLAA system, SYSPRO, SAP or any other monitoring system including webpages.
Method of calculation/ assessment	The eLAA, SAP and SYSPRO systems used as sources of data for production and actual performance. Each APP indicator is calculated in accordance with its own methodology in order to produce the required information.
Assumptions	Accurate information recorded/collected for compilation of Quarterly Reports and Annual Report.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	N/A
Calculation type	Cumulative (Year-end)
Reporting cycle	Quarterly reports submitted within 30 days after end of a quarter. Annual Report submitted within five months after the end of the financial year.
Desired performance	100% compliance.
Indicator responsibility	BS, All Executives
Finance and Sustainability	
Indicator Title	Balanced budget (as per government grant allocation)

Definition	The approved budget is within the available resource allocation.
Source of data	Historical expenditure and National Treasury allocation letter.
Method of calculation/ assessment	The total budgeted expenditure excluding depreciation is compared to the grant allocation and projected interest.
Assumptions	Availability of historical expenditure; allocation letter received from National Treasury.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	Budget is prepared per Local Office which includes Legal Aid SA's 64 Local Offices across the national footprint.
Calculation type	Cumulative (Year-end)
Reporting cycle	Annually
Desired performance	Balanced and approved MTEF 2023/24 – 2025/26 and Budget 2023/24.
Indicator responsibility	CFO
Indicator Title	Financial reporting that is compliant with relevant standards and regulations
Definition	Prepare monthly finance MIS and Quarterly Financial Statements.
Source of data	Financial reporting system.
Method of calculation/ assessment	Approved budgets compared to actual expenditure.
Assumptions	Operational financial reporting system; accurate data.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	N/A
Calculation type	Cumulative (Year-end)
Reporting cycle	Quarterly
Desired performance	Financial reporting compliant with relevant standards and regulations, resulting in optimum financial maturity.
Indicator responsibility	CFO
Indicator Title	Statutory compliance (including Legal Aid South Africa Act, 2014 and PFMA)

Definition	Statutory compliance reporting.
Source of data	Compliance with reporting or payments in line with statutory requirements.
Method of calculation/assessment	Relevant reports serve as proof of compliance.
Assumptions	Accurate information provided and timeously collated.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	N/A
Calculation type	Cumulative (Year to date)
Reporting cycle	Reporting cycle compliant to relevant report.
Desired performance	100% compliance.
Indicator responsibility	All Executives
Indicator Title	Annual Audit Coverage Plan executed/delivered
Definition	Audit Coverage Plan (ACP).
Source of data	Legal Aid SA's files and records in business units or from IT system, eLAA, SAP or SYSPRO systems.
Method of calculation/assessment	Delivery against ACP compiled manually with audit reports as proof of delivery; Combined Assurance Report.
Assumptions	Accurate information recorded and provided.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	N/A
Calculation type	Cumulative (Year-end)
Reporting cycle	Quarterly auditing report on work done.
Desired performance	≥95% of Audit Coverage Plan delivered.
Indicator responsibility	IAE
Indicator Title	Properly constituted Board and Board Committees skilled to function effectively
Definition	Board of Legal Aid SA.

Source of data	Attendance registers and decisions made by the Board.
Method of calculation/assessment	Minutes of the Board meetings; attendance registers; Board Succession Plan; Board Evaluation Report.
Assumptions	Consistent quorate Board meetings and accurate Board records.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A. Board composition: 14 members of which 4 are women.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	N/A
Calculation type	Non-cumulative
Reporting cycle	Quarterly meetings.
Desired performance	Board Charters and Board Committee Charters; Board properly constituted at all times, appointments and re-appointments made timeously.
Indicator responsibility	Board of Directors; BS
Internal Business Processes	
Indicator Title	Legal Aid South Africa Act No. 39 of 2014 reviewed once every two years or as and when required
Definition	The Legal Aid SA Act sets the governance framework for the functioning of Legal Aid SA.
Source of data	Legislation and Board meeting minutes.
Method of calculation/assessment	Verification of promulgation and implementation by the Board.
Assumptions	Legislation requires amendment, accurate Board records and Executive Authority/Parliament in agreement with proposed amendments.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	N/A
Calculation type	Cumulative (Year to Date)
Reporting cycle	Quarterly
Desired performance	All Board meetings held and quorate; Legal Aid SA founding legislation kept up to date to meet business needs.
Indicator responsibility	CLE, BS

Indicator Title	Legal Aid Regulations (Policy) reviewed at least once every two years or as and when required
Definition	The Legal Aid Regulations set out the policy relating to qualification criteria for legal aid and the types of matters in which legal aid is available.
Source of data	Government Gazette.
Method of calculation/ assessment	Verification of promulgation of the Regulations in the Government Gazette.
Assumptions	Regulations require amendment and Executive Authority/Parliament in agreement with the proposed amendments.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	N/A
Calculation type	Cumulative (Year to Date)
Reporting cycle	Quarterly
Desired performance	The Legal Aid Regulations reviewed and updated as required to meet business needs.
Indicator responsibility	CLE
Indicator Title	Legal Aid Manual (Procedures) reviewed annually or as and when required
Definition	The Legal Aid Manual sets out the procedures and systems for the administration of legal aid.
Source of data	Government Gazette.
Method of calculation/ assessment	Verification of promulgation of the updated Manual in the Government Gazette.
Assumptions	Manual requires amendment and Executive Authority in agreement with proposed amendments.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	N/A
Calculation type	Cumulative (Year to Date)
Reporting cycle	Quarterly
Desired performance	The Legal Aid Manual reviewed and updated as required.

Indicator responsibility	CLE
Indicator Title	Compliance with PPPFA, PFMA and relevant NT Regulations when acquiring goods and services
Definition	Implement Supply Chain Management Policy and ensure 100% compliance with relevant SCM prescripts.
Source of data	Expenditure reports, BAC minutes, deviation reports.
Method of calculation/ assessment	Measured against the number of SCM-relevant regulations.
Assumptions	Accurate reports and BAC meeting minutes.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: dependent on PPPFA and B-BBEE. • Target for youth: dependent on B-BBEE rating. • Target for people with disabilities: B-BBEE rating.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	Fostering localised procurement of goods and services which promotes resilient supply chain management for the economic and social development of local communities in the proximity of our Local Offices.
Calculation type	Cumulative (Year to Date)
Reporting cycle	Quarterly
Desired performance	100% compliance with PPPFA, PFMA and relevant NT Regulations when acquiring goods and services.
Indicator responsibility	CFO
Employee and Organisational Capacity and Innovation and Learning	
Indicator Title	Staffing plans
Definition	Staff plans and workforce plans.
Source of data	Recruitment records and staffing plans collected monthly on SAP.
Method of calculation/ assessment	Work demand levels for legal practitioners given recruited staff per skill area; ratio allocations of workload per practitioner; ratio of support staff to legal personnel; managerial posts per size of LO; department organisational structure within defined scope of responsibility .
Assumptions	Accurate information from SAP system.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: 45.2%. • Target for youth: 20% (85% of CAs under the age of 35). • Target for people with disabilities: 2%.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	Staff plans aligned to EE targets across the national footprint.
Calculation type	Cumulative (Year to Date)
Reporting cycle	Quarterly reporting on staff recruitment level.

Desired performance	≥95% staff recruitment level.
Indicator responsibility	NOE, CLE, COO
Indicator Title	Submission of the Annual Training Plan and Annual Training Report in compliance with the Skills Development Act
Definition	Skills plan.
Source of data	Individual development plans for employees.
Method of calculation/ assessment	Staff records on academic qualifications, training and development.
Assumptions	Individual development plans in place.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: 45.2%. • Target for youth: 20% (85% of CAs under the age of 35). • Target for people with disabilities: 2%.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	Annual Training Reports produce dispersed number of staff per business unit and Local Office along the targets of the Annual Training Plan.
Calculation type	Cumulative (Year to Date)
Reporting cycle	Quarterly and annually.
Desired performance	As per Annual Training Plan.
Indicator responsibility	COO, NOE, HRE
Indicator Title	Employment Equity targets defined as per Employment Equity Plan
Definition	EE Plan.
Source of data	Staff recruitment statistics.
Method of calculation/ assessment	SAP records.
Assumptions	Accurate statistics.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: 45.2%. • Target for youth: 20% (85% of CAs under the age of 35). • Target for people with disabilities: 2%.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	Fostering a balance in reaching EE targets per business unit and Local Office.
Calculation type	Cumulative (Year to Date)
Reporting cycle	Quarterly and annual EE statistics.
Desired performance	As per EE Plan.

Indicator responsibility	COO, HRE
Indicator Title	Stable and reliable Wide Area Network (WAN) and Virtual Private Network (VPN)
Definition	IT WAN maintenance.
Source of data	IT self-monitoring systems.
Method of calculation/ assessment	Data/information on system performance extracted from IT system.
Assumptions	IT self-monitoring systems operational.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	Wide Area Network (WAN) and Virtual Private Network (VPN) allows efficiency of coordinating business activities across the dispersed locations of Legal Aid SA's offices.
Calculation type	Non-cumulative
Reporting cycle	Quarterly MIS reports.
Desired performance	VPN connected and availability ≥95%.
Indicator responsibility	COO, ISE
Indicator Title	Stable hardware platform
Definition	IT hardware maintenance.
Source of data	IT self-monitoring systems.
Method of calculation/ assessment	Data/information on system performance extracted from IT system.
Assumptions	IT self-monitoring systems operational.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	N/A
Calculation type	Non-cumulative
Reporting cycle	Quarterly MIS reports.
Desired performance	≥99% availability of hardware.
Indicator responsibility	COO, ISE

Indicator Title	IT software and applications maintained and upgraded
Definition	IT platform maintenance.
Source of data	IT self-monitoring systems.
Method of calculation/ assessment	Data/information on system performance extracted from IT system.
Assumptions	IT self-monitoring systems operational.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	Employ software capable of the use of cloud service technology to enable safe storage and processing of spatial data, and to analyse business data sets from any area of our business locations.
Calculation type	Non-cumulative
Reporting cycle	Quarterly MIS reports.
Desired performance	≥95% availability of network and ≥99% availability of software and hardware.
Indicator responsibility	COO, ISE
Indicator Title	Organisational cyber security operational metrics developed and maintained
Definition	The Legal Aid SA Cyber Security Governance Framework sets out the procedures and systems for the development and maintenance of cyber security operational metrics.
Source of data	Multiple data sources from business activities, including physical security, access to classified assets, supplier service delivery management and configuration capacity of key IT infrastructure.
Method of calculation/ assessment	Organisational data collected and benchmarked against best practise to arrive at a metric value that matches Legal Aid SA's risk appetite.
Assumptions	Cyber security metrics based on the Key Risk Indicators which are reviewed periodically, and identified risks mitigated timeously.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	Appropriate business activity related to cyber security measures at National Office, Provincial and Local Offices across the national footprint are accounted for in the cyber security reports.
Calculation type	Non-cumulative
Reporting cycle	Quarterly MIS reports.
Desired performance	≥90% of the cyber security control measures are effective in detecting and protecting Legal Aid SA's cyber security environment.

Indicator responsibility	COO, ISE

Annexure to the Strategic Plan

Annexure A: District Development Model

Areas of Intervention	Medium Term (3 years – MTEF)				
	Project description	District Municipality	Location: GPS coordinates	Project leader	Social partners
Legal Services and Access to Justice	<p>Provision of criminal, civil legal representation and legal advice services.</p> <p>Legal aid services are provided in accordance with the Legal Aid South Africa Act No. 39 of 2014, the Legal Aid Regulations (policy regarding the administration of legal aid) and Manual (procedures on the administration of legal aid).</p>	Municipalities that LOs/SOs are located in.	64 LOs 64 SOs	NOE/ CLE	Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster Stakeholders; NGOs; CBOs; Private Practitioners (Judicare); Legal Profession

ANNEXURE:

**LEGAL AID SA
STRATEGIC
PLAN 2020-2025
REVIEW 2023-
2024**

LEGAL AID SA

STRATEGIC PLAN

(incorporating Sustainability)

2020-2025

Review 2023-2024



Submitted as an Annexure to the Legal Aid South Africa Annual Performance Plan 2023-2024

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Foreword

The Legal Aid SA Strategic Plan (SP) 2020-2025 has been prepared by the Board (Accounting Authority) and Management of Legal Aid South Africa (Legal Aid SA) taking into account the external and internal environment within which the organisation operates, the performance of the organisation as at 2019/2020, the applicable statutory mandates, the relevant sections of the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030, the Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF 2019-2024) priorities as well as the strategic risks identified.

The relevant priorities in the NDP that have been included in this Strategic Plan 2020-2025 include those from Chapter 12, focusing on “Building safer communities” which spell out priorities to focus on to achieve a crime-free South Africa. There is alignment between the NDP and the Seven-point Plan resulting from the Criminal Justice System (CJS) Review. It is recommended that all departments in the Justice Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster align their Strategic Plans with the Seven-point Plan. Cabinet also approved an Integrated Criminal Justice Strategy and Framework (ICJS) in 2017 as a mechanism to build on the Seven-point Plan and to ensure that a transformed, efficient, effective, victim-friendly, modernised and integrated CJS is achieved, leading to improved service delivery, improved quality of life and safety for all through interventions in an integrated approach across the CJS value chain. The implementation of the ICJS, inclusive of the CJS Seven-point Plan has been included in the SP.

Further sections of the NDP which are relevant to the delivery of legal aid have also been included in the SP. The applicability of Sustainable Development Goal 16 has been taken into account.

The economic challenges faced by the country as a result of low economic growth means that government is operating within serious financial constraints and this has impacted on Legal Aid SA. Financial sustainability has been impacted by i) the non-availability of new funding; ii) budget shortfall from the grant allocation (arising from the difference between the National Treasury (NT) macro increase and the Public Service Co-ordinating Bargaining Council (PSCBC) wage settlement and the PPI payments each year) and iii) budget cuts. The NT issued policy considerations and Guidelines for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) of 2020/21 to 2022/23 stating the critical importance for any institution to balance its budget for the MTEF period starting in the 2020/21 Financial Year (FY) and the possibility of continued budget cuts over the next period. Legal Aid SA had two budget cuts in the 2020-2021 financial year, totalling R127 million.

The 2021 MTEF Guidelines specified that there are no additional resources available as a result of the deteriorating macro-fiscal outlook and the aim of the 2021 MTEF Budget is fiscal consolidation for the purpose of stabilising public debt.

The MTEF 2021/22 to 2023/24 preliminary allocation letter received on 8 December 2020 indicated that there will be budget baseline reductions totalling R534 million over the MTEF period. Legal Aid SA is expected to reduce compensation to employees by R225,768,000 and goods and services expenditure by R308,902,000, over the MTEF period. The implementation of these baseline reductions will negatively impact on Legal Aid South Africa's ability to meet its constitutional mandate as there will be staff retrenchments and a consequent reduction in the delivery of legal aid services and coverage of courts. The 2022 MTEF Guidelines specify that there are no additional resources available as the macro economic environment remains constrained and fiscal consolidation will remain for the first two years of the MTEF 2022/23 and 2023/24. Whilst there have been efforts to reduce spending by reducing baselines across the board it is acknowledged that if this continued there could be a negative impact on service delivery. Government will use spending reviews and Zero-Based Budgeting as critical tools to enable government to make better decisions about resource allocation.¹ The 2022 MTEF Allocations letter dated 29 November 2021 confirmed a preliminary allocation for 2022/23 of R2,094,147,000 which includes R11,165,000 for the appointment of Specialised Commercial Crimes Court practitioners. The 2023 MTEF Allocations letter dated 23 November 2022 confirmed a preliminary allocation for 2023/24 of R2,189,449 including R76,625,000 for 2023/24 for the function shift (Transfer of function from Vote 29: Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development). Amounts of R76.6 million in 2023/24, R80.1 million in 2024/25 and R83.7 million in 2025/26 have included in the MTEF allocation to accommodate the migration of the Land Rights Management Facility legal representation functions from Vote 29: Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development to Legal Aid South Africa. This Strategic Plan is developed for this context of financial constraints including budget cuts which will impact the service delivery offering to clients as well as the Employee Value Proposition (EVP) which mediates the engagement and relationship between the employer and employees.

Other major environmental factors impacting the next period are the advances in technology and what is now termed the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). All of these financial, technological and political changes will require an organisation that is agile and able to adapt to changing contexts while delivering the core mandate of the organisation which is the delivery of legal aid services to indigent and vulnerable persons in South Africa.

The Legal Aid SA Strategic Plan 2020-2025 has been prepared in compliance with the Revised Framework for Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans issued by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation. This is as per National Treasury Instruction No. 10 of 2020/2021, effective from 15 August 2020.

¹ Medium Term Expenditure Framework Technical Guidelines 2022

On 15 March 2020, the President of the Republic of South Africa declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national disaster in terms of section 27(1) of the Disaster Management Act (DMA), 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002). This then resulted in a countrywide lockdown except for essential services, with effect from 27 March 2020. The Legal Aid SA offices closed on 27 March 2020 and subsequently re-opened on 6 May 2020. A number of Regulations and Directives issued by government departments relating to COVID-19 impacted on Legal Aid SA operations, which were then adapted accordingly to minimise the spread of the virus and protect staff and clients. A COVID-19 Steering Committee comprising of management and representatives of the two recognised labour unions was set up in March to co-ordinate the Legal Aid SA response strategy to the pandemic. Risks affecting Legal Aid SA related to COVID-19 and the response or measures thereto to prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 were identified and managed. The financial impact on the approved budget for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 budget was analysed. An estimation of expenditure for 2020/21 was quantified as well as the source of financing thereof. Expenditure has been funded from savings raised from the current budget. Legal Aid SA continued to manage its response to the COVID-19 pandemic with the COVID-19 Steering Committee holding weekly meetings to mitigate risks posed by the pandemic, recommend work-related operational requirements and respond to concerns raised by staff.

Given the tabling of the Land Court Bill in Parliament in May 2021 and the role of Legal Aid SA in providing legal representation to litigants in land related matters, the entity worked with the Task Team on the transfer of the Land Rights Management Facility (including the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Department of Agriculture Land Reform and Rural Development and the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights) and has taken over this function from 01 January 2022.

Other issues that have impacted on Legal Aid SA include the loss of our Bulwer Satellite Office which was burnt down in July 2021 during the unrest in KwaZulu-Natal and the procurement of office accommodation which poses various challenges including contributing significantly to the irregular expenditure incurred.

The total reduction in budget allocation since 2015/16 is R449 million. Given that 80% of the budget is spent on employee costs and legal practitioners make up 77% of the total staff complement, service delivery has been negatively impacted. The total cut over the MTEF 2021/22 – 2023/24 period is R534,670 million (compensation to employees R225,768,000; goods and services R308,902,000). The continued budget cuts are not sustainable and will affect the ability of the organisation to fulfil its constitutional mandate, given that there will be a reduction in court coverage and delivery of legal aid services to indigent and vulnerable persons. This means that Legal Aid SA will execute our mandate under severe financial pressure and must continue its prudent financial management.

Executive Authority Statement

It is my pleasure to present this Legal Aid South Africa five-year Strategic Plan 2020-2025 prepared by the Board and Management. Legal Aid SA is an autonomous statutory body created to deliver legal aid in South Africa. Given the social and economic inequalities as a result of our sordid history, the intervention by the State through Legal Aid SA is imperative.

Legal Aid SA is a testament of our democratic era's commitment to access to justice for all. Our system of legal aid underpinned by our constitutional values has proved itself to be amongst the best in the world.

No doubt the current economic challenges as well as COVID-19 faced by both South Africa and the global community will have an impact on some of the strategic objectives Legal Aid SA has set out. These challenges, though not insurmountable, will fundamentally transform the landscape of our legal system and the manner in which Legal Aid SA conducts its business.

The Strategic Plan will guide the Legal Aid SA mandate to assist millions of indigent South Africans to access justice regardless of their socio-economic status. This Strategic Plan has also factored in the new responsibility that arises as a result of the government's policy direction on land justice. This inevitably increases the scope of work for Legal Aid SA. The Land Court Bill, once approved by Parliament into an Act, will transform the current Land Claims Court dispensation and result in significant changes in the resolution of land disputes. The Land Court Bill seeks to extend legal aid representation to a party involved in matters concerning land reform at State expense if such party cannot afford legal representation. Legal Aid SA will therefore be resourced to provide critical support to enable access to justice in land matters.

Consequently, Legal Aid SA took over the legal representation function (and related budget) currently undertaken by the Land Rights Management Facility of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development from 01 January 2022. This development fundamentally places Legal Aid SA at the centre of efforts towards land justice in South Africa.

I am very proud of Legal Aid SA's successes. It has evolved into a high performing organisation, which has delivered more than 90% of its Business Plans annually, received 21 consecutive unqualified audits since 2002/03 and has been accredited as a Top Employer for the past 13 years, and Leader of the Public Sector category for six years.

Legal Aid SA continues to champion the rights of all persons to access justice through the provision of independent, accessible and quality legal aid services in criminal and civil matters. Between 2020 and 2022 Legal Aid SA assisted over 650,000 new matters of which 87% are criminal matters and 13% are civil matters.

The provision of legal advice, in order to empower communities on their legal rights and responsibilities, benefits more than 300,000 people annually via its national footprint of 64 Local and 64 Satellite Offices; the Legal Aid Toll-free Advice Line and consultations with remand detainees.

Notwithstanding the challenges associated with budget cuts and shortfalls, Legal Aid SA has sustained its service efforts of advancing constitutionalism and the rule of law within the Integrated Criminal Justice System. The organisation is part of dedicated forums that promote dialogue and representations on access to justice through collaborations and partnerships to advance the legal interests of vulnerable groups in societies.

It is with great pleasure that I present the Legal Aid SA Strategic Plan (SP) 2020-2025. The outcomes in this Strategic Plan are congruent with government's priorities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Lamola', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Ronald Lamola, (MP)

Minister of Justice and Correctional Services

Accounting Authority Statement

During the previous Strategic Plan period, 2015-2020, the Board remained fully constituted, has been effective in upholding its responsibilities and continued to provide leadership and guidance in its oversight of the performance of Legal Aid SA. Presentations made annually to the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services resulted in commendation for the organisation's excellent performance. In order to assist so many indigent and vulnerable people to access justice and protect their human rights, Legal Aid SA has had strong and efficient financial management, governance and human resources systems in place.

As the Accounting Authority, the role of the Board is to provide strategic direction and ensure fulfilment of Legal Aid SA's mandate. In so doing the Board approves a Strategic Plan (SP) which sets out the vision, mission and strategic objectives of the organisation. The vision for the 2020-2025 period is *"A dynamic South Africa in which constitutional rights are realised to ensure a just society for all"* and the mission is *"To remain a leader in the provision of equal access to justice to indigent and vulnerable persons by rendering quality legal services."*

The Board of Legal Aid SA adopted a stakeholder-inclusive approach in the development of this SP 2020-2025. We discussed and approved the methodology for the Legal Aid SA SP 2020-2025 and were involved in the development of the SP through workshops with Management and participation in stakeholder forums. The Legal Aid SA SP 2020-2025 has been crafted taking into account the government priorities as stated in the NDP 2030 and the MTSF 2019-2024, the mandate of the organisation and the available resources. In addition, Legal Aid SA has participated in the Land Court Bill legislative process and through the newly formed Land Rights Management Unit ensures implementation of its extended mandate to enable indigent litigants access to legal representation in land-related matters.

The Board will monitor the implementation of the SP and report on this through Quarterly Performance Reports and Annual Reports, in compliance with statutory requirements.

The Board will continue to exercise its oversight role to ensure that Legal Aid SA maintains high levels of service excellence in delivering on its mandate, enabling access to justice to uphold the rights enshrined in our Constitution, as well as ensure the sustainability of the organisation.



Judge Motsamai Makume

Board (Accounting Authority) Chairperson

Accounting Officer Statement

Legal Aid South Africa is a Schedule 3A National Public Entity. The mandate and objects of Legal Aid SA are succinctly described and detailed in the preamble to the Legal Aid SA Act (39 of 2014), in the following terms:

“To ensure access to justice and the realisation of the right of a person to have legal representation as envisaged in the Constitution and to render or make legal aid and legal advice available; for that purpose, to establish an entity called Legal Aid South Africa with a Board of Directors and to define its objects, powers, functions, duties and composition; to provide for the independence and impartiality of Legal Aid South Africa; ...”

The Strategic Plan (SP) sets the direction for the organisation, our policy priorities, impact statement, objectives and outcomes for a five-year period, as approved by the Board and the Executive Authority, within the scope of available resources. The implementation of the SP is aimed at fulfilling the constitutional mandate to deliver quality legal aid and legal advice services to indigent and vulnerable persons as well as building a sustainable organisation.

During the previous strategic planning period, 2015-2020, the overall focus was on increasing organisational maturity, sustaining high performance and excellence in all segments of the organisation and positively touching the lives of many more South Africans to ensure the outcome of quality justice for all.

Guided by our vision, mission and values, Legal Aid SA succeeded in delivering on its constitutional mandate in the period 2020- 2022. We have successfully increased the maturity level of each segment of the organisation and measured our performance against this.

In financial year 2020-2021, the first year of implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025, the COVID-19 pandemic had an adverse effect on legal service delivery and court coverage, intake of new matters and finalisation of matters was lower than initially planned. In 2021-2022, the second year of implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025, Legal Aid SA managed to increase the number of indigent and vulnerable people assisted with legal representation and advice compared the first year of implementation. A total of 860,382 persons were provided with legal representation and advice in the first two years of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025. A total number of 29 new Impact Litigation matters were approved during the four-year period, with the outcome of these matters having had a positive impact beyond just for those people involved in the litigation, as the cases litigated focus on the protection of constitutional rights. The organisation met more than 90% of the set targets in the Business Plans in 2020-2022 and 84% in 2021-2022.

The national footprint has remained unchanged at 64 Legal Aid SA Local Offices and 64 Satellite Offices, supported by six Provincial Offices as well as the National Office. Limited staff resources were supplemented by the use of a mixed model delivery system, which entails entering into strategic partnerships with practitioners in private practice through our Judicare and Agency Agreement model, as well as with legal sector NGOs and University Law Clinics through Co-operation Agreements.

Despite unfavourable economic circumstances and having to manage budget cuts and shortfalls, the organisation followed good governance by utilising 95% of its allocated budget of R2,022 billion in the 2021-2022 FY and received its 21st unqualified audit and 14th clean audit.

In the 2021-2022 financial year Legal Aid SA was named a Top Employer in South Africa for the 13th year, as well as Industry Leader in the Public Sector for the sixth year. Recruitment levels were over 90% and the percentage of legal staff including paralegals averaged 77%. The staff turnover rate (excluding contract staff) has remained at less than 6%.

Legal Aid SA's new IT legal administration application, electronic Legal Aid Administration 2016 (eLAA) went live in October 2019. The system has been continuously enhanced and upgraded to meet business needs.

The focus during this strategic planning period is on ensuring equal access to justice for all to build a just society. This will be done through achieving long-term organisational development, improving maturity levels and outcomes, and delivering sustainable high performance.

This will include improving the alignment of demand to supply of criminal legal aid services and implementing alternative delivery models for improved efficiency. In civil legal aid, greater focus will be given to constitutional priorities such as land and social issues and improving the sustainability of the civil legal aid offering to clients.

Particular focus will be given to land-related matters post the transfer of the legal representation component of the Land Rights Management Facility (LRMF) from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD) to Legal Aid SA, effected on 01 January 2022. The Legal Aid SA Land Rights Management Unit (LRMU) received 740 files with a contingent liability of R144,686,671 from the DALRRD. Funding over the four-year period 2022/23 to 2025/26 has been confirmed by the National Treasury as funding to be transferred to Legal Aid SA.

To ensure a seamless handover the LRMF Panel of Attorneys were allowed to proceed with the matters provided they were accredited on the Legal Aid SA Judicare System and compliant with National Treasury CSD requirements. To date 185 Legal Practitioners across the 9 Provinces are accredited on the Judicare System to provide legal representation in land related matters.

Legal Aid South Africa is currently building internal legal delivery capacity and infrastructure to handle the land related matters in-house. We have opted for a decentralised service delivery model per Province and Region to localise and improve accessibility of the legal aid services in land matters.

Attention will also be given to the legal empowerment of clients through enhancing client engagement in the conduct of their matters. Legal Aid SA will continue to play a role in improving the efficiency and accessibility of the justice system in order to positively impact on public confidence in the justice system.

A focus on strengthening financial management and maintaining clean audit outcomes as well as implementing best practises and Codes on Governance will contribute to the sustainability of the organisation. The organisation will review the Legal Aid SA Act, Regulations and Manual so that the regulatory framework remains responsive to the context in which we operate.

The organisational culture will be strengthened and the Employment Value Proposition will be repositioned to maintain a values-based, high performance, agile workplace. Legal Aid SA will embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution in order to optimise the impact of advancements in technology on the business.

Legal Aid SA is committed to the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 which focuses on the realisation of the mandate in an effective and efficient manner.

I look forward to the continued support of the Board and Executive Authority as well as staff and stakeholders in the implementation of the Legal Aid SA Strategic Plan 2020-2025 as we work together to protect and defend the rights of indigent and vulnerable persons.



Ms Mantiti Kola

Chief Executive Officer (Accounting Officer): Legal Aid South Africa

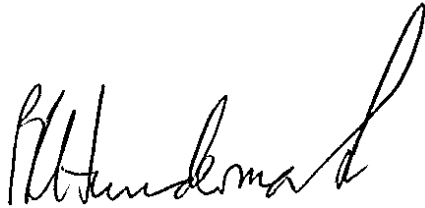
Official Sign-off

It is hereby certified that this Strategic Plan Review 2023-2024:

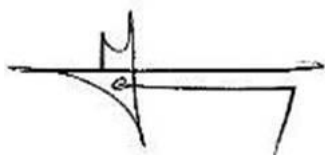
- i. Was developed and compiled by the Office of the CEO together with the Management of Legal Aid South Africa under the guidance of the Board (Accounting Authority).
- ii. Was deliberated on and approved by the Board (Accounting Authority) at the Board Meeting held on 26 November 2022.
- iii. Takes into account all the relevant legislation, policies and other mandates for which Legal Aid SA is responsible.
- iv. Accurately reflects the impact and outcomes that Legal Aid SA will endeavour to achieve over the period 2020-2025, given the resources made available in the MTEF for 2023-2026.



Ms Mpho Kgabi: Acting National Operations Executive



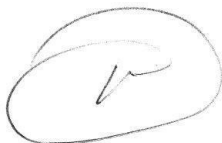
Mr Patrick Hundermark: Chief Legal Executive



Mr Sethopo Mamotheti: Chief Operations Officer



Ms Tintswalo Mofokeng: Chief Financial Officer



Mr Thabiso Mbhense: Legal Executive: Land Rights Management



Ms Mantiti Kola: Chief Executive Officer (Accounting Officer)

Approved by:



Judge Motsamai Makume: Board (Accounting Authority) Chairperson



Mr Ronald Lamola, (MP)

Minister of Justice and Correctional Services

Executive Authority

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

4IR	Fourth Industrial Revolution
A-G	Auditor-General
AVR	Audio Visual Remand
BP	Business Plan
CAs	Candidate Attorneys
CAO	Community Advice Office/s
CJS	Criminal Justice System
CPI	Consumer Price Index
DoJ&CD	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
EVP	Employee Value Proposition
FY	Financial Year
GRAP	Generally Recognised Accounting Practice
ICJS	Integrated Criminal Justice Strategy and Framework
IJS	Integrated Justice System
IT	Information Technology
JCPS Cluster	Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster
MTSF	Medium Term Strategic Framework
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NT	National Treasury
PAIA	Promotion of Access to Information Act
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
PPI	Performance Progression Increase
PSCBC	Public Service Co-ordinating Bargaining Council
SAPS	South African Police Service
SASSETA	Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority
SCM	Supply Chain Management
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SOE	State-owned Enterprise
SP	Strategic Plan
UN	United Nations

Executive Summary

This document sets out the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 in accordance with the National Treasury Instruction No. 10 of 2020/2021 regarding the Implementation of the Revised Framework for Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans, effective from 15 August 2020. The *Revised Framework for Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans and Guidelines for the Implementation of the Revised Framework for Strategic and Annual Performance Plans* has been issued by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Strategic planning is one of the most important business tools that sets out the path for development over the medium term and guides business actions during that period. Effective strategic planning along with a process of tracking and measuring achievements against the Strategic Plans has enabled the organisation to attain the level of success that it has over the past 18 years.

In order to develop this Legal Aid SA Strategic Plan 2020-2025, the organisation has considered the external and internal environmental influences that have an impact on the organisation and consulted with stakeholders, both external and internal.

The Legal Aid SA VISION is “*A dynamic South Africa in which constitutional rights are realised to ensure a just society for all.*”

The MISSION is “*To remain a leader in the provision of equal access to justice to indigent and vulnerable persons by rendering quality legal services.*”

The VALUES that Legal Aid SA subscribes to are *i) Passion for Justice; ii) Ubuntu; iii) Integrity; iv) Accountability; v) Service Excellence, and vi) People and Planet Focused.*

During the 2020-2025 strategic planning period, Legal Aid SA will focus on making a strategic shift to *accomplish the following: Long-term organisational development achieved, through improved MATURITY LEVELS and OUTCOMES, delivering SUSTAINABLE HIGH PERFORMANCE, to achieve SDG Target 16.3 to ENSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL to build a JUST SOCIETY.*

The organisation has assessed the **strategic risks** that have to be mitigated during the Strategic Plan period. These are listed below:

- I. Clients deprived of their constitutional right to access to justice and/or to their liberty.
- II. Lack of capacity to deliver on the demand for legal services in Criminal, Civil and Land matters.
- III. Poor quality of legal services provided in Criminal, Civil and Land matters (by Local Offices; Judicare; Co-operation Partners; Agency Agreements).
- IV. Legal Aid SA reputation risk, arising particularly from managing social media risks.
- V. Lack of confidence in the justice system due to its perceived and experienced ineffectiveness in realising justice outcomes.

- VI. Continuing budget cuts and shortfalls impacting on Legal Aid SA's ability to deliver on its mandate.
- VII. Weakening culture of good corporate governance practises resulting in failure to detect system deficiencies and non-compliance.
- VIII. Unethical, corrupt or fraudulent practises or acts.
- IX. Sustainability risk: sustainable high performance and increasing maturity impacted by external factors (budget cuts, focus of State on crime and convictions) and internal factors (leadership, employee engagement, culture).
- X. Increasing trust deficit by employees due to varied perspectives of reality resulting in a growing conceptual gap against Management and negatively impacting on employee engagement.
- XI. Unable to keep pace with the new/emerging technology resulting in poor adoption of the 4IR opportunities that enhance effective business operations.
- XII. Poor data security and protection of information resulting in non-compliance with established regulations and standards of good practise.
- XIII. Poor risk-based approach on cybersecurity leading to exposure and losses of business assets and personal information of employees, clients and key stakeholders.

The **Impact Statement**: Equal access to justice to build a just society.

Objectives:

Objective 1: Empowered clients and communities making informed choices about their legal matters, rights and responsibilities.

Objective 2: All indigent and vulnerable members of society have equal access to public-funded legal services to protect and defend their rights.

Objective 3: A fair, efficient and effective justice system that ensures equal access to justice for all.

Objective 4: Delivering on our constitutional and statutory mandate thereby ensuring equal access to justice for all, in an independent, accountable and sustainable manner.

Objective 5: An organisation re-inventing and embedding sustainable and agile practises in every segment to positively impact on society, the economy and the environment.

Objective 6: Sustaining good governance, best practises and maintaining high ethical standards and integrity, high performance and accountability.

Objective 7: Legal Aid South Africa's regulatory framework is responsive to the changing legal, social and economic environment.

Objective 8: An effective, efficient, economic and environmentally responsive supply chain management system supporting client services delivery and internal business processes.

Objective 9: An appropriately resourced national footprint that is adaptable to changing technological and environmental factors to ensure improved access to our clients, communities, stakeholders and employees.

Objective 10: Knowledgeable, informed, self-directed and committed employees competently delivering the organisation's constitutional mandate and strategies in a sustainable manner.

Objective 11: Embracing emerging technologies including the Fourth Industrial Revolution to optimise its impact on business and the provision of client services through a responsive and adaptive IT environment.

The intended institutional **Outcomes**, to realise our mandate, are as follows:

Outcome 1: Quality client-focused legal aid in criminal matters, particularly for indigent and vulnerable persons.

Outcome 2: Quality client-focused legal aid, including to indigent and vulnerable persons, in civil matters with a priority focus on land and other constitutional rights matters.

Outcome 3: Quality client-focused legal advice services.

Outcome 4: Client-focused strategic litigation services in order to give content to constitutional rights, as well as to increase access to justice for indigent and vulnerable persons.

Outcome 5: Contribute to the effective functioning of the justice and legal sector, thereby promoting the rule of law and increasing access to justice.

Outcome 6: Account to the Executive Authority (the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services) and Parliament on delivery of mandate, governance and sustainability.

Outcome 7: Improve financial sustainability and manage the reductions to the budget.

Outcome 8: Maintain and enhance good governance.

Outcome 9: Maintain a regulatory framework that incorporates best practises and is responsive to changes in the overall environment.

Outcome 10: Sustain strong financial management, supply chain and asset management practises informed by best practise.

Outcome 11: Consolidate and review the resourcing of our national footprint to ensure adequate staffing, as well as safe and secure facilities for clients and staff, within available resources.

Outcome 12: Strengthen and continuously improve the quality and expertise for each segment of the national footprint.

Outcome 13: Enhance and maintain an integrated and service and client-oriented and secured Information Technology system with capacity to integrate stakeholders.

1. Introduction and Background

Legal Aid South Africa (Legal Aid SA) is a Schedule 3A National Public Entity as provided for by the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999). Legal Aid SA obtains its legislative mandate from the Legal Aid South Africa Act 39 of 2014, which was promulgated on 9 December 2014 and implemented from 1 March 2015. The administration and management of legal aid is detailed in the Legal Aid SA Act (2014), Legal Aid Regulations and the Legal Aid Manual. The Legal Aid Regulations contain the policy regarding the administration of legal aid and the Manual deals with the procedures on the administration of legal aid.

The Legal Aid SA Act (2014) is the founding legislation which establishes Legal Aid SA, the Board and provides for the object, functions and powers of the Board and Legal Aid SA. The entity is governed by a Board, which is the Accounting Authority of Legal Aid SA in terms of the Public Finance Management Act (1999). The powers, functions and duties of the Board are set out in the Legal Aid SA Act (2014). The role of the Board is to provide strategic direction and ensure fulfilment of Legal Aid SA's mandate.

Legal Aid SA is accountable to the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services as its Executive Authority, as well as to Parliament. This accountability relates to overall strategy and policy matters as well as finances. On operational matters and individual legal matters, Legal Aid SA operates autonomously in line with approved policy. This governance framework ensures the independence of the organisation as well as its accountability.

Performance highlights of Legal Aid SA include:

- i. Implementation of a changed delivery model to deliver legal aid services through salaried legal practitioners employed by it.
- ii. Prudent use of funds to operate a national footprint of offices with efficient and effective infrastructure, systems and processes that enables it to deliver its services and reach its clients.
- iii. Assistance to 487,552 persons with legal matters and legal advice during the 2021-2022 FY, successfully delivering on its mandate of ensuring access to justice for the indigent and vulnerable.
- iv. Achieving 21 unqualified audit reports since 2001/02, with 14 of the 21 being clean audit opinions from the Auditor-General South Africa.
- v. Investment in its most important asset, its people, who deliver and support the delivery of legal aid services. It has been accredited as a Top Employer for the past 13 years and has been the Industry Leader in the Public Sector category for the past six years.

This success can be attributed to the strong governance framework within which the organisation operates, an effective and functioning Governing Board and Audit Committee, compliance with applicable legislation, the Legal Aid SA Act, the PFMA and National Treasury Regulations, application of the relevant principles of the King IV Code on Corporate Governance, compliance with PAIA and an effective and independent Internal Audit Department.

A contributing factor to the success of the organisation is the emphasis placed on effective and inclusive strategic planning and the implementation of the Strategic Plan to ensure the delivery on our constitutional obligations and legislative mandate. Systems, policies and processes are in place to provide direction and ensure consistency of implementation across the national footprint. Management systems have been developed to monitor and track performance and data is used effectively to improve efficiencies and monitor and track performance.

Legal Aid SA is currently in the third year of implementation of the Legal Aid SA Strategic Plan 2020-2025. As a public entity we have to comply with the provisions of the PFMA, NT Regulations and the Revised Framework for Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans. To inform the new plan we began by evaluating our performance against our Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2020. Gaps in our performance will be addressed in the 2020-2025 period.

This SP sets the direction for the organisation, our policy priorities, programmes and project plans for a five-year period, as approved by the Board and the Executive Authority, within the scope of available resources. The SP is underpinned by planning methodology. The planning tools used include SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) and STEEPLED (Social, Technological, Economic, Environmental, Political, Legal, Ethical and Demographic) for the situational analysis and the Balanced Scorecard for the development of the SP. Focus is on the impact, objectives and outcomes for the organisation. Particular focus is placed on the strategic shifts as this sets what major changes we want to achieve over the five-year period while undertaking our core business of delivering legal aid services to clients. Identifying strategic risks allows us to understand the challenges that may affect our ability to achieve the outcomes and objectives in our SP. Mitigating plans to manage these strategic risks assist to lessen the impact of these risks. Formulating outcomes sets out what we intend to achieve in the medium-term. The SP informs the Annual Performance Plan and Annual Operational Plan which focuses on programmes and outputs translating intention into action and implementation. Performance contracts assign responsibilities for programmes and projects to individual employees at all levels in the organisation so that performance on the Strategic Plan, Annual Performance Plan and Annual Operational Plan can be monitored and tracked to ensure we achieve the outcomes and impact. Reporting on performance is done through Quarterly Performance Reports and Annual Reports.

The Strategic Plan identifies strategically important outcomes and objectives against which the public institution's medium-term results can be measured and evaluated by Parliament and the public. Implementation of the Strategic Plan is aimed at fulfilling our constitutional and legislative mandate to deliver quality legal aid and legal advice services to indigent and vulnerable persons as well as building a sustainable organisation.

Legal Aid SA has incorporated its sustainability focus in its strategic planning process for 2020-2025 to develop an Integrated Strategic Plan. The Integrated Strategic Plan considers the societal impact of Legal Aid SA's work and aligns it to the delivery of the NDP and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. Strategic Planning Methodology and Process

2.1. Strategic Plan Methodology

Legal Aid SA prepared its Strategic Plan 2020-2025 using the following methodology, which was approved by the Board and discussed by the staff:

- i. The Balanced Scorecard strategy framework since it incorporates all segments of a business/organisation. The segments are (a) client and community and stakeholders, (b) finance and sustainability, (c) internal business processes and (d) employee and organisation capacity, of an organisation's business.
- ii. The STEEPLED and SWOT analysis tools to scan the environment within which Legal Aid SA operates as this tracks current and future trends of key sectors within the environment in which the entity operates. The STEEPLED analysis is an analysis of the Social, Technological, Economic, Environmental, Political, Legal, Ethical and Demographic factors in the external environment of an organisation, which can affect its activities and performance.
- iii. Incorporate elements of the Stakeholder Framework that are relevant to Legal Aid SA because this will enhance the entity's commitment to a stakeholder-based approach, which is also part of its sustainability approach. This also aligns to the requirements of integrated reporting which the entity has implemented and to the Legal Aid SA Social and Ethics Programme, within which there is a programme that focuses on client and stakeholder relationships. Legal Aid SA follows the leading practises aligned to the King IV Report on Corporate Governance, which emphasises the critical role of stakeholders in the governance process, particularly stakeholder inclusivity and responsiveness.

- iv. Continue to incorporate the Strategic Shifts approach to its strategic planning which enables a focus of its Strategic Plan to its core business of delivering legal aid services to indigent and vulnerable persons as well as to emerging opportunities or new programmes and projects that are also about the delivery of legal aid services, or the support thereof, while being responsive to changes in the environment. This will contribute to forging the path of the entity going forward to achieve higher levels of success and excellence.

These changes will include, but not be limited to, changes in the technology sector and the potential impact of this on increasing access to justice to clients by reaching more clients, as well as improved efficiencies in its business management, encouraging social entrepreneurship and innovation to bring about the social change of increased access to justice, in addition to other changes arising from the changing legal needs of potential clients and developing capabilities to respond to these needs.

- v. Continue to conceptualise growth and development in terms of the maturity model of a 5-point scale that tracks the development of each segment of the organisation along a maturity path while sustaining performance excellence.
- vi. Include in its Strategic Plan how it intends to utilise its six capitals, namely, financial capital, manufactured capital, intellectual capital, human capital, social and relationship capital and natural capital so as to optimise the potential opportunities of each of the capitals and how it creates value over time as well as report on performance on these in its Integrated Annual Report.
- vii. Integrating sustainability into the Legal Aid SA Strategic Plan 2020-2025 to have a single Strategic Plan that incorporates organisational strategy and its sustainability strategy. All elements of the Strategic Plan have been reviewed with a sustainability lens to ensure that it also addresses the triple impact from a sustainability framework; impact on society/people, financial/profit and environment/planet.

2.2. Strategic Plan Process

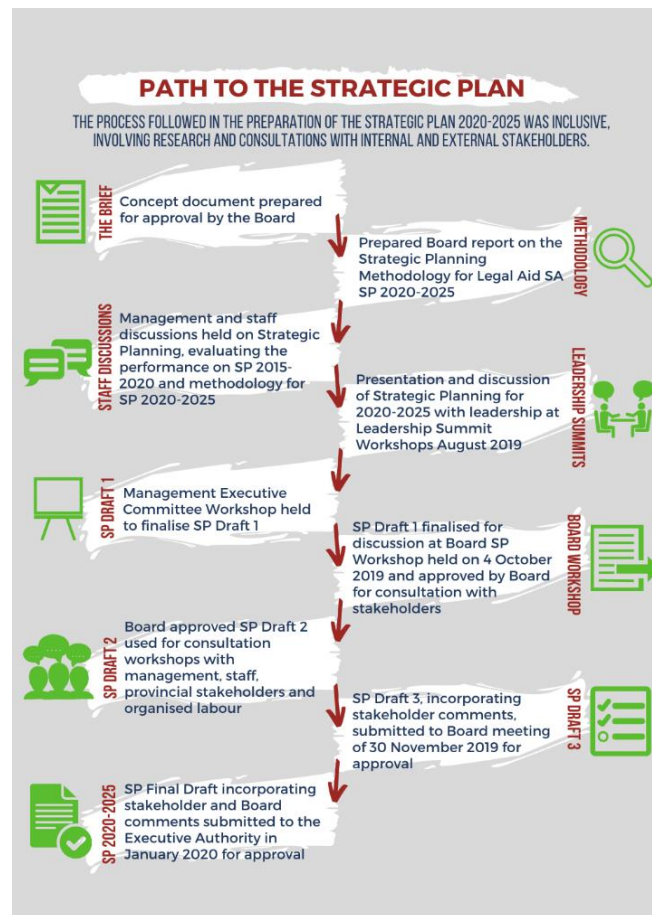


Figure 1: Strategic Plan Process

3. PART A: OUR MANDATE

3.1. Constitutional Mandate

Legal Aid SA derives its mandate from the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act 108 of 1996).

The Constitution of RSA (Act 108 of 1996)

Section 35(2) "Everyone who is detained, including every sentenced prisoner, has the right -

(a) ...

(c) to have a legal practitioner assigned to the detained person by the state and at state expense, if substantial injustice would otherwise result, and to be informed of this right promptly; ..."

Section 35(3) “Every accused person has a right to a fair trial, which includes the right -

(a) ...

(g) to have a legal practitioner assigned to the accused person by the state and at state expense, if substantial injustice would otherwise result, and to be informed of this right promptly; ...

(o) of appeal to, or review by, a higher court.”

Section 28(1) “Every child has the right,

(a) ...

(h) to have a legal practitioner assigned to the child by the state, and at state expense, in civil proceedings affecting the child, if substantial injustice would otherwise result; ...”

Section 34 “Everyone has the right to have any dispute that can be resolved by the application of law decided in a fair public hearing before a court or, where appropriate, another independent and impartial tribunal or forum.”

3.2. Legislative and Policy Mandates

The Legal Aid South Africa Act (Act No. 39 of 2014) as read with the Regulations (Policy Provisions) and Legal Aid Manual (Procedural Provisions) as well as other national legislation which gives effect to the rights and obligations enshrined in the Constitution.

3.2.1. Legislative Mandates

Legal Aid South Africa Act 39 of 2014

(Assented on 9 December 2014; Date of Commencement 1 March 2015)

To ensure access to justice and the realisation of the right of a person to have legal representation as envisaged in the Constitution and to render or make legal aid and legal advice available; for that purpose to establish an entity called Legal Aid South Africa with a Board of Directors and to define its objects, powers, functions, duties and composition; to provide for the independence and impartiality of Legal Aid South Africa; to provide for the appointment of the Board of Directors and qualification for membership thereof; to provide for the appointment of a chairperson and a deputy chairperson; to provide for the term of appointment of a member of the Board of Directors; to provide for the termination of membership of the Board of Directors; to provide for meetings of the Board of Directors, quorum and procedure; to provide for the establishment of committees by the Board of Directors; to provide for the delegation of powers and the assignment of duties or functions of the Board of Directors; to provide for the appointment of a chief executive officer and his or her functions; to provide for the appointment of employees and the designation of certain officials as agents of Legal Aid South Africa and their terms and conditions of employment; to provide for the protection of client privilege in certain circumstances; to provide for the recovery of costs by Legal Aid South Africa; to provide for the finances of Legal Aid South Africa;

to provide for the provision of legal aid by direction of courts in criminal matters; to provide for the making of regulations; to provide for the compilation of a Legal Aid Manual; to provide for the amendment or repeal of laws; to provide for transitional arrangements; and to provide for matters incidental thereto.

Objects of Legal Aid South Africa

3. *The objects of Legal Aid South Africa are to—*

- (a) render or make available legal aid and legal advice;*
- (b) provide legal representation to persons at state expense; and*
- (c) provide education and information concerning legal rights and obligations, as envisaged in the Constitution and this Act.*

Powers, functions and duties of Board of Directors

4. *(1) The Board may do all that is necessary or expedient to achieve the objects referred to in section 3, including the following:*

- (a) Provide legal services, representation and advice, by—*
 - (i) employing legal practitioners and candidate attorneys;*
 - (ii) employing paralegals, who are persons that are not legal practitioners but have knowledge and understanding of the law, its procedures and its social context acquired through training, education, work experience or a national registered qualification in paralegal practice; and*
 - (iii) procuring the services of legal practitioners in private practice by entering into contracts or agreements with them and other entities.*
- (b) Determine, in consultation with the Minister and the Minister of Finance, its own staff establishment and the terms and conditions of employment for its staff as provided for in section 18.*
- (c) Purchase or otherwise acquire, hold or alienate any—*
 - (i) movable property; or*
 - (ii) immovable property with the approval of the Minister acting in consultation with the Minister of Finance.*
- (d) Hire or let any movable or immovable property.*
- (e) Fix conditions subject to which legal aid is to be rendered, including—*
 - (i) conditions in accordance with which any rights in respect of costs recovered or recoverable in any legal proceedings or any dispute in respect of which the aid is rendered, are ceded to Legal Aid South Africa; and*
 - (ii) the payment of contributions to Legal Aid South Africa by persons to whom legal aid is rendered.*
- (f) Provide legal representation at state expense as envisaged in the Constitution and this Act, where substantial injustice would otherwise result and render or make legal aid and legal advice available.*

(g) Conduct programmes to promote public awareness of constitutional and other legal rights and public understanding of the objects, role and activities of Legal Aid South Africa.

(h) Pay out of the funds of Legal Aid South Africa such remuneration and allowances to members of the Board, their alternates and any committee members appointed in accordance with section 13 who are not in the full-time service of the State, as may be determined by the Minister of Finance from time to time.

(i) Do all things and perform all functions necessary for, or incidental to, the attainment of the objects of Legal Aid South Africa.

(2) The Board is the accounting authority of Legal Aid South Africa in accordance with section 49 of the Public Finance Management Act, and is charged with the responsibilities referred to in that Act.

Other Legislation and Codes Impacting on the Delivery of Legal Aid

The following laws also require the government to provide legal assistance to the indigent:

- (I) Criminal Procedure Act (sections 73, 309, 309B, 309C, 309D & 316) – Legal Representation in Trial and Appeals
- (II) The Child Justice Act (sections 82(1) & 83(2)) – Legal Representation for Children in Child Justice Court (no child may be refused legal representation)
- (III) Children's Act 38 of 2005, (section 55(1)) – Legal Representation of Children in matters dealt with in the Act
- (IV) Labour Relations Act 66 of 1995 (section 149) – currently unfunded
- (V) Mental Healthcare Act 17 of 2000 (section 15)
- (VI) Restitution of Land Rights Act 22 of 1994 (section 22) – funding and mandate transferred with effect from 01 January 2022
- (VII) Prevention of Illegal Eviction from and Unlawful Occupation of Land Act 19 of 1998 (section 4(5)) – currently unfunded0000000000000000
- (VIII) Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act 4 of 2000 (section 10(5))
- (IX) Refugees Act 140 of 1998 (section 27(b))
- (X) Protection of Personal Information Act, Act No. 4 of 2013
- (XI) Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Act, 1996 (Act No. 3 of 1996) – funding and mandate transferred from 01 January 2022
- (XII) Promotion of Administrative Justice Act, Act No. 3 of 2000
- (XIII) The Extension of Security of Tenure Act, 1997 (Act No. 62 of 1997) – funding and mandate transferred from 01 January 2022

Legal Aid SA is able to provide assistance in these instances if budget permits, in accordance with the policy provisions contained in Regulations as per section 23 of the Legal Aid South Africa Act (39 of 2014).

Due to our budget and resource limitations, there are criteria that determine qualification for and exclusions to assistance. All other proposed legislation or proposed amendments to legislation, insofar as they impact on Legal Aid SA's mandate and/or clients' rights, are monitored and commented on as part of the legal research agenda. This is to ensure that clients' rights are protected and the mandate of Legal Aid SA is not extended without concomitant funding.

Public Finance Management Act (PFMA)

Legal Aid SA is a National Public Entity listed in Schedule 3A of the Public Finance Management Act, Act 1 of 1999 (PFMA) and complies with the requirements of the PFMA and National Treasury Regulations which provide guidelines that must be upheld and implemented for the realisation of good governance. The Public Finance Management Act regulates financial management in all spheres and levels of government to ensure that all revenue, expenditure, assets and liabilities are managed efficiently, effectively and economically.

King IV Report on Corporate Governance

The King Report on Governance for South Africa 2016, together with the King Code of Governance Principles 2016, contains 17 governance principles, of which 16 apply to Legal Aid SA.

3.2.2. Policy Mandates

National Development Plan (NDP) 2030

The NDP is a long-term vision for the country which provides a broad strategic framework to guide key government choices and actions, and focuses on the critical capabilities needed to transform the economy and society. The plan highlights that accelerated development in South Africa requires the active support of all citizens; leadership in all sectors that puts the country's collective interests ahead of narrow, short-term goals; and radically improved government performance.²

There is a focus on building safer communities and achieving a crime-free South Africa. The following are the main goals of the NDP that relate directly to Legal Aid SA:

- i. Strengthening the CJS (Accelerating implementation of the plans to improve the criminal justice system),

² Revised Framework for Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans; Issued by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation; page 20

- ii. Building safer communities using an integrated approach.

Medium-Term Strategic Framework 2019-2024

The MTSF outlines the country priorities of the electoral mandate and provides a medium-term roadmap for developing five-year institutional plans to enable the achievement of the NDP goals. The MTSF promotes coordination and alignment of priorities across all spheres of government and with non-government stakeholders and assists with integrating all components of national development into mainstream planning processes.³

Budget Prioritisation Framework

Government plans are implemented at different levels across the three spheres of government (national, provincial and local) and across a large number of public entities and state-owned enterprises. The Budget Prioritisation Framework aims to guide allocation of budget towards the achievement of government priorities.

The Budget Prioritisation Framework's objective is to establish the strategic framework for the decision-making on budget priorities that are required to advance the goals of the NDP using limited resources.⁴

Integrated Criminal Justice Strategy and Framework (ICJS) and Integrated Implementation Plan (IIP)

The ICJS Framework was approved by Cabinet in March 2017. The ICJS Integrated Implementation Plan (IIP) is based on the NDP 2030 and the seven priorities of the 2019 sixth administration of the Republic of South Africa. The IIP focuses on an integrated approach through the implementation of cross-cutting and integrated interventions across the CJS value chain to ensure that the outcome of a transformed, efficient, effective, victim-friendly, modernised and integrated Criminal Justice System is achieved, leading to improved service delivery, improved quality of life and safety for all. Numerous challenges within the CJS have been identified and will be addressed by the IIP.

³ Revised Framework for Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans; Issued by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation; page 20

⁴ Revised Framework for Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans; Issued by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation; page 20

African Union Agenda 2063

Agenda 2063 is a strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of Africa over the next 50 years. It builds on and seeks to accelerate the implementation of past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development.

Agenda 2063 has the following aspirations: an integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance; an Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law; a peaceful and secure Africa; an Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics; an Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children; and Africa as a strong, united and influential global player and partner. These aspirations have priority areas which are aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals.⁵

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030

The SDGs seek to end poverty and hunger in the world; to combat inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. Countries committed to the SDGs aim to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all, taking into account different levels of national development and capacities. The SDGs are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, the economic, the social and the environmental. There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals which demonstrate the scale and ambition of the global agenda.⁶

The adoption of the United Nations (UN) Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Matters continues to play a critical role internationally to guide sustainable development. This is paving the way for the development of legal aid systems and increased access to justice by indigent persons in all member countries. Of particular relevance to Legal Aid SA is the inclusion of access to justice in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG 16, Target 16.3 calls upon countries to: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.

⁵ Revised Framework for Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans; Issued by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation; page 20

⁶ Revised Framework for Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans; Issued by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation; page 20

However, the common set of measures that have been agreed upon to track progress towards the goals and monitor the actions taken to achieve the SDGs are very narrow and focus only on criminal justice to the exclusion of civil justice.

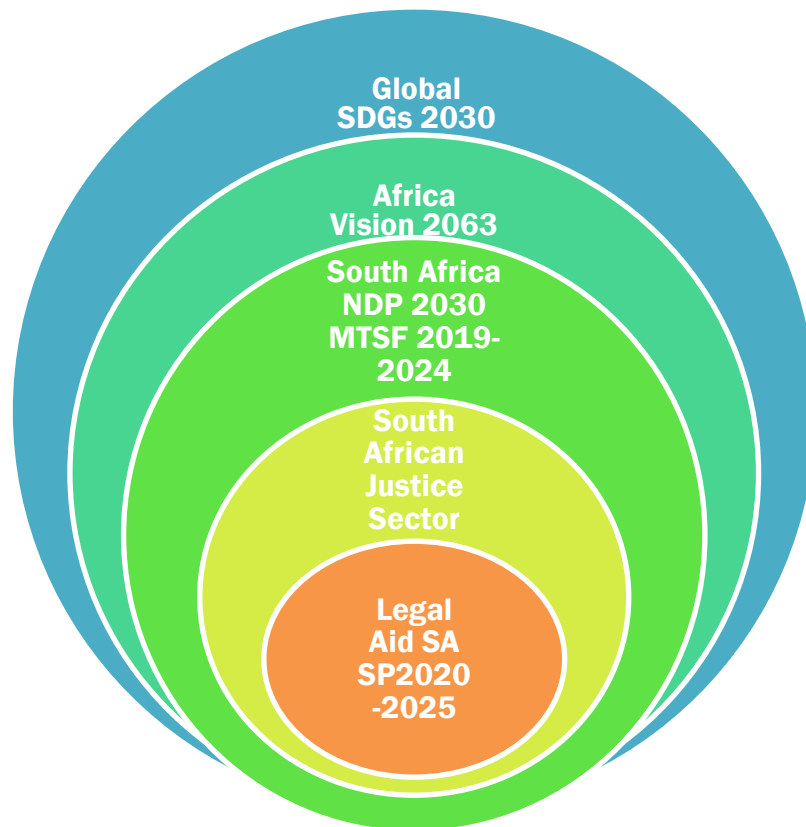


Figure 2: Policy Mandates

3.3. Institutional Policies and Strategies Related to the Five-year Planning Period

The organisation will continue to implement its Strategic Plan in accordance with its constitutional and legislative mandates as well as the policies mentioned in section 3.2.2. above, namely:

- i. National Development Plan 2030
- ii. Medium-term Strategic Framework 2019-2024
- iii. Budget Prioritisation Framework 2020
- iv. Integrated Criminal Justice Strategy and Framework (ICJS) and Integrated Implementation Plan (IIP)
- v. African Union Agenda 2063
- vi. Sustainable Development Goals 2030

3.4. Relevant Court Rulings

Various court rulings have an impact and the organisation has to adapt policies and operations as these court rulings are made. The following Court Orders have an impact on Legal Aid SA:

i. **Life Esidimeni 19 March 2018**

For the first time in SA legal history, Constitutional Damages were awarded to litigants in the Esidimeni Arbitration which developed the jurisprudence in respect of the law of damages. Although the Arbitration award by the former Deputy Chief Justice is not binding authority, it does open the debate on when Constitutional Damages is appropriate. This issue is now being taken further with Legal Aid SA funding the appeal to the SCA in the Daniel Komape matter where the court *a quo* refused to award Constitutional Damages to the family. This ensures that the courts decide the issue of when it would be appropriate to award Constitutional Damages where the law of Delict is not able to provide an adequate remedy. In this way Legal Aid SA contributes to the development of the law to reflect our constitutional values where the law is skewed against indigent persons.

ii. **Anton Meyer v Legal Aid South Africa**

Judgment of the Gauteng High Court, Johannesburg, in 2015 in which section 22 of the Legal Aid SA Act (replacement of section 3B) was considered and the court found that the applicants did not qualify for legal aid assistance.

Section 22 of the Legal Aid SA Act replaced section 3B of the Legal Aid Act 22 of 1969, which was the relevant section that came under consideration before the SCA in the Porritt and Bennet matter. In this matter the court considered whether the applicant had dismissed the onus to show that he has a lifestyle that is consistent with his alleged inability to afford the cost of his own legal representation. The court found that the applicant's application to Legal Aid SA did not contain a full disclosure of all relevant facts and documents pertaining to his inability to afford the cost of his own legal representation. The court therefore found that the applicant did not discharge the onus and therefore he did not qualify for legal assistance at State expense.

iii. **Magidiwana v Legal Aid South Africa and others (Marikana)**

The North Gauteng High Court ordered Legal Aid SA on 14 October 2013 to forthwith take steps to provide legal funding to the applicants for their participation in the Marikana Commission of Inquiry.

The judgment may have far reaching implications for Legal Aid SA's sustainability. Whereas it may be desirable to fund legal representation for poor/indigent persons who have standing before commissions of inquiry, it is our view that this has to be done on a sustainable basis with a proper balancing of competing rights.

It is accordingly a concern to us that our mandate has been extended by court order in a matter that is uniquely polycentric.⁷ It is therefore submitted that the provision of legal representation, including the nature and extent thereof, before commissions should be clarified in our enabling legislation and should be properly funded to ensure a sustainable legal aid scheme.

Legal Aid SA applied for leave to appeal to the Constitutional Court after the Supreme Court of Appeal dismissed its appeal on the grounds that it was academic since Legal Aid SA was funding the miners' legal team albeit in terms of a court order. Legal Aid SA launched this further appeal since the judgment impacts on the sustainability of the organisation and the principles established have wider import than the provision of legal representation at the Marikana Commission of Inquiry. The Constitutional Court judgment was handed down on 22 September 2015. The application for leave to appeal was dismissed as the matter was found to be moot. The court found that the High Court's interpretation of the right to a fair public hearing did not affect the discretionary power of Legal Aid SA, and imposed no obligation on Legal Aid SA to fund legal representation at commissions of inquiry in the future.

Although the Constitutional Court dismissed the earlier application for leave to appeal against the decision of the High Court to refuse urgent and interim relief to injured and arrested miners, it nevertheless felt it appropriate to make the following pertinent comments in light of the clear public interests in the Commission's work. The Constitutional Court expressed the view that it would be commendable and fairer to the injured and arrested miners that they be afforded legal representation in circumstances where State organs are given these privileges and where corporations are able to afford huge legal fees. The Constitutional Court noted that while this desirable objective of equality of arms before a commission may not necessarily translate into legal representation at State expense, the object of the Legal Aid Act 22 of 1969 is to render or make available legal aid to indigent persons and to provide legal representation at state expense as contemplated in the Constitution. But this does not mean the courts have the power to order the executive branch of government on how to deploy State resources. The duty of determining how public resources are drawn upon and rendered lies in the heartland of executive government function domain.

⁷ A policy-laden issue; for Legal Aid SA this would entail issues such as who should qualify for legal aid and on what criteria, what fees should be paid to Judicare attorneys.

The Regulations to the Legal Aid SA Act 39 of 2014, and specifically Regulation 26, has subsequently clarified the provision of Legal Representation at Commissions of Inquiry by Legal Aid SA. It specifically provides that where funds are made available for legal aid by the establishing authority of a commission that legal representation may be made available by Legal Aid SA subject thereto that the commission has certified that the person has standing before that commission.

iv. **Legal Aid Board v The State and Others 2011(1) SACR 166 (SCA) (Porritt and Bennett)**

Here the SCA held that the right to legal representation at State expense where substantial injustice may arise involves two elements, namely the complexity of the case as well as the ability of the accused to afford the cost of legal representation from his/her own resources. In determining if an accused is able to afford the cost of legal representation the provisions of section 3B are applicable. The SCA found that this section makes it clear that this is the court's inquiry and that there is no onus of proof on the accused but that this does not allow the accused to not place information that is within his/her peculiar knowledge before the court. It went further and found that a failure to place such information before the court, in order to assist the court in its inquiry, may well be fatal to their quest for legal assistance at State expense. It also clarified that the court has powers to subpoena witnesses and documents or to place the accused under oath and for them to be cross examined. In this instance it found that the accused, having regard to their lifestyle and information available to the court, were not indigent and it accordingly set aside the order granting the accused legal representation at State expense.

v. **Legal Aid Board v Gary van der Merwe and others (A409/2010) Western Cape High Court, 4 Nov 2010**

This is a matter in which the court ordered that legal aid applicants be granted legal aid assistance after conducting a section 3B court enquiry. Legal Aid SA appealed the order and contended as follows:

Firstly, that the court erred in finding that there will be substantial injustice if applicants were not afforded legal representation. This contention was based on the fact that applicants did not fully disclose their assets and directorship in various companies and/or trusts. It was contended that on record, the legal aid applicants had various trusts and resources which could be used to fund their trial. Legal Aid SA further contested this on the basis that the applicants had failed to submit further information requested or provide answers to the various questions directed to them to explain their assets and income.

Secondly, that the court erred in directing Legal Aid SA to appoint legal representation for the legal aid applicants of the level and competency equal to the level and competency of the legal representation for the State, and that such an order fell outside the terrain of the court and was therefore *ultra vires*. This argument was supported by the SCA decision on the Porritt and Bennett case.

The full bench of the Western Cape High Court upheld the appeal.

vi. **Legal Aid Board (Ex Parte) v Johan Pretorius and Another 2006 JDR 0458 (SCA) Unreported**

The SCA considered in this matter whether section 3B of the Legal Aid Act was applicable in circumstances where accused persons had terminated the mandate of their legal representative and sought the appointment of a replacement practitioner. The issue at hand was the constitutional guarantee to a fair trial. The SCA rejected the view proffered by Legal Aid SA that section 3B was not applicable and that the accused's remedy was to review the decision of Legal Aid SA not to appoint a further legal representative. The SCA upheld the decision of the trial Judge to request Legal Aid SA to submit a 3B Report after he formulated a *prima facie* view that the practitioner could not effectively represent the accused due to his workload in the case. The SCA also pointed out that a trial Judge is best placed to make a decision on the fairness of a trial where this relates to the right to legal representation at State expense and that the Judge was correct in resorting to the provisions of section 3B of the Legal Aid Act when Legal Aid SA refused to appoint a replacement legal representative. In so doing it also found that judicial officers were not bound by the provisions of the Legal Aid Guide.

vii. **Nkuzi Development Association v Government of the Republic of South Africa 2002 (2) SA 733 (LCC)**, where Moloto J (with Gildenhuys J concurring) declared that in eviction cases, labour tenants and occupiers under the land reform legislation "*have a right to legal representation or legal aid at State expense if substantial injustice would otherwise result, and they cannot reasonably afford the cost thereof from their own resources*". The court declared that the State was under a duty to provide such legal representation or legal aid through mechanisms selected by it.

- viii. **Bernstein v Bester NO 1996 (2) SA 751 (CC)** at 106 – the Constitutional Court stated that the failure to use a phrase such as “a fair hearing” in the Interim Constitution might justify a conclusion that the framers of the Interim Constitution deliberately chose not to constitutionalise the right to a fair civil trial. The drafters of the final Constitution provided in section 34 that everyone has the right to have any dispute that can be resolved by the application of law decided in “a fair public hearing”.
- ix. **S v Vermaas; S v Du Plessis 1995 (3) SA 292 (CC)**, where the Constitutional Court dealt with the right to legal representation and the fact that a litigant has no choice as to the legal representative where it is provided at State expense.

4. PART B: OUR STRATEGIC FOCUS

4.1. Vision

A dynamic South Africa in which constitutional rights are realised to ensure a just society for all.

4.2. Mission

To remain a leader in the provision of equal access to justice to indigent and vulnerable persons by rendering quality legal services.

4.3. Values

i. Passion for Justice

To give effect to the rights, responsibilities and values enshrined in our Constitution and to be committed to promoting the rule of law and increasing access to justice for all.

ii. Ubuntu

To value diversity and treat every person with compassion, care, respect and dignity.

iii. Integrity

To live by the highest ethical and professional standards, demonstrating transparency, honesty and fairness in all our interactions.

iv. Accountability

To be accountable to our clients, the public and other stakeholders (internal and external) by ensuring compliance with our mandate and governance framework in a sustainable manner.

v. Service Excellence

To provide quality legal services and strive for excellence and innovation in an effective manner.

vi. People and Planet Focused

To empower our clients and communities to make informed choices about their legal matters.

To create a caring, enabling, safe, productive and rewarding work environment that recognises contributions from individuals and teams.

To respect and care for the environment.

4.4. Situational Analysis

Legal Aid SA has used the STEEPLED (Social, Technological, Economic, Environmental, Political, Legal, Ethical and Demographic factors) and SWOT analysis/planning tools to identify the key factors in both the external and internal environment within which Legal Aid SA operates. This enabled us to look at all aspects of the environment that impact on Legal Aid SA. These analysis tools were used to track current and future trends of key sectors in the environment within which the entity operates. These factors have the potential to impact on the performance of the organisation.

External Environmental Analysis

Social

Municipal IQ has found a significant decrease in the number of service delivery protests in South Africa in 2020. This can be attributed to the lockdowns to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸ However, the findings for 2021 (as at the end of June) shows that service delivery protests have increased in number and intensity. Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal have the most service delivery protests for 2021 to this point.

Municipal IQ compared the civil unrest which took place in July 2021 against service delivery protests. The incidents of civil unrest were concentrated in two provinces, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng (66% and 33%, respectively) and five municipalities (eThekweni, Johannesburg, Ekurhuleni, Msunduzi and uMhlathuze) which together accounted for 75% of incidents. eThekweni was the worst hit metro, followed by Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni.

According to Municipal IQ there has been an increase in service delivery protests in the country since the advent of COVID-19. It was reported that there were more protests in June and July 2022 than in any other month in the last two years.

⁸ Business Maverick <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-08-24-municipal-iq-data-shows-lockdowns-stifled-sa-social-unrest-this-year-but-2020-is-not-over-yet/>

Gauteng had 30% of all protests in the country, followed by the Eastern Cape with 19% and KwaZulu-Natal with 18%. ⁹

Legal Aid SA has been impacted by the July 2021 unrest in the country. The riots that occurred in KwaZulu-Natal in July 2021 affected Legal Aid SA Satellite Offices at Bulwer and Ixopo, as well as the Legal Aid SA Umlazi Local Office. At Bulwer the Satellite Office was burnt down and alternative accommodation for staff had to be sought. The Ixopo Satellite Office was burgled and both Legal Aid SA and staff assets were stolen. At the Umlazi Local Office, vehicles were damaged. The riots in Gauteng did not affect Legal Aid SA offices except that the closure of malls where some offices are situated resulted in the offices being closed and staff operating remotely. Legal Aid SA dealt with a total of 7,285 criminal matters and 1,268 civil matters in Gauteng and Kwa-Zulu Natal relating to the unrest. The majority of the charges relate to possession of stolen property and public violence.

A National State of Disaster was declared as a result of floods in KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape and the North West. The impact of the floods necessitated interventions to respond to the socio-economic needs of communities and for continued service delivery in the affected provinces. The floods have highlighted the potential impact that climate can have on livelihoods and the economy. An all-of-government coordinated approach is needed to put into place measures to plan for and adapt to and to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Violence against women, children and people with disabilities is an ongoing societal problem and the rate of crimes against these vulnerable groups remains high and is a cause for concern. In September 2019, a number of protests focused on the high levels of gender-based violence in the country with citizens demanding action from government, resulted in the President calling an emergency sitting of the two houses of Parliament, the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces, to tackle gender-based violence. An Emergency Action Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) was announced, aimed at combatting violence against women and children through a coordinated effort between government and civil society. A total of R1,6 billion has been allocated for the implementation of the GBVF Emergency Action Plan. Government has established Sexual Offences Courts, of which there are currently 106. These courts are included in the Legal Aid SA court coverage. Government has reported a correlation in the establishments of these courts and an increase in conviction rates.

Legal Aid SA has zero tolerance for gender-based violence and legal practitioners are committed to promoting justice for victims of crime. Legal practices are aligned to the Constitution, ensuring the right to a fair trial and respect for human rights.

⁹ <https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/kwazulu-natal/rise-in-protests-after-covid-19-municipal-intelligence-data-collection-body-finds-d0bb8d0b-e1a2-4067-b715-68ad44027fb9>

Legal aid is available for victims of gender-based violence subject to the qualification criteria set in terms of the Legal Aid SA Act, read with the Legal Aid Regulations. Legal Aid SA has linkages with the Department of Health, Department of Social Development and National Movement for Shelters, aimed at creating awareness of the legal services Legal Aid SA provides and referral systems on how to access legal aid services when needed. A toll-free Legal Aid Advice Line can be accessed for legal advice through a landline, cell phone and the Legal Aid SA website.

Legal Aid South Africa participates in the National GBV Steering Committee which is tasked with implementing the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide 2020-2030. We provided input and information to the working teams that prepared the three GBV Bills. Further, Legal Aid SA participated in the 100 days' campaign against violence against women and children that the National GBV Steering Committee launched on 1 September 2020 and continued until 30 November 2020. In terms of this campaign Legal Aid SA worked with courts to fast track domestic violence matters as well as working with the role players in Limpopo to fast track finalisation of divorce matters for these 100 days in order to provide speedier resolution to their matters for clients. Further, in term of the project plan for the campaign, Legal Aid South Africa conducted 12 empowerment interviews on various radio stations including community radio stations relating to GBV topics so that the public are aware of their rights and know how to access justice when they need to. Legal Aid SA completed 17 of these interviews across 7 provinces in the country.

There was an increase in GBV during the COVID-19 lockdown (increase in incidents related to violence against women and children). The Gender-Based Violence Command Centre, which operates under the Department of Social Development noted a surge in requests for assistance. Globally, lockdowns caused an increase in domestic violence and abuse.

Three Bills aimed at strengthening South Africa's response to Gender-Based Violence were signed into law by the President on 28 January 2022. These are i) the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act Amendment Bill; ii) the Criminal and Related Matters Amendment Bill, and iii) the Domestic Violence Amendment Bill. Further, a Draft National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide Bill is expected to be tabled in Parliament in the 2021-2022 financial year. The Council will ensure effective coordination and implementation of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. Legal Aid SA, through its Communication Department has placed emphasis on public education and outreach efforts to elevate awareness on GBVF related matters, including a webinar which focused on the three Amendment Acts.

There has been a spate of xenophobic violence and unrest aimed at foreign nationals resulting in people losing their lives. In response to previous xenophobic attacks experienced, Cabinet adopted the National Action Plan to combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, which was launched in March 2019.

Land matters

The National Assembly approved a process to amend section 25 of the Constitution to make appropriation of land without compensation more explicit. During the 2020-2021 financial year the Ministers of Justice and Correctional Services, and Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development tabled the Land Court Bill in Parliament in May 2021. The current Bill makes provision for the mandate of Legal Aid SA to include the provision of legal representation to litigants in land related disputes who are not able to afford the cost of their own legal representation. Legal Aid SA will therefore be resourced to provide critical support to enable access to justice in land matters.

In preparation for the extended mandate in land related legal representation, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development coordinated a transfer of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development's Land Rights Management Facility legal representation function and requisite funding to Legal Aid SA effective 01 January 2022. A Memorandum of Understanding was drawn up to regulate all pertinent matters relating to the transfer of the LRMF to Legal Aid SA including the financial arrangements. The transfer of the function was done between the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and the Minister of Justice in consultation with the Minister for the Public Service and Administration and National Treasury.

Legal Aid South Africa is currently building internal legal delivery capacity and infrastructure to handle the land related matters in-house. An executive (Legal Executive: Land Rights Management) has been appointed to manage this function. We have opted for a decentralised service delivery model per Province and Region to localise and improve accessibility of the legal aid services in land matters.

In accordance with the Legal Aid SA mandate and the objects as provided in the Legal Aid South Africa Act, 39 of 2014:

Regulation 17 determines as follows in respect of the granting of legal aid in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Act:

"17. (1) Legal Aid South Africa may grant legal aid for cases under the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994 (Act No. 22 of 1994) if the Land Claims Commissioner—
(a) makes funds available to Legal Aid South Africa to fund the matter;
or
(b) is the opposing party to the litigation or possible litigation.
(2) Legal aid may not be granted for the claim lodgement and investigation under the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994."

Regulation 18 provides for legal aid for persons affected by the Land Reform Act, the Extension of Security of Tenure Act, and the Prevention of Illegal Occupation and Eviction from Land Act and reads as follows:

"18. (1) Legal aid may be granted to persons affected by the Land Reform (Labour Tenants) Act, 1996 (Act No. 3 of 1996), the Extension of Security of Tenure Act, 1997 (Act No. 62 of 1997) and

the Prevention of Illegal Occupation and Eviction from Land Act, 1998 (Act No. 19 of 1998): Provided that the granting of legal aid in terms of this regulation is subject to the making available of funds by the relevant government department.

(2) Legal aid may be granted to a defendant or respondent who is an occupier as contemplated in the Acts referred to in sub regulation (1), if Legal Aid South Africa is satisfied that he, she or his or her family members are threatened with eviction.

(3) In matters referred to in sub regulation (1), where litigation has already started, Legal Aid South Africa may grant legal aid for mediation, arbitration or other alternative dispute resolution procedure, if Legal Aid South Africa is satisfied that these methods are likely to—

(a) eliminate or shorten litigation; or

(b) reduce the fees and disbursements that would otherwise be payable by Legal Aid South Africa.”

Regulation 18 only makes provision for legal aid for legal representation to be granted for mediation, arbitration or other alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in these types of matters, where litigation has already commenced. The Legal Aid SA mandate does not extend to the provision of mediation of land claims during the investigation of the claims; the Judicial Administration of Communal Property Associations and/or Trusts and, more pertinently, it does not include the management of functions on behalf of other departments/entities where such functions fall within that department or entity's specific mandate.

Regulations 17 and 18 will be reviewed, as required, to align with the Land Court Bill and specifically to provide for the progressive transfer of the legal representation aspects contained in various Acts to Legal Aid SA once the Acts are identified to be transferred under the jurisdiction of the proposed Land Court with the concomitant funding to give effect to this extended mandate.

The total contingent liability verified for the budgets approved in all pending matters transferred to Legal Aid SA (740 matters) amounts to R144,686,671. It is projected that at least 20% of these matters would be finalised by the 2022-2023 financial year which requires an amount of R29 million; 30% would be completed by the 2023-2024 financial year and 50% between the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 financial years.

The National Treasury approved the request from Legal Aid SA to retain R35 million in surplus funds for the establishment and capacitation of the LRMU. The DALRRD availed a budget of R33 million received in April 2022 and the MTEF allocation agreed in the Memorandum of Understanding will be transferred during the 2022 mid-term budget.

As per the 2023 MTEF preliminary allocations letter dated 23 November 2022, amounts of R76.6 million in 2023/24, R80.1 million in 2024/25 and R83.7 million in 2025/26 are included to accommodate the migration of the Land Rights Management Facility legal representation functions from Vote 29: Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development to Legal Aid South Africa.

Crime

The crime statistics 2020 were released by Police Minister Bheki Cele and the then national police commissioner General Khelha Sithole in July 2020. In the 2019/20 period, overall crime levels were down when compared with the previous year. However violent crime in SA, including murders, continued to rise. During the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020:

- i. Murder increased by 1,4%
- ii. Robbery with aggravating circumstances increased by 2,8%
- iii. Carjacking increased by 13,3%
- iv. Sexual assault increased by 4,2%
- v. Burglary at residential premises decreased by 6,7%
- vi. Attempted murder decreased by 1,8%
- vii. Cash in transit robbery decreased by 10,4%
- viii. House robbery decreased by 5,8%.

These statistics reflect the serious concern voiced by citizens about their safety and also impact negatively on low public confidence in the rule of law and the criminal justice system.

Crime statistics released by SAPS and Stats SA, covering the first quarter of the 2021/2022 financial year, shows crime increasing in almost all categories. Contact crimes such as murder, attempted murder, sexual offences and all categories of assault registered a 60,6% increase, when compared with the corresponding period of the 2020/2021 financial year. However, the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown levels must be factored in, as the first quarter of the 2020/2021 financial year coincided with level five lockdown. Whilst crime trends are increasing, the statistics must be contextualised.

In August 2022, SAPS presented SA's latest crime statistics, covering the first quarter of the 2022/23 financial year. The crime stats are being compared to the same period in 2021, when the country was still in lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

SAPS had success in reducing crimes in key categories, including sexual offences, common assault and assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm.

Crimes with notable increases include murder which increased by 12%, carjacking – up 14% year on year and cash-in-transit heists – up over 30%.

Overall, the stats show that 13 crime categories are worse year on year, while 10 others improved. Of the 13 crimes that are worse than last year, five are at their worst levels seen in this quarter over the last five years. These are murder, attempted murder, carjacking, robbery at residential premises and commercial crime.¹⁰

Crime statistics for the second quarter of 2022/23, presented in November 2022, when compared to quarter 2 of 2021/22 show an increase in contact crimes, contact-related crimes, property-related crimes and other serious crimes. Of the 23 crime categories reported on, burglary at non-residential premises and arson are the only 2 that saw a reduction over the period. The crime categories with the biggest increases are truck hijacking, common robbery, carjacking, robbery with aggravating circumstances and commercial crime.¹¹

The following are the findings of the Statistics SA Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey (GPSJS), 2018/19; relating to justice issues:

- a. *An estimated 12% of the population in South Africa experienced one or more disputes or justiciable problems during the past two years.*
- b. *The top ten disputes for men are different from the top ten disputes experienced by women. The most common dispute for men concerned corruption or bribery or nepotism by government officials, while for women it was disruption of supply of utilities such as water and electricity.*
- c. *People get information about dispute resolution mostly from electronic media like the internet and television (24%). People mostly use family and friends to seek help to resolve their disputes (29%).*
- d. *Five percent of the population in South Africa, aged 16 years and older, have been to court during the past twelve months for various reasons.*
- e. *Self-representation in court was the most preferred by those who go to court as witnesses, accused, litigants and for administrative services. Self-representation varied from 48% for those going to court as accused to 81% for people who go to court as witnesses.*
- f. *The use of private lawyers and Legal Aid SA lawyers were highest for those who went to court as accused, where 21% of the accused used private lawyers and 36% used Legal Aid SA lawyers. People who were represented by Legal Aid SA lawyers had the greatest proportion (89%) of people who were satisfied with their service.*
- g. *There was no significant difference in satisfaction between those who used private lawyers and those who represented themselves. The satisfaction rate was lowest (83%) for those represented by paralegal officials.¹²*

¹⁰ <https://businesstech.co.za/news/government/618173/these-crimes-are-worse-than-ever-in-south-africa/>

¹¹ <https://businesstech.co.za/news/lifestyle/645543/south-africas-latest-crime-stats-a-massive-wave-of-red-as-violence-escalates/>

¹² Statistics South Africa Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey GPSJS 2018/19 available at www.statssa.gov.za

The Stats SA GPSJS 2021/22 report, summarises the following:

Household level crime

- *An estimated 1,4 million incidences of housebreaking occurred in 2021/22, affecting 983000 households in South Africa. About 59% of households that experienced housebreaking reported some or all incidences to the police.*
- *An estimated 205000 incidences of home robberies occurred, affecting 155000 households in 2021/22. About 66% of households that experienced home robbery reported some or all incidences to the police.*

Individual level crime

- *An estimated 1,3M incidences of theft of personal property occurred in 2021/22, affecting 1,1M individuals aged 16 years and older. About 31% of individuals who experienced theft of personal property reported some or all incidences to the police.*
- *A total of 246 000 (0,6% of adults aged 16 and older) individuals experienced street robbery in a total of 295 000 incidences. About 34% of the victims reported some or all incidences to the police.*
- *A total of 376 000 (0,9% of adults aged 16 and older) individuals experienced customer fraud in a total of 844 000 incidences. Results show that 44,2% of the victims reported some or all incidences to the police.*

Feelings of safety

- *About 81% of the population felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood during the day while 36,0% felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood during the night. Both figures decreased from 2020/21.*
- *Similarly, rural residents had a greater feeling of safety walking alone in their areas when it is dark than residents in urban areas. About 48% indicated that they have done something to protect themselves against crime.*
- *About 30,4% of the population indicated that they only walk during safer hours and 28,8 % indicated they have taken physical protection measures for their home as the main thing they have done to protect themselves against crime. Only 3,8% indicated they carry a weapon as the main thing they have done to protect themselves against crime.¹³*

Demand for Legal Aid SA services

A review of the criminal and civil statistics dealt with by Legal Aid SA from 2017/18 to 2021/22 shows that the number of criminal cases has decreased over the four-year period 2017/18 to 2020/21, with an increase of 17% between FY 2020/21 and 2021/22.

¹³ Statistics South Africa Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey GPSJS 2021/22 available at www.statssa.gov.za

The number of civil cases dealt with has decreased over the four-year period 2017/18 to 2020/21, with a 44% increase between 2020/21 and 2021/22.

The number of matters in which legal advice is provided has fluctuated, increasing by 0.9% between 2017/18 and 2018/19, decreasing by 13,6% between 2018/19 and 2019/20 and again decreasing between 2019/20 and 2020/21 by 71,8%. There was an increase of 75% between 2020/21 and 2021/22. The substantial decreases between 2019/20 and 2020/21 are as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdown measures implemented.

	Demand for Legal Aid SA				
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Criminal Total	371,202	362,213	351,061	269,388	314,998
Civil Total	55,415	53,990	51,177	27,818	40,143
Criminal & Civil Total	426,617	416,203	402,238	297,206	355,141
Advice Matters Total	305,239	308,050	266,055	75,624	132,411

Poverty

Large proportions of the population in South Africa are subject to poverty and unemployment. Social grants are the second most important source of income for households after salaries and the main source of income for almost one-fifth of households nationally. The introduction of the R350 social relief of distress grant, which was introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, increased the number of people receiving financial assistance from the government to 29-million. This includes 18-million recipients of social welfare, namely, old age, child support and disability grants and 11-million people who receive the R350 grant.¹⁴ Given that Legal Aid SA provides services to the poor and vulnerable this impacts on the people that the entity serves. South Africa's socio-economic challenges are deep, structural and long-term. Inequality has remained high, with South Africa being one of the most unequal countries in the world. According to World Bank Group data, South Africa remains the world's most unequal country. The Statistics SA General Household Survey 2018 indicates that poverty rates are higher amongst people living in rural areas.

Implementation of the National Development Plan (2030) is aimed at eliminating poverty, inequality and unemployment. This links to the implementation of the SDGs to end extreme poverty and fight injustice and inequality.

The second National Income Dynamics Study Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey found that the COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide lockdown have deepened inequality, particularly in the job market and education. Women, people in rural areas, the unskilled and the less educated have been most affected by job losses.

¹⁴ <https://www.timeslive.co.za/politics/2023-01-06-half-of-south-africas-population-are-100-dependent-on-state-welfare/>

Demographic

According to Statistics South Africa, the mid-year population estimate for 2022 is 60,6 million.

Approximately 51.1% (approximately 30,98 million) of the population is female. About 28,07% of the population is aged younger than 15 years (17,01 million) and approximately 9.2% (5,59 million) are 60 years or older. The provinces with the highest number of children younger than 15 years of age are Limpopo (33,6%) and the Eastern Cape (32,7%). The proportion of elderly persons aged 60 and older is increasing over time.

Life expectancy at birth for 2022 is estimated at 60,0 years for males and 65,6 years for females. The infant mortality rate for 2022 is estimated at 24,3 per 1,000 live births. The estimated overall HIV prevalence rate is approximately 13,9% among the South African population. The total number of people living with HIV is estimated at approximately 8,45 million in 2022. For adults aged 15-49 years, an estimated 19,6% of the population is HIV positive.

Gauteng comprises the largest share of the South African population, with approximately 16,10 million people (26,6%) living in this province. KwaZulu-Natal is the province with the second largest population, with an estimated 11,54 million people (19,0%) living in this province. With a population of approximately 1,31 million people (2,2%), the Northern Cape remains the province with the smallest share of the South African population.

Migration is an important demographic process, as it shapes the age structure and distribution of the provincial population. For the period 2021-2026, Gauteng and Western Cape are estimated to experience the largest inflow of migrants of approximately 1 443 978 and 460 489, respectively.¹⁵

According to the 2011 census, about 4% of the population or 2,2 million international migrants were in South Africa in 2011. The Statistics South Africa Community Survey 2016 puts the number of foreign-born people at approximately 1,6 million, out of a population of 55,5 million at the time.¹⁶ Gauteng (6%), the North West (3.3%) and the Western Cape (3.1%) were the provinces with the highest percentage of the population born outside South Africa.¹⁷ According to the Mid-year population estimates 2021 report, there has been a reduction in international migration, which is indicative of the COVID-19 travel restrictions and subsequent impact on migratory patterns since March 2020.¹⁸ Legal Aid SA assists migrants in various ways and this data is therefore relevant to our work and will have an impact on service delivery.

¹⁵ Statistics South Africa Mid-year population estimates 2022 available at www.statssa.gov.za; <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0302/P03022022.pdf>

¹⁶ Xenophobia and party politics in South Africa by Savo Heleta 3 September 2019; Mail and Guardian <https://mg.co.za/article/2019-09-03-00-xenophobia-and-party-politics-in-south-africa>

¹⁷ Statistics SA Community Survey 2016 in Brief <https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/03-01-06/03-01-062016.pdf>

¹⁸ Statistics SA Mid-year population estimates 2022 available at

Since households are the basic units for service delivery, rapid household growth will constrain the delivery of basic services. As the urban population increases, so does the demand on basic infrastructure requirements. These issues could lead to service delivery challenges. Legal Aid SA may not have resources to meet the demand for legal services in those provinces with the highest population as well as to meet the needs of vulnerable groups.

Economic

The South African economy has been severely impacted by low economic growth. In the International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook Report for October 2022 the IMF has projected real GDP growth for South Africa for 2022 at 2.1% and 1.1% for 2023, from 4.9% in 2021.¹⁹ The South African Reserve Bank in its 22 September 2022 Monetary Policy Statement notes that it expects the South African economy to grow by 1.9%, from (2.0%). Growth in the first quarter of the year surprised to the upside, at 1.7%. In the second quarter, flooding in Kwa-Zulu Natal and more extensive load shedding contributed to a contraction of 0.7%. Growth in the third and fourth quarters is forecast to be 0.4% and 0.3%, respectively. The economy is forecast to expand by 1.4% in 2023 and 1.7% in 2024, above previous projections.²⁰

South Africa's GDP decreased by 0,7% in the second quarter of 2022. This followed an increase of 1,7% in the first quarter. The transport, personal services and trade industries made the largest positive contributors to GDP growth. There was increased economic activity reported for land transport and communication services. The manufacturing and construction industries showed decreases in production in the second quarter.²¹ Seven industries recorded negative growth between the first quarter of 2022 and the second quarter of 2022. These include the manufacturing industry, agriculture industry, mining and quarrying industry and the trade, catering and accommodation industry.

According to the Stats SA Quarterly Labour Force Survey for Quarter 2: 2022, the number of employed persons increased by 648 000 in the second quarter of 2022 to 15,6 million. The number of unemployed persons increased by 132 000 to 8,0 million compared to the first quarter of 2022. The official unemployment rate decreased by 0,6% to 33,9% in Q2:2022 compared to Q1:2022. The unemployment rate according to the expanded definition of unemployment decreased by 1,4 percentage points to 44,1% in quarter 2 2022 compared to quarter 1 2022.²²

<https://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0302/P03022022.pdf>

¹⁹ <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/REO/SSA/Issues/2022/10/14/regional-economic-outlook-for-sub-saharan-africa-october-2022#Overview>

²⁰ South African Reserve Bank Statement of the Monetary Policy Committee 22 September 2022

²¹ Statistics South Africa Gross domestic product second quarter 2021 available at [www.statssa.gov.za](http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0441/P04412ndQuarter2021.pdf); <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0441/P04412ndQuarter2021.pdf>

²² Statistics South Africa Quarterly Labour Force Survey Q2:2022 available at www.statssa.gov.za

COVID-19 lockdown restrictions prevented people from looking for employment and the economy also put more people out of work, with most economic activities being halted. This situation in South Africa is in line with the experience in the rest of the world. Most countries have seen a decline in the number of people in employment as well as declining unemployment rates.

The economy has also been impacted by loss of State funds, for which a Judicial Commission of Inquiry has been set up to investigate the allegations of State capture, corruption and fraud in the public sector. The lack of economic growth and government having to do more with less as a result of the many demands on the fiscus may result in budget cuts to the baseline allocation. The high unemployment rate poses threats to the stability of the economy and this further increases the risk of people becoming involved in crime. Load shedding implemented by Eskom also impacts on business and economic growth as it affects operations and productivity, with small businesses being particularly hard hit. South Africa's energy crisis worsened in 2022, with this being the most intensive load shedding year to date. Load shedding continues to negatively affect the economy and is expected to continue into 2023 and beyond. The negative impact on the economy contributes to the high unemployment and poverty rates in South Africa. As companies are impacted by the stagnant economy, some have had to retrench employees and this adds further strain on the unemployment rate. In the 2021/22 financial year, a total of 156,777 cases were reported to the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) and actual retrenchments were recorded at 27,003 (of 46,953 employees likely to be retrenched). The CCMA reported saving 18,715 jobs, which is a 39,86% job savings rate.²³

Political

Following the National Elections held in May 2019, the sixth Parliament of the Republic of South Africa was established and a new Executive was appointed. More attention has been placed on clean administration, good governance, recovery of the ailing State-owned Enterprises (SOEs) and stabilising the economy.

President Ramaphosa, in his State of the Nation Address in June 2019, said his administration would focus on seven priorities:

- i. Economic transformation and job creation
- ii. Education, skills and health
- iii. Consolidating the social wage through reliable and quality basic services
- iv. Spatial integration, human settlements and local government
- v. Social cohesion and safe communities
- vi. Building a capable, ethical and developmental state
- vii. Building a better Africa and a better world

²³ CCMA Annual Report 2021/22 available at www.ccma.org.za

The President promised to deliver on these five fundamental goals within the next ten years:

- I. No person in South Africa will go hungry
- II. Our economy will grow at a much faster rate than our population
- III. Two million more young people will be in employment
- IV. Our schools will have better educational outcomes and every 10-year-old will be able to read for meaning
- V. Violent crime will be halved, if not eliminated

President Ramaphosa appointed Mr Ronald Lamola as the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services.

Financial

The 2023 MTEF Guidelines provide the principles to be taken into consideration for the preparation of the budget. These include i) no additional resources are available for the 2023 MTEF Budget and therefore there should not be any requests for baseline increases; ii) additional allocations to a programme will need to be funded through reprioritisation; iii) the outcomes of a detailed budget baseline analysis mainly through spending reviews must inform strategic reallocations; iv) there must be adherence to the fiscal consolidation framework and salary adjustments must therefore be guided by the public service wage bill management strategy; v) there will not be a further downward revision for the total non-interest expenditure baseline for 2023/24. However, there will be a nominal baseline increase applied in 2024/25, already apportioned to vote baselines in the 2022 Budget.²⁴

In the Budget Prioritisation Framework (Mandate Paper) for Budget 2019, the core mandate for 2019 remains jobs and livelihoods for South Africans. There are three key levers in the NDP to drive growth and hence poverty alleviation, namely economic services, social services and administrative and protection services.

The Budget Prioritisation Framework (Mandate Paper) for Budget 2019 states that in order to achieve the NDP economic growth target of 5%, the top priorities for Budget 2019 are to deal with areas within the State that are hampering economic growth:

a) Firstly, the focus for removing growth inhibitors is on growth inhibitors in the economic services, constraints in the social services and constraints in the administrative and protection services.

b) Secondly, there is a focus on improving efficiency and value for money and identifying savings which includes cutting non-core programmes; phasing out non-performing programmes; reducing spending on consultants; optimising State procurement; limiting litigation costs; ensuring value for money on infrastructure;

²⁴ National Treasury Medium Term Expenditure Framework Technical Guidelines 2023

implementing shared services and better coordination; ensuring revenue generation or collection and alternative funding.

c) Thirdly, priority spending areas which require additional funding should such become available have been identified. These include spending priorities in the economic services; social services and administrative and protection services.

The Budget Prioritisation Framework 2023/24

The Budget Prioritisation Framework (BPF) 2022/23 outlined a strategy of stabilisation and recovery given the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and unrest issues. The BPF 2023/24 needs to demonstrate continuity on priorities for vital reforms and long standing commitments as it will focus on the last year of the current administration. It is noted that significant risks remain to the current outlook, including COVID-19, Russia-Ukraine conflict, inflation, security of energy supply, constrained fiscal outlook.

The BPF 2023/24 will continue to build on the stabilisation, recovery and reconstruction efforts adopted. This approach is supported by four pillars, namely:

Pillar 1: Public and private employment – this pillar focuses on interventions that are crucial to employment creation, including public employment programmes; private employment support and incentives and skills development and support.

Pillar 2: Inclusive economic growth – focuses on the need to improve the country's growth performance which has averaged around 1.2% between 2010 and 2021. This pillar prioritises various interventions including:

- Improving the ease of doing business
- Improving energy availability and security
- Promoting industrialisation and localisation
- Increasing infrastructure investment
- Supporting growth in SMMEs, township and rural enterprises.

Pillar 3: Social security and support. Given the impact of COVID-19 on the already high levels of poverty, there is a need to ensure that the social protection system is optimised to support vulnerable households. This pillar prioritises optimisation and consolidation of the social wage; and a review of social assistance and income support.

Pillar 4: Capable state to deliver. This pillar prioritises the following:

- Reducing violent crime (incl. GBVF)
- Improving corruption prosecutions and mitigate measures
- Innovation, digitalisation and modernisation of the state
- Manage and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Legal/Justice

Within the Justice Cluster, the various components of the CJS operate on an intersectoral basis in order to address common challenges that are experienced. This includes the formation of various Case Flow Committees at local, provincial and national level. COVID-19 and the various lockdown periods affected stakeholder interaction to some extent however the sector adapted and meetings moved to virtual platforms. Various protocols have been developed and these require departments and entities to work together in a holistic response. However, only a few protocols that affect Legal Aid SA are currently in operation. Although no new protocols were concluded, Legal Aid SA has continued to implement all recommendations and existing protocols developed as a result of the CJS Review Committee. Not much progress has been made in developing common performance indicators across the Justice Cluster. The work of specialist committees such as the Intersectoral Committee on Child Justice and the Sexual Offences Committee, continued as normal. Legal Aid SA is represented on the Rules Board and participates in task teams of the Rules Board where changes to the Rules of Courts are considered. We also monitor and provide input into all proposed legislative changes.

There is ongoing collaboration between the role players in the JCPS cluster to improve the efficiency of the criminal justice system to ensure that justice is not delayed and confidence in the justice system improves. This includes implementing the JCPS Seven-point Implementation Plan and Outcome 3, which is the JCPS Outcome of “All people in South Africa are, and feel safe”.

The NDP Chapter 12 focuses on “Building safer communities” and spells out five priorities to focus on to achieve a crime-free South Africa:

- i. Strengthening the CJS*
- ii. Making the police service professional*
- iii. Demilitarising the police service*
- iv. Build safety using an integrated approach*
- v. Build community participation in community safety*

The NDP is aligned with the Seven-point Plan as the means of strengthening the CJS and recommends that all departments in the JCPS Cluster align their Strategic Plans with the Seven-point Plan. Cabinet also approved an Integrated Criminal Justice Strategy and Framework (ICJS) in 2017 as a mechanism to build on the Seven-point Plan and to ensure that a transformed, efficient, effective, victim-friendly, modernised and integrated CJS is achieved, leading to improved service delivery, improved quality of life and safety for all through interventions in an integrated approach across the CJS value chain.

It is expected that the various interventions currently in place will have a positive impact on improving the efficiency of the CJS. The Civil Justice System and specifically the physical serving, filing and record keeping of civil files is under review to implement electronic IT based systems to enhance the efficiency of the civil justice system.

The Traditional Courts Bill, under consideration by the National Assembly, will see the inclusion of traditional courts within the mainstream justice system and will regulate the traditional courts in the country to ensure alignment with the Constitution.

The Legal Practice Act came into operation at the end of October 2018 and the profession is now regulated by one body. Provincial Councils have been set up in all provinces. Legal Aid SA has a seat on the Legal Practice Council (LPC) and additional Legal Aid SA staff have been elected/nominated to the Provincial LPCs. This is an opportunity to influence the LPC with regard to policies to ensure that it has a client focus.

The Judiciary has demonstrated a high level of independence as evidenced by a number of decisions in which the Executive was ruled against and we now see that attacks against the Judiciary are on the increase. It is important for the country that we have an independent Judiciary that upholds the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

From a client and community perspective, there is increased awareness and access to information resulting in communities becoming more aware of their human rights and therefore needing to know more about the protection of these rights and how to access remedies where there have been infringements. This could result in an increase in demand for legal services, however a lack of resources would impact on meeting this increased need.

It should be noted that legal empowerment of individuals is still low. There has been a decline in community advice services which were offered by paralegals due to a decrease in donor funding and therefore Legal Aid SA will have to provide advice services and legal empowerment. Proposals have been made on how the Community Advice Offices (CAO) sector can be formalised and regulated and it is likely that a Bill will be presented on the sector.

A decline in public confidence in the justice system results in the risk of the public taking the law into their own hands. We have noted an increased number of incidents where communities have protested the granting of bail to accused persons in sensitive cases. There appears to be a lack of understanding by communities of the purpose of bail, which ultimately affects people's confidence in the CJS. Current budget cuts that affect both prosecutions and legal aid may result in an increase in backlog cases, which can then further erode confidence in the CJS. Legal Aid SA has a role to play in educating communities on this.

Section 27(c) of the Refugees Act entitles a refugee to apply for a permanent residence permit after five years of acquiring refugee status and they then cease to be a refugee. This creates confusion as a refugee with a permanent resident status has two statuses in the country and can use a South African passport. The 2017 Act creates logistical barriers to the asylum process and is in violation of the SA Constitution, AU and UN conventions.

Further sections of the NDP which are relevant to the work of Legal Aid SA include Chapter 11 Social Protection, Chapter 13 Building a Capable State, Chapter 14 Promoting Accountability and Fighting Corruption and Chapter 15 Transforming Society and Uniting the Country.

According to the NDP, effective social protection and welfare services are linked to the elimination of poverty and the reduction of inequality. The aim is to establish a social security system for all working people, with social protection for the poor and other groups in need, such as children and people with disabilities. Part of the vision for social protection is to ensure that vulnerable groups are protected.

Legal aid is provided in civil matters, including to vulnerable groups. In particular, children are assisted with civil matters in terms of the Constitution and children's estate matters referred by the Master's Offices are attended to. The demand for civil cases exceeds the current capacity of Legal Aid SA, therefore civil services need to focus on priority matters or vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly and mental healthcare patients.

Building a capable State involves professionalising the public service and upgrading skills, having clear lines of accountability and improving the efficiency of service delivery. Ultimately, the aim is to have a developmental, capable and ethical State that treats citizens with dignity. Legal Aid SA provides quality legal services and has a quality management programme in place as well as systems and processes to ensure efficient service delivery. Ongoing skills development takes place through training programmes for legal and non-legal staff, bursaries are available to staff. Legal Aid SA is a high performance public entity operating within a strong governance framework, thus building a segment of a capable State.

In Chapter 14 of the NDP which focuses on promoting accountability and fighting corruption, the focus is on building a professional public service and capacitating the State so that it is able to play a transformative and developmental role. The aims include strengthening accountability, improving service delivery in government and fighting corruption to ensure that the State operates fairly and efficiently and delivers on its developmental mandate. Under the leadership of its Board of Directors, Legal Aid SA practises good governance in all spheres of the organisation. Strong financial management and governance has enabled the organisation to deliver quality legal services in an economic, efficient and effective manner. There is high compliance with Supply Chain Management policies and fraud prevention and ethics promotion measures are in place.

With regard to governance, Legal Aid SA has aligned its governance processes to the King IV Code of Governance and currently implements the principles of King IV.

International Legal

Implementation of legal aid systems in compliance with the UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems is ongoing globally. There is better co-operation with governments in Africa and international bodies on the implementation of the UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems. Legal Aid SA meets the requirements for the UN Guidelines on access to legal aid and has developed a strong, internationally recognised legal aid system that is sustainable and gives effect to sustainable access to justice. Many other jurisdictions in the world have learnt from this system developed by Legal Aid SA and we continue to engage with them through their visits to Legal Aid SA to study our model as well as through workshops and conferences focusing on access to justice.

With regard to SDG 16, global indicators on access to justice and civil justice were developed as part of the reporting on SDG Target 16.3, flowing from SDGs 2030. However, global indicators do not include indicators on civil access to justice. Reporting on the available data has commenced by various jurisdictions, both regionally and internationally.

There has been adoption and implementation of the recommendations of the Global Study relating to data collection, provision of legal services, enhancement of the quality of legal aid services, improving the sustainability of legal aid and sharing of experiences on a global level. The recommendation of the Global Study has been implemented by different jurisdictions in Africa and beyond. Such implementation is at different stages in different countries. Legal Aid SA has an advanced system of data collection and interventions to continuously enhance quality of legal aid. Various programmes are in place and there is an annual review of the SOPs. Sharing of experiences has been effective through conferences and summits, supporting countries that are still experiencing challenges.

The majority of jurisdictions in the world, particularly under the European Union, have moved to emphasise and implement early access to legal representation immediately after arrest. In some countries paralegals have been identified as an important component to provide early access to legal representation after arrest. More countries are now investigating the provision of early access to justice at police stations using paralegals. There is an opportunity to implement this as early access to justice enables the protection of rights of suspects; initial consultation will curb unconstitutionally obtained evidence; clients may spend less time in detention and there may be speedy finalisation of trials as well as higher rates of release on the day of arrest.

Technology

The Fourth Industrial Revolution and advances in technology are reshaping the world, the work environment and all aspects of life. It is therefore important for us to be informed of the changes that the Fourth Industrial Revolution brings and how it impacts on our business environment.

Artificial Intelligence has capabilities of self-help online services on business requirements. Descriptive analytics in law are able to monitor legal trends and outcomes of cases in legal firms by legal practitioners.

The use of data is essential to daily business life. Standalone devices in business use are increasingly giving way to connected devices that create access to 'Big Data' used to drive operational efficiency and competitive advantage.

The adoption of cloud services has rapidly grown in line with business adoption of virtual office operations. By 2020, at least four data centres became operational on the African continent to mitigate the risks of hosting of African companies' data. Eighty-one percent of all enterprises have a multi-cloud strategy in place and research has shown that 60% of businesses intend to employ the emerging technologies provided through cloud services in the next 18 months. Microsoft has built two data centres in South Africa; one in Johannesburg and one in Cape Town. These data centres will power cloud services that include artificial intelligence and computing innovations.

With advances in technology come additional cyber security risks. A National Cyber Security Framework has been established. Cyber-attacks are forcing organisations to employ a zero trust security model. Therefore, rigorous authentication measures are required to verify user identity through multiple layers of credentials. It is for this reason that Legal Aid SA has developed the Cybersecurity Strategic Plan to ensure that issues of cybersecurity are effectively managed while advancing technological use.

As we embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution we must remain aware that given the reality of poverty, inequality and unemployment in South Africa, the digital divide exacerbates the exclusion of indigent and vulnerable persons from technology-based solutions. However, it should be noted that a large proportion of the population have connectivity through mobile devices.

There are opportunities to reimagine the world of work for greater focus on innovation and knowledge with the automation of routine processes, as well as new opportunities for extending access to justice and reach to clients. Advancements in technology will impact on people and employment, resulting in certain jobs becoming redundant. The impact on human resources relates to the reskilling of employees and creation of new job profiles. For the organisation we must exploit opportunities that the advances in technology offers to improve organisational efficiencies and systems.

Technology and Media

The digital media landscape continues to grow in South Africa, with social media, mobile device and mobile social media user figures continuing to increase. During COVID-19 the use of social media platforms was particularly useful in providing information to clients when there were restrictions on accessing Legal Aid SA offices. Organisational social media growth continues to be organic, and the Legal Aid SA website is revamped, allowing for up-to-date multimedia content options and improved cross-pollination of digital platforms. Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) is now actively focused upon. Shared content is key and it is therefore necessary to create content that members of the public find useful enough to share with their networks, thereby widening the pool of people reached by our content. Legal Aid SA is including some digital advertising campaigns as part of other paid-for advertising campaigns.

It is anticipated that the digital divide will continue to lessen, with data costs and mobile technology costs falling. The Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) becomes a more meaningful intervention – the interconnectivity and engagement possibilities are the future. There are software programmes that can engage clients on social media platforms by identifying topics they discuss and giving them relevant information. More and more members of the public will have access to smart phones and Legal Aid SA's social media and digital platforms will be more accessible to the public in text/infographic/video formats.

It is important for Legal Aid SA to engage in organisation-wide training on social media and promote an understanding of the HR Policies and Procedures and Social Media Standard Operating Procedures, which govern employees' use of social media, to minimise reputational risks.

Technology and Legal

Some advances have been made with regard to the use of technology in legal processes, including service of court documents via email being accepted as legal service, which signals the judicial move towards digitalisation. Unavailable witnesses or indisposed witnesses' testimony via remote technology has been explored for consideration.

Audio Visual Remand (AVR) technology has been introduced in certain courts and is still in the stage of roll out to further courts. Vulnerable witnesses (children in sexual offences matters) are allowed to testify via closed-circuit television (CCTV).

There is a focus on continuous development of the Integrated Justice System (IJS) and implementation of case management at court level. An electronic document management system will have many benefits, including improved use of court time, improved quality of legal representation, reduction in unnecessary postponements, improved turnaround time in finalising cases and a reduction in fraud and corruption.

Environment

The UN Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change has published scientific research which sets out the state of the planet and the impact of climate change. Climate change is the root of many environmental concerns and issues. Carbon emissions in South Africa are very high and we are struggling to lower this. Climate change is impacting on our climate patterns, which results in less rainfall, increasing temperatures and irreparable changes to habitats and ecosystems.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change has predicted 200 million climate refugees by 2050 if climate change is not addressed and arrested. The world is required to reduce carbon emissions from the current over 400 parts per million to lower than 350 parts per million to arrest the damage being caused by increasing carbon emissions impacting on global warming and climate change. The interventions include reduced use of fossil fuels, use of clean renewable energy sources and ending the use of plastics.

We can assume that there will be less consistent rainfall nationwide. This requires water wise habits and curbing our consumption of water nationwide as well as increased awareness of using grey water. Recent droughts have severely affected families, farms, firms and the fiscus. The growing population makes more demands on the environment. Uncertain and changing rainfall patterns due to climate change will have important ramifications for water security in South Africa. Sustainably managing water resources is critical. Climate change threatens South Africa's biologically diverse ecosystems and natural resource base – itself a key source of employment and livelihoods.

There is a major need to reduce energy consumption in South Africa. Poor management of infrastructure has seen our electricity grid failing, with load shedding and load rotation more common.

Waste disposal is a major environmental concern as we are producing too much waste that cannot be disposed of safely nor quickly. Awareness of recycling material where possible is growing, as well as calls to cut single-use items (such as plastic straws or plastic bags) out of our consumption habits. There is a drive towards ethical consumption. Legal Aid SA has an Environmental Policy in place.

Government has established a Presidential Climate Commission (PCC), an independent multi-stakeholder body established by the President. The purpose of the PCC is to oversee and facilitate a just and equitable transition towards a low-emissions and climate-resilient economy.

Governance and Ethics

The King IV Code on Corporate Governance is in place with simplification and ease of interpretation a key tenet and principles clearly differentiated from practice recommendations. Boards are increasingly becoming aware and implementing their responsibilities of being a responsible corporate citizen.

In addition, they are increasingly defining their responsibilities, including social and ethics practises, and continue to review the scope of responsibility of the Social and Ethics Committee.

Legal Aid SA has embraced King IV into organisational policies and procedures and Charters and implemented the relevant principles. A fully functional governing body is in place as well as strong and effective governance instruments. The values of ethical business practises are part of the organisational values, strategies and business practises. It is also integrated into the enterprise risk registers. Managers set the right tone at the top and act consistently with the organisation's values and policies.

King IV's code of good practise encourages inclusivity of all stakeholders in the creation of organisational values and reporting on ethical conducts. Companies with increased disclosure of remuneration policy aspects, results/trends in risk management and the effectiveness of ethics management to the public are in alignment with leading practise of transparency as recommended by King IV. Consideration is given to social and increasingly to environmental concerns in developing and implementing business practises. This has led to increased focus on social and environmentally responsible business practises by Legal Aid SA.

People Development/Human Capital Management

The challenges experienced as a result of COVID-19 resulted in companies being more aware of employee wellness and work-life balance as well as rethinking various working options. Remote work options have been introduced or integrated into many jobs and mental health awareness has been highlighted with more interventions in place.

The state of the South African economy, with high inflation and the impact of higher petrol prices has resulted in the unions, including those in the public sector, bargaining for higher salary increases. Recent strikes in key economic sectors have further negatively impacted the economy.

Stakeholder Engagement

The organisation recognises and understands the important role that both internal and external stakeholders play in driving the vision and mission of the organisation. Legal Aid SA works with a wide range of stakeholders and partners which includes the Ministry of Justice and Correctional Services; Parliament; stakeholders in the Justice Cluster; law clinics and advice offices; professional legal bodies including international legal bodies; National Treasury and other government departments; Judicare practitioners and Co-operation Partners; our employees and clients; NGOs and CBOs; advocacy groups, and the media. Engagements and relationship management with stakeholders are geared towards supporting business strategy and operation, enhancing good reputation, improving risk management and building organisational values.

The organisation is part of dedicated forums that promote dialogue and representations on access to justice through collaborations and partnerships to advance the legal interests of vulnerable groups in societies.

These partnerships are aimed at:

- i. promoting the efficient functioning of the justice system within South Africa;
- ii. ensuring that communities are informed and educated about their legal rights and have access to legal services, and
- iii. providing expert knowledge and advice to other countries in the global arena to model their access to justice and legal services on the Legal Aid SA model, which has proven successful.

The Legal Aid SA Client Relationship Management Strategy covers monitoring mechanisms for clients' complaints and the professional ethical practises of staff. A Court Stakeholder Relationship Management Programme is in place to obtain feedback from our stakeholders in the justice system.

Internal Environmental Analysis

COVID-19

As we continued working under the conditions resulting from the pandemic, the interventions put in place to mitigate the risk and threat of COVID-19 in the 2020-2021 financial year continued. This included:

- The appointment of compliance officers for each office.
- The establishment of a COVID-19 webpage for staff to report any concerns about COVID-19 and the workplace.
- A COVID-19 Steering Committee was established to respond to concerns raised by staff and develop plans to mitigate risks posed by the pandemic.
- A two-teams weekly shifts approach was employed for attendance at the Legal Aid SA offices, enforcing all Health and Safety Protocols.
- Keeping offices closed to walk-in clients while reopening the Legal Aid SA Advice Line, and continuing court coverage as allowed by the Regulations.
- Implementation of a continuous communication programme with internal stakeholders, which included daily COVID-19 updates, staff notices, legal newsflash alerts related to COVID-19.
- The introduction of vaccination related initiatives.

Impact of COVID-19:

As at the end of Q4 2020/21 there was a total of 333 positive cases. Legal staff members (66%) were most affected. Unfortunately, Legal Aid SA suffered eight fatalities due to the pandemic. In the 2021/22 financial year, 373 employees were infected with the Coronavirus. Legal staff members account for 66% of those affected by the pandemic.

Unfortunately, Legal Aid SA suffered six (eight in 2020-21) fatalities due to the pandemic. The province with the highest cumulative number of infections at the end of 2021-2022 was Gauteng, followed by Northern Cape/Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal in the second and third spots, respectively. The vaccination rate was 54.8% as at the end of the 2021-22 financial year. Financial implications relating to COVID-19 expenditure totalled R13,053,340, which included operational expenditure (sanitiser, cleaning, screens, dispensers), Access Point Network (APN) line rental, APN data usage and cell phone allowances.

Service delivery at courts was negatively impacted throughout the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial year as court coverage, intake of new matters and finalisation of matters was lower than initially planned.

Local Offices were affected in various ways due to the pandemic and some were temporarily closed for decontamination.

In order to make effective use of technology IT interventions continued. Microsoft granted Legal Aid SA a six months' pilot licence with 300 users to use their cloud collaboration tool named Microsoft Teams. This tool has enabled the organisation to conduct online meetings, sharing documents and collaborating in real time. The tool was extended to 1,000 users by the end of the 2020-2021 financial year. Whilst COVID-19 has presented the opportunity for more users to work from home remote connections come with the risk of more vulnerabilities. The cybersecurity training environment has been prioritised.

Distribution of Access Point Networks (APNs) – The number of users with remote access increased from 910 in March 2020 to 1,742 by the end of the financial year, using both APN and Virtual Private Network (VPN). This constituted 71.8% of the total staff establishment as at the end of the 2020-2021 financial year. As at the end of the 2021-22 FY, 80% of the Legal Aid SA workforce has remote access to our IT systems, with network and Internet lines upgraded to boost capacity for remote work.

Leave provision was R46,033,194 as at the end of the 2021-2022 financial year, which was a decrease of 6% from R49,114,154 in the 2020-2021 financial year.

Legal and Justice

In the 2021/22 financial year, Legal Aid SA provided legal assistance in 355,141 new criminal and civil matters and legal advice to 132,411 persons, totalling 487,522 persons assisted by the organisation. These matters comprised 314,998 (89%) new criminal legal matters and 40,143 (11%) new civil legal matters. The number of legal matters finalised was 360,655 and of these, 317,546 (88%) were criminal matters and 43,109 (12%) were civil matters. The Legal Aid SA national footprint consists of 64 Local Offices, 24 of which are situated in rural areas and 40 in urban areas, and 64 Satellite Offices; 55 in rural areas and nine in urban areas. All service delivery points were appropriately staffed during 2021-2022, with staff recruitment at 91.8%, which was 2,468 staff at the end of the financial year.

The staff turnover rate excluding Candidate Attorneys (CAs) was at 5,2%. The workforce component of Legal Aid SA is generally diverse, in line with annual targets to achieve employment equity goals.

Our average planned criminal court coverage to District Courts is currently $\geq 80\%$ and Regional Courts is $\geq 90\%$. All High Court matters requiring legal aid in criminal matters are however covered. Whilst we have improved alignment of practitioner capacity to match court demand, it is expected that going forward, we will be forced to further reduce our criminal court coverage at the lower courts due to reductions in budget. At the High Courts, greater engagements will be required to implement a Practitioner per Judge model, in order to improve efficiency and productivity.

Civil legal aid services are provided based on a priority assessment in order to manage demand. Matters assessed as low priority are given waiting periods. It is envisaged that civil practitioner productivity will be directed to more complex priority matters and that there will be an improved handling of advice matters by paralegals rather than advice matters consuming the time of legal practitioners.

Our Legal Quality Monitoring Programme was refined to ensure a risk-based approach. Standardised quality documents to guide practitioners in the conduct of matters were introduced and quality review instruments were further refined to ensure outcomes-based assessment. The quality programme was also extended to paralegals. The quality monitoring and supervision programme has ensured that over 95% of practitioners meet our quality standards, which is evidence that we have a mature quality monitoring and intervention programme. With the maturing of our quality programme we aim to have more than 98% of our practitioners achieving the quality targets and over 75% of admitted practitioners assessed as low risk, thereby reducing our supervision requirement. The Quality Assurance Programme has been extended to include a review of the work of all practitioners handling cases on behalf of Legal Aid SA clients, including Judicare practitioners, Co-operation Agreements and fixed-fee Agency Agreements. To inculcate a culture of delivering quality legal services to clients among Judicare practitioners, individual consultations are held with Judicare practitioners to discuss the quality requirements.

Experience levels of practitioners at the various court types have increased to levels that are much higher than our minimum requirements. With practitioners spending 100% of their time in the criminal courts, many of our practitioners can be regarded as specialist criminal practitioners. Feedback from court stakeholders and clients on practitioner quality is very positive. The Stats SA Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey 2018/19 found that *people who were represented by Legal Aid lawyers had the greatest proportion (89%) of people who were satisfied with their service.*²⁵

²⁵ Statistics South Africa Governance, Public Safety and Justice Survey GPSJS 2018/19 available at www.statssa.gov.za

Attention will be given to practitioner skills development to align to changes in the legal and justice environment. There is a need to enhance the profile of Legal Aid SA practitioners as specialist litigators in their field, which will impact positively on the image of Legal Aid SA.

Budgets for Co-operation Partners have reduced due to budget shortfalls. Currently, there are nine Co-operation Agreements in place with University Law Clinics. A well-established visitation programme is in place with Community Advice Offices. We have good partnerships with Legal NGOs, and Law Clinics and Community Advice Offices have increased access to civil legal services. Continued budget shortfalls may impact on the number and/or extent of our Co-operation funding. Legal Aid SA will promote the formal recognition of the paralegal sector.

Over the years we have seen increased respect and recognition of Legal Aid SA's role within the justice system as a result of our excellent performance, including repeated clean audits, credible performance information and research-based practises and management. Legal Aid SA representatives are active participants at all national, provincial and local justice cluster fora. Legal Aid SA is a valued player within the justice cluster and will influence justice cluster partners to better align court capacity to court demand, which will be positive for all justice cluster partners who are experiencing reducing budgets.

Legal Aid SA has an official Language Policy in place to promote recognition of the linguistic and cultural diversity within the organisation and the communities it operates in, as well as to ensure that Legal Aid SA adheres to its constitutional and legislative mandate to promote multilingualism to guarantee that communication between the organisation and the public is effective.

Clients access legal services through visits to the Legal Aid SA offices as the preference is for face-to-face consultations. Therefore, the provision of office space enables access to legal services and ease of access to offices by clients guides the decision on the location of offices. Currently the property portfolio consists of one national office, six provincial offices, 64 local offices and 64 satellite offices. Eight of these offices are owned by Legal Aid SA, 125 are leased from various landlords and three rent free court office spaces are leased from Government. There are various challenges experienced in the procurement of office accommodation, including escalating lease premiums amid budget cuts; non-responsive tenders; poor maintenance of leased premises and budget cuts. Further, the acquisition and management of office accommodation contributes to 80% of the irregular expenditure incurred by Legal Aid SA. The strategic solutions to these challenges include the purchase of buildings by Legal Aid SA, relocation to cheaper areas, reducing office space and merging with Legal Aid SA Provincial Offices and co-habiting with other government departments. Sixteen areas have been identified for office building acquisition, based on historical data on published tenders where there were no responses, property portfolio lease registers, areas with high rental and where irregular expenditure has been experienced.

Anticipated outcomes of the acquisition of properties are reduced rental over the medium to long-term; reduced office space and optimal use thereof; increased owned property portfolio; increased certainty of tenure; and reduced irregular expenditure.

The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, at a meeting held on 8 September 2021 has given his support for this strategy and has approved the purchase of office buildings in terms of the PFMA to address the ongoing challenge of acquiring office lease accommodation.

Women, Youth and People with Disabilities

Legal Aid SA, as an employer of choice mindful of the obligation to create a diverse and inclusive workforce, constantly reviews the employment of women, youth and people with disabilities with the aim of eradicating gaps in the employment of women, youth and people with disabilities. Policies and best practices are in place to advance the interests of these categories of employees and these are regularly reviewed to ensure the achievement of its annual goals and objectives with regard to women, youth and people with disabilities.

Legal Aid SA provides legal services on a demand basis and this includes services to women, youth and people with disabilities. Children are a special vulnerable group and, as such, matters involving children receive priority and we have capacitated all our practitioners with training in dealing with matters involving children.

Youth unemployment remains a major socio-economic challenge and job creation is one of the national priorities flowing from the NDP. Legal Aid SA has a university outreach programme that aims to educate students on the career opportunities available to them to advance their legal careers, beginning with the CA Recruitment Programme. The organisation employs 300 CAs per annum. Employing CAs provides a skills base for legal practitioners within the organisation, provides entry to the legal profession to legal graduates and employing Black CAs and women CAs contributes to the transformation of the legal profession.

Financial

Strong internal controls are embedded within Legal Aid SA's reporting processes including financial reporting aligned to the Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP) Financial Reporting Framework. This has resulted in unqualified audit reports.

Supply chain management policies and procedures are in place and are reviewed and tested through the Internal Audit Coverage Plan. Irregular expenditure has decreased. An Internal Control Unit is in place with the aim of continuously improving the operations and financial control activities to promote efficiency, reduce the impact and likelihood of identified financial and operational risks, and develop sound financial policies and procedures. The Internal Control Unit maintains registers on irregular expenditure, fruitless and wasteful expenditure and losses and damages.

Numerous processes and system enhancements have been developed to minimise the recurrence of irregular expenditure.

Legal Aid SA's current and cash ratio is slightly above the industry benchmark. Positive cash and cash equivalent balances support the business operations, however Legal Aid SA's cash reserve may be reduced as more cash is drawn to supplement the budget shortfall. The MTEF 2021/22 to 2023/24 preliminary allocation letter received on 8 December 2020 indicates that there will be budget baseline reductions totalling R534 million over the MTEF period. Legal Aid SA is expected to reduce compensation to employees by R225,768,000 and goods and services expenditure by R308,902,000, over the MTEF period. The continued budget cuts are not sustainable as it impacts on staffing and service delivery and will in the medium-term significantly affect the ability of Legal Aid SA to fulfil its mandate. The 2022 MTEF Allocations letter dated 29 November 2021 confirmed a preliminary allocation for 2022/23 of R2,094,147,000 which includes R11,165,000 for the appointment of Specialised Commercial Crimes Court practitioners. The 2023 MTEF Allocations letter dated 23 November 2022 confirmed a preliminary allocation for 2023/24 of R2,189,449,000 which includes an amount of R76,625,000 for the function shift being the migration of the Land Rights Management facility legal representation functions from Vote 29: Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development to Legal Aid South Africa.

In the MTEF 2022/23 allocation, salaries and related costs account for 81% of the allocation, the operating budget 12%, other direct expenditure (directly linked to the provision of legal services) 5% and the capital budget 2%.

With regard to the status of the institution's compliance with the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act 53 of 2003, Legal Aid SA's B-BBEE status is non-compliant as the total score is 20.27 points as per the report dated 04 November 2021. Targeted Employment Equity transformation programmes and programmes focused on supplier development will be implemented.

Technology

Business intelligence systems are in place for Legal Aid SA core applications (eLAA, SYSPRO and SAP) and data is used to drive operational efficiency and competitive advantage. The organisation will continue to use analytics and business intelligence systems to enhance efficiencies. A Cybersecurity Policy and Strategy, as well as a Cybersecurity roadmap and risk register are in place.

Technology and Legal

The electronic Legal Aid Administration 2016 (eLAA) system continues to be stabilised and enhanced, subsequent to the eLAA (Release 1) having become operational in October 2019. Release 2 development is taking place and the estimated completion date for the eLAA system development is the end of the 2022-2023 financial year. Management information is digitalised and data integrity is continuously addressed.

Legal Aid SA has an institutionalised electronic knowledge management system which includes legal support systems.

We see an increased move to digitalisation, including

- i. Online applications for legal aid;
- ii. Increased focus on self-help solutions and better informed public using online solutions information;
- iii. Training and education solutions: Induction programmes automated, podcasts, TED talk types, court room simulation;
- iv. Automated documentation solutions extended to criminal matters (HotDocs type);
- v. Technology developed and implemented to ensure early access to legal advice to arrested and detained persons at police cells;
- vi. Legal discussion forums extended to legal collaboration platforms, inclusive of Judicare and/or other legal practitioners, and
- vii. Employees that are educated and aware of data integrity and cyber security.

Governance and Ethics

New members of the Board were appointed for a five-year term starting from 2018/19-2023/24. A Combined Assurance Forum with Terms of Reference was approved by the Board and the Combined Assurance Forum was established.

Ethics Programmes were maintained and a Register of Interests is maintained for all staff. Lifestyle audits are to be extended and the Register of Interests is to be cross-checked with approved procurement to manage conflicts of interest.

A webpage on monitoring contract expiry dates was initiated to reduce irregular expenditure resulting from late initiating of procurement processes on contracts that were about to expire. There has been an improvement in the detection of irregular expenditure incurred. In order to enhance internal controls and ensure compliance with laws and regulations, a system to process and track deviations was developed and implemented during 2020-2021. This further assisted in reducing irregular expenditure.

People Development/Human Capital Management

Legal Aid SA has a strong people centred focus in the Terms and Conditions of Employment (family leave, religious leave, flexible work arrangement, service awards, reduced working hours). Innovative people management practises are in place and there are high levels of employee retention with low levels of turnover (5,2% as at 31 March 2022).

There has been a positive uptake of modern talent management practises within Legal Aid SA. The organisation has a highly academically qualified knowledge workforce, in which 90% of employees have tertiary education.

In addition, legal practitioners have the skill and competence to deal with complex matters given that the average years of experience of legal practitioners is high, at 15 years. Further, the organisation has Top Employer SA accreditation of the Legal Aid SA talent management practises.

The Legal Aid SA workforce is dominated by Millennials who are managed by Generation X and we need to be aware of this generational gap and the implications thereof.

Previous reductions in the Total Cost of Employment and talent management programme budgets at Legal Aid SA resulted in financial rewards and benefits being rightsized and cut to a minimum with no funding for new posts. Employee morale was adversely affected by the budget cuts and shortfall and led to growing dissatisfaction with the EVP offering due to reductions. This offered an opportunity to refocus and segment the EVP. Maintaining a competitive EVP remains a priority for the organisation and to this end the following EVP aspects were revisited and reviewed: the prior year's Group Life cover was doubled with additional cover benefits ranging from Temporary Disability, Permanent Disability and Critical Illness, professional services membership fees were subsidised, Candidate Attorneys' Practical Legal Training and Board Examination Fees were covered in full, the postgraduate bursary funding ceiling was doubled and the undergraduate bursary funding ceiling was increased by 50%. Employee wellness and health and safety programmes were ramped up to maintain a healthy and happy workforce. There is a continued focus on leadership development which is particularly critical as leaders navigate this time of uncertainty (as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic) together with their teams and effectively manage employee engagement. An independent internal Omnibus Survey confirmed employee satisfaction levels and a positive organisational climate.

Recognising the psychological impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, emphasis has been placed on employee wellness through a well-structured Employee Wellness Programme led by the in-house clinical psychologist and an external service provider.

An Employment Equity Audit was conducted in 2019 in order to prepare the next five-year Employment Equity Plan for 2020-2025. The most prominent areas of under-representation are that of African females at Senior Management levels. Employees with disabilities represent 1,67% of the total workforce; the target is 2%. The approved Employment Equity Plan 2020-2025 is being implemented and the focus during recruitment is on those areas where there are gaps in representation.

4.5. Strategic Shifts

Legal Aid SA has considered its development in terms of strategic periods over which it planned to achieve defined strategic shifts. In developing the Strategic Plan, the organisation identifies the higher level direction or changes that the organisation plans to take over the five-year period. The organisation focuses its work on the strategic shifts set, and furthermore, the strategic shifts are linked to the strategic outcomes to be achieved.

Legal Aid SA has tracked the strategic shifts it has made since pre-1999 up to the current period. Pre-1999 saw the organisation in a state of near collapse. We now see a very different organisation, one which is high performing as can be seen in the achievement of over 90% of the Business Plan, 18 consecutive unqualified audits and continuously striving to grow and improve its maturity levels, embrace best practises and guard against complacency.

Some of the strategic shifts made by Legal aid SA in the delivery of legal services, financial management and people development and information technology include:

Pre-1999

- Legal aid delivery model relied on Judicare practitioners (outsourced model) and partnerships with law clinics, NGOs and attorneys in rural areas.
- Legal aid was initiated to assist the poor but was not equally accessible and did not reach all as a result of financial constraints.
- By the 1990s the organisation was in crisis, financially and administratively.

2000-2002

- There was a shift to the Justice Centre model and the roll out of a national footprint of JCs, to reach many more South Africans.
- The financial crisis was averted and the first unqualified audit report was received.
- There was no WAN and LAN and a stand-alone IT system was used to record legal aid. In 2001, WAN and LAN were implemented.

2003-2006

- Justice Centre model roll out completed. Policies, procedures and systems implemented.
- There was a clear strategic shift to a focus on the delivery of professional legal services, with access and quality of legal services a key strategic priority.
- Work was done on the quality of legal services and quality interventions were introduced.
- Financial performance and governance was strengthened and an unqualified audit was maintained.

- Number of staff doubled, therefore focus on human resources management. Legal staff were made permanent.
- IT platform was consolidated, a legal administration application (AI) implemented and there was improved connectivity across the national footprint of Justice Centres.

2006-2009

- The National Footprint expanded to provide legal aid at all criminal courts.
- There was a focus on the practitioner per court ratio which was too low and therefore impacting on caseloads and quality.
- Access and quality of legal services continued to be a key strategic priority.
- Financial performance and governance were enhanced. The unqualified audit included no matters of emphasis from the Auditor-General.
- The human resources focus was on people centred programmes and organisational culture programmes aimed at developing a strong values-based culture within the organisation.
- Performance management and the tracking of performance continued.
- The development of management and leadership skills of managers was a focus.
- The IT platform was expanded to support the expansion of the national footprint and to serve the operational needs within legal administration, finance and human resources.

2009-2012

- New ways of increasing access to justice within resource constraints were explored and implemented.
- The Legal Aid Advice Line was launched to improve access to first level legal assistance.
- Mechanisms to increase the practitioner per court ratio was a focus.
- In ensuring quality legal services, independent quality assurance was implemented through the establishment of a Legal Quality Assurance Unit.
- Programmes and projects from the Criminal Justice Review were implemented.
- The financial maturity of the organisation improved, as did risk-based management in all facets of the business, in an effort to maintain unqualified audits.
- People development programmes were consolidated and aligned to create a rich talent pool of premium brand public interest professionals, thus developing staff to be ambassadors of the brand.
- Risk-based management of performance with individual responsibility for tracking performance was introduced and the shift from management to leadership began.
- The IT platform was further enhanced and the Virtual Private Network (VPN) was implemented.

2012-2014

- Expanded national footprint with majority of Satellite Offices providing general advice service to one or more outreach sites located primarily in rural areas.
- Increase in civil legal aid and legal advice matters.
- Legal quality assessed by independent Legal Quality Assurance Unit.
- Quarterly financial statements with financial ratio analysis introduced and activity-based budgeting developed.
- Focus on Enterprise Risk Management.
- Introduced maturity scale for all functional areas of organisation, with a focus on developing maturity levels of the organisation, thus managing organisational sustainability.
- Training plan linked to competency framework and competence in both technical areas and behavioural components has improved.
- E-Learning and self-learning introduced.
- Employee Value Proposition (EVP) and independent ratings resulted in positioning as an employer of choice.
- Process to redevelop IT platform started.

2015-2020

- Existing points of access for clients maintained, within available funding.
- Priority to civil legal aid assistance in constitutional rights related matters.
- Client Value Proposition encapsulating client focus and value add to clients.
- Use of new technology and social media improving communication and engagement with clients and potential clients, as well as stakeholders.
- Quality, rights-based legal aid services delivering desired outcomes including a fearless and independent legal defence of clients.
- Quality management responsive to client and stakeholder feedback on quality.
- Contributing to building safer communities by implementing the adopted protocols from the Criminal Justice Review and the Civil Justice Review.
- Proactively making the justice system function more effectively and efficiently.
- Brand awareness and image improved so that Legal Aid SA is identified as being part of the safety net for indigent and vulnerable persons with regard to their social justice matters.
- Quality of services and client relationship management focused on to improve brand experience and brand loyalty.
- Holistic Sustainability Strategy (including financial and non-financial) developed and implemented. The financial sustainability to encompass a plan to manage the budget cuts to ensure a balanced budget.
- Best practises and Codes on Governance implemented.
- Effective strategic leadership which would include a capacitated transitional Board.
- Legal Aid SA Act (2014) implemented, including Legal Aid Regulations and Legal Aid Manual.

- Unqualified audits maintained.
- Competitive Employee Value Proposition (EVP) implemented.
- Adequate IT infrastructure to meet business needs.
- Management information further refined to provide alerts to emerging risks.
- A values-based high performance culture strengthened.
- Leadership enabling sustainable performance and creating a humanistic work environment.
- Developed Legal Aid SA Cyber Security Policy and Strategy and Cyber Security Framework.

Strategic Shifts 2020-2025

The overall strategic shift to be achieved in the 2020-2025 period: *Long-term organisational development achieved, through improved MATURITY LEVELS and OUTCOMES, delivering SUSTAINABLE HIGH PERFORMANCE, to achieve SDG Target 16.3 to ENSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL to build a JUST SOCIETY.*

Legal Aid SA plans to achieve the following strategic shifts over the five-year period:

Client, Community, Stakeholder and Shareholder

- I. Improved alignment of demand to supply: Better align practitioner resourcing to the trend of decreasing demand and constrained budgets.
- II. Improved efficiency of delivery model: Strengthen court-based practitioner programme to reduce the need for long distance/time travelling from LOs and SOs to courts.
- III. High Court efficiency model: Promote a practitioner per judge model at all divisions of the High Courts to improve productivity.
- IV. Legal aid services at arrest: Extend coverage to provide first level advice services to accused/detained persons prior to first appearance at court via our Legal Aid Advice Line.
- V. Reduce pre-trial detention: Influence policy/legislative changes and amendments to implement after hours' bail, greater use of notice to appear rather than arrest and detention for appearance to court as a last resort.
- VI. Priority to constitutional rights matters: Re-focus civil legal aid to give greater focus on constitutional priorities litigated in the lower and higher courts (Bill of Rights issues – land and social issues).
- VII. Building capacity to manage and undertake legal representation in land-related matters as envisaged in the Land Court Bill and the interim transfer of the provision of legal representation from the Land Rights Management Facility which is currently under the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development.
- VIII. Optimising use of paralegal capacity: Widening the scope of paralegal work and increasing their capacity to assist clients in self-help matters and mediation matters to resolve disputes, particularly in rural areas.

- IX. Improving sustainability of civil legal aid offering to clients: Review civil legal aid policy to investigate and include client contributions, fees and other funding options.
- X. Legal quality outcomes incorporating client feedback: Legal quality programme strengthened to be more responsive to client feedback and achievable outcomes.
- XI. Judicare quality improved: Enhance Judicare/Agency/Co-operation Agreement Quality Programme so that greater than 90% meet the targets of Legal Aid SA.
- XII. Legal empowerment: Through enhancing client engagement in the conduct of their matters.
- XIII. Improving efficiency and accessibility of the justice system: Strengthen partnerships with justice cluster stakeholders to improve the efficiency and accessibility of the justice system which would improve public confidence in the justice system.
- XIV. Improved court infrastructure utilisation: Play a proactive role together with stakeholders to rationalise court infrastructure in line with decreasing criminal demand which will be compatible with decreasing resources across the sector.
- XV. Justice sector indicators: Proactively work with justice stakeholders to agree on common indicators to measure performance of the justice system and building a just society.

Finance, Governance and Sustainability

- XVI. Clean audit outcomes maintained: Sustainable clean audit opinions.
- XVII. Strengthened financial management: In line with Financial Reporting Frameworks and best practise.
- XVIII. Best practises and Codes on Governance implemented.
- XIX. Strategic Board Leadership: Effective strategic leadership to maintain oversight role of the Board.
- XX. Reducing carbon footprint to positively impact sustainability of the planet.
- XXI. Strengthened brand and reputation: Improve brand awareness and maintain a positive reputational image for Legal Aid SA.
- XXII. Brand experience: Improve brand experience and loyalty through focused quality of services and client relationship management.

Internal Business Processes

- XXIII. Regulatory framework responsive to context: Ensure that the Legal Aid SA Act, Regulations and Manual remain relevant to the changing context.
- XXIV. Management information expanded: Improve access to data, internal and external sources to enhance efficiency and delivery of our programmes.
- XXV. Business intelligence built into management information, providing early warning alerts as risks approach tolerance levels.

Employee and Organisational Capacity

- XXVI. Repositioned and strengthened organisational culture: A values-based, high performance, flexible, agile workplace culture characterised by professional excellence, technological and social competence driven by the desire to protect and defend human rights.
- XXVII. Employee Value Proposition (EVP) repositioned: Employer competitive advantage reframed on the strength and depth of non-financial aspects of the EVP including the employment experience.
- XXVIII. Ethical leadership enabling sustainable organisational transformation whilst maintaining high levels of performance and a humanistic work environment.
- XXIX. Embracing the Fourth Industrial Revolution to optimise technology's impact on business.
- XXX. Responsive and adaptive IT environment; adequate modern IT infrastructure to meet business requirements.
- XXXI. Established cyber security governance and management practises in the context of the business strategy and needs.

5. PART C: MEASURING OUR PERFORMANCE

5.1. Institutional Performance Information

5.1.1. Impact Statement

Impact Statement	Equal access to justice to build a just society
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5.1.2. Measuring our Outcomes

MTSF Priority	Priority 6: Social cohesion and safe communities			
Objectives	Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Baseline (2019/20)	Five-year Target
Client, Community, Stakeholder and Shareholder				
<u>Objective 1</u> Empowered clients and communities making informed choices about their legal matters, rights and responsibilities.	<u>Outcome 1</u> Quality client-focused legal aid in criminal matters, particularly for indigent and vulnerable persons.	Number of clients assisted in criminal legal aid matters; Court coverage targets of DC, RC and HC	<u>Court Coverage:</u> Average DC coverage: 86% Average RC coverage: 94% HC coverage: All matters requiring legal aid	<u>Court Coverage:</u> Average planned DC coverage: ≥80% Average planned RC coverage: ≥90% HC planned coverage: All matters requiring legal aid
<u>Objective 2</u> All indigent and vulnerable members of society have equal access to public-funded legal services to protect and defend their rights.	<u>Outcome 2</u> Quality client-focused legal aid, including to indigent and vulnerable persons, in civil matters with a priority focus on land and other constitutional rights matters.	Number of clients assisted in civil matters	<u>Total Civil Matters:</u> 51,777 LO: 45,034 Judicare: 1,810 (13%) Co-op: 4,310 (within budget)	<u>Total Civil Matters:</u> 2020/21: 47,931 2021/22: 48,463 2022/23: 54 077 2023/24: 47,529 2024/25: 47,529 Total: 245,529 <u>Total LO Matters:</u> 2020/21: 45,173 2021/22: 45,625 2022/23: 46,289 2023/24: 43,404 2024/25: 43,404

MTSF Priority	Priority 6: Social cohesion and safe communities			
Objectives	Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Baseline (2019/20)	Five-year Target
				Total: 223,895 <u>Total Judicare Matters:</u> 2020/21: 1,120 2021/22: 1,120 2022/23: 4,628 2023/24: 965 2024/25: 965 Total: 8,798 <u>Total Co-op Matters:</u> 2020/21: 4 596 2021/22: 1,718 2022/23: 3,160 2023/24: 3,160 2024/25: 3,160 Total: 15,794 <u>Land Matters:</u> 2022/23: 800 new matters 2023/2024: 200 new matters 2024/25: 200 new matters Total: 1,200
	<u>Outcome 3</u> Quality client-focused legal advice services.	Number of clients assisted with general legal advice	<u>Total Advice Matters (excluding Call Centre):</u> FY 2019/20: 266,055 Legal Aid Advice Line: 39,008	<u>Total Advice Matters:</u> 2020/21: 228,523 2021/22: 228,523 2022/23: 228,523 2023/24: 228,523 2024/25: 228,523 Total: 1,142,615

MTSF Priority	Priority 6: Social cohesion and safe communities			
Objectives	Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Baseline (2019/20)	Five-year Target
				<u>Total Legal Aid Advice Line:</u> 2020/21: 47,921 2021/22: 47,921 2022/23: 47,921 2023/24: 47,921 2024/25: 47,921 Total: 239,605
	<u>Outcome 4</u> Client-focused strategic litigation services in order to give content to constitutional rights, as well as to increase access to justice for indigent and vulnerable persons.	Number of new strategic litigation matters approved; Success rate	<u>Strategic Matters Approved:</u> FY 2019/20: 25 Success rate: 88%	2021/22: 16 new matters 2022/23: 16 new matters 2023/24: 16 new matters 2024/25: 16 new matters
<u>Objective 3</u> A fair, efficient and effective justice system that ensures equal access to justice for all.	<u>Outcome 5</u> Contribute to the effective functioning of the justice and legal sector thereby promoting the rule of law and increasing access to justice.	Participation in relevant structures aimed at improving the functioning of the justice system and courts	<u>Represented at:</u> 1 National Efficiency Enhancement Committee & 9 Provincial Efficiency Enhancement Committees	<u>Represented at:</u> 1 National Efficiency Enhancement Committee & 9 Provincial Efficiency Enhancement Committees
<u>Objective 4</u> Delivering on our constitutional and statutory mandate thereby ensuring equal access to justice for all, in an independent, accountable and	<u>Outcome 6:</u> Account to the Executive Authority (the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services) and Parliament on delivery of	4 Quarterly Reports and 1 Annual Report submitted timeously to the Executive Authority	4 Quarterly Performance Reports and 1 Annual Report (2018/19), submitted to Executive Authority, the AGSA and Parliament	4 Quarterly Performance Reports submitted within 30 days after the end of each quarter and 1 Annual Report submitted within five months after the end of the

MTSF Priority	Priority 6: Social cohesion and safe communities			
Objectives	Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Baseline (2019/20)	Five-year Target
sustainable manner.	mandate, governance and sustainability.			financial year to the Executive Authority
Finance and Sustainability				
<u>Objective 5</u> An organisation re-inventing and embedding sustainable and agile practises in every segment to positively impact on society, the economy and the environment.	<u>Outcome 7</u> Improve financial sustainability and manage the reductions to the budget.	Balanced budget	NT MTEF allocation of 2020/21 – 2022/23 translated into a medium-term expenditure budget for Legal Aid SA, which is approved by the Board and submitted to NT Budget: R2,062,468,682 Expenditure: R2,014,039,462 Percentage spent: 98%	NT MTEF allocation of 2024/25 translated into a medium-term expenditure budget for Legal Aid SA, which is approved by the Board and submitted to NT Budget: R2,6 billion Expenditure: R2,5 billion Percentage spent: 98%
		Financial reporting that is compliant with relevant standards and regulations	Unqualified audit opinion with no matters of emphasis	Unqualified audit opinion with no matters of emphasis
<u>Objective 6</u> Sustaining good governance, best practises and maintaining high ethical standards and integrity, high performance and accountability.	<u>Outcome 8</u> Maintain and enhance good governance.	Statutory compliance (including Legal Aid South Africa Act, 2014 and PFMA)	Revised quarterly compliance checklists in place. Statutory compliance signed off by Executives. Quarterly Compliance Report presented to the Board	Legal Aid SA generally compliant with all relevant pieces of legislation, including the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act (PPPFA) and the PFMA
		Annual Audit Coverage Plan executed/delivered	97% completion of the Annual Coverage Plan in 2019/20	At least ≥95% completion of the Annual Audit Coverage Plan each year
		Properly constituted Board and Board Committees skilled	As at the end of 2019-2020, the Board of Legal	Properly constituted Board (in terms of Legal

MTSF Priority	Priority 6: Social cohesion and safe communities			
Objectives	Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Baseline (2019/20)	Five-year Target
		to function effectively	Aid SA was not fully constituted. The term of the representative of the Director-General of Justice on the Board ended on 29 February 2020.	Aid SA Act, 2014) and Board Committees skilled to function effectively
Internal Business Processes				
Objective 7 Legal Aid South Africa's regulatory framework is responsive to the changing legal, social and economic environment.	Outcome 9 Maintain a regulatory framework that incorporates best practises and is responsive to changes in the overall environment.	Legal Aid SA Act (2014) reviewed once every 2 years or as and when required	Two amendments still awaiting Executive Authority approval and gazetting. The amendments have been resubmitted to be considered for inclusion in the 2020 Judicial Matters Amendment Bill.	Legal Aid SA Act reviewed in 2020, 2022 and 2024 or as and when required and amendments gazetted where required
		Legal Aid Regulations (Policy) reviewed at least once every 2 years or as and when required	All amendments to the Regulations have been gazetted. No further amendments to the Regulations were deemed necessary in the 2019-2020 financial year.	Legal Aid Regulations reviewed in 2021, 2023 and 2025 or as and when required and amendments gazetted where required Review of Regulations 17 and 18 to align to the Land Court Bill
		Legal Aid Manual (Procedures) reviewed annually or as and when required	Two amendments to the Manual have been gazetted and implemented Legal Aid Manual Version 3 came into operation on 1 June 2019 and Version 4 came into operation on 28 October 2019.	Legal Aid Manual reviewed annually and amendments gazetted where required Review of Procedures to provide for Land Court matters

MTSF Priority	Priority 6: Social cohesion and safe communities			
Objectives	Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Baseline (2019/20)	Five-year Target
<u>Objective 8</u> An effective, efficient, economic and environmentally responsive supply chain management system supporting client services delivery and internal business processes.	<u>Outcome 10</u> Sustain strong financial management, supply chain and asset management practises informed by best practise.	Compliance with PPPFA, PFMA, relevant National Treasury Regulations	Supply Chain Management Policy implemented to ensure 100% compliance with relevant SCM prescripts. There was irregular expenditure incurred for non-CSD registered Sheriffs and non-CSD/ non-tax compliant landlords for office leases. Reports on the acquisition of goods/ services in excess of R0,5 million, indicating compliance with PPPFA, PFMA and relevant NT regulations were presented to the Board on a quarterly basis. Quarterly tenders awarded including deviations were presented to the Board at its quarterly meetings.	Legal Aid SA compliant with the PPPFA, PFMA and NT Regulations when acquiring goods and services, with specific focus on women, youth and people with disabilities.
Employee and Organisational Capacity and Innovation and Learning				
<u>Objective 9</u> An appropriately resourced national footprint that is adaptable to changing	<u>Outcome 11</u> Consolidate and review the resourcing of our national footprint to	Staffing plans	Staff recruitment at year end at 91.9%. The staff turnover rate is at 5.78%. (excluding CAs and Temporary/	Staff recruitment at ≥95% based on available budget Staff turnover rate ≤ 6%

MTSF Priority	Priority 6: Social cohesion and safe communities			
Objectives	Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Baseline (2019/20)	Five-year Target
technological and environmental factors to ensure improved access to our clients, communities, stakeholders and employees.	ensure adequate staffing, as well as safe and secure facilities for clients and staff, within available resources.		Contract staff)	(excluding CAs and Temporary/ Contract staff)
<u>Objective 10</u> Knowledgeable, informed, self-directed and committed employees competently delivering the organisation's constitutional mandate and strategies in a sustainable manner.	<u>Outcome 12</u> Strengthen and continuously improve the quality and expertise for each segment of the national footprint.	Compliance with Skills Development Act	The Workplace Skills Plan and Annual Training Report were submitted to SASSETA in compliance with the Skills Development Act. Submitted in Q1 as per statutory deadline.	Submission of the Workplace Skills Plan and Annual Training Report timeously by the end of April 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 in full compliance with the Skills Development Act
		Employment Equity targets defined as per Employment Equity Plan	Legal Aid SA has a diverse workforce in line with annual targets to achieve employment equity goals, as per the EE Plan and Reports. Overall, African men, Coloured men and people with disabilities are the most underrepresented groups. We still have a challenge with African Males in Senior, Professional, Skilled technical and Semi-Skilled Levels, as well as African Females in Senior and Professional Levels. Disability Recruitment	EE Plan 2025 approved by Board and submitted to the Department of Labour EE Audit and EE Plan in 2025 in place

MTSF Priority	Priority 6: Social cohesion and safe communities			
Objectives	Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Baseline (2019/20)	Five-year Target
			grew from 0.9% to 1.67%, of a target of 2%. Coloured Females in Top & Senior Management and Indian Males in the Skilled and Semi-skilled Levels are also a challenge as these groups are underrepresented.	
Objective 11 Embracing emerging technologies including the Fourth Industrial Revolution to optimise its impact on business and the provision of client services through a responsive and adaptive IT environment.	Outcome 13 Enhance and maintain an integrated and service and client-oriented and secured Information Technology system with capacity to integrate stakeholders.	Stable and reliable Wide Area Network (WAN) & Virtual private network (VPN)	Average network availability was 95.54% in the FY 2019-2020. This is in line with the performance target of 95%.	Wide Area Network infrastructure upgraded to Software Defined Network with the minimum of 10Mbps bandwidth at all branches WAN annual availability 95%
		Stable hardware platform	Average server availability for 2019-2020 was 99%, which is in line with the performance target.	Private cloud infrastructure with 99% of server availability
		IT software and applications maintained and upgraded	The eLAA system was supported and maintained, with 12 bug fixes implemented. ii. 76.12% of all offices migrated to the newer technologies. iii. 30 Local Offices upgraded to 10mbps. iv. Disaster recovery conducted in Q1 and Q3 of the FY. v. Average systems availability at 98%.	Integrated eLAA system with mobile application for clients in Release 2 Hot disaster recovery site
		Organisational cyber security metrics	Cyber Security Strategy in place.	Cyber resilient environment with

MTSF Priority	Priority 6: Social cohesion and safe communities			
Objectives	Outcome	Outcome Indicator	Baseline (2019/20)	Five-year Target
		developed and maintained	Cyber security assessment conducted and risks identified with the proposed road map.	ongoing staff training programme in place

5.1.3. Explanation of Planned Performance over the Five-year Period

The outcomes identified by Legal Aid SA contribute to the achievement of the constitutional and legislative mandate of the organisation.

Legal Aid SA has used the Balanced Scorecard as its strategic planning tool, viewing the organisation from four perspectives, which are as follows:

- I. Client, Community, Stakeholder and Shareholder (customer perspective)
- II. Finance and Sustainability (financial perspective)
- III. Internal Business Processes (internal process perspective)
- IV. Employee and Organisational Capacity and Innovation and Learning (learning and growth perspective)

The outcomes in Client, Community, Stakeholder and Shareholder are as follows:

- i. Quality client-focused legal aid in criminal matters, particularly for indigent and vulnerable persons.
- ii. Quality client-focused legal aid, including to indigent and vulnerable persons, in civil matters with a priority focus on land and other constitutional rights matters.
- iii. Quality client-focused legal advice services.
- iv. Client-focused strategic litigation services in order to give content to constitutional rights, as well as to increase access to justice for indigent and vulnerable persons.
- v. Contribute to the effective functioning of the justice and legal sector thereby promoting the rule of law and increasing access to justice.
- vi. Account to the Executive Authority (the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services) and Parliament on delivery of mandate, governance and sustainability.

These outcomes link to the NDP 2030 Chapter 12 which focuses on Building Safer Communities, Chapter 11 on Social Protection and Chapter 14 on Promoting Accountability and Fighting Corruption.

The relevant priority of the MTSF 2019-2024 is Priority 6 Social Cohesion and Safe Communities. Since Legal Aid SA services are to ensure that indigent and vulnerable persons are able to access justice, this includes women, children and people with disabilities.

Access to justice is a critical component of building safer communities. We provide coverage of specialist courts including Child Justice Courts and Sexual Offences Courts and our practitioners are equipped with the expertise to represent clients. Children are a special vulnerable group and matters involving children receive priority. Children are represented in all Child Justice Courts, as well as Preliminary Inquiry Courts, and we guarantee legal representation to all children in civil matters. Our Remand Detainee Programme incorporates the monitoring of children awaiting trial in correctional facilities for periods greater than one month and these cases are tracked individually.

Our civil units provide legal representation for children, most of whom are children in need of care, in the Children's Courts. Through our partnership with the Master's Offices, we assist in the administration of estates in which children are beneficiaries, and place these monies for children with the Guardian's Fund. Legal Aid SA provides representation to vulnerable groups of people in a variety of specialist matters. This includes assistance to women, mental healthcare patients, children, people with disabilities, refugees and the elderly. In the 2018-2019 financial year, Legal Aid SA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Childline SA and strengthened links with the Teddy Bear Foundation, aimed at creating greater access to legal services for children and caregivers of children. We also linked with the National Movement of Shelters to ensure that people affected by gender-based violence are referred to Legal Aid SA when they need legal services.

Legal advice services are accessible through the toll-free Legal Aid Advice Line and paralegals at all 128 of our offices. Following the findings of a study conducted in the previous financial year on demand for legal aid in the High Courts, general advice capacity was made available at High Courts to decrease the number of unrepresented litigants and ensure that qualifying clients' rights are protected. Linkages with community structures such as Community Advice Offices are a further enabler in the accessibility of legal advice and legal representation. Communities are also empowered on their legal rights through media campaigns and community forums, thereby fostering constitutional values. The cases that are dealt with in strategic litigation matters address social justice issues and the outcomes of these cases often have a positive impact on a broader population.

A well-functioning criminal justice system is critical in achieving safer communities and will result in increasing public confidence in the criminal justice system. Legal Aid SA is a stakeholder in the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster and programmes aligned with the NDP and the MTSF are implemented through the cluster.

This includes participation in the National and Provincial Efficiency Enhancement Committees in our commitment to improve the performance of the justice cluster and ensure increased efficiency in finalising criminal cases. Legal Aid SA has to ensure that it fulfils its role in making sure that courts function optimally so that criminal and civil cases where we are providing representation are resolved efficiently to ensure that the rule of law is upheld and access to justice is realised for indigent and vulnerable persons.

The outcomes in Finance and Sustainability are as follows:

- i. Improve financial sustainability and manage the reductions to the budget.
- ii. Maintain and enhance good governance.

These outcomes link to the NDP 2030 Chapter 14 on Promoting Accountability and Fighting Corruption. The relevant priority of MTSF 2019-2024 is Priority 6 Social Cohesion and Safe Communities.

Legal Aid SA operates within a strong governance framework, uses public funding responsibly in the execution of its mandate and is accountable. Prudent and best practise financial management has resulted in unqualified audit opinions for the past 21 years. It has an effective and functioning Governing Board and Audit Committee and complies with applicable legislation. A coherent approach to enterprise risk management is maintained and the organisation has managed to uphold a zero tolerance approach to fraud and corruption.

The outcomes in Internal Business Processes are as follows:

- i. Maintain a regulatory framework that incorporates best practises and is responsive to changes in the overall environment.
- ii. Sustain strong financial management, supply chain and asset management practises informed by best practise.

These outcomes link to the NDP 2030 Chapter 12 which focuses on Building Safer Communities, Chapter 11 on Social Protection and Chapter 14 on Promoting Accountability and Fighting Corruption. The relevant priority of MTSF 2019-2024 is Priority 6 Social Cohesion and Safe Communities. The legislative mandate of Legal Aid SA must be responsive to the environment and meet the needs of the business and the people we serve. It is important to ensure that legislation is consistent with the Constitution. As an organisation that utilises public funds we must implement cost-effective measures and adhere to legislation such as the PFMA, PPPFA and National Treasury Regulations and ensure that our Supply Chain Management Policy is in line with the relevant legislation and that controls are in place and adhered to.

The outcomes in the Employee and Organisational Capacity and Innovation and Learning are as follows:

- i. Consolidate and review the resourcing of our national footprint to ensure adequate staffing, as well as safe and secure facilities for clients and staff, within available resources.
- ii. Strengthen and continuously improve the quality and expertise for each segment of the national footprint.
- iii. Enhance and maintain an integrated and service and client-oriented and secured Information Technology system with capacity to integrate stakeholders.

The outcomes in this component of the balanced scorecard link to NDP Chapter 12 which focuses on Building Safer Communities, Chapter 13 on Building a Capable State and MTSF Priority 3 Education, Skills and Health and Priority 1 A Capable, Ethical and Developmental State. Legal Aid SA has a national footprint, with offices located close to public transport and taking into consideration the location of courts that we service. Satellite Office locations mean that historically marginalised communities can access our offices which are appropriately resourced to deliver access to justice.

Quality services to clients is a priority since the provision of quality services has a bearing on the outcomes of cases and therefore the lives of clients served. Through a focus on quality services to clients and competent, informed and knowledgeable practitioners, we are able to assure a high quality of legal services is rendered to clients. Training programmes and skills development is ongoing and the organisation has a bursary scheme in place and an Employment Equity Plan for the 2020-2025 period. Modern IT systems are in place to sustain and improve performance which includes a new electronic Legal Aid Administration System (eLAA). Legal Aid SA continues to improve its technology platform along the emerging approaches of the 4th Industrial Revolution.

The organisational enablers to achieve the five-year target include:

- i. Government grant
- ii. Financial planning and reporting
- iii. Adherence to good governance practises
- iv. Skilled and knowledgeable staff
- v. Quality management programmes
- vi. Risk management programmes
- vii. Tools and resources
- viii. Strategies, policies and standard operating procedures
- ix. Stakeholder relationships with legal and justice system stakeholders and linkages with community structures
- x. Commitment to human rights and the rights to access to justice
- xi. Performance management
- xii. Monitoring and evaluation processes

- xiii. Positive organisational culture
- xiv. Leadership
- xv. Employment Value Proposition
- xvi. Resilient cyber security environment

The outcomes identified by the organisation are aimed at fulfilling the organisation's constitutional and legislative mandate. These outcomes are relevant because they plan for and measure performance on all aspects that impact on the organisation, including external and internal factors. All segments are incorporated; client and community and stakeholders, finance and sustainability, internal business processes and employee and organisation capacity.

The legal aid services provided ensure access to justice for the populace, considering the high costs of legal services/representation. Our national footprint and toll-free Legal Aid Advice Line serve as a differentiator in that our services are available for both urban- and rural-based citizens, thus facilitating access to justice.

5.2. Key Risks and Strategic Risks

Key Risks and Mitigations

Outcome	Key Risk	Risk Mitigation
<u>Outcome 1:</u> Quality client-focused legal aid in criminal matters, particularly for indigent and vulnerable persons.	Accused persons not legally represented at their trials	Court Coverage Plans
<u>Outcome 2:</u> Quality client-focused legal aid, including to indigent and vulnerable persons, in civil matters with a priority focus on land and other constitutional rights matters.	Inability to meet demand for civil legal aid services Inability to meet demand for land-related matters	Practitioner productivity monitoring programmes Build capacity to deal with legal representation in land-related matters
<u>Outcome 3:</u> Quality client-focused legal advice services.	Clients requiring legal advice unassisted Poor quality of advice services	General Advice SOP Quality Assurance Programme
<u>Outcome 4:</u> Client-focused strategic litigation services in order to give content to constitutional rights, as well as to increase access to justice for indigent and vulnerable persons.	Appropriate strategic litigation matters not identified and taken on Clients' rights not protected	Links to NGOs and CBOs to identify strategic matters Local Office civil managers assist with the identification of strategic litigation matters as part of their performance contracts
<u>Outcome 5:</u>	Inefficient functioning of justice system	Effective participation in all efficiency committees and

Outcome	Key Risk	Risk Mitigation
Contribute to the effective functioning of the justice and legal sector thereby promoting the rule of law and increasing access to justice.		other CJS Cluster stakeholder forums
<u>Outcome 6:</u> Account to the Executive Authority (the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services) and Parliament on delivery of mandate, governance and sustainability.	Failure to account to Ministry of Justice	Oversight by Board to ensure quarterly Performance Reports and Annual Report are finalised and submitted to the Executive Authority timeously
<u>Outcome 7:</u> Improve financial sustainability and manage the reductions to the budget.	Financial planning not aligned to Strategies Qualified audit reports from the A-G	Budget to be aligned to Strategy Implement Internal Control Framework Quality check Financial Statements Keep abreast of developments in finance reporting standards
<u>Outcome 8:</u> Maintain and enhance good governance.	Non-compliance with statutory requirements Lack of effectiveness at Board level due to poor balance, poor understanding of role and poor focus	Monthly Statutory Compliance Checklists Review of all new legislation, regulations and directives on a quarterly basis Monthly Statutory Deadlines Webpage SOPs for compliance Board structure, Charter and performance reviewed annually to ensure continuity and common understanding
<u>Outcome 9:</u> Maintain a regulatory framework that incorporates best practises and is responsive to changes in the overall environment.	Legal Aid SA Act becoming outdated and irrelevant Regulations not responsive to client and community needs Legal Aid Manual not serving business needs	Board oversight Staff consultation on required amendments Shareholder buy-in
<u>Outcome 10:</u> Sustain strong financial management, supply chain and asset management practises informed by best practise.	Non-compliance with PPPFA, PFMA and relevant NT Regulations	Implementation of Internal Control Framework including statutory compliance
<u>Outcome 11:</u> Consolidate and review the resourcing of our national	Low levels of recruitment impact negatively on client services	Organisational structure aligned to strategic objectives and retention of scarce skills

Outcome	Key Risk	Risk Mitigation
footprint to ensure adequate staffing, as well as safe and secure facilities for clients and staff, within available resources.	Insufficient funding for salaries	
<u>Outcome 12:</u> Strengthen and continuously improve the quality and expertise for each segment of the national footprint.	Legal Aid SA failing to comply with the Skills Development Act Legal Aid SA workforce not reflecting the demographics of South Africa	Timeous development and submission of the ATP and ATR Defined employment equity targets which inform recruitment and development activities
<u>Outcome 13:</u> Enhance and maintain an integrated and service-oriented and secured Information Technology system with capacity to integrate stakeholders.	Budget constraints unable to meet WAN upgrade demand requirements Insufficient capacity Inadequate hardware to meet user demands Outdated IT software and applications Inadequate cyber security environment resulting in data and information loss	Monitor and review WAN utilisation and advise on need for upgrades Monitor and review System Utilisation Reports Review and realign IT software and applications with business objectives Review and update cyber security environment

Strategic Risks

Legal Aid SA has identified strategic risks which could impact on the performance of the organisational strategies and have to be mitigated to achieve the Vision.

- i. Clients deprived of their constitutional right to access to justice and/or to their liberty.
- ii. Lack of capacity to deliver on the demand for legal services in Criminal, Civil and Land matters.
- iii. Poor quality of legal services provided in Criminal, Civil and Land matters (by Local Offices; Judicare; Co-operation Partners; Agency Agreements).
- iv. Legal Aid SA reputation risk, arising particularly from managing social media risks.
- v. Lack of confidence in the justice system due to its perceived and experienced ineffectiveness in realising justice outcomes.
- vi. Continuing budget cuts and shortfalls impacting on Legal Aid SA's ability to deliver on its mandate.

- vii. Weakening culture of good corporate governance practises resulting in failure to detect system deficiencies and non-compliance.
- viii. Unethical, corrupt or fraudulent practises or acts.
- ix. Sustainability risk: Sustainable high performance and increasing maturity impacted by external factors (budget cuts, focus of State on crime and convictions) and internal factors (leadership, employee engagement, culture).
- x. Increasing trust deficit by employees due to varied perspectives of reality resulting in a growing conceptual gap against management and negatively impacting on employee engagement.
- xi. Unable to keep pace with the new/emerging technology resulting in poor adoption of the 4IR opportunities that enhances effective business operations.
- xii. Poor data security and protection of information resulting in non-compliance with established regulations and standards of good practise.
- xiii. Poor risk-based approach on cyber security leading to exposure and losses of business assets and personal information of employees, clients and key stakeholders.

6. PART D: Technical Indicator Descriptions (TID)

Client, Community, Stakeholder and Shareholder	
Indicator Title	Planned Court coverage in the District Courts, Regional Courts and High Courts
Definition	<p>Refers to the percentage of District and Regional Court days that Legal Aid SA has planned practitioner capacity to cover the various courts in order to provide legal representation.</p> <p>In the High Court, this refers to 100% of matters on the court roll that require legal aid at each division of the High Court.</p>
Source of data	Legal Aid SA Local Offices provide court coverage plans on a bi-annual basis and produce staff deployment plans on a monthly basis.
Method of calculation/ assessment	<p>A webpage has been created to collect the information from our Local Offices for the lower courts and this data is analysed. The percentage that a court is covered is determined by the number of days that our practitioners cover the courts divided by the total number of days that the court sits in a typical month.</p> <p>For High Courts, information is obtained directly from our system, noting that clients who require legal aid have to complete an application form which is recorded on our system.</p>
Assumptions	Accurate information provided/recorded on court coverage plans and staff deployment plans.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: dependent on request for services. • Target for youth: dependent on request for services. • Target for people with disabilities: dependent on request for services.

Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to spatial transformation priorities: N/A. Spatial impact area: All criminal court seats in the country serviced by Legal Aid SA employees.
Reporting cycle	Lower court coverage calculation is completed bi-annually and reported quarterly. High Court reporting is done quarterly.
Desired performance	Higher coverage is preferred.
Indicator responsibility	NOE
Indicator Title	Number of clients assisted in civil matters
Definition	Refers to the number of civil matters in which Legal Aid SA provides legal representation.
Source of data	All internal and Judicare instructions for civil legal aid are captured on the Legal Aid SA legal aid administration system. Co-operation Agreement statistics are provided by Co-operation Partners in quarterly reports to Provincial Offices.
Method of calculation/ assessment	<p>Target:</p> <p>Internal practitioners – The target for new matters is set by calculating the number of new matters each category of civil practitioners is required to undertake in a year, multiplied by an anticipated recruitment rate of 95% for the financial year (Recruitment rate). This is then set at 90% of the calculated number to determine the new matter target for the year for internal practitioners.</p> <p>Judicare – The Judicare target is calculated at 10% of the actual total new Judicare matters for the previous FY.</p> <p>Existing Co-operation Agreement Partners – The new matter target per partner is determined as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Calculating the average number of cases finalised by each co-operation partner in the preceding 3 financial years (excluding any terminated agreements) and adjusting the average number of new matters over the 3 FY's by the % increase or decrease in new matters over the 3 Financial Periods. <p>New Co-operation Agreement Partners – The matter target for a new partner is determined as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Only in the event that a new Co-Operation service provider is appointed, then the approved Co-Operation Agreement Budget for a new partner is divided by the cost per case achieved by an existing partner, undertaking similar legal work, in the FY preceding the year in which the new agreement is implemented. <p>Actual:</p> <p>The number of civil matters for both internal practitioners and Judicare is calculated from the eLAA data that is collected in all legal aid instructions captured on the system. The actual number of new civil matters for Co-operation Partners is determined from the data that is submitted by the partners to the Provincial Offices as per the requirements.</p>

Assumptions	Functional administration system and accurate statistics from Co-operation Agreement Partners.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	Disaggregated data will be made available for women, children and youth.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	Civil legal services are made available within the magisterial districts covered by each Local Office.
Reporting cycle	Quarterly
Desired performance	Actual performance that is higher than targeted performance is desirable.
Indicator responsibility	CLE
Indicator Title	Number of clients assisted in land matters
Definition	Refers to the number of land matters in which Legal Aid SA provides legal representation and advice.
Source of data	Judicare and internal instructions for land matters to be captured on the Legal Aid SA legal administration system.
Method of calculation/ assessment	Referrals for legal representation in land matters received through the DALRRD and Commission on Restitution of Land Rights. Some (740) matters transferred to Legal Aid SA by the Land Rights Management Facility (of the DALRRD) at the beginning of Q4: 2021/22.
Assumptions	Functional administration system and accurate statistics from Judicare practitioners.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	Disaggregated data will be made available for women, children and youth.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	Civil legal services in land matters are made available within the magisterial districts covered by each Local Office.
Reporting cycle	Quarterly
Desired performance	Actual performance that is higher than targeted performance is desirable.
Indicator responsibility	LE: LRM
Indicator Title	Number of clients assisted with general legal advice
Definition	Refers to the number of consultations in which Legal Aid SA provided legal advice.
Source of data	Our paralegals and staff providing legal advice capture the client details and advice details on the walk-in client webpage and the Call Centre staff capture the client and advice details on the Thetha Nathi

	webpage. Advice provided by Remand Detainee paralegals is captured on the Remand Detainee webpage.
Method of calculation/assessment	<p>Target: The target for advice matters is set at the same number of advice matters as achieved in the previous financial year. The target is not adjusted from the previous financial year as the target is dependent on demand and the available capacity.</p> <p>Actual: The number of advice matters is calculated from the legal advice services data that has been recorded on the walk-in client, Remand Detainee and Thetha Nathi webpages.</p>
Assumptions	Functional administration system (webpages).
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	Civil advice services are made available at all 128 offices as well as identified outreach sites in rural areas serviced by Satellite Offices.
Reporting cycle	Quarterly
Desired performance	Actual performance that is higher than targeted performance is desirable.
Indicator responsibility	CLE
Indicator Title	<p>Number of new strategic litigation matters approved</p> <p>Success rate for strategic litigation matters</p>
Definition	Refers to the number of matters in which legal representation is provided where the impact is far-reaching and not always focused on an individual client.
Source of data	The Impact Litigation Unit maintains schedules of matters that are assessed, approved by the Constitutional Case Management Committee (CCMC), finalised and handled by the Unit.
Method of calculation/assessment	<p>The matters that are funded/taken on are approved by the CCMC with a set budget for each matter approved. The number of matters that can be funded/taken on by the Unit must be done within the budget that is made available annually. The success rate is set at 90% of matters with outcomes. The CCMC determines the required outcome which may not always be that the case should be won, but could be to ensure clarity of the law or equality of arms. Where a matter does not have an outcome, it will not be included in the denominator and remunerator to determine the success rate. This would be where the client/s cannot be found and do not give instructions so that a matter can be taken to an outcome stage.</p> <p>The number of matters assessed, approved and finalised are calculated manually by the Unit, including the available budget after deducting the amounts approved by the CCMC for new matters.</p>

Assumptions	Accurate statistics for strategic litigation matters.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	N/A
Reporting cycle	Quarterly
Desired performance	Actual performance that is higher than targeted performance is desirable.
Indicator responsibility	CLE
Indicator Title	Participation in relevant structures aimed at improving the functioning of the justice system and courts
Definition	The attendance of Legal Aid SA representatives at identified structures that are aimed at improving the functioning of the justice system.
Source of data	Minutes of meetings of all committees.
Method of calculation/ assessment	Minutes of meetings are provided by relevant secretariats.
Assumptions	Minutes of meetings recorded and distributed.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	N/A
Reporting cycle	Depends on the sittings of the structure concerned.
Desired performance	Attendance at all meetings of the different structures by Legal Aid SA representatives.
Indicator responsibility	NOE
Indicator Title	4 Quarterly Reports and 1 Annual Report submitted timeously to the Executive Authority
Definition	Quarterly and Annual Reports.
Source of data	Individual and team work performance from legal and support staff in respect of deliverables in our APP and which are recorded on the eLAA system, SYSPRO, SAP or any other monitoring system including webpages.
Method of calculation/ assessment	The eLAA, SAP and SYSPRO systems used as sources of data for production and actual performance. Each APP indicator is calculated

	in accordance with its own methodology in order to produce the required information.
Assumptions	Accurate information recorded/collected for compilation of Quarterly Reports and Annual Report.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	N/A
Reporting cycle	Quarterly reports submitted within 30 days after end of a quarter. Annual Report submitted within five months after the end of the financial year.
Desired performance	100% compliance.
Indicator responsibility	BS, All Executives
Finance and Sustainability	
Indicator Title	Balanced budget (as per government grant allocation)
Definition	The approved budget is within the available resource allocation.
Source of data	Historical expenditure and National Treasury allocation letter.
Method of calculation/ assessment	The total budgeted expenditure excluding depreciation is compared to the grant allocation and projected interest.
Assumptions	Availability of historical expenditure; allocation letter received from National Treasury.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	Budget is prepared per Local Office which includes Legal Aid SA's 64 Local Offices across the national footprint.
Reporting cycle	Annually
Desired performance	Balanced and approved MTEF 2023/24 –2025/26 and Budget 2023/24.
Indicator responsibility	CFO
Indicator Title	Financial reporting that is compliant with relevant standards and regulations
Definition	Prepare monthly finance MIS and Quarterly Financial Statements.
Source of data	Financial reporting system.

Method of calculation/assessment	Approved budgets compared to actual expenditure.
Assumptions	Operational financial reporting system; accurate data.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	N/A
Reporting cycle	Quarterly
Desired performance	Financial reporting compliant with relevant standards and regulations, resulting in optimum financial maturity.
Indicator responsibility	CFO
Indicator Title	Statutory compliance (including Legal Aid South Africa Act, 2014 and PFMA)
Definition	Statutory compliance reporting.
Source of data	Compliance with reporting or payments in line with statutory requirements.
Method of calculation/assessment	Relevant reports serve as proof of compliance.
Assumptions	Accurate information provided and timeously collated.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	N/A
Reporting cycle	Reporting cycle compliant to relevant report.
Desired performance	100% compliance.
Indicator responsibility	All Executives
Indicator Title	Annual Audit Coverage Plan executed/delivered
Definition	Audit Coverage Plan (ACP).
Source of data	Legal Aid SA's files and records in business units or from IT system, eLAA, SAP or SYSPRO systems.
Method of calculation/assessment	Delivery against ACP compiled manually with audit reports as proof of delivery; Combined Assurance Report.

Assumptions	Accurate information recorded and provided.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target for women: N/A. Target for youth: N/A. Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	N/A
Reporting cycle	Quarterly auditing report on work done.
Desired performance	≥95% of Audit Coverage Plan delivered.
Indicator responsibility	IAE
Indicator Title	Properly constituted Board and Board Committees skilled to function effectively
Definition	Board of Legal Aid SA.
Source of data	Attendance registers and decisions made by the Board.
Method of calculation/ assessment	Minutes of the Board meetings; attendance registers; Board Succession Plan; Board Evaluation Report.
Assumptions	Consistent quorate Board meetings and accurate Board records.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target for women: N/A. Target for youth: N/A. Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
	Board composition: 14 members of which 4 are women.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	N/A
Reporting cycle	Quarterly meetings.
Desired performance	Board Charters and Board Committee Charters; Board properly constituted at all times, appointments and re-appointments made timeously.
Indicator responsibility	Board of Directors; BS
Internal Business Processes	
Indicator Title	Legal Aid South Africa Act No. 39 of 2014 reviewed once every two years or as and when required
Definition	The Legal Aid SA Act sets the governance framework for the functioning of Legal Aid SA.
Source of data	Legislation and Board meeting minutes.
Method of calculation/ assessment	Verification of promulgation and implementation by the Board.

Assumptions	Legislation requires amendment, accurate Board records and Executive Authority/Parliament in agreement with proposed amendments.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	N/A
Reporting cycle	Quarterly
Desired performance	All Board meetings held and quorate; Legal Aid SA founding legislation kept up to date to meet business needs.
Indicator responsibility	CLE, BS
Indicator Title	Legal Aid Regulations (Policy) reviewed at least once every two years or as and when required
Definition	The Legal Aid Regulations set out the policy relating to qualification criteria for legal aid and the types of matters in which legal aid is available.
Source of data	Government Gazette.
Method of calculation/ assessment	Verification of promulgation of the Regulations in the Government Gazette.
Assumptions	Regulations require amendment and Executive Authority/Parliament in agreement with the proposed amendments.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	N/A
Reporting cycle	Quarterly
Desired performance	The Legal Aid Regulations reviewed and updated as required to meet business needs.
Indicator responsibility	CLE
Indicator Title	Legal Aid Manual (Procedures) reviewed annually or as and when required
Definition	The Legal Aid Manual sets out the procedures and systems for the administration of legal aid.
Source of data	Government Gazette.
Method of calculation/	Verification of promulgation of the updated Manual in the Government Gazette.

assessment	
Assumptions	Manual requires amendment and Executive Authority in agreement with proposed amendments.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	N/A
Reporting cycle	Quarterly
Desired performance	The Legal Aid Manual reviewed and updated as required.
Indicator responsibility	CLE
Indicator Title	Compliance with PPPFA, PFMA and relevant NT Regulations when acquiring goods and services
Definition	Implement Supply Chain Management Policy and ensure 100% compliance with relevant SCM prescripts.
Source of data	Expenditure reports, BAC minutes, deviation reports.
Method of calculation/ assessment	Measured against the number of SCM-relevant regulations.
Assumptions	Accurate reports and BAC meeting minutes.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: dependent on PPPFA and B-BBEE. • Target for youth: dependent on B-BBEE rating. • Target for people with disabilities: B-BBEE rating.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	Fostering localised procurement of goods and services which promotes resilient supply chain management for the economic and social development of local communities in the proximity of our Local Offices.
Reporting cycle	Quarterly
Desired performance	100% compliance with PPPFA, PFMA and relevant NT Regulations when acquiring goods and services.
Indicator responsibility	CFO
Employee and Organisational Capacity and Innovation and Learning	
Indicator Title	Staffing plans
Definition	Staff plans and workforce plans.
Source of data	Recruitment records and staffing plans collected monthly on SAP.

Method of calculation/ assessment	Work demand levels for legal practitioners given recruited staff per skill area; ratio allocations of workload per practitioner; ratio of support staff to legal personnel; managerial posts per size of LO; department organisational structure within defined scope of responsibility .
Assumptions	Accurate information from SAP system.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: 45.2%. • Target for youth: 20% (85% of CAs under the age of 35). • Target for people with disabilities: 2%.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	Staff plans aligned to EE targets across the national footprint.
Reporting cycle	Quarterly reporting on staff recruitment level.
Desired performance	≥95% staff recruitment level.
Indicator responsibility	NOE, CLE, COO
Indicator Title	Submission of the Annual Training Plan and Annual Training Report in compliance with the Skills Development Act
Definition	Skills plan.
Source of data	Individual development plans for employees.
Method of calculation/ assessment	Staff records on academic qualifications, training and development.
Assumptions	Individual development plans in place.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: 45.2%. • Target for youth: 20% (85% of CAs under the age of 35). • Target for people with disabilities: 2%.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	Annual Training Reports produce dispersed number of staff per business unit and Local Office along the targets of the Annual Training Plan.
Reporting cycle	Quarterly and annually.
Desired performance	As per Annual Training Plan.
Indicator responsibility	COO, NOE, HRE
Indicator Title	Employment Equity targets defined as per Employment Equity Plan
Definition	EE Plan.
Source of data	Staff recruitment statistics.
Method of calculation/	SAP records.

assessment	
Assumptions	Accurate statistics.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: 45.2%. • Target for youth: 20% (85% of CAs under the age of 35). • Target for people with disabilities: 2%.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	Fostering a balance in reaching EE targets per business unit and Local Office.
Reporting cycle	Quarterly and annual EE statistics.
Desired performance	As per EE Plan.
Indicator responsibility	COO, HRE
Indicator Title	Stable and reliable Wide Area Network (WAN) and Virtual Private Network (VPN)
Definition	IT WAN maintenance.
Source of data	IT self-monitoring systems.
Method of calculation/ assessment	Data/information on system performance extracted from IT system.
Assumptions	IT self-monitoring systems operational.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	Wide Area Network (WAN) and Virtual Private Network (VPN) allows efficiency of coordinating business activities across the dispersed locations of Legal Aid SA's offices.
Reporting cycle	Quarterly MIS reports.
Desired performance	VPN connected and availability ≥95%.
Indicator responsibility	COO, ISE
Indicator Title	Stable hardware platform
Definition	IT hardware maintenance.
Source of data	IT self-monitoring systems.
Method of calculation/ assessment	Data/information on system performance extracted from IT system.
Assumptions	IT self-monitoring systems operational.

Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	N/A
Reporting cycle	Quarterly MIS reports.
Desired performance	≥99% availability of hardware.
Indicator responsibility	COO, ISE
Indicator Title	IT software and applications maintained and upgraded
Definition	IT platform maintenance.
Source of data	IT self-monitoring systems.
Method of calculation/ assessment	Data/information on system performance extracted from IT system.
Assumptions	IT self-monitoring systems operational.
Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	Employ software capable of the use of cloud service technology to enable safe storage and processing of spatial data, and to analyse business data sets from any area of our business locations.
Reporting cycle	Quarterly MIS reports.
Desired performance	≥95% availability of network and ≥99% availability of software and hardware.
Indicator responsibility	COO, ISE
Indicator Title	Organisational cyber security operational metrics developed and maintained
Definition	The Legal Aid SA Cyber Security Governance Framework sets out the procedures and systems for the development and maintenance of cyber security operational metrics.
Source of data	Multiple data sources from business activities, including physical security, access to classified assets, supplier service delivery management and configuration capacity of key IT infrastructure.
Method of calculation/ assessment	Organisational data collected and benchmarked against best practise to arrive at a metric value that matches Legal Aid SA's risk appetite.
Assumptions	Cyber security metrics based on the Key Risk Indicators which are reviewed periodically, and identified risks mitigated timeously.

Disaggregation of Beneficiaries (where applicable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for women: N/A. • Target for youth: N/A. • Target for people with disabilities: N/A.
Spatial Transformation (where applicable)	Appropriate business activity related to cyber security measures at National Office, Provincial and Local Offices across the national footprint are accounted for in the cyber security reports.
Reporting cycle	Quarterly MIS reports.
Desired performance	≥90% of the cyber security control measures are effective in detecting and protecting Legal Aid SA's cyber security environment.
Indicator responsibility	COO, ISE

Annexure to the Strategic Plan

Annexure A: District Development Model

Areas of Intervention	Medium Term (3 years – MTEF)				
	Project description	District Municipality	Location: GPS coordinates	Project leader	Social partners
Legal Services and Access to Justice	<p>Provision of criminal, civil legal representation and legal advice services.</p> <p>Legal aid services are provided in accordance with the Legal Aid South Africa Act No. 39 of 2014, the Legal Aid Regulations (policy regarding the administration of legal aid) and Manual (procedures on the administration of legal aid).</p>	Municipalities that LOs/SOs are located in.	64 LOs 64 SOs	NOE/ CLE	Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster Stakeholders; NGOs; CBOs; Private Practitioners (Judicare); Legal Profession