



# health

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Department:

Health

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**FORENSIC PATHOLOGY SERVICES GRANT**

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# Background and Introduction

- Cabinet took a decision in 1998 to approve the transfer of the medico-legal mortuaries from the South Africa Police Services to the Department of Health;
- Transfer was important as it enabled improved management of the function and handling evidence;
- Section 27 (2) of the National Health Act, 2003: stipulate that the Provincial Departments of Health will be responsible for implementation of the entire Forensic Pathology Services excluding Forensic Laboratories in compliance with National policies and law;
- Forensic Pathology Services were transferred from SAPS to the Provincial Health Departments in 2006 and a Conditional Grant was initiated to support the function shift.

# Purpose of the Grant

- To develop a comprehensive Forensic Pathology Services in all nine Provinces which would ensure the production of impartial professional evidence for the criminal justice system concerning deaths due to unnatural causes
  
- **The agreed deliverables were:**
  1. Transfer of function from SAPS to Provincial Departments of Health;
  2. New mortuary facilities built and equipped, old mortuary facilities refurbished and equipped;
  3. Human Resources Organogram filled with qualified personnel;
  4. Acceptable productivity levels in mortuaries;
  5. Operational standards for mortuaries published and implemented;
  6. FPS information system in all Provinces.

# GRANT OBJECTIVES

■ The objective of the grant as outlined in the grant framework were classified into four areas

**1. Human Resources**

**2. Building and refurbishment of mortuary facilities**

**3. Equipment**

**4. FPS Information System**

- Personnel formerly employed by SAPS are now part of staff compliments;
- New personnel with Grade 12 have been recruited for possible training to become Forensic Pathology Officers;
- Engaging with Health Professional Council of South Africa to recognise these officers so that they qualify for OSD;
- Spending in a significant number of Provinces have improved over time;
- Equipment and new fleet was purchased in all Provinces;
- Forensic Pathology Information System operational in two Provinces;
- Old mortuaries were refurbished and new ones were build

# Achievements in Service Delivery

- A summary of the number of autopsies and the turn-around times for autopsies is shown below:

<b>PROVINCE</b>	<b>(a) Bodies awaiting autopsies as at 30 November 2011</b>	<b>(b) Average waiting time prior to autopsy</b>	<b>(c) Longest waiting time prior to autopsy</b>	<b>(d) Waiting time for histology results</b>
<b>Eastern Cape</b>	14	3 days	7 days	Histology: 6 months
<b>Free State</b>	None	2days	3 days	Histology: longer than 3 months
<b>Gauteng</b>	16	2 days	4 days	Histology: 6 weeks
<b>Kwa Zulu Natal</b>	10	1 hour – 7 days	8 days	Histology: up to 1 year
<b>Limpopo</b>	33	3days	4days	Histology: 6 weeks
<b>Mpumalanga</b>	15	3days	1 week	Histology: 6 months
<b>North West</b>	15	2days	7days	Histology: up to 1 year
<b>Northern Cape</b>	8	3days	3days	Histology: 3 months
<b>Western Cape</b>	63	3.04days	7.47days	Histology: 6 weeks

# Achievements in Human Resources as at 31 December 2011

Provinces	Doctors	Pathologists	FPO's	Admin Support	Managers	Auxillary support	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter report Totals
Eastern Cape	7	1	30	16	6	0	60
Free State	21		63	23	7	2	116
Gauteng	28	15	164	58	23	8	354
Kwa Zulu Natal	94		254	669	3	0	578
Limpopo	70						70
Mpumalanga	9		124	34	14	33	214
Northern Cape	5		50	12	2	0	69
North West	19	1	63	32	12	0	127
Western Cape	19		138	57	12	21	260



# ACHIEVEMENTS EQUIPMENT AND FLEET SERVICES



Provinces	Vehicles	Totals
Eastern Cape	4x4 vans, bakkies and private cars	44
Free State	4x4 vans and private cars	42
Gauteng	4x4 vans and private cars	91
KwaZulu Natal	4x4 vans and private cars	150
Limpopo	4x4 vans	39
Mpumalanga	4x4 vans and private cars	63
Northern Cape	4x4 vans and private cars	29
North West	4x4 vans and private cars	51
Western Cape	4x4 vans and private cars	68

# Status of the Building And Refurbishment of Mortuary Facilities: as at 31 March 2012

- The table below is a summary of the FPS status. A detailed list of the facilities per Province is available.

Province	Total number of planned mortuaries and holding facilities	New Structures			Refurbished		
		Planned	Completed	Remaining	Planned	Completed	Remaining
Eastern Cape	26	13	13	0	8	5	3
Free State	10	1	1	0	6	6	0
Gauteng	11	6	0	6	5	5	0
Kwa Zulu Natal	24	17	7	10	7	7	0
Limpopo	13	1	1	0	12	11	2
Mpumalanga	31	13	4	9	18	13	5
Northern Cape	17	2	0	2	7	4	3
North West	12	2	2	0	7	5	2
Western Cape	16	11	6	5	5	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>20</b>

- The information system is operational in only two of the nine Provinces i.e. Gauteng and Western Cape;
- In the Western Cape it is operational in all 18 facilities;
- In Gauteng it is operational in 4 facilities.

# CHALLENGES AND FAILURES EXPERIENCED

- Not been able formalise the training program into a full qualification for Forensic Pathology Officers
- Not been able to recruit Forensic Pathologists due to production in Universities;
- Increasing number of un-identified bodies;
- Lengthy procedures in the criminal justice system;
- Court cases pending particularly Northern Cape;
- Poor workmanship;
- Underfunding as some Provinces have capacity
- Difficulty in acquiring land;
- Escalating building costs;
- Moratorium on Health Information Systems which affected implementation.

# Infrastructural Challenges (To Building and Refurbishment of Mortuary Facilities)

- Gauteng had difficulty obtaining land and none of the 6 planned new facilities were built. Currently progress has been made to acquire land for Bronkhorstspruit and Springs mortuaries;
- Northern Cape had challenges with a Court case halting all projects – the matter is still not resolved;
- Mpumalanga did not complete all the new facilities due to lack of funds;
- Western Cape did not complete all their building and refurbishment projects due to lack sufficient funds e.g. Salt River needs R134 million for a new structure.

# Infrastructural challenges (To Building and Refurbishment of Mortuary Facilities)

- Eastern Cape had two holding facilities that were part of the original plan that were not built due to lack of funding;
- Other constraints included the slow start of the infrastructure project due to among other things, land that could not be acquired to build mortuaries. In the process costs escalated resulting in the original costing not being sufficient;
- Tendering processes to award contracts were also slow. These will be prioritized, including the building of new mortuaries in Engcobo, Elliot, Cradock and Willowmore.

- Capacity challenges in the National Department of Health (only 2 officers managing the Grant);
- Post of the Director was vacant for more than 3 years;
- Managed to visit all Provinces as required in the Business Plans;
- Quarterly Reports were submitted late by some Provinces;
- Could not be able to evaluate the status of the designated mortuary building and upgrading programme due to capacity problems.

## ■ Provincial visits:

(a) Visits were mainly conducted for monitoring the progress of building and refurbishment projects, Information regarding HR matters was also dealt with during these visits, including procurement of equipment;

(b) Financial expenditure was obtained from monthly and quarterly reports received from Provinces;

(c) The constraint with the building and refurbishment visits is that not all mortuaries were visited during the grant period. As challenges were identified with infrastructure the inclination was to revisit problematic mortuaries and to make follow up on a regular basis. This meant that some mortuaries were visited 2 to 7 times.

(d) NDOH have monitored the occupational health and safety issues at the facilities during provincial visits to ensure that the working environment is safe for all employees, and that employees are provided with the necessary personal protective equipment. Facilities have established their own in-house safety committees. It is the role of the Environmental health inspectors to inspect facilities twice a year.



# BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE DURING 2011/12 (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter)

Provinces	Budget	Amount Spent	Amount Spent as % of total	Variance
Eastern Cape	73,506	66,190	90	7,316
Free State	39,451	25,421	64	14,030
Gauteng	97,966	62,798	64	35,168
KwaZulu Natal	161,550	122,202	76	39,348
Limpopo	42,308	25,633	61	16,675
Mpumalanga	53,114	29,744	56	23,370
Northern Cape	24,240	19,300	80	4,940
North West	28,019	18,938	68	9,081
Western Cape	70,226	49,780	71	20,446
<b>Total</b>	<b>590,380</b>	<b>420,006</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>170,374</b>

# BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE DURING 2011/12 (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter)



Provinces	Budget	Amount Spent	Amount Spent as % of total	Variance
Eastern Cape	73,506	92,449	126	-18,943
Free State	39,451	38,475	98	976
Gauteng	97,966	73,979	76	23,987
KwaZulu Natal	161,550	161,550	100	-
Limpopo	42,308	37,819	89	4,489
Mpumalanga	53,114	53,589	101	-475
Northern Cape	24,240	25,585	106	-1,345
North West	28,019	28,017	100	2
Western Cape	70,226	75,204	107	-4,978
<b>Total</b>	<b>590,380</b>	<b>586,667</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>3,713</b>

# CONCLUSIONS

- This grant has been phased-out into Provincial Equitable Share from 2012/13;
- Health Infrastructure Grant is now managed by the National Department of Health;
- Provinces have been briefed through policy structures to carry-over the revatilisiation of mortuaries from the Equitable share funding;
- National Department of Health will use the National Health Act to ensure Provinces provide FPS at the required standards;
- Refurbishment and building of mortuaries will be done under the Hospital Revitalisation and Health Infrastructure Grant.