

The SAPS stated that they have standby members on call at these stations. The lack of accommodation in some of the small towns means that members need to travel long distances to get to work and back and thus cannot be present during the night. However, according to the SAPS, the proposed restructuring of the SAPS takes into account ensuring services in remote areas where members cannot physically be stationed at all times.

Target areas for new stations: The Committee stated that there is migration of criminals into rural areas and wanted to know if more stations are being built in these areas to deal with increases in crime.

The Department responded that in 2005/06, 11 new stations were built and that currently 27 are being built in certain areas, including in rural areas.

Equity ratio: The Committee wanted to know whether the 70:30 gender equity targets apply to all levels.

The SAPS stated that this target does apply to all levels.

Staff component of the Secretariat: Members required clarity on the number of staff in the Secretariat to fulfil all these functions.

The review of the current structure of the Secretariat is not yet finalised. The Secretariat will make recommendations to the Minister of Safety and Security based on their Business Plan. According to the Secretariat, the Minister of Safety and Security has stated that no new appointments will be made until the restructuring process is complete. Minister Moleketi has approved the new structure of the Secretariat but some of the positions are still vacant and will hopefully be filled by the end of June 2006. The budget for personnel was based on this envisaged total staff complement. This will include 1 Chief Director post and 5 Director posts (SMS level- R3,3 million), 6 Deputy Director posts (MMS- R1,6 million) and 14 administrative posts (below MMS- R2,2 million).

Relationship of the Secretariat to the ICD: The Committee has been told that the ICD will divert misconduct investigations to the Secretariat, yet the Secretariat had not reflected this in their budget.

The Secretariat responded that there is an overlap of functions between the Secretariat and the ICD, particularly with regard to complaints from the public. An agreement is in place with the ICD that all complaints pertaining to the mandate of the Secretariat will be rechanneled from the ICD to the Secretariat and vice versa. The kinds of investigation which will be done by the Secretariat relate to issues like unfair dismissal.

SAPU: The Committee regretted the fact that POPCRU did not make itself available at this meeting. Committee members raised concerns that the

transference of Public Service Employees (civilians) to the Police Act may be taking a step backward in terms of the progression toward ensuring that all functional police perform policing functions. Members also wanted to know what suggestions the union had to make the incentive system fairer. The Committee wanted more information on the causes of suicides and stress in the police.

SAPU responded that there are already about 22 000 civilians in the SAPS and as more police are removed from desk duties, the number of civilians will increase even further. Different conditions of service within the same place of employment cause problems and SAPU maintains that all employees should fall under the direction of one Minister, one Department and one set of conditions of service.

In terms of the incentive system, SAPU stated that they had not had time to make concrete proposals on this issue. This issue had only recently been settled in court following a dispute by approximately 10 000 members who were aggrieved in this process. A settlement had only been signed on 18 May 2006 (that is, a day before this meeting). The main issue is that not everyone who qualifies for a reward can receive one. SAPU and the SAPS need to re-examine the criteria for implementation.

SAPU stated that a 40% vacancy rate exists amongst social workers and psychologists in the Employee Assistance Scheme (EAS) whose job it is to counsel police members. In addition, the medical aid cover for psychological treatment is insufficient. There is also a perception that if a member seeks counselling from the EAS, it will hinder their chances for promotion. These factors mitigate against members seeking assistance when they are under stress.

SITA: The Committee raised the concern that the Committee did not receive the report requested during the 2005/06 budget hearings. Committee members asked why, if these systems have been implemented, there is still a problem with delays in forensic analysis. A key concern was raised that the Service Level Agreement has still not been signed. In addition, the Committee requested information on the service providers used by the SITA.

The SITA stated that they had sent the report and were not sure why it had not been received. The SITA responded that the project dealing with exhibits is still not complete and only began last year. They hope to complete the project during this financial year.

5. Decisions:

Arising from the meeting with the SAPS

- The lines of communication between the SAPS and the Committee must be addressed as a matter of urgency. Issues raised as concerns by the Members in this report and during the hearings, as well as specific requests for information identified in this report and during the hearings, should be forwarded to the Committee by the SAPS, through the identified channels, not later than 1 month after the tabling of this report in Parliament.
- The SAPS has stated that they will report to the Committee on progress on restructuring with regard to ensuring that skills are devolved to station level. This report should include identification of how the restructuring process will assist in alleviating vacancies amongst detectives and on new developments in sector policing. The presentation to the Committee on restructuring and reorganisation at local level should include information on the delivery of services in rural areas.
- The SAPS must identify and report to the Committee on progress made to ensure that Unit Commanders reallocate dockets of members who had left the service within a predetermined time period. The Committee suggests that Head Office stipulates a minimum time frame for the reallocation of dockets, which must be adhered to by Unit Commanders.
- The SAPS must indicate the breakdown of the distribution of the 67 000 new safes per province.
- The SAPS must provide a document listing all the new stations, which were built in 2005, and the envisaged new stations for 2006 and detailing which areas these stations will service.

Arising from the meeting with the Secretariat

- The Committee will prioritise meetings with the Provincial Secretariats rather than the National Office in order to check developments on the ground. The National Office will be called in to corroborate this information.
- The Secretariat must provide a copy of the finalised organogram to the Committee.
- The Secretariat must provide a clear written response as to their role in the investigation of misconduct complaints.

Arising from the meeting with National Treasury

- The SAPS should forward its quarterly performance and expenditure reports to the Committee once they have been submitted to Treasury.

National Treasury may be asked at any time by the Committee to provide an analysis of these reports.

- The Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security will call National Treasury to appear on at least an annual basis to highlight particular problems that stations identified in their assessment of expenditure patterns at station level.

Arising from the meeting with SITA

- The Chairperson will raise the issue of the unsigned Service Level Agreements with the Minister of Safety and Security, as it is of serious concern to the Committee.
- The SITA must forward a written report outlining details of all the service providers who assist in providing service to the SAPS. This should include specification on their BEE compliance.
- The SAPS should forward a written report outlining responses to the presentation by SITA and identifying any remaining challenges and concerns.
- The SITA must resubmit the report that they were meant to forward in 2005 to the Committee. The Portfolio Committee will scrutinise both the 2005 reports by SITA and the SAPS and the 2006 report which will be submitted by the SAPS and make recommendations thereon.

Arising from the meeting with SAPU

- The Portfolio Committee will meet to discuss the request for assistance from SAPU. The Portfolio Committee will ask POPCRU to make a submission on their concerns.

6. Recommendations:

Administration Programme: The Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security supports the allocation to this programme.

Visible Policing: The Portfolio Committee supports the allocation to this programme and welcomes the implementation of the revised reservist system.

Detective Services: The Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security supports the allocation to this programme. The Committee welcomes all measures to improve the capacity of detectives.

Crime Intelligence: The Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security supports this allocation.

Protection and Security Services: The Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security supports the allocation to this programme.

7. Comments:

The Portfolio Committee of Safety and Security will continue to play a role in providing oversight over the functioning of the Department of Safety and Security to ensure that the SAPS and the Secretariat function effectively in line with their legislative and policy requirements.

Report to be considered.