

ICD RELEASES ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009

25 September 2009

Media Release

The Annual Report for 2008/2009 that was tabled earlier today deals with the overview of service delivery as well as performance information and major projects undertaken during the financial year. It also includes the Annual Financial Statements for 2008/2009.

The number of complaints received by the ICD during 2008/09 increased by 5% to 6 119 compared to the same period in 2007/08. Deaths in police custody and due to police action increased by 15% while criminal allegations against members of the SAPS increased by 9% overall. Misconduct cases remained unchanged. When considering the cases carried over from the previous financial year, the ICD had a workload of 11 193 cases to deal with. Of this figure, the ICD managed to complete 55% of its workload. The specifics are all detailed in the slides as well as the report that will be available later.

Briefly, there are things to be proud of such as the establishment of the satellite offices and the finalization of the ICD's input on the Draft ICD Bill.

On performance, targets relating to the attendance of crime scenes and post mortems were exceeded by 18% and 19% respectively.

From the 6 125 completed cases, 723 recommendations were made to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) in respect of criminal conduct. Recommendations made to the SAPS management in respect of misconduct numbered 1 212.

During the period under review, the ICD completed 3 research projects to assist the police improve in the area of custody management as well as vehicle accidents involving police vehicles. We also compiled a cell inspection tool to assist in ensuring compliance with legislation and policies that regulate the detention of persons in police custody.

With regard to the Auditor-General's Report and the qualification in relation to Asset Management, the Department has embarked on a comprehensive program to rectify shortcomings and non-compliance. These include the introduction of an Asset Management Action Plan and internal audits of all assets at head office and provincial offices. A joint stakeholder committee comprising the Department, representatives of the Auditor-General and National Treasury was established to deal with matters relating to technical non-compliance.

The Independent Complaints Directorate (ICD) is an independent mechanism established to promote proper police conduct and to ensure a transformed police service in line with the spirit and purport of the Constitution.

It is appropriate at this stage to also look forward to the role and significance of the ICD. It's important to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses, the scope of its powers, functions and operational performance. This process should be done in close co-operation with partners and stakeholders including the police, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, the NPA, parliamentary committees, NGO's community based organizations, local government, the media, faith based communities and others.

The further strengthening of the role of ICD should be the focus in the months ahead. Proper oversight in relation to the police is part and parcel of a constitutional democracy.

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