Wednesday, 1 April 2026]

No 57—2026] THIRD SESSION, SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENT

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ANNOUNCEMENTS, TABLINGS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

WEDNESDAY, 1 APRIL 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Assembly

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Assembly

The Speaker

1. Revival of the *Ad Hoc* Committee to Investigate Allegations made by Lieutenant General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi

(1) In terms of Assembly Rule 253(6)(c), an *ad hoc* committee may be revived by decision of the Speaker or resolution of the House, if it has not completed its task by the date set for completion of the task.

The term of the *Ad Hoc* Committee to Investigate Allegations made by Lieutenant General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi expired on 31 March 2026.

As the Assembly is currently not in session, I have decided in terms of Assembly Rule 253(6)(c) to revive the *Ad Hoc* Committee, the Committee to—

(a) maintain the same mandate and membership as agreed by the Assembly on 23 July 2025;

(b) incorporate in its work the proceedings and all the work done up to and including 31 March 2026; and

(c) report to the Assembly by no later than 30 April 2026.

2. Membership of Committees

(1) Ms LS Makhubela (ANC), has been elected as Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation, with effect from 31 March 2026.

3. Referral to Committees of papers tabled

(1) The following paper is referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry and Competition** for consideration:

(a) A letter, dated 27 March 2026, has been received from the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, requesting an extension for the submission of the annual performance plans of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition and its public entities.

(2) The following paper is referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Agriculture** for consideration:

(a) A letter, dated 30 March 2026, has been received from the Minister of Agriculture, requesting an extension for the submission of the Annual Performance Plan of the South African Veterinary Council.

(3) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Municipal Demarcation Board for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Cooperative Governance for 2026/27.

(c) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Traditional Affairs for 2026/27.

(4) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Agriculture** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Agriculture for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of the Agricultural Research Council for 2026/27.

(c) Annual Performance Plan of the National Agricultural Marketing Council for 2026/27.

(5) The following paper is referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Basic Education** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Basic Education for 2026/27.

(6) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the South African Broadcasting Corporation for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of ZADNA (Domain Name Authority) for 2026/27.

(7) The following paper is referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services for 2026/27.

(8) The following paper is referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Military Veterans for 2026/27.

(9) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Electricity and Energy** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the National Energy Regulator of South Africa for 2026/27 – 2028/29.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of the National Radioactive Waste Disposal Institute for 2026/27.

(c) Annual Performance Plan of the National Nuclear Regulator for 2026/27.

(10) The following papers are referred to the **Standing Committee on Finance** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of National Treasury for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of the Accounting Standards Board for 2026/27.

(c) Annual Performance Plan of the Financial Services Providers (FAIS Ombud) for 2026/27.

(d) Annual Performance Plan of the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors for 2026/27.

(e) Annual Performance Plan of the Office of the Tax Ombud for 2026/27.

(f) Annual Performance Plan of the Pension Funds Adjudicator for 2026/27.

(g) Annual Performance Plan of the Financial Intelligence Centre for 2026/27.

(h) Annual Performance Plan of the Financial Sector Conduct Authority for 2026/27.

(i) Annual Performance Plan of the Government Pensions Administration Agency for 2026/27.

(j) Corporate Plan of the Development Bank of Southern Africa for 2026/27 – 2028/29.

(k) Annual Performance Plan of the Government Technical Advisory Centre for 2026/27.

(l) Annual Performance Plan of the Ombud Council for 2026/27.

(11) The following paper is referred to the **Standing Committee on Finance**:

(a) Financial Service Conduct Authority Prudential Standard [-] of 2026: Regulation 28 Quarterly Reporting Requirements for Pension Funds to be made in terms of sections 105 and 292(2)*(b)*, (3) and (4), read with section 108(1)*(j)* and (2)*(a)*, of the Financial Sector Regulation Act, 2017 (Act No. 9 of 2017) (FSR Act), and regulation 28(8)*(a)* of the Regulations under the Pension Funds Act, 1956 (Act No. 24 of 1956).

(12) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Health** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Health for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) for 2026/27.

(c) Revised Strategic Plan of the Council for Medical Schemes for 2025 – 2030.

(d) Annual Performance Plan of the Council for Medical Schemes for 2026/27.

(e) Annual Performance Plan of the Office of Health Standards Compliance (OHSC) for 2026/27.

(f) Revised Strategic Plan of the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) for 2025 – 2030.

(g) Annual Performance Plan of the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) for 2026/27.

(h) Annual Performance Plan of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) for 2026/27.

(i) Annual Performance Plan of the Mines and Works Compensation Fund for 2026/27.

(13) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the National Home Builders Registration Council for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of the Community Schemes Ombud Services for 2026/27.

(c) Annual Performance Plan of the Housing Development Agency for 2026/27.

(14) The following paper is referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Border Management Authority for 2026/27.

(15) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of the African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund (ARF) for 2026/27.

(16) The following paper is referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Mineral and Petroleum Resources** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources for 2026/27.

(17) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Public Service and Administration for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of the National School of Government for 2026/27.

(c) Annual Performance Plan of the Centre for Public Service Innovation for 2026/27.

(18) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAF) for 2026/27.

(c) Annual Performance Plan (Shareholder's Compact) of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for 2026/27.

(d) Annual Performance of the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) for 2026/27.

(e) Annual Performance Plan of the National Advisory Council on Innovation for 2026/27.

(f) Annual Performance Plan of the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) for 2026/27.

(g) Annual Performance Plan of the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions for 2026/27.

(h) Annual Performance Plan of the South African National Space Agency (SANSA) for 2026/27.

(i) Annual Performance Plan of the National Research Foundation (NRF) for 2026/27.

(19) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Social Development** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Social Development for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of the South African Social Security Agency for 2026/27.

(c) Annual Performance Plan of the National Development Agency for 2026/27.

(d) Strategic Plan of the National Development Agency for 2025 – 2030.

(20) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Tourism** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Tourism for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of South African Tourism for 2026/27.

(21) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Transport** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Transport for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of the Cross-Border Road Transport Agency (C-BRTA) for 2026/27.

(c) Annual Performance Plan of the South African National Roads Agency Limited for 2026/27.

(d) Annual Performance Plan of the Railway Safety Regulator for 2026/27.

(e) Annual Performance Plan of the South African Civil Aviation Authority for 2026/27.

(f) Annual Performance Plan of the Road Traffic Management Corporation for 2026/27.

(g) Annual Performance Plan of the Road Traffic Infringement Agency for 2026/27.

(h) Strategic Plan of the Road Traffic Infringement Agency for 2025 – 2030.

(i) Annual Performance Plan of the Road Accident Fund for 2026/27.

(j) Corporate Plan of the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa for 2026/27 – 2028/29.

(k) Corporate Plan of Intersite Asset Investment SOC Ltd for 2026/27.

(l) Annual Performance Plan of the Transport Economic Regulator for 2026/27.

(m) Strategic Plan of the Transport Economic Regulator for 2025 – 2030.

(22) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities for 2026/27.

(b) Revised Strategic Plan of the National Youth Development Agency for 2025 – 2030.

(c) Annual Performance Plan of the National Youth Development Agency for 2026/27.

(23) The following paper is referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Land Reform and Rural Development** for consideration:

(a) A letter, dated 30 March 2026, has been received from the Minister of Land Reform and Rural Development, requesting an extension for the submission of the annual performance plan of the KwaZulu-Natal Ingonyama Trust Board.

(24) The following paper is referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Electoral Commission for 2026/27.

(25) The following papers are referred to the **Standing Committee on Finance** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Financial and Fiscal Commission for 2026/27.

(b) Strategic Plan of the Financial and Fiscal Commission for 2025 – 2030.

(c) Corporate Plan of the Public Investment Corporation for 2027 – 2029.

(d) Corporate Plan of SASRIA for 2026/27 – 2028/29.

(26) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of the National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa for 2026/27.

(c) Strategic Plan of the National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa for 2025 – 2030.

(d) Annual Performance Plan of the Film and Publication Board for 2026/27.

(e) Annual Performance Plan of the State Information Technology Agency for 2026/27.

(f) Strategic Plan of the State Information Technology Agency for 2026 – 2030.

(g) Corporate Plan of the Broadband Infraco for 2026/27 – 2030/31.

(h) Corporate Plan of Sentech for 2026/27 – 2028/29.

(i) Corporate Plan of the South African Post Office for 2026/27 – 2028/29.

(j) Annual Performance Plan of the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa for 2026/27.

(k) Annual Performance Plan of Universal Service and Access Fund for 2026/27.

(l) Strategic Plan of Universal Service and Access Fund for 2025/26 – 2029/30.

(m) Annual Performance Plan of Universal Service and Access Agency of South Africa for 2026/27.

(n) Strategic Plan of Universal Service and Access Agency of South Africa for 2025/26 – 2029/30.

(o) Corporate Plan of the Postbank for 2026/27 – 2028/29.

(27) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Electricity and Energy** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Electricity and Energy for 2026/27.

(b) Strategic Plan of the Department of Electricity and Energy for 2025 – 2030.

(28) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Employment and Labour** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Employment and Labour for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration for 2026/27.

(c) Annual Performance Plan of Productivity SA for 2026/27.

(d) Annual Performance Plan of the National Economic Development and Labour Council for 2026/27.

(e) Revised Strategic Plan of the National Economic Development and Labour Council for 2025/26 – 2029/30.

(f) Annual Performance Plan of the Unemployment Insurance Fund for 2026/27.

(g) Annual Performance Plan of the Compensation Fund for 2026/27.

(29) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Higher Education and Training** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Higher Education and Training for 2026/27.

(b) Strategic Plan of Agricultural Sector Education and Training Authority (AGRI-SETA) for 2025/26 – 2029/30.

(c) Annual Performance Plan of Agricultural Sector Education and Training Authority (AGRI-SETA) for 2026/27.

(d) Annual Performance Plan of the Banking Sector Education and Training Authority (BANKSETA) for 2026/27.

(e) Annual Performance Plan of the Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport Sector Education and Training Authority (CATHSSETA) for 2026/27.

(f) Annual Performance Plan of the Construction Sector Education and Training Authority (CETA) for 2026/27.

(g) Strategic Plan of the Education Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority (ETDP) for 2025 – 2030.

(h) Annual Performance Plan of the Education Training and Development Practices Sector Education and Training Authority (ETDP) for 2026/27.

(i) Annual Performance Plan of the Energy and Water Sector Education and Training Authority (EW-SETA) for 2026/27.

(j) Annual Performance Plan of the Financial and Accounting Services Sector Education and Training Authority (FASSET) for 2026/27.

(k) Strategic Plan of the Fibre Processing and Manufacturing Sector Education and Training Authority (FP&M SETA) for 2025/26 - 2029/30.

(l) Annual Performance Plan of the Fibre Processing and Manufacturing Sector Education and Training Authority (FP&M SETA) for 2026/27.

(m) Strategic Plan of the Food and Beverages Manufacturing Sector Education and Training Authority (FOODBEV-SETA) for 2025/26 – 2029/30.

(n) Annual Performance Plan of the Food and Beverages Manufacturing Sector Education and Training Authority (FOODBEV-SETA) for 2025/26.

(o) Annual Performance Plan of the Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HW-SETA) for 2026/27.

(p) Strategic Plan of the Insurance Sector Education and Training Authority (INSETA) for 2025 – 2030.

(q) Annual Performance Plan of the Insurance Sector Education and Training Authority (INSETA) for 2026/27.

(r) Annual Performance Plan of the Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority (LG-SETA) for 2026/27.

(s) Annual Performance Plan of the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Seta (MER-SETA) for 2026/27.

(t) Strategic Plan of the Media, Information and Communication Technologies Sector Education and Training Authority ("MICT SETA") for 2025 – 2030.

(u) Annual Performance of the Media, Information and Communication Technologies Sector Education and Training Authority ("MICT SETA") Plan for 2026/27.

(v) Strategic Plan of the Mining Qualifications Authority (MQA) for 2025/26 - 2029/30.

(w) Annual Performance Plan of the Mining Qualifications Authority (MQA) for 2026 /27.

(x) Strategic Plan of the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA) for 2025/26 – 2029/30.

(y) Annual Performance Plan of the Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority (PSETA) for 2026/27.

(z) Strategic Plan of the Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority (SAS SETA) for 2025/26 – 2029/30.

(aa) Annual Performance Plan of the Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority (SAS SETA) for 2026/27.

(bb) Annual Performance Plan of the Services Sector Education and Training Authority for 2026/27.

(cc) Annual Performance Plan of the Transport Education Training Authority (TETA) for 2026/27.

(dd) Annual Performance Plan of the Wholesale and Retail Sector Education and Training Authority (W&R-SETA) for 2026/27.

(ee) Annual Performance Plan for the Council on Higher Education (CHE) for 2026/27.

(ff) Annual Performance Plan of the National Skills Fund (NSF) for 2026/27.

(gg) Annual Performance Plan of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) for 2026/27.

(hh) Annual Performance Plan of the Quality Council for Trades & Occupations for 2026/27.

(ii) Annual Performance Plan of the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) for 2026/27.

(30) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Human Settlements for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of the National Housing Finance Corporation for 2026/27.

(c) Annual Performance Plan of the Property Practitioners Regulatory Authority for 2026/27.

(d) Annual Performance Plan of the Social Housing Regulatory Authority for 2026/27.

(31) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of the Office of the Chief Justice for 2026/27.

(c) Annual Performance Plan of Legal Aid South Africa for 2026/27.

(d) Strategic Plan (Review 2026/27) of Legal Aid South Africa for 2025 – 2030.

(e) Annual Performance Plan of the Special Investigating Unit for 2026/27.

(32) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Land Reform and Rural Development** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Land Reform and Rural Development for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of the Office of the Valuer-General for 2026/27.

(c) Annual Performance Plan of the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights for 2026/27.

(33) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Police** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the South African Police Service for 2026/27.

(b) Technical Indicator Descriptions: South African Police Service Annual Performance Plan for 2026/27.

(34) The following paper is referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture for 2026/27.

(35) The following paper is referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Transport** for consideration and report:

(a) Revised Strategic Plan of the South African Maritime Safety Authority for 2025/26 – 2029/30.

(36) The following papers are referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Water and Sanitation for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of the Breede-Olifants Catchment Management Agency for 2026/27 – 2028/29.

(c) Strategic Plan of the Breede-Olifants Catchment Management Agency for 2025/26 – 2029/30.

(d) Annual Performance Plan of the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency for 2026/27.

(e) Strategic Plan of the Inkomati-Usuthu Catchment Management Agency for 2026 – 2031.

(f) Annual Performance Plan of the Limpopo-Olifant Catchment Management Agency for 2026/27 – 2028/29.

(g) Strategic Plan of the Limpopo-Olifant Catchment Management Agency for 2026/27 – 2030/31.

(h) Annual Performance Plan of the Mzimvubu-Tsitsikamma Catchment Management Agency for 2026/27 – 2028/29.

(i) Strategic Plan of the Mzimvubu-Tsitsikamma Catchment Management Agency for 2025/26 – 2029/30.

(j) Annual Performance Plan of the Pongola-Umzimkulu Catchment Management Agency for 2026/27 – 2028/29.

(k) Strategic Plan of the Pongola-Umzimkulu Catchment Management Agency for 2025/26 – 2029/30.

(l) Annual Performance Plan of the Pongola-Umzimkulu Catchment Management Agency for 2026/27 – 2028/29.

(m) Strategic Plan of the Pongola-Umzimkulu Catchment Management Agency for 2025/26 – 2029/30.

(n) Corporate Plan of the Trans Caledon Tunnel Authority for 2026 – 2029.

(o) Annual Performance Plan of the Vaal-Orange Catchment Management Agency for 2026/27 – 2028/29.

(p) Strategic Plan of the Vaal-Orange Catchment Management Agency for 2025/26 – 2029/30.

(q) Annual Performance Plan of the Water Research Commission for 2026/27.

(37) The following paper is referred to the **Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Public Service Commission for 2026/27.

National Council of Provinces

The Chairperson

1. Referral to Committees of papers tabled

(1) The following papers are referred to the **Select Committee on Economic Development and Trade** for consideration and report:

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of the National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa for 2026/27.

(c) Strategic Plan of the National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa for 2025 – 2030.

(d) Annual Performance Plan of the Film and Publication Board for 2026/27.

(e) Annual Performance Plan of the State Information Technology Agency for 2026/27.

(f) Strategic Plan of the State Information Technology Agency for 2026 – 2030.

(g) Corporate Plan of the Broadband Infraco for 2026/27 – 2030/31.

(h) Corporate Plan of Sentech for 2026/27 – 2028/29.

(i) Corporate Plan of the South African Post Office for 2026/27 – 2028/29.

(j) Annual Performance Plan of the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa for 2026/27.

(k) Annual Performance Plan of Universal Service and Access Fund for 2026/27.

(l) Strategic Plan of Universal Service and Access Fund for 2025/26 – 2029/30.

(m) Annual Performance Plan of Universal Service and Access Agency of South Africa for 2026/27.

(n) Strategic Plan of Universal Service and Access Agency of South Africa for 2025/26 – 2029/30.

(o) Corporate Plan of the Postbank for 2026/27 – 2028/29.

TABLINGS

National Assembly and National Council of Provinces

1. The Speaker and the Chairperson

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the South African Human Rights Commission for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of the Public Protector South Africa for 2026/27.

2. The Minister of Agriculture

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the South African Veterinary Council for 2026/27.

(b) Strategic Plan of the South African Veterinary Council for 2026/2029.

3. The Minister of Finance

(a) Notification by the Minister of Finance of a temporary reduction of R3.00 per litre in the General Fuel Levy on petrol and diesel which will be implemented for one month, effective from Wednesday, 1 April 2026 until 5 May 2026.

4. The Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment for 2026/27.

(b) Revised Strategic Plan of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment for 2025/26 – 2029/30.

5. The Minister of Public Works and Infrastructure

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of Agrément South Africa for 2026/27.

(c) Annual Performance Plan of the Council for the Build Environment for 2026/27.

(d) Annual Performance Plan of the Construction Industry Development Board for 2026/27.

(e) Annual Performance Plan of the Independent Development Trust for 2026/27.

6. The Minister in The Presidency

(a) Annual Performance Plan of The Presidency for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of Brand South Africa for 2026/27.

(c) Work Programme of Statistics South Africa for 2026/27 (Book 1).

(d) Work Programme of Statistics South Africa for 2026/27 (Book 2).

7. The Acting Minister of Police

(a) Annual Performance Plan of the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority for 2026/27.

(b) Annual Performance Plan of the Independent Police Investigative Directorate for 2026/27.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

National Assembly

1. REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION ON ITS OVERSIGHT VISIT TO RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE WESTERN CAPE, DATED 24 MARCH 2026

The Portfolio Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation, having conducted an oversight visit to Space Science and Accelerator-based Science research and technology infrastructure in the Western Cape from 26 to 29 January 2026, reports as follows:

DELEGATION

Members:

Ms T Mchunu: Acting Chairperson and Leader of the Delegation (ANC), Ms L Sapo (ANC), Mr V Nkosi (ANC), Ms N Mazzone (DA), Mr T Mjadu (MKP), Mr S Mbatha (MKP), Dr S Thembekwayo (EFF) and Dr W Boshoff (FFP).

Support staff:

Ms S Isaacs: Committee Secretary, Dr R Osborne-Mullins: Content Advisor and Mr G Mankay: Committee Assistant.

Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI):

Ms Gugulethu Zwane: Deputy Director-General (DDG) Institutional Planning and Support, Dr Kenny Tenza: DDG Technology Innovation, Mr Imraan Patel: DDG Research, Development and Support and Ms Fikiswa Majola: Deputy Director Space Systems.

South African National Space Agency (SANSA):

Mr Patrick Ndlovu: Board Chairperson, Mr. Humbulani Mudau: Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr Raoul C. Hodges: Executive Director Space Science, Dr Abel Ramoelo: Executive Director Earth Observation, Ms Leago Takalani: Executive Director Space Engineering and Dr

Justin Witten: Engineer managing the upgrade of the Denel Houwteq Assembly, Integration and Test Facility.

Denel Aerospace - Overberg Test Range (Denel OTR):
Ms Bridget Salo: Divisional Executive, Mr Danie Henning: Senior Manager Test Projects, Mr Muzi Nxumalo: Senior Manager Instrumentation, Mr Samkelo Mbinda: Senior Manager Services and Ms Priscilla Johnson: Senior Manager Business Development.

National Research Foundation's (NRF) / iThemba Laboratory for Accelerator-Based Sciences (LABS):
Prof Ari Sitas: Board Chairperson, Dr Angus Paterson: Acting CEO and Dr Rudzani Nemutudi: Acting Managing Director iThemba LABS.

1. Introduction

The Portfolio Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation (hereafter referred to as the Committee), in fulfilment of its constitutional mandate to exercise oversight over the Executive, conducted an oversight visit to Space Science and Accelerator-based Science research and technology infrastructure in the Western Cape.

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, together with the Rules of the National Assembly, requires parliamentary committees to monitor the implementation of government policies, legislation and programmes, and to assess the performance of departments and public entities. Oversight visits provide Members of Parliament with an opportunity to directly engage with institutions, observe infrastructure and programmes on the ground, and evaluate the effectiveness of government investments.

This oversight visit had been a longstanding resolution of the Committee after the DSTI, and the relevant entities, had informed the Committee of the strategic direction and plans for Space Science and Accelerator-based Science during the Budget, Annual Performance Plan and Annual Report briefings in 2025. Hence, during this oversight visit, the Committee engaged with national research and technology infrastructure facilities that fall within the ambit of the DSTI and its entities, namely SANSA and the NRF, and the aerospace and military technology state-owned-entity, Denel SOC Ltd.

The Committee visited the following institutions in sequence:

- Denel OTR in Arniston
- SANSA Space Science in Hermanus
- Denel Houwteq Assembly, Integration and Test (AIT) facility in Grabouw
- NRF / iThemba LABS in Faure, Cape Town

These facilities collectively represent significant components of South Africa's national science and innovation infrastructure, particularly in the areas of space science, aerospace engineering, nuclear science and medical isotope production.

2. Significance and Objectives of the Oversight Visit

The facilities visited denote strategic national capabilities that support South Africa's ambition to remain a leading science and technology nation on the African continent. Investments in space science infrastructure, satellite engineering capabilities and nuclear science platforms enable the country to participate meaningfully in the global knowledge economy.

Secondly, these facilities play a critical role in enabling research, industrial development, technology transfer and human capital development. For example, SANSA supports the national space programme and provides data critical for disaster management, climate monitoring and environmental planning. Similarly, iThemba LABS and the South African Isotope Facility (SAIF) contribute directly to the health sector through the production of radioisotopes used in medical diagnostics and cancer treatment.

Thirdly, despite recent funding allocations for the Space Infrastructure Hub (SIH) and SAIF, the facilities visited still require significant infrastructure upgrades and sustained investment. Parliamentary oversight is therefore necessary to ensure that public funds are used efficiently and that the governance and coordination arrangements between departments and entities are clear and effective.

Finally, the visit enabled the Committee to assess emerging opportunities for South Africa, including the development of a domestic space ecosystem, the revitalisation of satellite engineering capabilities and the potential to expand nuclear medicine services across the African continent.

Hence, the overarching objectives of the oversight visit were to:

- Assess the condition, performance and sustainability of major national research infrastructure supported by the DSTI.

- Evaluate the alignment of these facilities with national science, technology and innovation (STI) priorities, including industrial development, technological sovereignty and economic competitiveness.

- Examine interdepartmental coordination, particularly between the DSTI and the Department of Defence (DoD).

- Assess the governance, funding models and operational sustainability of the facilities visited.

- Evaluate human capital development efforts, including skills development, transformation and the participation of young scientists and engineers.

- Identify challenges affecting the modernisation, use and long-term sustainability of national research infrastructure.

3. Institutions Visted

3.1. Denel Aerospace - Overberg Test Range

Denel OTR, located near Arniston on the Overberg coast, forms part of Denel Aerospace, which is a specialised business entity of Denel SOC Ltd. It is South Africa's principal aerospace long-range test and telemetry complex. Originally designed for missile and aircraft testing, the OTR's radar, tracking and telemetry systems are being upgraded to support space-related

activities, including suborbital rocket launches and spaceflight tracking as part of SANSA's long-term Space Launch Capability Development Programme.

The programme at Denel OTR comprised a presentation and a tour of some of its facilities. During the presentation, the Committee was informed that the primary function of the test range is to provide independent testing and evaluation services for aerospace and defence systems. The facility supports the DoD and the defence industry by measuring system performance, verifying compliance with specifications and evaluating operational concepts. The test range occupies approximately 43 000 hectares of land with a 70 km coastline, providing a large and relatively unrestricted testing environment with minimal air and sea traffic interference, low population density and favourable climatic conditions. These characteristics make the facility well suited for long-range flight testing and telemetry operations.

Denel OTR supports a wide range of testing activities, which includes aircraft flight testing, air-to-air and air-to-surface weapon system tests, surface-to-air and surface-to-surface testing, unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) testing, electronic warfare testing, telemetry and tracking of flight systems, and launch support activities. Hence, Denel OTR is equipped with radar tracking systems, telemetry systems, optical tracking systems, communications systems and central data processing systems, which are used to collect and analyse flight data. The range also provides mobile test range services, enabling the deployment of instrumentation and testing capabilities in other locations when required.

Denel OTR's geographic location, existing telemetry infrastructure and large restricted testing area may enable it to support sub-orbital rocket testing and potential launch support activities. However, Denel OTR does not have the funds to upgrade the facility to support local launch capability and current projections estimate that R1.2 billion is needed to get to full modern launch capability.

The site tour comprised viewing the Control Room where the basic operations were explained and demonstrated. The Committee was shown the radar and telemetry instrumentation, as well as a Cinetheodolite, which is a specialized photographic tracking instrument combining a movie camera with a theodolite to record precise angular measurements of high-speed objects like missiles, rockets and aircraft. Although the Control Room, radar and telemetry

instrumentation and the Cinetheodolite were in working order and technical upgrades were evident, the systems were clearly outdated.

The Committee also toured the DSTI-funded sub-orbital sounding rocket launch facility. This facility was commissioned by the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Aerospace Systems Research Institute (ASRI) and features a 15-metre, 360-degree slewable gantry designed for launching hybrid and solid-propellant rockets. It can accommodate vehicles with a launch mass of up to 2 500 kg and ASRI successfully launched its Phoenix-1D and Phoenix-1E sounding rockets in December 2024, reaching altitudes of 16.6 km and 11.9 km, respectively. Sounding rockets help advance our understanding of the Earth and its atmosphere. The sub-orbital sounding rocket launch facility is considered a pivotal resource for next generation aerospace projects and will be used for testing and preparing advanced rocket systems, supporting critical research initiatives and driving technological progress in the aerospace industry.

While the Denel Overberg Test Range provides critical capabilities for testing and potential launch support, its role is linked to upstream satellite development and downstream scientific and operational applications. In this regard, the Committee proceeded to assess SANSA's Space Science capability, which contributes to both foundational research and operational services within the space value chain.

3.2. SANSA Space Science

The South African National Space Agency is the country's statutory entity responsible for coordinating and implementing national space activities in support of development, innovation and technological sovereignty. As Africa's most advanced civilian space agency, SANSA provides critical infrastructure and services that underpin South Africa's capabilities in space science, satellite engineering, Earth observation and satellite operations. In doing so, it serves as a central coordinating mechanism within the national space ecosystem, linking research, infrastructure and application.

SANSA operates through four core programmes. The Earth Observation programme provides satellite imagery and geospatial data products that support agriculture, environmental monitoring, disaster management and land-use planning. The Space Science programme, based in Hermanus, conducts research in geomagnetism, ionospheric physics and solar–terrestrial

interactions, and hosts a continuous space weather monitoring and forecasting capability. The Space Operations programme manages satellite ground station infrastructure and provides tracking, telemetry and command services for national and international missions. The Space Engineering programme focuses on satellite design and the revitalisation of assembly, integration and testing capabilities, including the development of the EO-Sat1 mission and associated infrastructure.

SANSA's 2025–2030 Strategic Plan sets out a trajectory to transition South Africa from an emerging space nation to an intermediate space-faring nation. Central to this vision is the strengthening of domestic satellite development capability, the expansion of space-derived data for decision-making and the growth of a competitive local space industry. A key component of this strategy is the development of next-generation Earth observation satellites to enhance national data sovereignty and reduce reliance on external sources.

A further strategic priority is the establishment of the Space Infrastructure Hub, which integrates key infrastructure investments and advanced data capabilities. This includes the revitalisation of the Houwteq Assembly, Integration and Test facility and the strengthening of linkages with Denel Overberg Test Range. In combination, these assets have the potential to support a more integrated "design-to-launch" capability, connecting satellite development, testing and potential launch support within a coordinated national framework.

The Committee visited SANSA Space Science in Hermanus, which serves as the national hub for space science research and space weather services. The facility was originally established in 1940 as the Hermanus Magnetic Observatory and has operated continuously since 1941. It became part of SANSA in 2011 and remains one of the world's longest-operating geomagnetic observatories, with an extensive network of approximately 40 geophysical monitoring stations across Southern Africa, Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. The site occupies approximately 16 hectares of protected land to ensure a magnetically clean environment required for high-precision geomagnetic observations.

The programme at SANSA Space Science comprised a presentation and a tour of some of its facilities. During the presentation, the Committee was informed that the facility supports a range of functions including space science research, operational space weather services, magnetic technology development, postgraduate training and public science engagement. The

site has also been designated internationally as the Space Weather Regional Warning Centre for Africa. Space weather refers to disturbances in the near-Earth space environment caused primarily by solar activity, which can disrupt technological systems such as satellites, communication networks, navigation systems and power grids. The Space Weather Centre operates on a 24-hour basis, providing monitoring, analysis and forecasting services that play an important role in protecting critical infrastructure and supporting sectors such as aviation, maritime transport, defence, mining and telecommunications.

SANSA plays a leading role in space science research on the African continent. Between 2014 and 2023, South African researchers produced more than 40% of Africa's space science publications, with SANSA contributing significantly to this output through its Space Science and Earth Observation programmes.

SANSA also contributes to the development of specialised skills through postgraduate training and bursary support. The Committee was informed that between 2019 and 2025, SANSA supported 149 postgraduate students at Honours, Master's and Doctoral levels, who have had 123 degrees conferred. This translated to an overall success rate of 82.5% compared to the NRF-funded national average success rate of 68%. For the 2026 academic year, SANSA has awarded bursaries to 38 postgraduate students. SANSA has also made significant progress with its transformation objectives, achieving gender parity and 67% Black individuals within the Space Science researcher cohort.

The Committee was also briefed on ongoing investments in space science infrastructure, including the Operational Space Weather project and planned upgrades linked to the development of the SIH. These initiatives are intended to strengthen South Africa's space weather capability, expand research capacity and support public engagement in science.

The Committee further noted SANSA's role in coordinating regional scientific collaboration. Through partnerships with research institutions across Africa, SANSA supports the deployment of geophysical and Global Navigation Satellite System instrumentation networks that contribute to regional space weather monitoring and research.

The site tour included viewing the Space Weather Centre and an explanation of how space weather was monitored and the instrumentation used for this purpose. It was explained that

SANSA does real-time forecasting and monitoring of space weather to reduce and mitigate the impact of space weather on technology, critical infrastructure and human activities. This was followed by tours of the Engineering Laboratory, Techno Laboratory and Solar Telescope, Student Wing and the Science Centre.

In the Engineering Laboratory, it was explained how SANSA offers state-of-the-art equipment, services and operates a magnetically clean facility that enables them to precisely calibrate landing compasses. The compass calibration procedure is a highly specialised procedure requiring scarce expertise and can only be done in close physical proximity to magnetic observatory instruments. SANSA is recognised as a national expert in various magnetic technology applications and collaborates with players in the aviation, defence, maritime and local space industry. SANSA indicated that efforts are underway to obtain ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation (the international standard for the competence, impartiality and consistent operation of testing and calibration laboratories) for this laboratory to strengthen its international competitiveness.

In the Techno Laboratory, the Committee was shown the new Solar Telescope, which will serve as a redundancy for observing the Sun and provides real-time data for the Space Weather Centre. It will also be used for educational programmes and livestreaming events. The Solar Telescope ensures that SANSA, as the only accredited space weather centre in Africa, has reliable, continuous solar data.

The Student Wing provides office space, proximity to laboratories and scientists/engineers for supervision and mentorship, and a library. The Science Centre is used to promote awareness and interest in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) among learners, educators, the public and policymakers through a long-standing and successful Science Engagement Programme.

The capabilities observed at SANSA Space Science highlight the importance of scientific research and operational services in supporting national and international space activities. These functions are complemented by infrastructure that form a critical link between research and application. The Committee then proceeded to the Denel Houwteq Assembly, Integration and Test facility, which is considered central to rebuilding South Africa’s satellite engineering capability.

3.3. Denel Houwteq Assembly, Integration and Test (AIT) facility

The Denel Houwteq AIT facility, located near Grabouw, is a strategic national asset and the only facility of its kind in Sub-Saharan Africa. Originally constructed in the 1980s, the site historically provided advanced capabilities for spacecraft assembly and testing. It is currently being revitalised under the SANSA's SIH initiative to restore South Africa's sovereign satellite integration and testing capability.

The facility houses specialised infrastructure, including cleanrooms, vibration testing systems, thermal vacuum chambers and optical payload integration laboratories. These capabilities are essential for simulating the environmental and mechanical conditions experienced by satellites during launch and operation in space. Once fully operational, the facility is expected to reduce reliance on foreign testing services, support local satellite development programmes and create opportunities for commercial AIT services within Africa and internationally.

The programme at the Denel Houwteq AIT facility comprised a presentation and a tour of some of its facilities. During the presentation, the Committee was informed that the revitalisation of the Houwteq AIT facility is being implemented through a phased approach. The initial phase focuses on upgrading core infrastructure and establishing critical technical capabilities. This is followed by operationalisation for satellite assembly, integration and testing. Subsequent phases aim to expand human capital development, support industry participation and position the facility as a regional hub for collaboration and market access. While progress has been made, the facility remains under development, with full completion anticipated by 2027.

The presentation highlighted that the Space Engineering programme, anchored at Houwteq, serves as a central mechanism for advancing South Africa's satellite development capability. It integrates system engineering, programme management and technology development functions to support national objectives, including industrialisation, innovation and technological sovereignty. The programme is also aligned with global trends in the space economy, where increasing demand for smaller satellites and shorter development cycles necessitates flexible, locally accessible testing infrastructure.

The Committee further noted that the development of the Houwteq AIT facility has significant implications for industrial participation and skills development. The facility is expected to support small and medium enterprises involved in satellite subsystem manufacturing, while also serving as a training platform for engineers and technicians. In this regard, it contributes to both economic development and human capital formation within the space sector.

The Committee was also briefed on the broader satellite development programme linked to the facility, including the EO-Sat1 mission and plans for satellite constellations. These initiatives are intended to enhance South Africa's Earth observation capabilities and support applications in agriculture, environmental monitoring and national security.

In addition to technical and strategic considerations, the Committee noted the importance of community engagement, particularly in relation to the Khoisan community residing on adjacent land. Ongoing engagement efforts were acknowledged as necessary to ensure that the development of the facility is undertaken in a socially responsible and inclusive manner.

In summary, the Houwteq AIT facility represents a critical component of South Africa's ambition to rebuild and expand its space engineering capabilities. Its successful completion and operationalisation will be central to enabling a more integrated national space ecosystem, with potential long-term benefits for scientific advancement, industrial development and regional collaboration.

The programme concluded with a tour of the main facilities at Houwteq. These included the:

- **EO-Sat1 FlatSat**

The FlatSat (or flat satellite) is where a satellite's electronic components are spread out flat on a table, rather than stacked within a compact chassis. It is one of several physical models needed in the development of a satellite. It is used to test the functionality of the various components and subsystems that will eventually be used in the final model of the satellite, which is called the flight model and the version that will be launched into space.

- **Thermal Vacuum Test Facility**

The Thermal Vacuum Test Facility is designed to test the performance and reliability of satellites under conditions that replicate the space environment. In orbit, satellites are exposed to a vacuum and experience extreme temperature variations as they transition between direct exposure to the sun and the Earth's shadow. These conditions result in significant thermal cycling, which can affect both the satellite structure and its internal components. The test chambers recreate these conditions by generating a high-vacuum environment and simulating the temperature fluctuations that the satellite is expected to encounter over time, thereby enabling the verification of system performance and durability prior to launch.

- **Optical AIT Laboratory**

The Optical AIT Laboratory is a multi-storey, structurally decoupled installation dedicated to the development of optical sensors and payloads, including space-based imaging systems for satellites. It supports the full lifecycle of optical payload development, from initial design through to assembly, integration and verification.

The laboratory is equipped with a range of advanced test benches and instrumentation that enable the development and construction of both large optical payloads, with apertures of up to one metre, and smaller, high-precision systems. All activities are conducted within a controlled cleanroom environment, ensuring the stringent contamination control required for high-performance optical systems while also supporting research and development across the broader space technology sector.

- **Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Test Facility**

The EMC Test Facility provides specialised EMC testing services to the commercial, aerospace and defence sectors. It is equipped with a large, fully anechoic chamber (a specially designed room that completely absorbs reflections of either sound or electromagnetic waves, while insulating against external noise) as well as a 10-metre Open Area Test Site, enabling a wide range of electromagnetic testing capabilities. The facility is used to assess whether electronic components and integrated systems emit electromagnetic energy that could interfere with other equipment, and to verify that they operate correctly within their intended electromagnetic

environment. This includes conditions where multiple sources of electromagnetic energy are present, such as during launch when satellites are integrated within a rocket and exposed to potential interference from other onboard systems.

- **Vibration Test Facility (not visited)**

The Vibration Test facility is primarily used to simulate the forces experienced by the satellite during the launch of the rocket carrying the satellite into space. The Committee did not visit this facility.

3.4. National Research Foundation's (NRF) / iThemba Laboratory for Accelerator-Based Sciences (LABS)

iThemba LABS is South Africa's national centre for accelerator-based science and innovation. It operates under the auspices of the NRF and serves as a national research facility dedicated to advancing knowledge in nuclear physics, materials science, radiobiology and nuclear medicine. iThemba LABS's mandate is to provide and manage world-class accelerator and related facilities for use by researchers in South Africa and abroad. It plays a vital role in supporting multidisciplinary research, enabling industry and academic partnerships, training the next generation of scientists and engineers, and producing radioisotopes for medical and industrial applications. In addition, iThemba LABS contributes directly to the national health system through the production of diagnostic and therapeutic radioisotopes and by providing advanced cancer therapy using particle beams.

One of the laboratory's most significant recent developments is the establishment of the South African Isotope Facility (SAIF). This strategic expansion included the installation of a Cyclone-70 MeV cyclotron, dedicated specifically to the large-scale production of medical and industrial isotopes. The SAIF project represents a major step toward ensuring national self-sufficiency in the production of diagnostic and therapeutic isotopes such as gallium-68, copper-67 and astatine-211, which are critical for cancer diagnosis and targeted radiotherapy. iThemba LABS is the continent's largest producer of medical radioisotopes, supplying both South African and regional hospitals.

iThemba LABS operates two main campuses: the principal site in Faure, near Cape Town and a secondary facility situated on the University of the Witwatersrand campus in Johannesburg. The Cape Town site hosts the major accelerator infrastructure, including the Separated Sector Cyclotron (SSC), while the Gauteng site focuses on materials research and smaller-scale accelerator applications. Together, these campuses form the backbone of South Africa's national capability in accelerator-based science and serve as a shared facility for academic, medical and industrial users.

The visit to iThemba LABS commenced with a presentation that provided a comprehensive overview of the institution's strategic role, infrastructure, research programmes, financial profile, human capital development activities and its contributions to both national priorities and international scientific collaboration.

The presentation commenced with establishing the institutional profile and governance of iThemba LABS, which reflects a multidisciplinary organisation that integrates scientific research, technical operations and administrative support to sustain a complex research environment. The financial and operational profile of the institution highlighted its scale and sustainability challenges. The annual budget is approximately R442 million, with funding derived from a combination of parliamentary grants, isotope production revenue and ring-fenced grants from the DSTI. A significant proportion of revenue is generated through isotope production, most of which is reinvested into research activities, which limits the availability of funds for infrastructure renewal.

The institution employs approximately 230 staff members, including 33 scientists / researchers, and supports postgraduate training through co-supervision arrangements. However, a major concern identified is the ageing infrastructure, most being over 35 years old. The Committee was informed that an estimated R200 million per annum over a five-year period will be required from 2026/27 to address infrastructure modernisation and ensure operational sustainability.

The strategic direction of iThemba LABS was framed around several key objectives, including improving research output, increasing training capacity, strengthening collaboration with higher education institutions and expanding partnerships both locally and internationally. The institution works closely with a wide range of South African universities, which use its facilities for research and training. These collaborations were presented not only as a mechanism for

advancing research but also as a critical component of the institution's mandate for human capacity development and its continued relevance within the national research ecosystem.

The research scope of iThemba LABS is extensive and covers both fundamental and applied sciences. The presentation emphasised that basic research in subatomic physics is a cornerstone of innovation and economic development, while applied research contributes to practical applications in medicine, industry and environmental science. The nuclear medicine programme is a central component of the institution's applied research and revenue generation. The presentation provided detailed information on the production and distribution of medical isotopes used in diagnostic imaging and cancer treatment. The facility serves a large client base across more than 30 countries and maintains numerous international distribution agreements. It is also engaged in new product development, particularly in the areas of targeted alpha therapy and theranostics, which combine diagnostic and therapeutic applications. iThemba LABS is the only producer of the isotope sodium-22 in the world, underscoring the facility's niche capabilities.

The Committee was also briefed on research programmes in radiation biophysics and oncology, which use accelerator-based technologies to study the effects of radiation on biological systems and to improve therapeutic interventions. In addition, materials science and nanotechnology research programmes make use of ion beam technologies and advanced instrumentation to support applications in industry, environmental science and advanced manufacturing.

Human capital development remains a central pillar of the institution's mandate, with extensive training programmes offered through the Southern African Institute for Nuclear Technology and Sciences (SAINTS). These initiatives are designed to build technical expertise and support the development of a new generation of scientists and engineers in South Africa and across the African continent. Participation in international programmes further enhances skills development and facilitates knowledge exchange.

The presentation further highlighted the extensive network of international collaborations maintained by iThemba LABS. The institution has formal partnerships with leading global research facilities and organisations, enabling access to large scale infrastructure and participation in international scientific programmes. These collaborations position iThemba

LABS as an important gateway for African participation in global science, while also strengthening regional cooperation on the continent.

Finally, the presentation underscored the broader societal impact of iThemba LABS. Through isotope production, research, training, international collaboration and public science engagement, the institution contributes to healthcare, scientific advancement and socio-economic development. Its strategic pillars focus on science for societal benefit, human capital development, technological innovation and access to research infrastructure. Despite its strengths, the sustainability of these contributions is closely tied to addressing infrastructure challenges and maintaining investment in both physical assets and human resources.

The presentation was followed by a tour of the SAIF and Nuclear Medicine division. At SAIF, the Committee was shown the Control Room and the Target Station Vault, which is one of three vaults that make up the SAIF. The design of the SAIF centred on keeping its services separate from the existing iThemba LABS facility, so that its maintenance did not depend on the aging infrastructure. A new electrical building houses a rotary uninterrupted power supply (UPS) to smooth out spikes in the power supply and provide bridging power in case of a power cut from the utility, allowing time for a diesel generator to start up. A new mechanical building contains pumps and air-cooled chillers, providing cold water to the vaults and air handling units. A power supply room near the vaults houses all the cyclotron and beam line electronics and power supplies. A new radiation waste storage building was constructed to temporarily store contaminated material. Various smaller services include compressed air, nitrogen and hydrogen gas supplies, fire detection and fighting systems, and replaceable video cameras in the vaults.

In the Nuclear Medicine division, the production and handling of radiopharmaceuticals and radiochemicals was explained in detail. The production of these isotopes adhere to strict regulatory standards and current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP). iThemba LABS supplies over 100 clients worldwide, delivering more than 2 100 consignments annually with a punctuality rate of over 98%, which impacted the treatment of over 220 000 nuclear medicine patients in the last financial year.

4. Committee Observations and Recommendations

The oversight visits to the Denel OTR, SANSA Space Science, Denel Houwteq AIT facility and iThemba LABS, provided the Committee with a comprehensive view of key components of South Africa's science and innovation infrastructure. These engagements enabled the Committee to assess the condition, use, interconnectivity and strategic alignment of facilities that support the NSI, particularly in the areas of space science, satellite engineering and nuclear science. While each facility performs a distinct function, the engagements highlighted the extent to which their effectiveness is dependent on system-wide coordination, sustainable funding, coherent governance arrangements and the availability of critical skills. The observations arising from these engagements reflect both facility-specific findings and broader systemic considerations, which collectively inform the Committee's recommendations set out below.

4.1. Denel Overberg Test Range

Observation 1:

The Committee expressed concern regarding the financial instability of Denel SOC Ltd and the potential risks this poses to the sustainability of Denel OTR. Furthermore, the Committee noted SANSA's growing operational costs and infrastructure requirements exceed its current baseline allocations. While Denel OTR's management indicated that it operates as a profitable business unit within Denel Aerospace, uncertainties remain regarding Denel's broader financial position, outstanding liabilities and the implications for long-term collaboration with SANSA.

Recommendation 1:

The DSTI and SANSA should conduct a comprehensive financial and governance review of its partnership with Denel SOC Ltd and provide a report to the Committee within three months that outlines the sustainability measures and risk mitigation strategies that will govern the partnership.

Observation 2:

The Committee observed that there was a lack of clarity regarding the existing agreements, financial flows and reported debt between Denel and SANSA, including the nature of the contractual arrangements between the relevant institutions.

Recommendation 2:

The DSTI and SANSA should submit a detailed disclosure report to the Committee that outlines all the agreements, financial commitments and liabilities between SANSA, Denel and any associated institutions. The report should be provided to the Committee within three months.

Observation 3:

The Committee noted the outdated nature of certain technologies and infrastructure at Denel OTR, as well as the urgent need to modernise launch-related capabilities to align with global space industry standards. The strategic value of Denel OTR's geographic location was acknowledged, but current infrastructure constraints limit its competitiveness. The Committee also noted that Denel OTR cannot fund the infrastructure modernisation project and that R1.2 billion was needed to get to full launch capability.

Recommendation 3:

The DSTI, SANSA, Denel OTR and the DoD should develop a time-bound infrastructure modernisation plan that includes cost estimates, funding models and potential partnerships to upgrade the launch capabilities at Denel OTR. The report should be provided to the Committee within six months.

Observation 4:

The collaboration between SANSA, which has a civilian mandate and Denel, which has a defence mandate raises concerns regarding governance, transparency and compliance with international obligations such as the Outer Space Treaty, which binds signatories to use space for peaceful, scientific purposes.

Furthermore, the Committee noted that the Space Affairs Act (No. 84 of 1993) predates modern, commercial small-satellite activity and downstream data markets. National space policy, regulatory frameworks for licensing, export control, spectrum and spectrum coordination and insurance/liability regimes all require modernisation to match current industry realities.

Recommendation 4:

The Committee will engage with the committees on Defence; Trade, Industry and Competition; Communications and Digital Technologies; and Transport to discuss any gaps in the current policy and legislative framework governing activities in outer space with a view to establish a

clear interdepartmental governance framework that regulates dual-use activities, ensures treaty compliance and provides oversight clarity on roles and responsibilities.

Further observations:

- The Committee sought clarity and additional information on the existing work and clients of Denel OTR. For example, whether military drones were being tested and to which nations these belonged.

  Denel OTR explained that they tested drones for Singapore (which they were allowed to disclose) and the local industry. However, most of their work was governed by Non-disclosure agreements.
- The Committee enquired whether there were private companies in South Africa that did the same work as Denel OTR.

  Denel OTR clarified that they did not have competition from private industry but rather other nations with larger, more modern military capability.
- The Committee noted the highly technical and specialised nature of the work undertaken and asked how Denel OTR managed this.

  Denel OTR stated that they have 145 staff and zero vacancies; however, when they were contracted to undertake major tests, they brought in ex-employees (retirees) to assist.

4.2. SANSA Space Science

Observation 1:

The Committee commended SANSA's space weather capabilities and noted the importance of the continuous monitoring of space weather that allows for early warning and forecasting of events that would negatively affect the communications, defence and navigation sectors. Furthermore, the Committee noted the other services offered by SANSA in relation to magnetic technology, international launch monitoring and mission systems support. These services are all dependent on the research infrastructure and expertise resident within SANSA.

Recommendation 1:

Given the critical need for additional funding for STI, the DSTI and its entities should consider how to expand the use of existing research and innovation infrastructure and expertise to generate more revenue for STI.

Observation 2:

The Committee noted SANSA's Earth Observation data production and services (satellite imagery) that covers the 1.2 million square kilometre land mass of South Africa, SADC countries and other African countries. This data enables fire scar mapping, food security monitoring, human settlements mapping, forest mapping, disaster management, climate change and water resources management. Given the recent floods in Limpopo and Mpumalanga, the Committee sought clarity on how SANSA communicates the availability of this data to government and local authorities, industry and the public. The Committee also expressed the view that current collaboration efforts with government could be improved. Furthermore, the Committee noted that this data could also be used to generate economic opportunities, especially through SANSA's New Earth Observation Frontiers (NEOFrontiers) funding mechanism that has provided 15 Black-owned start-ups with seed funding to develop capabilities around new sensors, products and services, and value-added components.

Recommendation 2a:

Given that SANSA has developed User / Municipality Training Tools and a new Natural Resources Management Programme, and that the DSTI has provided the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) with a comprehensive framework of its STI capabilities, the Committee will engage with the Portfolio Committee on COGTA around the uptake of locally developed STI information and solutions to improve service delivery and to protect and enhance the resilience of communities when faced with environmental shocks.

Recommendation 2b:

The DSTI and SANSA, in collaboration with the Departments of COGTA; Fisheries, Forestry and the Environment and the South African Weather Services, should consider developing and implementing a national communication protocol around local STI capabilities that integrates with planning and disaster management systems at national and municipal levels. These stakeholders should also develop a structured intergovernmental collaboration programme, including formalised data-sharing agreements. A report should be provided to the Committee within nine months.

Observation 3:

The Committee noted that South Africa's gross domestic expenditure on research and development remains low, limiting the growth and sustainability of national space science capabilities. Furthermore, the Committee was informed that the SIH funding would be fully spent by June/July 2026, with no clear indication as to future funding allocations.

Recommendation 3a:
Given the critical need for infrastructure development and modernisation, the DSTI and SANSA should, within the current Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) cycle, present a plan to Cabinet aimed at increasing R&D expenditure toward at least 1% of GDP, with specific allocations for the space science programme, as well as other identified critical research and technology infrastructure.

Recommendation 3b:
The DSTI and SANSA should also intensify efforts to pursue Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), as well as other funding models, around the development, expansion and modernisation of research and technology infrastructures.

Observation 4:
The Committee noted SANSA's ongoing challenges to attract and retain critical skills, particularly among historically disadvantaged groups, including black women and persons with disabilities.

Recommendation 4:
Because SANSA's skills development initiatives are at the postgraduate level, SANSA should develop a targeted human capital development and transformation public awareness programme for higher education institutions and the National Student Financial Aid Scheme that highlights the bursaries and mentorship programmes in the space science domain.

4.3. Denel Houwteq AIT facility

Observation 1a:
The Committee sought clarity on the governance and ownership of the Houwteq AIT facility. It was reported that the former Department of Public Enterprises had agreed that the Houwteq AIT facility would be transferred to SANSA. However, the DoD under the current

administration, has stated that it will retain ownership of the facility. Hence, the Committee questioned why SANSA was funding the revitalisation of the facility.

Observation 1b:

The Committee noted that SANSA has allocated R62 million to upgrade the Houwteq AIT facility, that the facility would require approximately R50 million per year to operate and that there is no current budget facility for its maintenance. The Committee also noted that SANSA is now a tenant of Denel in that it is renting the Houwteq AIT facility. Denel is also not contributing any funds to the upgrading and modernisation of the Houwteq AIT facility.

Recommendation 1:

The DSTI, SANSA and the DoD should finalise and present a formal governance and ownership framework that clearly defines the roles, responsibilities and financial contributions for the Houwteq AIT facility. The report should also set out a framework for the future operational viability of this facility and explain why SANSA was funding its revitalisation. The report should be provided to the Committee within three months, in conjunction with the reports on Denel OTR.

The Committee will schedule an engagement with all the relevant stakeholders to discuss its concern regarding these matters.

Observation 2:

The Committee noted that as with Denel OTR, SANSA's integration with the Houwteq AIT facility raises concerns around dual-use (civil and defence) regulation, environmental compliance and inter-departmental coordination. SANSA also stressed that their interest is not in managing or taking over these facilities but that any future operating model must represent the best interest of all stakeholders.

Recommendation 2:

The DSTI, SANSA, DoD and the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies should consider developing a national space infrastructure and satellite development masterplan that incorporates the regulatory, environmental and operational frameworks to guide integrated infrastructure development.

Observation 3:

The Committee noted that SANSA had contracted Denel Spaceteq to build EO-Sat1 and that by 2021 R300 million had been spent but no satellite was delivered. The resultant IP does however reside with SANSA. Furthermore, Denel owes SANSA R50 million, which they will work off as they resume the EO-Sat1 build. The Committee was informed that the current contract between SANSA and Denel for EO-Sat1 will comprise no new R&D and that the South African space industry will be subcontracted to supply the needed satellite components. The intention is to use the existing IP, distribute the economic gain of the satellite build programme across the local space industry and to build local capability. Hence, the use of an "off-the-shelf" EO satellite was declined.

Recommendation 3:

SANSA and Denel should provide the Committee with a report that comprehensively sets out the contractual relationship and obligations between the parties in relation to the EO-Sat1 build. The report should be provided to the Committee within three months.

Observation 4:

In relation to the inclusion of the local space industry, the Committee observed limited private sector participation despite attempts through two Requests for Information (RFI) and one Request for Proposals (RFPs). The Committee was also informed that another Request for Proposals would be issued soon.

Recommendation 4:

The DSTI and SANSA should provide a cost-benefit analysis on the revitalisation and use of the Houwteq AIT facility versus using existing capability within the local space industry. SANSA should consider revising their strategy to improve industry participation, including clearer incentives, risk-sharing mechanisms and transformation-aligned procurement models. The cost-benefit analysis should be provided to the Committee within three months.

Observation 5:

The Committee noted that the Houwteq AIT facility is surrounded by state-owned forestry land that is currently being occupied by a Khoisan community. The settlement is known as Knoflokskraal. Furthermore, the Committee was informed that SANSA has engaged with the community, especially around the purpose of the facility and possible future employment.

Recommendation 5:

SANSA should remain cognisant of the state of the land claim and developments in this regard. SANSA should continue its use of the Astronomy domain's approach to community engagement since it has been successful.

4.4. NRF / iThemba LABS

Observation 1:

The Committee raised concerns regarding governance stability and leadership due to being informed that both the NRF's Chief Executive Officer and iThemba LABS's Managing Director were both placed on special leave pending the investigation of undisclosed allegations.

Recommendation 1:

The NRF should provide a comprehensive governance and leadership report when it next appears before the Committee to present its 2026/27 Annual Performance Plan.

Observation 2:

The Committee also raised concerns around the apparent lack of gender transformation within the leadership structure of both the NRF and iThemba LABS.

Recommendation 2:

NRF and iThemba LABS should implement a targeted transformation and succession strategy that focuses on increasing the representation of women and historically disadvantaged groups in leadership and technical roles.

Observation 3:

The Committee noted the funding constraints for infrastructure refurbishment in that approximately R700 million is needed to refurbish the Separated Sector Cyclotron. Other infrastructure needs also exist that were not quantified for the Committee.

Recommendation 3:

The DSTI and the NRF should engage National Treasury and apply to the Budget Facility for Infrastructure (BFI) to secure dedicated funding for infrastructure refurbishment and

modernisation. The NRF should provide a comprehensive infrastructure needs report when it next appears before the Committee to present its 2026/27 Annual Performance Plan.

Observation 4:
The Committee recognised the potential for South Africa to position itself as a regional hub for nuclear medicine and research through expanded collaboration with other African countries. This could also potentially increase the revenue generated by SAIF's production of medical isotopes.

Recommendation 4:
The NRF and iThemba LABS should consider developing an African partnership and expansion strategy that outlines plans for regional collaboration, technology transfer and revenue generation.

The timeframes assigned to the submission of reports is dependent on the date of referral from the Speaker of the National Assembly to the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation.

5. Conclusion

The oversight visit to key science and technology infrastructure in the Western Cape enabled the Portfolio Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation to assess not only the individual performance of strategic facilities, but also the extent to which these assets function as an integrated system within South Africa's National System of Innovation. The Committee observed that while Denel Overberg Test Range, SANSA Space Science, the Houwteq Assembly, Integration and Test facility and the NRF's iThemba LABS each fulfil distinct and critical roles, their full value can only be realised through stronger institutional linkages, coordinated planning and a clearly articulated system-wide strategy.

In relation to South Africa's space programme, the Committee emphasised that the current state of fragmentation across governance structures, funding streams and institutional mandates present a significant national strategic risk. The reliance on financially unstable entities, particularly in relation to Denel, introduces uncertainty into critical national capabilities and may compromise long-term infrastructure sustainability. In addition, delays in infrastructure modernisation and gaps in regulatory frameworks weaken South Africa's ability to respond to

rapidly evolving global technological and geopolitical dynamics. Without decisive intervention, there is a risk that the country's existing scientific advantages will erode, leading to increased dependence on external partners for capabilities that are currently within reach domestically.

The issue of technological sovereignty emerged as a central consideration throughout the visit. The ability to design, build, test and operate national systems is critical for ensuring national security, data independence and strategic autonomy. However, these efforts remain vulnerable without sustained investment, clear governance frameworks and a supportive regulatory environment.

In conclusion, the Committee underscores that South Africa possesses a strong foundation of scientific infrastructure and expertise, but that its continued relevance and competitiveness will depend on the extent to which these assets are integrated, sustainably funded and strategically governed. Through targeted intervention and sustained commitment, South Africa can consolidate its position as a leader in science and technology on the African continent while advancing economic development, technological sovereignty and national resilience.

Report to be considered.

2. REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT ON THE 2025/26 THIRD QUARTER EXPENDITURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, DATED 31 MARCH 2026

The Portfolio Committee on Transport, having considered the expenditure of the Department of Transport ("the Department") for the Third Quarter of the 2025/26 financial year on 24 February 2026, reports as follows:

1. INTRODUCTION

The prime mandate of the Committee is governed by the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 ("the Constitution"), in respect of its legislative and oversight responsibilities as public representatives. It is required to consider legislation referred to it and consider all matters referred to it in terms of the Constitution, the Rules of the National Assembly or resolutions of the House. It is also required to respond to matters referred to it by Government within its mandate. In addition, the Committee is entrusted with considering the budgets, Strategic Plans and Annual Performance Plans of the Department and entities that fall within the transport portfolio. This report provides an overview of the expenditure of the Department for the Third Quarter of the 2025/26 financial year, as presented to the Committee on 24 February 2026.

2. ANALYSIS OF THE 2025/26 THIRD QUARTER EXPENDITURE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

For the 2025/26 financial year, the Department has a total adjusted budget appropriation of R91.8 billion. By the end of the Third Quarter, it had spent R71.3 billion (or 77.7%). The Department projected to spend R74.7 billion. This translates into a variance of R3.3 billion (or 4.5%) against projections. The lower spending was driven by lower transfers to the South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL) and the Road Traffic Infringement Agency (RTIA), and in the Administration programme.[1]

[1] National Treasury (2025a), p. 145.

By the end of the period under review, the Department's expenditure on the Compensation of Employees' (CoE) stood at R450.4 million (or 46.8%) against a projection of R466.6 million. It spent R16.2 million (or 3.5%) lower than projected mainly due to the delayed filling of vacant posts.[2] The Department reported that it anticipated to fill vacant posts, which would have resulted in the increased expenditure.[3] By the end of the Third Quarter, the Department's headcount sat at 770 against a target of 801.[4]

2.1 BUDGET EXPENDITURE PER PROGRAMME

Table 1: 2025/26 Third Quarter Expenditure of the Department of Transport

Programme R' million	Main Appropriation	Adjusted Budget	Available Budget	Q3 Actual Expenditure	Expenditure As % of Available Budget	Q3 Projected Expenditure	Variance from Projected Expenditure	% Variance from Projected Expenditure
Administration	592.0	689.2	689.2	383.6	55.7%	428.0	44.5	10.4%
Integrated Transport Planning	96.1	96.1	96.1	59.2	61.6%	71.2	12.1	16.9%
Rail Transport	23 369.9	23 375.6	23 375.6	21 822.3	93.4%	21 881.1	58.8	0.3%
Road Transport	53 919.1	49 827.8	49 827.8	36 915.7	74.1%	39 748.9	2 833.2	7.1%
Civil Aviation Transport	567.6	572.6	572.6	374.0	65.3%	380.5	6.5	1.7%
Maritime Transport	515.5	518.0	518.0	137.4	26.5%	469.0	331.6	70.7%
Public Transport	16 577.8	16 679.0	16 679.0	11 638.0	69.8%	11 648.8	46.8	0.4%
State-Owned Companies Governance	54.0	54.0	54.0	18.0	33.2%	30.7	12.8	41.5%

[2] National Treasury (2025a), p. 147.
[3] Ibid.
[4] Ibid.

Programme R' million	Main Appropriation	Adjusted Budget	Available Budget	Q3 Actual Expenditure	Expenditure As % of Available Budget	Q3 Projected Expenditure	Variance from Projected Expenditure	% Variance from Projected Expenditure
Assurance and Performance								
Total	**95 692.1**	**91 812.3**	**91 812.3**	**71 348.0**	**77.7%**	**74 694.2**	**3 346.2**	**4.5%**

(Source: National Treasury (2025a), p. 145)

2.1.1 Programme 1: Administration

The Administration programme spent R383.6 million (or 55.7%) against a projection of R428 million, resulting in lower than projected spending of R44.5 million (or 10.4%). The slow spending was on CoE, Goods and Services and payments for capital assets. This stemmed from posts that were yet to be filled, including the termination of services.[5] According to the Department, slow spending on Goods and Services stemmed from the fact that projects such as the forensic investigations and the public-private partnership (PPP) for office accommodation spend only when milestones are met.[6] The Probity Audit project had been cancelled due to irregularities that were picked up by the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA). The Department asserted that it planned to fast track projects to improve spending during the Fourth Quarter.[7]

2.1.2 Programme 2: Integrated Transport Planning

In the Integrated Transport Planning programme, the Department spent R59.2 million (or 61.6%) against a projection of R71.2 million. Spending was R12.1 million (or 16.9%) below projections primarily on account of "teething projects" such as the operationalisation of the

[5] National Treasury (2025a), p. 147.
[6] Ibid.
[7] National Treasury (2025a), p. 146.

Transport Economic Regulator (TER), which had not incurred any expenditure.[8] However, the Department contended that it made progress, having appointed a board and held the Economic Regulator's inaugural meeting.[9] The CoE further contributed to the slow expenditure, and this was informed by the delayed filling of vacant posts.[10]

2.1.3 Programme 3: Rail Transport

The Department spent R21.8 billion (or 93.4%) of its total allocation of R23.4 billion in the Rail Transport programme. The programme's spending was marginally behind estimate by R58.8 million (or 0.3%). This was due to Goods and Services owing to the delayed payment for the Private Sector Participation (PSP): Advisory Unit Project. The CoE further contributed to the slow expenditure, and this was informed by the delayed filling of vacant posts.[11]

2.1.4 Programme 4: Road Transport

By the end of the Third Quarter of 2025/26, the Road Transport programme spent R36.9 billion (or 74.1%) of its allocation against a projected R39.7 billion, reflecting a lower than projected spending of R2.8 billion (or 7.1%). Expenditure was below the target on Transfers and Subsidies due to the outstanding payment to SANRAL and RTIA for the Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences (AARTO) rollout.[12]

An amount to the tune of R5 billion had been reduced from the SANRAL: non-toll network allocation, and a proposal to shift an additional amount of R2 billion had been sought to assist the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) with its operational shortfall in the current financial year.[13]

[8] National Treasury (2025a), p. 146.
[9] Ibid.
[10] Ibid.
[11] Ibid.
[12] Ibid.
[13] Ibid.

2.1.5 Programme 5: Civil Aviation Transport

In the Civil Aviation Transport programme, the Department spent R374 million (or 65.3%) against a projected R380.5 million. Spending was R6.5 million (or 1.7%) below projections. The less than estimated expenditure was partly due to Goods and Services, from projects that were either delayed because of procurement processes or others that had been appointed; however, spending will only take effect upon achievement of milestones.[14] The CoE further contributed to slow spending, and this was informed by the delayed filling of vacant posts.

2.1.6 Programme 6: Maritime Transport

By the end of the reporting period, the Department had spent R137.4 million (or 26.5%) of its allocation against a projected R469 million in the Maritime Transport programme. Spending was R331.6 million (or 70.7%) below projection, primarily owing to delays related to the determination of classification for the Budget Facility for Infrastructure (BFI) funding for Phase 2 of the Cape Town Container Terminal. The Department asserted that funds were expected to flow after an accounting determination on the flow of funds had been made.[15]

2.1.7 Programme 7: Public Transport

The Department spent R11.6 billion (or 69.8%) against a projected R11.7 billion. Notably, the spending of R46.8 million was below projection. The programme underspent mainly on Transfers and Subsidies owing to the outstanding transfer payment to the Taxi Recapitalisation Programme (TRP), which is demand-driven and the Taxi Recapitalisation of South Africa (TRSA) for the once-off taxi gratuity.[16] Expenditure was primarily aligned with estimates for this project.

2.8 Programme 8: State-Owned Companies Governance Assurance and Performance

[14] National Treasury (2025a), p. 147.
[15] Ibid.
[16] Ibid.

By the end of the Third Quarter of 2025/26, the Department spent R18 million (or 33.2%) of the available budget. This translates into delayed spending of R12.8 million (or 41.5%) against the projected spending. The Department averred that this expenditure was informed by an error pertaining to the linking of objectives and responsibilities for this programme.[17] It further maintained that this error had been corrected, and the personnel expenditure from October 2025 had interfaced correctly and that journals would be compiled to move the expenditure for the previous months to this programme.[18]

By the end of the Third Quarter of 2025/26, the Department had spent R71.3 billion (or 77.7%) of the R91.8 adjusted budget. This reflects an improvement compared to the 71.4% expenditure recorded over the same period in 2024/25, signalling moderately enhanced spending performance across most programmes.[19]

While overall expenditure remains on track, persistent underspending across several key programmes continues to raise concerns. The delayed filling of vacant posts, recurring procurement-related delays, and administrative challenges contributed to slower than planned spending. Notably, significant underspending was recorded in the Maritime Transport programme, largely due to delays related to the Budget Facility for Infrastructure (BFI) and the pending classification of funds for Phase 2 of the Cape Town Container Terminal.

Transfers and Subsidies also remain an area requiring close monitoring, especially in the Road Transport and Public Transport programmes, where outstanding payments to SANRAL, RTIA, and the TRP contributed to lower spending outcomes.

Overall, while the Department shows improved expenditure performance compared to the prior year, the recurring challenges echo earlier quarters and highlight the need for robust project management, timely procurement processes, and a strengthened focus on addressing administrative inefficiencies. The Committee will monitor the Department's Fourth Quarter performance to ensure that corrective measures are implemented effectively, particularly in

[17] National Treasury (2025a), p. 147.
[18] Ibid.
[19] National Treasury (2024).

programmes with historical underspending trends and those with direct implications for infrastructure delivery and public transport services.

3. COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

Members made the following observations during discussions on the expenditure for the quarter under consideration:

3.1 The Department made a lot of references to projects and programmes where performance targets were not met with the promise that these targets would be met in the fourth quarter, such as delays in processing Bills and skills training. The question posed to the Department was whether these moved targets would in fact be met with roughly 4 weeks left to the end of the financial year.

3.2 Members noted that the presentation covered the performance of entities such as PRASA and SANRAL but not much was presented on Transnet. Members requested the reasons for this as the Committee determined, along with the Minister's input during the Committee strategic session that the recovery of Transnet was high on the Minister's list of what needed to be monitored by the Committee. Other than information on the liquidity and solvency ratios presented to the Committee, there was little reporting on the performance of Transnet in the presentation, hence the need for the Committee to meet with the entity within the next month. The Department was asked whether excluding Transnet from the report was deliberate as their 2024/25 Annual Report showed a R4 billion spend in private security despite also indicating losses and damages linked to theft. The Department was further asked to clarify where within the Department programme reports one would find reporting on the Transnet subsidiaries such as Transnet Freight Rail and the like.

3.3 Clarity was sought to whether the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) that will be onboarded at Transnet would bring infrastructure investment into the system, and on the business case if PPP would not lead to investment into infrastructure. The view was that the Department was to provide detail on this matter, as there was not a clear case saying that PPP would be viable. Vertical separation to create economies of scale that would inadvertently lead to higher logistics costs, would make supply chain uncompetitive and make South African companies to be regarded as not globally competitive. There needs to be business cases and proper interrogation of PPP where problems that should be solved by funding from the national fiscus must be done by PPP partners. More funding would be needed for Tranent

Rail Infrastructure Management (TRIM) as revenue streams gained by Transnet Freight Rail (TFR) would be distributed to 3rd parties who may themselves not be viable. The Committee needed to know the break-even point of volumes so that the Transnet subsidiaries could survive under Transnet.

3.4 Clarity was sought on the use of the funds that were transferred to SANTACO. The Department's move to propose an end date for the Taxi Recapitalisation Programme (TRP) was regarded as encouraging. Clarity was asked on the date for this and on how the once off Covid-19 relief gratuity for the taxi industry would be rolled out to the taxi industry. It was noted that the delay in the removal of unroadworthy taxis would lead to mass accidents. The Department was asked to clarify how it monitors the programme and what plans it has in place to ensure improved performance. It was asked whether the TRP resolved the problems or met the goals it sought to address when it was introduced and if this was not happening then there needs to be an indication of why this programme is being continued.

3.5 The report on the liquidity and solvency of entities should be covered in more detail and not be rushed through as the Committee needed to know what would be done to remedy these concerns and why they are in the areas of concern. The Department was asked to assist with measures to deal with liquidity concerns at the Road Accident Fund (RAF). It was noted that the Committee should discuss issues around SANRAL's surplus funds in the upcoming engagements on its 2026/27 Annual Performance Plans.

3.6 An update was requested on the latest Driving Licence Card Account (DLCA) driver's licence MOU/A with Government Printing works and on how the readvertisement of the tender would be handled. The reporting indicators for this was viewed conflicting as one report stated that 99% of drivers' licences were delivered in 7 days and the other report stated that the turnaround time is 58 days.

3.7 At the last oversight visit to the DLCA serious issues of concern were raised by employees and the Committee was told they would be incorporated into the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) and this has not been finalised. Clarity was sought on the number of employees that made up the 16% that were trained, what would happen to those who were not trained, whether there was training on a new system or whether the services would be outsourced. The Department was further asked to explain how the DLCA could not meet 100% of its training targets given that the staff compliment for the DLCA was small.

3.8 There was clarity needed on how expenditure and performance targets measured up against each other given that it was noted that in Programme 1 the key performance percentage was at 82% but only 56% of the budget was spent, programme 4 had 50% performance with

70% of the budget spent, programme 6's performance was at 80% but 27% of the budget was spent and programme 8 achieved 100% performance but 33% of the budget was spent. The Department was asked how this would be rectified with only four weeks left in the fourth quarter and whether this would be balanced with the formulation of KPIs and a better alignment of the allocated budget. The Department further had to clarify the reasons for only implementing 50% of the training plans of which 20% of these plans were implemented in the third quarter. Added to these issues were questions regarding the slow progress on projects linked to Operation Phakisa. The Department was told to own up to its areas of underperformance and concerns and tell the committee how the concerns would be addressed and not merely refer this to the next reporting cycle as it seemed that the areas of concern would not be resolved in the next four weeks when the fourth quarter ended.

3.9 The challenge with the enrolment of smart units were noted. The Department was asked how it would address this issue in the fourth quarter.

3.10 The percentage implementation of preference points allocation in procurement was noted. It was noted that the response on the PPPFA targets reported was unacceptable as the Department worked with provinces and transfer funds for road projects implemented by the provinces and transfer funds for road projects implemented by the provinces and a comprehensive report was needed in this regard, keeping in mind that the Department does not dictate to the provinces on how their procurement targets are structured and that the Department could not place conditions to these projects if they are not linked to grants received from the Division of Revenue Act.

3.11 The Department was urged to rectify the recurrence of underspending on employees. High vacancy rates in entities were concerning as this led to instability in the entities. The key strategic positions must be filled, and the Department must expedite the filling of boards and CEO vacancies.

3.12 The Committee noted that officials were appointed in acting positions for far too long, especially in entity CEO positions, and queried why staff were not appointed in these posts if they were good enough to act in those positions. More females needed to be appointed in senior management positions to meet the allocated targets.

3.13 The delays in finalising legislation were noted such as the AMSAR bill which has been delayed and on the strategic plans for years.

4. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends that the Minister, through the Department, should ensure the following:

4.1 The Department must provide reports on the following:

4.1.1 The reasons for only implementing 50% of the training plans of which and 20% of these plans were implemented in the third quarter, and for the plans to resolve the slow implementation.

4.1.2 The reasons why 30% of Operation Phakisa projects were unfinished and to give timeframes for completing these projects.

4.1.3 A comprehensive report on the reasons why it was taking so long to finalise disciplinary process for suspended officials at the Department and its entities.

4.1.4 More information was requested on the number of directors or CEOs and CFOs who were on paid suspensions, how long they have been suspended and what salaries are paid to each of them during suspensions for the entire transport portfolio (i.e. each of the entities and the Department).

4.1.5 A report from SANRAL on the South Africa to Lesotho Road work.

4.2 The Department should indicate when the Committee can expect the tabling of the bills outlined in the report and targeted for tabling in the 2025/26 financial year as indicated in the Strategic Plan.

4.3 The Department should provide detailed quarterly progress reports on the progress of the construction of the Mtentu and Msikaba bridges as per the recommendations of the Committee's oversight report to the N2 Wild Coast Project.

Report to be considered.