

Press Release



**South African
Institute of
Race Relations**

South Africa's Leading Research and Policy Organisation

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Police protection service personnel rise the fastest

The number of protection and security services personnel in the police increased 20 times faster than the number of detectives and ten times faster than visible policing staff, says the South African Institute of Race Relations.

The *South Africa Survey*, to be published by the Institute in Johannesburg next week, shows that the number of protection and security services personnel rose by 371%, administration personnel by 43%, crime intelligence officials by 38%, visible policing staff by 32%, and detective services members by 19%. The recorded increases are for the period between the 2003/04 and 2008/09 financial years.

The proportion of protection services personnel grew from 2% to 9% of total SAPS employees during the period. Meanwhile, the proportion of administration staff rose marginally from 17% to 18%; detective services dropped from 19% to 17%; and the two remaining divisions, visible policing and crime intelligence stayed constant at 53% and 4% respectively.

The Institute's analysis is based on figures provided by the SAPS.

Protection and security services personnel provide protection to presidential, national, provincial dignitaries, and foreign dignitaries including heads of state. In addition, they guard government buildings, ports of entry, and railways.

South Africa hosts significantly more international events than any other African country. This might explain the need to expand the size of the protection division, said Kerwin Lebone of the Institute's research department.

'In addition, the Zuma administration increased the size of government through the creation of new ministries. This would have made it necessary to hire more staff to protect state officials,' Lebone added.

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