Financial
Intelligence Centre

MEDIA RELEASE

9/5/1/3

FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE CENTRE AGILE IN RESPONSE TO RISING DEMAND AND EXPANDED SUPERVISORY ROLE DURING 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR

30 September 2026: In 2025/26, the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) responded with agility to rising demand for its products and services while strengthening compliance with South Africa's anti-financial crime regime.

This is reflected in the FIC's 2025/26 annual report, which was tabled in Parliament on Monday, 28 September 2026.

Among the highlights listed in the **FIC 2025/26 annual report**, is the organisation's achievement of 86 percent of its overall performance targets (19 out of 22), while also attaining an unqualified audit opinion with no material findings. This is the fourth consecutive year in which the FIC has achieved an unqualified audit since 2023/24.

Director of the FIC, Thabiso Thiti, said: "The FIC is deeply committed to its role in the broader financial crime-fighting ecosystem and to its commitment to public service.

"The 2025/26 Annual Report is not only a reflection of this commitment, but also a review of areas that require improvement for sustainable and tangible impact in South Africa's crime-fighting efforts."

Financial intelligence produced by the FIC plays a central role in the justice, crime prevention and security cluster's efforts to move the needle in the fight against financial crimes such as money laundering, fraud, bribery and corruption.

The 2025/26 Annual Report demonstrates the tangible impact of the FIC's work in assisting in the detection, investigation and prosecution of money laundering and illicit financial flows. The FIC produces financial intelligence for use by law enforcement, the revenue service and other competent authorities in their investigations, prosecutions and applications for asset forfeiture.

Over the past year, the FIC produced 4 194 financial intelligence reports relating to the flow of financial transactions. These reports contributed directly to the recovery of close to R37.5 million in criminal proceeds, while R34.2 million was blocked as suspected proceeds of crime.

The FIC had to keep pace with the rising demand for financial intelligence by law enforcement and other competent authorities, indicating a deeper appreciation for the value of these reports in the criminal justice system. Reactive financial intelligence reports delivered on request from local law enforcement and other competent authority partners rose by 28 percent over the past five years, from 2 300 in 2021/22 to 2 948 in 2025/26.

The FIC also generated 1 094 proactive financial intelligence reports, detecting potential illicit activities on its own initiative based on analysis of information and data received from accountable institutions.

Most reactive and proactive financial intelligence reports by crime type in 2025/26 related to money laundering, fraud, bribery and corruption, and financing of terrorism. A total of 1 977 reports were produced on money laundering-related offences.

To meet law enforcement’s demand for forensic evidence, the FIC produced 13 forensic products supporting priority crime investigations, prosecutions and related asset recovery processes. These products identified R77.2 million in proceeds of crime for asset recovery.

The FIC and the broader criminal justice system rely on a business community that fully complies with South Africa’s anti-money laundering, counter-terrorist financing and counter-proliferation financing laws and regulations. Information contained in regulatory reports filed by accountable institutions forms the basis of the financial intelligence reports that the FIC produces to support efforts to combat illicit financial flows, organised crime, money laundering and terrorist financing.

In addition to being responsive to the rising demand for financial intelligence, the FIC’s supervisory scope has expanded in recent years, requiring innovative approaches to ensure legal and regulatory compliance. At year end, there were 60 115 institutions registered with the FIC.

In the last year alone, close to 5 000 additional entities registered with the FIC, representing an 8.7 percent increase from 55 262 in 2024/25 to 60 072 in 2025/26.

As part of the FIC's risk-based approach to supervision, entities at higher risk of being abused for money laundering and terrorist financing are identified through a self-assessment questionnaire submitted by accountable institutions. Higher-risk institutions are identified for inspections and reviews with the aim of raising the level of compliance with their FIC Act obligations. A total of 549 risk-based inspections were conducted during the financial year.

South Africa took a major step towards restoring confidence in its financial system in 2025/26 with the country's exit from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list. The FIC was instrumental in the whole-of-government effort to address systemic deficiencies identified by the FATF in South Africa's framework for anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism.

The multidisciplinary National Treasury-led team, made up of regulators, policymakers, law enforcement agencies and members of the financial sector, pulled together, resulting in the country's exit from the grey list.

Insights gained from this endeavour will hold South Africa in good stead for the next round of the joint FATF-ESAAMLG mutual evaluation between June 2026 and October 2027.

2025/26 HIGHLIGHTS:

- Achieved and/or exceeded 86 percent of performance targets
- Contributed to the recovery of close to R37.5 million in criminal proceeds
- Blocked R34.2 million as suspected proceeds of crime
- Produced 4 194 proactive and reactive financial intelligence reports
- Issued 142 high-priority financial intelligence reports
- Produced 140 illicit financial flow reports
- Conducted 49 awareness initiatives
- Completed 160 compliance reviews
- Retained a clean audit – fourth year running

Issued by
The Financial Intelligence Centre

For more information please contact: media@fic.gov.za

Note to editors: As South Africa's national centre for the gathering and analysis of financial data, the role of the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) is to safeguard the integrity of the country's financial system and its institutions. In pursuit of this, the Financial Intelligence Centre Act, 2001 (Act 38 of 2001), mandates the FIC to identify the proceeds of crime and to assist in combating money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing, to facilitate effective supervision and enforcement of the Act.

Under this legislation, financial and non-financial institutions are required to fulfil certain compliance obligations, including registering with, and filing various regulatory reports to the FIC. The information provided in these reports forms the basis for the FIC's analysis to develop financial intelligence reports for use by a wide range of law enforcement, other competent authorities, and other institutions to facilitate the administration and enforcement of the laws of the Republic. The FIC Act also sets out the enforcement and penalty regime for non-compliance with the FIC Act.

For more about the FIC visit www.fic.gov.za

ITEM	2025/26
Total number of institutions registered as at year end	60 115
Compliance inspections conducted	549
Regulatory reports received	> 10.8 million
Cash threshold reports received	> 4.3 million
Suspicious and unusual transaction reports received	718 464
Financial intelligence reports disseminated	2 948 reactive | 1 094 proactive | 140 on illicit financial flows | 12 forensic
Value of suspected criminal proceeds frozen	> R34.18 million
Value of proceeds of crime recovered, in which the FIC's financial intelligence was used	> R37.5 million
Forensic Products issued	13
Value of proceeds crime identified by forensic products referred for asset preservation / forfeiture / restraint	R77.2 million