

Estimates of National Expenditure

2010

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To obtain copies please contact:

Communications Directorate
National Treasury
Private Bag X115
Pretoria
0001
South Africa
Tel: +27 12 315 5518
Fax: +27 12 315 5126

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2010

**National Treasury
Republic of South Africa**

17 February 2010



Foreword

The Estimates of National Expenditure publication provides Parliament, departments and public entities, ministers, the media, civil society and the public with information about how tax payers' money is being spent: what it buys and for what purpose. Do not be concerned regarding the magnitude of this publication. Instead, let us use this unique reference tool to keep departments and agencies accountable and ensure that the expenditure of public funds achieves its intended policy outcomes, ultimately improving the welfare of our people.

Budgets link the policy choices that government makes with the services that are delivered to people – better budgeting plays an important role in improving service delivery. In line with the 2009 Medium Term Strategic Framework, government has adopted 12 desirable outcomes. At the output level, departments and agencies continue to set targets; for the first time these are in support of the attainment of officially stated outcomes. Budgeted spending on outputs and activities will increasingly reflect this.

Following the 2009 elections, a re-organisation of departments was proclaimed to give effect to the required government policy shifts and to accommodate the necessary changes in the programmes and activities of departments and entities. Several new national departments were created; some functions were transferred between departments. This also resulted in certain national departments being re-named to better capture the content of their new responsibilities. In terms of the new structure of government there are now 37 votes in the Estimates of National Expenditure publication, whereas in 2009 there were 34 votes.

This consolidated publication provides extensive vote level information on strategies and objectives. Legislation, policy developments and other factors affecting these are also noted. Information is presented in a format that aligns government's performance commitments with resource allocations. As with the 2009 Budget, we will publish booklets for individual votes that will provide full coverage of public entities and more detail on transfers and lower level institutional information.

Given the current economic climate, there are greater trade-offs in choosing between spending priorities or in the sequencing of programme implementation. Outputs and activities are constantly being re-evaluated to determine if more effective and cost efficient options are available. As a result, some programmes have to be delayed. Alongside the additions to spending, this publication also indicates details per national vote of savings amounting to R23 billion over the period ahead. These savings have been reallocated to other departments in order to augment funding for government's priorities.

All the figures, targets and outputs result from a wide ranging intergovernmental consultative process, leading to executive approval of additional spending allocations and savings. Many people have contributed to making this publication possible, especially my colleagues in national departments and agencies. Their collaboration and understanding during the allocation and publication processes has been invaluable. Thanks are also due to the dedicated National Treasury team for the publication of this useful resource.



Lesetja Kganyago
Director-General: National Treasury

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