

Estimates of National Expenditure

2003

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The *2003 Estimates of National Expenditure* is compiled with the latest available information from departmental and other sources. Some of this information is unaudited or subject to revision.

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The *2003 Estimates of National Expenditure* is also available on www.treasury.gov.za

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**National Treasury
Republic of South Africa**

February 2003



Foreword

Through ongoing budget reforms and improved public expenditure management, Government seeks to enhance resource allocation in support of economic development and poverty alleviation. Over the last few years we have made notable strides in aligning planning and budgeting within a medium-term framework, and have improved reporting on service delivery objectives and achievements. These improvements contribute to the effective delivery of essential services to our people, and to the achievement of Government's socio-economic goals.

The *2003 Estimates of National Expenditure* provides a detailed account of the national Government's service delivery commitments, and key policy developments over the medium term. These are described in the individual chapters of the thirty-four votes. The *2003 Estimates* improves reporting on service delivery output targets, and also introduces brief summaries of recent achievements per programme.

For the first time, measurable objectives are introduced for each main division within a department's vote as prescribed by the Public Finance Management Act. Service delivery information is therefore complemented by an objective for each programme, which provides Parliament and the public with a clear statement of the central aim of spending programmes. The introduction of these objectives raises the level of Government's commitment to budgetary transparency and accountability for expenditure outputs.

The *Estimates of National Expenditure* is intended to serve as a useful resource for the various committees of Parliament and contribute to public understanding and debate on public policy and expenditure plans. It is the outcome of a lengthy administrative and executive process through which political office-bearers and public officials collaborate to clarify policy priorities and spending plans over the medium term, as reflected in the range of tables in each chapter.

This document has been produced by a dedicated team of National Treasury staff who worked closely with officials from all departments. Thanks are due to these staff and their counterparts in the departments for their considerable efforts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maria Ramos', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Maria Ramos
Director-General: National Treasury

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