

Estimates of National Expenditure

2006

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To obtain additional copies of this document, please contact:

National Treasury
Private Bag X115
Pretoria
0001
South Africa

Tel: +27 12 315 5948

The document is also available on the Internet at: www.treasury.gov.za



Republic of South Africa

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National Treasury

February 2006

Foreword

The Estimates of National Expenditure (ENE) is the product of an extensive consultative and policy review process, designed to ensure the efficient allocation of public funds to be appropriated for government programmes over the next three years.

The publication provides comprehensive coverage of the outcome of three financial years (2002/03 – 2004/05), the revised budget for 2005/06, and estimated expenditure for the MTEF period. Expenditure information is published alongside the key policy developments for each vote, expenditure trends and service delivery commitments for each spending programme, as well as a summary of the financial performance and activities of a selected group of public entities.

Our ability to publish the information here is something we are proud of, and I am grateful to my colleagues in national departments and agencies for their partnership, contributions and advice during the budget process and in finalising the 2006 ENE.

But while we pat ourselves on the back for achieving an efficient allocation process and a comprehensive budget document, we should be mindful of the work that lies ahead, as described in the service delivery commitments we are so eager to publish. Our efforts will be wasted if it ends here.

Let me suggest ways in which this publication can be best used. Besides being a valuable reference document for various institutions, the ENE is essentially the *contract* between Parliament and the 34 votes. It details the basis for an appropriation, through which the accounting officer of a national department or entity - and I include myself in this group - articulates how public funds will be spent and the performance level that can be expected. For example, the measurable objective of the *Financial Accounting and Reporting* programme of National Treasury is:

“... to achieve accountability to the general public - by promoting transparency and effective management in respect of revenue, expenditure, assets and liabilities in South Africa’s public sector”

One of the measures that relates to this objective is to have in place a completed set of accounting policies and practices that are in line with generally recognised accounting practice (GRAP) standards by March 2007.

I expect Parliament to hold me accountable for the achievement of the objectives of each of the programmes of the National Treasury, and I am sure my fellow accounting officers have made the same commitment in relation to the numerous objectives, measures and targets that relate to their policy mandate and vote.

Now that available resources have been efficiently allocated and reported in the ENE, let us also ensure that expenditure of public funds achieves its intended policy outcomes, and improve the welfare of South Africans.



Lesetja Kganyago
Director-General: National Treasury

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