

Estimates of National Expenditure

2007

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The *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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National Treasury
Private Bag X115
Pretoria
0001
South Africa

Tel: +27 12 315 5948

Fax: +27 12 315 5126

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Foreword

The Estimates of National Expenditure (ENE) gives a comprehensive account of the allocations to national government departments. It covers the seven-year period from 2003/04 to 2009/10, and includes key policy changes and the objectives that each department seeks to achieve with the funds allocated. Importantly, the amount to be appropriated by Parliament for 2007/08 is also presented. The comprehensive nature of this document is undoubtedly one of the reasons South Africa took fourth position in an international survey on budget transparency last year.

Another factor making this document special is that, unlike other budget documents produced principally by National Treasury, this is a collaboration between the Treasury and all national departments. Each chapter is the product of a joint effort by officials in the Treasury and departmental officials. I wish to thank my colleagues in every department for their invaluable role in producing a publication that contributes towards building open and transparent government.

As in the past two years, this year's ENE includes information for 134 public entities. Collecting the data, interpreting it sensibly, translating it into our government finance statistics accounting system and making it comparable is an extremely arduous task. I wish to thank all those involved in making this possible. While the data across entities is uneven, it is an evolving process. This ENE in fact carries the widest coverage of public entity financial data ever published in South Africa.

As you will have noticed by now, the document is thick and heavy. Our intention is not to do significant environmental damage. Instead, in producing the ENE our objective is to provide Parliament, departments, ministers, the media, civil society and the public with information about how citizens' money is being spent: what it buys and for what purpose. We publish this because we believe that it helps to strengthen oversight of our government by all the people of South Africa.

Each chapter contains the amounts to be appropriated by Parliament, for which accounting officers, including myself, must be held accountable. Every year, we attempt to provide outputs and measurable objectives which are more usable than in previous years. This is work in progress. In some instances, the measurable objectives we publish are not sharp enough to be able to hold departments to account. In such cases, I appeal to all readers to bring this to the attention of the department or the legislature.

Constantly raising the bar on performance is the only way that we are going to deliver on our mandate to secure a better life for all.



Lesetja Kganyago
Director-General: National Treasury

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