



VOTE 2

PARLIAMENT



BUDGET 2017

ESTIMATES
OF NATIONAL
EXPENDITURE



national treasury

Department:
National Treasury
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Estimates of National Expenditure

2017

National Treasury

Republic of South Africa

22 February 2017



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The Estimates of National Expenditure 2017 is compiled with the latest available information from departmental and other sources. Some of this information is unaudited or subject to revision.

The Estimates of National Expenditure e-publications for individual votes are available on www.treasury.gov.za. Compared to the Estimates of National Expenditure publication, the e-publications for each vote contain more comprehensive coverage of all public entities. Also included are tables containing information on programme specific personnel expenditure, conditional grants to provinces and municipalities, public private partnerships and information on donor funding. Expenditure information at the level of site service delivery is included, where appropriate.

Foreword

The 2017 Budget is presented at a time when indications are that the global economy could grow moderately better than the last forecast. Global GDP is expected to grow at 3.4 per cent in 2017, 0.3 percentage points higher than 2016. But uncertainty persists. The trade policies that the United States of America will pursue are unclear. The exact nature of Britain's exit from the European Union and economic impact are unknown. There is also evidence that globalisation is losing favour in some parts of the world and protectionism is growing. The global economy could be very different in future, depending on how these trends evolve.

Given the uncertainty, we have revised down South Africa's GDP growth projections and expect that tax revenue will be lower over the MTEF period as a result. We have also reduced the expenditure ceiling by R10.3 billion in 2017/18 and R15.9 billion in 2018/19, in line with government's fiscal objective of reducing the deficit, achieving a primary surplus and stabilising debt. Since its introduction in 2012, the expenditure ceiling in each financial year has never been breached.

Government is committed to delivering on its priorities despite the lowered revenue forecast and expenditure ceiling. It is critical that we allocate our limited resources wisely and use them effectively. In the 2017 Budget process, measures were taken to free-up resources and baselines were reduced across all departments by R7.5 billion in 2017/18, R7 billion in 2018/19 and R6.7 billion in 2019/20. The contingency reserve was also drawn down, and provisionally reserved funds were reallocated. However, the bulk of the funds allocated to priority areas within and across functions were reprioritised from lower-priority budget areas.

To ensure that funding remains focused on frontline service delivery, efforts have been intensified to improve efficiency in expenditure. Budget limits on compensation of employees introduced in the 2016 Appropriation Act are carried over to 2017. Departments will manage personnel headcount and employee earnings in line with these budget allocations.

Overall non-interest expenditure is still set to grow by an annual average of 1.4 per cent in real terms, from R1.24 trillion in 2017/18 to R1.43 trillion in 2019/20. Proposals in the budget include net increases in funding for the Post-School Education and Training, Basic Education, Economic Affairs and Health functions. The Post-School Education and Training function is the fastest growing, at 9.4 per cent over the medium term. The funding is mainly for universities to subsidise fee increases and for the National Student Financial Aid Scheme.

The publication is a concrete expression of the collaborative effort of highly dedicated civil servants across government throughout the process to prepare the Budget. We are particularly appreciative of this, as well as the contributions from the Ministers' Committee on the Budget and the Directors-General in central government. We are also thankful to all National Treasury staff who, under the expert guidance and leadership of the Minister of Finance, Pravin Gordhan, and his Deputy, Mcebisi Jonas, worked tirelessly to produce this crucial document.

The wide-ranging coverage of the Estimates of National Expenditure provides a coherent and summarised account of the prioritisation, spending plans and service delivery commitments of all 40 national votes and of government agencies. These plans constitute an important mechanism through which Parliament and the public hold institutions, including the National Treasury and its entities, to account.

Within the current difficult fiscal context not everything we believe would be beneficial to do, can be done now. Thus it is imperative that activities planned on budget be done effectively and efficiently.



Lungisa Fuzile
Director-General: National Treasury

Introduction

The Estimates of National Expenditure publications

The Estimates of National Expenditure (ENE) publications describe in detail government's expenditure plans over the next three financial years, also known as the medium-term expenditure framework (MTEF) period. The 2017 MTEF period is from 2017/18 to 2019/20.

The ENE publications contain information on: what government institutions aim to achieve over the medium term, and why; how they plan to spend their budget allocations in support of this; and what outputs and outcomes the spending is intended to produce. The publications also provide information on how institutions have spent their budgets in previous years, tables with performance data and targets, personnel data and detailed expenditure trends and estimates by programme, subprogramme and economic classification for each department and the entities that report to the vote's executive authority. Explanatory narratives detail the institution's mandate, purpose (and that of its programmes), together with programme-level objectives and descriptions of subprogrammes. Summary data tables at the end of each vote contain data on infrastructure, provincial and municipal conditional grants, departmental public private partnerships, donor funding, and expenditure at the level of site service delivery, where applicable.

A separate 2017 ENE Overview publication is also available on www.treasury.gov.za and summarises the ENE information across all votes. The 2017 ENE Overview contains a narrative explanation and budget-wide summary tables; a description of the budgeting approach; and it also has a write-up on how to interpret the information that is contained in each section of the publications.

Parliament

**National Treasury
Republic of South Africa**



Contents

Budget summary	1
Vote purpose.....	1
Mandate	1

Vote 2

Parliament

This is the executive's proposal for Parliament's budget. The final budget will be determined by Parliament in accordance with the Financial Management of Parliament and Provincial Legislatures Act (2009).

Budget summary

R million	2017/18				2018/19	2019/20
	Total	Current payments	Transfers and subsidies	Payments for capital assets	Total	Total
MTEF allocation						
Strategic Leadership and Governance	71.2	70.8	–	0.4	73.3	78.7
Administration	116.2	114.6	–	1.6	119.0	126.8
Core Business	549.2	548.6	–	0.6	570.0	610.4
Support Services	305.9	304.6	–	1.3	311.0	331.7
Associated Services	669.5	254.8	414.7	0.1	709.3	750.4
Subtotal	1 711.9	1 293.4	414.7	3.9	1 782.6	1 897.9
Direct charge against the National Revenue Fund						
Members' Remuneration	556.3	556.3	–	–	588.6	633.3
Total expenditure estimates	2 268.2	1 849.6	414.7	3.9	2 371.1	2 531.2

Executive authority
Accounting officer
Website address

Speaker of the National Assembly and Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces
Secretary to Parliament
www.parliament.gov.za

Vote purpose

Provide the support services required by Parliament to fulfil its constitutional functions, assist political parties represented in Parliament to secure administrative support and service constituents, and provide members of Parliament with the necessary facilities.

Mandate

The mandate of Parliament is based on the provisions of chapter 4 of the Constitution, which establishes the institution and sets out the functions it performs. Parliament ensures that government is by the people, as stipulated in the Constitution, and represents the interests of provinces in the national sphere of government. Once elected, members of Parliament in turn elect the president, provide a national forum for the public consideration of issues, pass legislation, and scrutinise and oversee executive action.

Parliament's policy priorities are aligned with the priorities and outcomes of the National Development Plan. To ensure that these outcomes are met over feasible timeframes, 5-year, 10-year and 15-year milestones have been set. The tabled strategic plan for the fifth Parliament is aimed at implementing the first milestone.

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