

Intergovernmental Fiscal Review

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The *Intergovernmental Fiscal Review* is compiled with the latest available information from provincial and national departments, municipalities and other sources. Some of this information is unaudited or subject to revision.

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The *Intergovernmental Fiscal Review* is also available on the Internet at: www.treasury.gov.za

Foreword

The early publication of the *2003 Intergovernmental Fiscal Review* recognises its importance to the budget approval process, in complementing the *2003 Budget Review* and the Division of Revenue Bill. Provincial and local governments are distinct governments with their own budgets, determining how to use their large grants from nationally raised revenue allocated in the national budget. The *Review* covers the 2003 provincial budgets, and the 2002 municipal budgets, and hence can only be published after both the national and provincial governments have tabled their 2003 budgets.

This *Review* covers eight important sectors prioritised for delivery by Government, including education, health, social development, agriculture, roads and transport, housing, electricity and water. The broadened focus highlights the pivotal roles of provincial and local governments in the delivery of social and basic services.

The information published in this *Review* relies on data from provinces and municipalities. The *Review* indicates that government capacity to collect service delivery information is continually improving, though much needs to be done, particularly in the local government sphere.

The *Review* is written for policy analysts, policy makers, elected representatives, implementers and academics. It is a major resource to assist stakeholders in understanding the impact of the budget allocation process and policy debates. It should particularly support Parliament, provincial legislatures and municipal councils in debating and assessing budgets and plans for critical services. Early publication of the *Review* will also assist Government in better preparing for the 2004 Budget.

I want to thank the Intergovernmental Relations Division, the Budget Office, and the chief directorates for Social Services, Economic Services and Public Finance Statistics in the National Treasury for the time, effort and extensive analysis that went into producing the publication. I also wish to thank provinces, municipalities and national departments that so readily provided information and comments. My thanks are also due to my colleagues in national departments for their valuable support and comments on drafts of this *Review*. This *Review* is truly a collective effort across all spheres and levels of Government.



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