



national treasury

Department:
National Treasury
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Enquiries: Communications Unit • Email: media@treasury.gov.za • Tel: (012) 315 5046 • 40 Church Square, PRETORIA, 0002 • www.treasury.gov.za

MEDIA STATEMENT

THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

The National Treasury wishes to correct misleading reporting on the budget allocations for the 2024 elections.

While budget reductions were announced in the 2024 Budget to address the country's unsustainable debt burden, measures were taken to specifically ensure that requirements for the elections are adequately resourced. The 2024 Budget Review outlined these measures, including:

- Reversing spending reductions to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), thus making an additional R250 million available compared to the 2023 MTBPS estimates;
- Allowing the IEC to retain its accumulated surpluses of R1.5 billion; and
- New additional allocations of R350 million for the security of the election process;

As part of the 2024 Budget process, the National Treasury continuously engaged with the IEC on its funding requirements for the 2024 National and Provincial Elections. The National Treasury's engagements with the IEC confirmed that the costs related to elections can be accommodated within the entity's baseline through surplus retention. During the 2024 MTEF budget process, the IEC indicated that they will not require any additional allocation for election-related activities provided that approval is granted for them to retain accumulated surpluses of R1.5 billion. This approval was granted by the National Treasury.

In the 2023/24 financial year the Electoral Commission was allocated R2.232 billion. The Electoral Commission is allocated R2.302 billion for the 2024/25 financial year of which R322.2 million was transferred during April 2024. A further R1.040 billion is being transferred between May and June 2024 to the Electoral Commission.

Assertions in the media about the budget baseline trends of the IEC reflect an incomplete reading of the Budget documentation and a misunderstanding of both the budget process and the nature of the challenges faced by the IEC and experienced by voters during election day. The relevant media outlet(s) also failed to seek clarity from the National Treasury before publication.

For enquiries email media@treasury.gov.za

Issued by National Treasury

Date: 30 May 2024