8: GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM

AIM

The aim of the Government Communication and Information System is to render a co-ordinated government information and client service in order to promote two way communication between the government and all national institutions, organisations and publics nationally and internationally.

EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES

Table 8.1 Expenditure by programme

R million	Expenditure outcomes			Preliminary outcome	Medium term expenditure estimates		
	1995/96[1]	1996/97[1]	1997/98[1]	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Administration [2]	16,7	14,8	9,0	13,9	12,1	12,8	13,4
Policy and research	–	–	–	7,9	11,1	11,2	11,5
Media liaison and communication agency	18,6	17,9	15,0	27,4	15,8	16,3	16,3
National, provincial and local liaison	19,0	25,0	12,4	10,5	9,9	10,2	10,7
Total	**54,3**	**57,7**	**36,4**	**59,7**	**48,9**	**50,5**	**51,9**

[1] *Spending by programme has been reclassified where possible to correspond to the current programme structure.*

[2] *Authorised losses added: 1995/96 R0,3 million; 1996/97 R0,1 million.*

Table 8.2 Economic classification of expenditure

R million	Expenditure outcomes			Preliminary outcome	Medium term expenditure estimates		
	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Current							
Personnel expenditure[1]	33,7	41,5	22,3	24,9	36,8	37,5	38,8
Other current expenditure	14,6	13,7	14,1	28,7	11,2	13,0	13,1
Capital							
Transfer payments	0,7	0,6	–	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Acquisition of capital assets	5,3	1,9	–	6,0	0,9	–	–
Total	**54,3**	**57,7**	**36,4**	**59,7**	**48,9**	**50,5**	**51,9**

[1] *Departmental personnel expenditure includes employer's contributions to pension funds at a rate of 17 per cent of basic salary in 1998/99 and 15 per cent of basic salary in subsequent years.*

Government Communication and Information Service

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) replaced the South African Communication Service, which was previously responsible for government communication, in early 1998.

The GCIS provides a communication service between Government and the public as well as between national departments. Its output includes research surveys and the distribution of various brochures to the public regarding government issues, including the Government's Midterm Report to the Nation, which is published in all official languages.

Activities are organised into four programmes.

DISCUSSION OF PROGRAMMES

Programme 1: Administration

R million	Budget estimate	Adjusted appropriation	Preliminary outcome	Medium term expenditure estimates		
		1998/99		1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
1998 Budget	11,7	13,8	13,9	12,3	12,9	–
1999 Budget	–	–	–	**12,1**	**12,8**	**13,4**

The aim of the *Administration* programme is to conduct the overall management and policy formulation of the GCIS.

Centralised administrative, legal and office support services are rendered under this programme as well as the management of departmental personnel and financial administration.

Programme 2: Policy and research

R million	Budget estimate	Adjusted appropriation	Preliminary outcome	Medium term expenditure estimates		
		1998/99		1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
1998 Budget	a	a	7,9	a	a	–
1999 Budget	–	–	–	**11,1**	**11,2**	**11,5**

a Due to the new programme structure introduced in 1999/00, comparable numbers with the 1998 MTEF are not available.

The *Policy and research* programme involves the development and formulation of communication policies and strategies giving leadership in the overall development of information resources and their exploitation.

Comprehensive information services are provided and the news and current affairs of the country are monitored.

Communication research is conducted and communication research advice services are provided to other departments.

Programme 3: Media liaison and communication agency

R million	Budget estimate	Adjusted appropriation	Preliminary outcome	Medium term expenditure estimates		
		1998/99		1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
1998 Budget	15,9	27,5	27,4	16,8	17,6	–
1999 Budget	–	–	–	**15,8**	**16,3**	**16,3**

Communication Service Agency

The aim of the programme *Media liaison* is to ensure a comprehensive and coherent media and international liaison service for South Africa and to provide a Communication Service Agency which acts as a centre of excellence for government communication.

International marketing

Co-ordination of international marketing of the country is done under this programme. Furthermore, in collaboration with different Ministries, an effective news dissemination service to both mainstream and community media is provided.

The programme also provides and facilitates the purchase of communication services on behalf of the country and provides a consultative service on project management, marketing, distribution, design, print and broadcast production to government clients.

Roll-over

The publication of the *South African Yearbook* is included within this programme.

The 1998/99 adjusted appropriation for this programme included a roll-over from the previous year of R14,4 million for upgrading equipment and facilities and an additional allocation for marketing the *South African Yearbook.*

Programme 4: National, provincial and local liaison

R million	Budget estimate	Adjusted appropriation	Preliminary outcome	Medium term expenditure estimates		
		1998/99		1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
1998 Budget	a	10,5	10,5	a	a	–
1999 Budget	–	–	–	**9,9**	**10,2**	**10,7**

[a] *Due to the new programme structure introduced in 1999/00, comparable numbers with the 1998 MTEF are not available.*

The *National, provincial and local liaison* programme involves:

♦ The facilitation of the establishment, co-ordination and maintenance of national, provincial ayhnb1nd local partnerships.

♦ The compilation and delivery of developmental communication and information programmes and campaigns.

♦ Support of relationships between the different spheres of government.