
FOREWORD

The National Expenditure Survey (NES) provides an overview of spending and service delivery by national government departments and other spending agencies in the national sphere to coincide with the tabling of the annual government budget. The document builds on earlier steps in the budget reform process, in particular the launching of three-year forward estimates in terms of the Medium Term Expenditure Framework.

The information presented in the Survey is novel in two respects. Firstly, it presents information on past actual expenditure and ensures comparability of this information to assist in the evaluation and analysis of spending trends. Secondly, the NES presents another step towards linking departmental expenditure with outputs. This is necessary to evaluate government performance and improve service delivery. The NES covers national government departments, commissions, trading accounts and other spending agencies.

In selected areas the NES also disaggregates the impact of government expenditure by gender to report on progress with Government's commitment to gender equity. This aim is to focus attention increasingly to government outputs and the impact of government expenditure.

The NES is a collaborative exercise between the Department of Finance, the Department of State Expenditure and the line departments. The Survey relied on timely inputs from some 50 departments and agencies. These inputs form the backbone of the Survey. On behalf of the Department of Finance I would like to express my thanks and appreciation for the tireless effort of all contributors to the Survey.

I would like to specifically congratulate the team from the Budget Office in the Department of Finance for an excellent product which will provide a wealth of information to those we serve.

The content of the National Expenditure Survey is a guide to citizens on what government does with its tax payments, a tool for government to improve planning and budgeting, and a source of information to assist decision-makers in the public and private spheres. We hope that this survey will contribute to a better understanding and informed public debate about the outputs delivered by Government and so contribute to increased effectiveness of government spending.

Maria Ramos

Director-General: Finance

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