

National Expenditure Survey

2000

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Department of Finance

Republic of South Africa

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FOREWORD

Budgets are more than just numbers. The National Government's budget reflects how policies and priorities are translated into services delivered to all South Africans.

Over the past five years, good progress has been made in reprioritising spending to meet the needs of reconstruction and development. A key challenge for the next five years is to strengthen the links between spending and service delivery, helping Government to improve the quality of its public services.

The *National Expenditure Survey* provides an overview of spending and service delivery for national government departments and other national spending entities. It aims to give Parliament and the public more information on the links between spending, policy and outputs, than the formal *Estimate of Expenditure* can accommodate. The *Survey's* information will also assist Government's own decision-making, particularly when it revises spending allocations for next year's budget.

After the overview chapter, each national department is discussed in a separate chapter. The focus is on key policy steps and the associated changes to medium-term expenditure plans. The background to these developments is explained in terms of key activities, outputs and service delivery trends.

The *National Expenditure Survey* is a joint exercise of the Departments of Finance and State Expenditure. The expenditure teams worked closely with other departments and agencies, defining service delivery outputs, setting out policies and clarifying spending trends. The Department is most grateful for the contribution of all of these officials. Special word of thanks is due to the Finance and State Expenditure team who worked tirelessly to prepare this Survey.

Maria Ramos
Director-General: Finance

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