



Eastern Cape Provincial Government

Budget Statement for the 2003/04 Provincial Budget

Presented to the Provincial Legislature
On 06th March 2003

Foreword

Honourable Premier,

Members of the Provincial Legislature,

**People of the Eastern Cape Province and the rest
of South Africa**

Partners in civil society and in business.



For the past five years the Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (PGDS) has guided our budget to a large extent, and as you may remember the period for which this policy was to run came to an end in 2002. The Provincial Executive Council (EXCO) has, in September 2001, resolved that a Provincial Growth and Development Programme should be designed to take over where PGDS left off. The resolution by EXCO supports the view that the challenges that informed the birth to the PGDS still exist today as they did in 1997; hence the following 8 pillars of the PGDS remain relevant in supporting the proposed new development strategy:

1. Creating jobs
2. Rural development
3. Investing in people
4. Fighting crime
5. Sustainable Natural Resource Management
6. Effective and efficient Public Service
7. Meeting basic needs
8. Redistribution of income

The PGDS is currently being reviewed and a Provincial Growth and Development Plan is being prepared. Since 2000, the provincial annual Budget Indibano has attempted to simplify the 8 pillars into Provincial Priority Areas (PPAs) that underpin the budgeting process for each financial year as well as serving as reference for the three year Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework (MTREF). The current PPAs that link to both National and Local Government priorities are:

- Infrastructure (Social and Economic),
- Accelerated public service delivery, especially the social needs,
- Eradication of poverty including ensuring food security, revitalising and building the economy, and job creation,
- Public Service transformation and governance issues.

The 2002 Budget Indibano sought to identify measurable projects that would give effect to the above priorities and these projects are reflected in detail in departmental Strategic Plans that are now tabled annually. We are hoping that as these Strategic Plans are tabled, they will be subjected to more public scrutiny so that there is improvement in the setting of service delivery objectives and measurements thereof.

It is these key areas that our departments will particularly seek to address in the 2003/04 financial year. In pursuance of these departmental objectives, this budget statement outlines our spending plans for the various programmes and allocation of resources to spending agencies.

As part of the budget reforms that we continue to pursue, I do hope that this budget submission will go a long way in enhancing the understanding and the debate by all stakeholders so that we achieve even greater improvement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Godongwana', written over a light blue horizontal line.

E Godongwana,
MEC for Finance, Economic Affairs, Environment and Tourism.

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