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FOREWORD

As government, our commitment to the principles of accountability and transparency is unwavering. The activities of government continue to be guided by these principles, which were non-existent in the past regime. It is our belief that the exercise of these principles would assist in promoting the culture of clean governance and the application of prudent financial management in order to maximize delivery through the efficient and effective use of limited resources.

Introducing the Public Financial Management Act (PFMA) in 1999 was precisely to uphold these principles alluded to above. The foreword of the Act captures them very well. It is indicated that the primary purpose of the Act is, among other things, not only to break from the past regime of opaqueness, hierarchical systems of management, poor information and weak accountability but also to enable public sector managers to be more accountable. The Act also emphasizes the need to eliminate waste and corruption in the use of public assets.

This budget statements document has been developed within the parameters of the PFMA. The document captures the mandates of the different departments and their strategic plans to translate those mandates into reality. In addition, it outlines the spending plans for the different programmes and allocation of resources to all spending agencies. It is our belief, as government, that this approach will empower members of the public, keeping them abreast about government activities. It will strengthen the issue of accountability, basically ensuring that public funds are not only utilised prudently but also remains focus on the outlined strategic objectives of government.

Looking back from 1999 to date, there is a lot improvement regarding financial management within government. The quality of planning is gradually improving, so is delivery. If we, in partnership, continue to keep the momentum, there is no doubt that we will reap the benefits. The intolerable burden of poverty and underdevelopment would ultimately be alleviated from the shoulders of the majority of our people.

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