

FOREWORD

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As we enter the second decade of democracy, Government is faced with many and diverse challenges, more particularly in the arena of employment creation.

Priorities of Government in the next phase are very clearly articulated as the need to grow the economy in a manner that sees the increase of job opportunities for all. In the past we have focused on ensuring that the delivery of social services is made available to all sectors of the population in an equitable way as well as improving the level of services provided. To this end, 2001 census statistics indicate that 85% of all people have access to clean water, 69,7% of people are using electricity and the adult literacy rate had increased to 89% of the population.

This Budget seeks to give expression to the new priorities of Government with increased expenditure in areas that encourage the creation of jobs. Government's approach to the expansion of public works projects with a renewed focus on the labour intensive aspect of delivering public services, attests to this.

In accordance with Government stated commitment to increased transparency and accountability the Budget Statement details spending by all Provincial Departments for the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period. It clearly indicates the objectives and intended outcomes to be achieved by each Department.

This Budget sees increased allocations to all votes but speciĀally targets infrastructure and activities that will stimulate growth in the economy. The intention is to maintain the standard of service delivery in the Social Sector but to focus explicitly on the areas that will more overtly foster economic growth and reduce poverty.

We hope that the new format for the presentation of budgets will enhance the value of information and promote participation and involvement of all stakeholders.



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