



national treasury

Department:
National Treasury
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

- TO ALL** : **ACCOUNTING OFFICERS OF DEPARTMENTS AND CONSTITUTIONAL INSTITUTIONS**
- : **ACCOUNTING AUTHORITIES OF PUBLIC ENTITIES LISTED IN SCHEDULES 2 AND 3 TO THE PFMA**
- : **HEAD OFFICIALS OF PROVINCIAL TREASURIES**
- : **PROVINCIAL ACCOUNTANTS-GENERAL**

IMPLEMENTATION OF A PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT KNOWLEDGE QUERIES PORTAL FOR PFMA RELATED ENQUIRIES

1. The Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), 1999 (Act No. 1 of 1999) promotes the objective of good financial management in order to maximize service delivery through the effective and efficient use of limited resources. Section 6 of the PFMA enjoins the National Treasury to, amongst others; promote transparency and the effective management of revenue, expenditure, assets and liabilities in all PFMA compliant institutions.
2. The Act also provides that the National Treasury may assist departments and constitutional institutions in building their capacity for effective, efficient and transparent financial management.
3. In its effort to provide support to PFMA compliant institutions, the National Treasury has embarked on several initiatives over the years to assist institutions with implementation of the Act and to provide clarity on matters related to financial management. These initiatives include, amongst others -
 - (a) development of a dedicated PFMA web page;
 - (b) publication of general and specific Guidelines and Frameworks;
 - (c) conducting of a governance review of public entities;
 - (d) implementation of a Provincial Good Practice Programme;
 - (e) conducting of information sessions to various stakeholders;
 - (f) conducting of internal audit quality assurance reviews;

**Implementation of a Public Finance Management Knowledge Queries Portal
for PFMA related enquiries**

- (g) concluding strategic support plans with identified institutions that experienced perennial financial management difficulties;
 - (h) implementation of capacity building initiatives, including the roll out of courses to financial management and governance practitioners; and
 - (i) providing responses to e-mail and written correspondence received ;
4. In its quest to keep abreast with technological advancements, the National Treasury is considering the automation of some of its support interventions to PFMA compliant institutions. An example of this is the development of a Public Finance Management Knowledge Queries Portal (hereafter referred to as the Queries Portal).
5. The abovementioned Queries Portal will enable institutions to submit their PFMA and MFMA related queries on-line to the National Treasury. At this stage, the Queries Portal is being rolled out by the Office of the Accountant-General, where bulk of the enquiries related to the PFMA and MFMA are received.
6. The Queries Portal will enable employees at PFMA compliant institutions to perform the following:
- (a) register and create a client profile;
 - (b) submit formal (written) enquiries to the Office of the Accountant-General;
 - (c) correspond with the Office of the Accountant-General through an email configuration (that is linked to the Queries Portal); and
 - (d) consult the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ`s) for possible solutions.
7. The Queries Portal has been activated on the National Treasury's website and may be accessed through the following web link:
- <http://pfmportal.treasury.gov.za/Pages/splash.aspx>
8. Accounting officers of departments and constitutional institutions and accounting authorities of public entities are requested to inform all employees of their respective institutions that, with effect from 1 December 2014, the Queries Portal shall be the only mechanism to log queries with the Office of the Accountant-General at the National Treasury.
9. The National Treasury has developed a User Manual to guide the use of the Queries Portal and this User Manual is enclosed as **Annexure A** to this correspondence.
10. Accounting officers of national departments are requested to please bring the contents of this correspondence to the attention of accounting authorities of all public entities reporting to their executive authority.

**Implementation of a Public Finance Management Knowledge Queries Portal
for PFMA related enquiries**

11. Head Officials of Provincial Treasuries are requested to please bring the contents of this correspondence to the attention of all accounting officers of departments and accounting authorities of public entities in their respective provinces.

12. Enquiries related to the operations of the Queries Portal may be directed to:

Mr Jayce M Nair
Chief Director: Governance Monitoring and Compliance
Office of the Accountant-General, National Treasury
Phone: 012 315 5482
E-Mail: Jayce.Nair@treasury.gov.za

13. Your cooperation to ensure the successful implementation of the Queries Portal would be appreciated.

Kind regards


MICHAEL SASS
ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL

DATE 30 OCTOBER 2014

Distribution:

- (a) Members of all Audit Committees;
- (b) Chief Executive Officers of Public Entities;
- (c) Chief Financial Officers (CFO);
- (d) Chief Risk Officers (CRO);
- (e) Chief Audit Executives;
- (f) Heads of Compliance Functions; and
- (g) Other relevant officials within the institution