

Provincial Budgets and Expenditure Review:

2001/02 – 2007/08



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National Treasury

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This document is compiled with the latest available information from provincial and national departments and other sources. The data for 2004/05 is still to be audited and may thus change.

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Foreword

The publication of this year's *Provincial Budgets and Expenditure Review* honours the promise made a year ago when we released the Trends in Intergovernmental Finances. The *Review* goes beyond simply providing a comprehensive set of data on provincial budgets and expenditure, to providing analyses of trends in service delivery. It lays a basis for benchmarking provinces on service delivery performance in key sectors such as school education, health, social development and housing, among others.

Over the years, availability, timeliness and quality of financial information has improved considerably – thanks to the discipline brought about by the Public Finance Management Act. However, the same cannot be said about non-financial information. Not only does this hamper planning; it also makes it difficult to assess progress and evaluate the quality of public services. Additional allocations for improving the Education Management Information System in the 2005 Budget are aimed at resolving this problem in the period ahead. Similar initiatives are necessary in other sectors.

The Review is published about two months ahead of the release of the 2005 Medium Term Budget Policy Statement. The forward estimates for 2006/07 and 2007/08 will serve as a point of departure for the MTBPS and ultimately the budgets that will be tabled in February next year. Therefore, once the two documents are available, the debate on the 2006 Budget can begin in earnest.

Unlike previous years, this year's *Review* does not cover local government finances. A separate publication on local government finances and service delivery trends will be released early next year, in time for use by the political office bearers who will take office after elections.

As always, preparation of this document requires inputs and participation by a range of players, to all of whom we are eternally grateful.

**Lesetja Kganyago
Director-General: National Treasury**

Technical notes

The notes set out below are intended to assist readers and analysts.

General notes on numbers

Data on the seven-year trends set out in this document are drawn from provincial government publications such as financial and budget statements.

The estimated expenditure outcome for 2004/05 was based on expenditure data as on 29 April 2005, reported by provinces for the period ended 31 March 2005. These figures will certainly change when final audited statements are published.

The consolidated set of provincial government tables contained in Annexure A is reflected according to the uniform budget and programme structures.

Financial years

A financial year for the provincial and national spheres starts on 1 April and ends on 31 March the following year.

Per capita estimates

Except for instances where it is stated otherwise, estimates of per capita spending are based on the 2001 census data. Such estimates will be different from those that will be calculated using data from other sources.

Real growth rates

When comparing monetary values from one year to another, it is common to adjust figures for inflation. Real growth rates in this publication are calculated using the CPIX.

Rounding of numbers

Appropriation of funds and reporting of expenditure is done in terms of Rand thousands. The majority of the tables in the publication are in Rand millions. As a result of rounding off, some minor deviations may occur.

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