

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**  
**QUESTION FOR ORAL REPLY**  
**QUESTION NUMBER: 233 [CO500E]**  
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**233. Mr F Essack (Mpumalanga: DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:**

Whether the National Treasury has a plan to oversee the provincial strategies for economic growth in each city and town?

CO500E

**REPLY:**

The National Treasury supports provinces and municipalities to develop strategies, plans and programmes for inclusive economic development through the creation of an enabling regulatory framework, the provision of intergovernmental transfers and, where appropriate, the provision of technical assistance.

Faster, more inclusive growth requires excellence in public sector management, which for many provinces and municipalities means getting “Back to Basics” in delivering essential services, improving financial management, and ensuring transparent, accountable and participatory governance. These are essential pre-requisites for developing practical partnerships at the local level to accelerate inclusive growth.

Through the annual Division of Revenue Act, the National Treasury assists provinces and municipalities to strengthen cooperation between spheres of government, through aligning their planning and programme implementation with the funding provided through transfers.

Technical assistance is also provided to municipalities and provinces on request, through the Government Technical Advisory Centre, and more tailored programmes such as the Cities Support Programme for metropolitan municipalities. This support seeks to ensure that the core functions of government, such as in public housing and public transport services are aligned to and supportive of the economic growth agenda. Steps have also been taken to assist municipalities to improve their measurement of non-financial outcomes, such as the cost of doing business, and the introduction of associated reforms to systems of development approval such as building permits and infrastructure connections.