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Reference: T12/2/1

TREASURY CIRCULAR MUN NO 41 OF 2012

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THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, BITOU MUNICIPALITY: MR A PAULSE (Acting)
THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, KNYSNA MUNICIPALITY: MS L WARING
THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, CENTRAL KAROO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY: MR N NORTJE (Acting)
THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, LAINGSBURG MUNICIPALITY: MR P WILLIAMS
THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER, PRINCE ALBERT MUNICIPALITY: MR H METTLER
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THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, CITY OF CAPE TOWN: MR K JACOBY
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THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, SWELLENDAM MUNICIPALITY: MR J KRAPOHL
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THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, MOSSEL BAY MUNICIPALITY: MR HF BOTHA
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THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, OUDTSHOORN MUNICIPALITY: MR D LOTT
THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, BITOU MUNICIPALITY: MR A BREDENHANN (Acting)
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THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, PRINCE ALBERT MUNICIPALITY: MR J NEETHLING
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THE HEAD: BRANCH FISCAL AND ECONOMIC SERVICES (MR H MALILA)
THE HEAD: BRANCH GOVERNANCE AND ASSET MANAGEMENT (VACANT)
THE HEAD: PUBLIC POLICY SERVICES (MR A PHILLIPS)
THE HEAD: PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT PUBLIC FINANCE (MS JD GANTANA)
THE HEAD: LOCAL GOVERNMENT PULIC FINANCE (MR TC ARENDSE)
THE HEAD: ASSET MANAGEMENT (MR IG SMITH)
THE HEAD: FINANCIAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTING (MR A HARDIEN)
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THE HEAD: OFFICE OF THE FINANCE MINISTRY (MS T EVANS)
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THE SENIOR MANAGER: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (GROUP ONE) (MR F SABBAT)
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 THE SENIOR MANAGER: SUPPORTING AND INTERLINKED FINANCIAL SYSTEMS (MR A BASTIAANSE)
 THE PROVINCIAL AUDITOR
 MASTER RECORDS OFFICIAL: BUSINESS INFORMATION AND DATA MANAGEMENT
 THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: LOCAL GOVERNMENT
 THE CHIEF DIRECTOR: LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET ANALYSIS – NATIONAL TREASURY (MR J HATTINGH)
 THE CHIEF DIRECTOR: MFMA IMPLEMENTATION - NATIONAL TREASURY (MR TV PILLAY)
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NATIONAL TREASURY: STANDARD CHART OF ACCOUNT (SCOA) Version 3 ROADSHOW: 11 SEPTEMBER 2012

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this circular is to formally inform municipalities that National Treasury together with Provincial Treasury will be hosting a workshop on the release of version 3 of a Standard Chart of Accounts (SCOA) for Local Government for all municipalities on 11 September 2012.

2. Background

- 2.1 In terms of Section 216 of the Constitution, the National Treasury amongst others, must prescribe measures to ensure both transparency and expenditure control in each sphere of government through the introduction of generally recognised accounting practice, uniform expenditure classifications and uniform treasury norms and standards.
- 2.2 Despite efforts around the Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations which addressed challenges previously experienced in respect of municipal budgets which did not contain narrative information and the lack of uniform classifications for revenue and expenditure items, substantial organisational structural changes in municipalities make it difficult to compare performance over time.
- 2.3 In addition the misalignment between budgeted and reporting of results also compromised the monitoring and oversight roles of Parliament, Legislatures, the Department of Provincial and Local Government, National and Provincial Treasuries.
- 2.4 National and Provincial Treasuries have the responsibility to compile consolidated local government information for national and provincial policies as well as other purposes. The development and specification of a national standard of information would thus assist in national and provincial reporting, benchmarking and understanding municipalities contribution in the local government environment.

- 2.5 To date, the development of the SCOA for local government involved a range of consultation processes with Provincial Treasuries, National Departments, Professional and Oversight bodies, Regulators eg. NERSA and pilot municipalities eg. Knysna and City of Cape Town in the Province.
- 2.6 Version 3 of SCOA was completed towards the end of July 2012 and will be used for broad consultation with external stakeholders through information sessions and workshops prior to the publication and implementation of the SCOA.

3. Workshop details

- 3.1 The planned workshop will address the following topics regarding the SCOA project:
 - □ **Firstly**, the broad objectives of the reform which deals with the standard classification framework for local government, an overview of the project to date and the road ahead to regulating the SCOA.
 - Secondly, it will deal with design principles relating to revenue, expenditure, assets. Liabilities and net assets items. It will furthermore also address the function, project and regional indicator segment relating to standard chart of accounts.
- 3.2 In preparation to the workshop, each municipality has been furnished with a delegate hand-out file containing the SCOA documentation (project summary document and excel print-outs of the detail for each segment). The presentation by National Treasury will be furnished to all delegates on the day of the workshop only, since inputs will be requested on the day in respect of the excel documents and related documentation.
- 3.3 A copy of the programme for the day is hereto attached for ease of reference.

4. Request

4.1 It is imperative that all Municipal CFO's attend the workshop, given the significance of the reform. Senior municipal officials and a municipal intern working in the municipal budget and treasury office and or that are involved in the preparation of the municipal budgets and annual financial statements are encouraged to attend the workshop.

4.2 The details to the SCOA workshop are as follows:

Date:

11 September 2012

Venue:

LORD CHARLES HOTEL

SOMERSET WEST

Time:

08h30 - 15h00

4.3 To avoid disappointment kindly ensure you respond via email or fax to the numbers listed below on or before Tuesday, 4 September 2012 .

Fax no:

(021) 483-7356 or (021) 483-4411

E-mail:

MFMA@pgwc.gov.za

4.4 For any queries regarding the above please contact the relevant official:

Elton Johannes

Tel No:

(021) 483-4229

E-mail:

Elton.Johannes@westerncape.gov.za

5. Conclusion

5.1 The primary objective of the SCOA project is to improve the quality of data

collected from municipalities and municipal entities which will be achieved through

a classification framework specific for Local Government.

5.2 The sessions will be practical in nature and municipal officials attending are

guaranteed to leave with valuable information. In this regard, we plan to provide

enough time for questions and discussion.

5.3 All municipalities have been furnished with a hand-out file which will be discussed at

the workshop. Municipal CFO's should please note that this an opportunity to

contribute to the Budget Reform Process by ensuring that SCOA developed for Local

Government is as comprehensive, complete and clear as possible prior to continuing

with the system development and piloting phase of this critical project.

Your co-operation in this regard will be appreciated.

TC ARENDSE

CHIEF DIRECTOR: LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

DATE: 29 August 2012