

Vote 3: Provincial Treasury
Adjusted Estimates speech 2011

Minister Alan Winde
Provincial Legislature
5 December 2011

Honourable Speaker
Cabinet Colleagues
Leader of the Opposition
Members of the Provincial Parliament
Director-General and Heads of Departments
Colleagues and friends
Citizens of the Western Cape

It is with great pleasure that I stand before you today to table the 2011 Adjusted Estimates of Expenditure for Vote 3: Provincial Treasury.

Speaker, the Western Cape Provincial Treasury sets the standard for financial management to which all other provincial treasuries aspire. Due to their hard work, the excellent systems that they have put in place and the support that they provide to provincial and local administrations across the province, we are winning the fight against corruption and are becoming more efficient, effective and economical in our spending. This year, we have achieved groundbreaking successes.

In 2011, our departments achieved their second consecutive clean sweep of unqualified audits. Once again, we were the only province in South Africa to achieve these results.

We've also **maximised** our spending on initiatives aimed at improving the lives of the residents of our province. In the last financial year, we spent over 99 per cent of our total budget, and 97.3 per cent of our infrastructure budget. Infrastructure is the bedrock of a growing society, and we aim to further improve our spending on infrastructure projects in the years ahead.

Speaker, the above achievements testify to the strength of Provincial Treasury's programmes.

In this adjustment, Vote 3's main estimate was reduced by R1.556 million from R144.976 million to R143.420 million.

The largest contributor to this shift occurred as a result of a R1.7 million transfer to the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport so that a complete stock take of the province's libraries could be performed. The books in our libraries are prized possessions, and we have introduced this control measure so that we can manage them better.

Provincial Treasury received an amount of R144 000 from the Department of the Premier for the employee assistance programme.

Within the first six months of the year, Provincial Treasury was able to make efficiency savings of R10.078 million. This amount was originally allocated for the compensation of new employees. Due to the critical role that this department plays in achieving Strategic Objective 10, *integrated service delivery for maximum impact*, and Strategic Objective 12, our drive to become *the best run regional government in the world*, we took the decision to bolster its staff contingent. These posts have taken longer than expected to be filled, and as a result, this funding will be shifted to other programmes within the department.

We have shifted R4.811 million from Programme 1: Administration and R545 000 from Programme 4: Financial Governance for use on special projects that were undertaken by the department and for which I will now provide detail.

Programme 2: Sustainable Resource Management, is tasked with strengthening the management of government resources across the province. This programme tells us where we are succeeding and where

further resources need to be channelled to improve service delivery. Following an investigation, it was discovered that 15 municipalities within the Western Cape, many of them rural, required training on how to manage their finances in a way that ensured the delivery of meaningful services to their people. At mid-year, this project receives an additional R3.45 million. A further R1.4 million was allocated to Programme 2 so that municipalities can be assisted to build their human capital. Finally, R1.5 million was transferred to this unit for performance audit allocations at the Departments of Education and Local Government.

Programme 3: Asset and Liabilities Management, is allocated an additional R2.4 million to develop a database that assists departments with electronic purchasing. Improvements to this system will allow for a better audit trail for future payments. R600 000 was provided to extend the contract of the current electronic purchasing service provider. A final amount of R500 000 was reallocated to this vote for the rental of special training venues.

Speaker, Provincial Treasury is an innovative and professional department that is constantly aspiring to improve government's delivery of services to its people. I would like to thank them for all that they do to maintain the high standards that they have set for themselves and others, and encourage them to continue to strive to greater and greater heights.

I hereby table the above adjusted estimates of expenditure for debate by this house.

Alan Winde