

Estimates of National Expenditure

2005



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The *2005 Estimates of National Expenditure* is compiled with the latest available information from departmental and other sources. Some of this information is unaudited or subject to revision.

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**National Treasury
Republic of South Africa**

February 2005

Foreword

Do not be discouraged by the size of this publication. Transparent and accountable governance is enhanced when comprehensive budget documents are tabled for public scrutiny and legislative oversight. The 952 pages of the Estimates of National Expenditure, while daunting, provide a summarised account of the spending plans of all 34 national departments and agencies.

The information contained in the ENE is presented in a format that aligns service delivery commitments alongside resources for the next three years. Although the ENE embodies an intimidating volume of information, it is complemented by the budget statements tabled in the nine provincial legislatures and 284 local councils. If you are only interested in the spending plan of the Department of Foreign Affairs, then the ENE will suffice. However, if spending on health care is of interest to you, read chapter 16 of the ENE, and also review the budgets of the nine provincial departments of health.

All these numbers, targets and outputs are the outcome of a wide-ranging consultative process. The budget process involves a careful evaluation of policy priorities and spending proposals, combined with intergovernmental consultations between local, national and provincial spheres of government, leading to executive approval and legislative appropriation. These reviews allow the executive to consider the necessary trade-offs when having to choose between spending priorities or decide on the sequencing of programme implementation. Not everything we believe must be done - can be done at once. Certain outputs may have to be delayed or re-evaluated to determine if more cost efficient options are more feasible. In certain cases it may be required to reprioritise existing resources to new priorities. This approach to planning and budgeting, we believe, ensures the sustainability, and improves the efficiency of our extensive social and economic spending programmes.

We want to encourage the reader to explore the pages of this publication and to use it as a frequent reference source. It is an important tool in helping parliament and society as a whole to keep departments accountable and ensure that Government delivers ever better services to our people.

The more the ENE gets put to use, the greater the return on the time, expense and sweat that goes into the production. Many have contributed to making this publication possible, especially my colleagues in national departments whose collaboration and understanding during the allocation process has been invaluable. While we may differ on the costing of certain programmes and the formulation of measurable objectives and targets, it is through our joint efforts that we have been able to produce a comprehensive account of this Government's spending plan. Thanks to the team at National Treasury, without whom the load would have been unbearable.



Lesetja Kganyago
Director-General: National Treasury

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