

**OFFICE OF THE PREMIER  
VOTE 1**

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND RELATED MATTERS  
for the year ended 31 MARCH 2003**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the following policies, which have been applied consistently in all material respects, unless otherwise indicated. However, where appropriate and meaningful, additional information has been disclosed to enhance the usefulness of the financial statements and to comply with the statutory requirements of the Public Finance Management Act, Act 1 of 1999 (as amended by Act 29 of 1999), the Treasury Regulations for Departments and Constitutional Institutions issued in terms of the Act and the Division of Revenue Act, Act 5 of 2002.

**1. Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared on a modified cash basis of accounting, except where stated otherwise. The reporting entity is in transition from reporting on a cash basis of accounting to reporting on an accrual basis of accounting. Under the cash basis of accounting transactions and other events are recognised when cash is received or paid. Under the accrual basis of accounting transactions and other events are recognised when incurred and not when cash is received or paid.

**2. Revenue**

Voted funds are the amounts appropriated to a department in accordance with the final budget known as the Adjusted Estimates of National / Provincial Expenditure. Unexpended voted funds are surrendered to the National/Provincial Revenue Fund.

Interest received is recognised upon receipt of the funds, and no accrual is made for interest receivable from the last receipt date to the end of the reporting period. It is recognised as revenue in the financial statements of the department and then transferred to the Provincial Revenue Fund.

**3. Current expenditure**

Current expenditure is recognised in the income statement when the payment is made.

**4. Unauthorised, irregular, and fruitless and wasteful expenditure**

Unauthorised expenditure means:

- the overspending of a vote or a main division within a vote, or
- expenditure that was not made in accordance with the purpose of a vote or, in the case of a main division, not in accordance with the purpose of the main division.

Unauthorised expenditure is treated as a current asset in the balance sheet until such expenditure is recovered from a third party or funded from future voted funds.

Irregular expenditure means expenditure, other than unauthorised expenditure, incurred in contravention of or not in accordance with a requirement of any applicable legislation, including:

- the Public Finance Management Act,
- the State Tender Board Act, or any regulations made in terms of this act, or
- any provincial legislation providing for procurement procedures in that provincial government.

**OFFICE OF THE PREMIER  
VOTE 1**

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND RELATED MATTERS  
for the year ended 31 MARCH 2003**

Irregular expenditure is treated as expenditure in the income statement.

Fruitless and wasteful expenditure means expenditure that was made in vain and would have been avoided had reasonable care been exercised. Fruitless and wasteful must be recovered from a responsible official (a debtor account should be raised), or the vote if responsibility cannot be determined.

**5. Debts written off**

Debts are written off when identified as irrecoverable. No provision is made for irrecoverable amounts.

**6. Capital expenditure**

Expenditure for physical items on hand on 31 March 2003 to be consumed in the following financial year, is written off in full when they are received and are accounted for as expenditure in the income statement. Physical assets (fixed assets and movable assets) acquired are expensed i.e. written off in the income statement when the payment is made.

**7. Receivables**

Receivables are not normally recognised under the cash basis of accounting. However, receivables included in the balance sheet arise from cash payments that are recoverable from other parties.

**8. Payables**

Payables are not normally recognised under the cash basis of accounting. However, payables included in the balance sheet arise from cash receipts that are due to either the Provincial Revenue Fund or another party.

**9. Lease commitments**

Lease commitments for the period remaining from the accounting date until the end of the lease contract are disclosed as a note to the financial statements. These commitments are not recognised in the balance sheet as a liability or as expenditure in the income statement as the financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting.

**10. Accruals**

This amount represents goods/services that have been delivered, but no invoice has been received from the supplier at year end, OR where the goods/services have been delivered, and an invoice is on hand but remains unpaid at year end. These amounts are not recognised in the balance sheet as a liability or as expenditure in the income statement as the financial statements are prepared on a cash basis of accounting, but are however disclosed.

**11. Employee benefits**

*Short-term employee benefits*

The cost of short-term employee benefits is expensed in the income statement in the reporting period that the payment is made. Short-term employee benefits, that give rise to a present legal or constructive obligation, are deferred until they can be reliably measured and then expensed. Details of these benefits and the potential liabilities are disclosed as a note to the financial statements and are not recognised in the income statement.

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER  
VOTE 1

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND RELATED MATTERS  
for the year ended 31 MARCH 2003

*Termination benefits*

Termination benefits are recognised and expensed only when the payment is made.

*Retirement benefits*

The department provides retirement benefits for its employees through a defined benefit plan for government employees. These benefits are funded by both employer and employee contributions. Employer contributions to the fund are expensed when money is paid to the fund. No provision is made for retirement benefits in the financial statements of the department. Any potential liabilities are disclosed in the financial statements of the Provincial Revenue Fund and not in the financial statements of the employer department.

*Medical benefits*

The department provides medical benefits for (certain/all) its employees through defined benefit plans. These benefits are funded by employer and/or employee contributions. Employer contributions to the fund are expensed when money is paid to the fund. No provision is made for medical benefits in the financial statements of the department.

Retirement medical benefits for retired members are expensed when the payment is made to the fund.

**12. Recoverable revenue**

Recoverable revenue represents payments made and recognised in the income statement as an expense in previous years, which have now become recoverable from a debtor due to non-performance in accordance with an agreement. Repayments are transferred to the Revenue Fund as and when the repayment is received.

**13. Comparative figures**

Where necessary, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation in the current year. The comparative figures shown in these financial statements are limited to the figures shown in the previous year's audited financial statements and such other comparative figures that the department may reasonably have available for reporting.