

**OFFICE OF THE PREMIER
VOTE 1**

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND RELATED MATTERS
for the year ended 31 March 2004**

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, the Treasury Regulations for Departments and Constitutional Institutions issued in terms of the Act and the Division of Revenue Act, Act 7 of 2003.

1. Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a modified cash basis of accounting, except where stated otherwise. The modified cash basis constitutes the cash basis of accounting supplemented with additional disclosures. 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 annually surrendered to the National/Provincial Revenue Fund.

Interest and dividends received are recognised upon receipt of the funds, and no accrual is made for interest or dividends receivable from the last receipt date to the end of the reporting period.

They are recognised as revenue in the financial statements of the department and then transferred annually to the National/Provincial Revenue Fund.

3. Donor Aid

Donor Aid is recognised in the income statement in accordance with the cash basis of accounting.

4. Current expenditure

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

5. Unauthorised, irregular, 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,

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- 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. 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. It is treated as a current asset in the balance sheet until such expenditure is recovered from the responsible official or funded from future voted funds.

6. Debts written off

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

7. Capital expenditure

Expenditure for physical items on hand on 31 March 2004 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.

8. Investments

Non-current investments excluding marketable securities are shown at cost and adjustments are made only where in the opinion of the directors, the investment is impaired. Where an investment has been impaired, it is recognised as an expense in the period in which the impairment is identified.

On disposal of an investment, the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount is charged or credited to the income statement.

9. Investments in controlled entities

Investments in controlled entities are those entities where the reporting entity has the ability to exercise any of the following powers to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity in order to obtain benefits from its activities:

- To appoint or remove all, or the majority of, the members of that entity's board of directors or equivalent governing body;
- To appoint or remove the entity's chief executive officer;
- To cast all, or the majority of, the votes at meetings of that board of directors or equivalent governing body; or
- To control all, or the majority of, the voting rights at a general meeting of that entity.

Investments in controlled entities are shown at cost.

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10. 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 another party. Receivables for services delivered are not recognised in the balance sheet as a current asset or as income in the income statement, as the financial statements are prepared on a cash basis of accounting, but are disclosed separately as part of the disclosure notes to enhance the usefulness of the financial statements.

11. 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 the Provincial/National Revenue Fund or another party.

12. Provisions

A provision is a liability of uncertain timing or amount. Provisions are not normally recognised under the cash basis of accounting, but are disclosed separately as part of the disclosure notes to enhance the usefulness of the financial statements.

13. Lease commitments

Lease commitments for the period remaining from the accounting date until the end of the lease contract are disclosed as part of the disclosure 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.

14. Accruals

This amount represents goods/services that have been delivered, but no invoice has been received from the supplier at year-end, or an invoice has been received 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 as part of the disclosure notes

15. Employee benefits

Short-term employee benefits

The cost of short-term employee benefits is expensed in the income statement in the reporting period when 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 disclosure note to the financial statements and are not recognised in the income statement.

Termination benefits

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

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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 National/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.

16. Capitalisation reserve

The capitalisation reserve represents an amount equal to the value of the investments and/or loans capitalised for the first time in the previous financial year. On disposal, repayment or recovery, such amounts are transferable to the Revenue Fund.

17. Recoverable revenue

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

18. 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.