



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



ADJUSTED ESTIMATES OF NATIONAL EXPENDITURE (2025)

Social Equity Cluster

27 November 2025

**PARLIAMENTARY
RESEARCH UNIT (PRU)**

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1. Background

This paper provides high-level information from the Medium Term Budget Policy Statement (MTBPS) and the Adjusted Estimates of National Expenditure (AENE) on the 2023 medium term priorities and adjustments per function and per Vote. It includes a focus on the adjustments to the Vote (increases/decreases); virements and shifts requiring approval by National Treasury and/or Parliament; and key areas for oversight.

2. Introduction to the AENE

What is the AENE?

The AENE provides for changes in the appropriation owing to the categories of expenditure specified in Section 30(2) of the Public Finance Management Act, 1999 (No.1 of 1999) (PFMA), by programme and economic classification.

What is contained in the AENE?

The AENE must show roll-overs, unforeseeable and unavoidable expenditure, declared unspent funds, virements and shifts (amongst others).

Authority of the Accounting Officer

An Accounting Officer for a Department may utilise a saving in the amount appropriated under a main division within a Vote towards the defrayment of excess expenditure under another main division within the same Vote, unless Treasury directs otherwise.

What does the PFMA not allow?

The PFMA does not authorize the utilization of a saving in the following:

- × An amount specifically and exclusively appropriated for a purpose mentioned under a main division within a Vote (earmarked funds);
- × An amount appropriated for transfer to another institution; and
- × An amount appropriated for capital expenditure in order to defray current expenditure.

Virements and shifts – why of special importance?

Virements and shifts are of specific importance, as these require approval from either the Accounting Officer, the National Treasury, or from Parliament. The level of approval depends on the nature of the virement or shift.

What should Members of Parliament look out for?

The virements and shifts that can only be approved by Parliament, are those which:

- ✓ Use funds appropriated for items **specifically and exclusively earmarked** in an Appropriation Act, that cannot be approved by the National Treasury;
- ✓ Use funds totalling more than **8 per cent** of the amount appropriated for a Main Division for a financial year (shifts between different segments within a programme do not affect the overall amount appropriated for a programme, only virements from one Programme to another effectively reduce a programme budget);
- ✓ Use funds appropriated for **compensation of employees**, that cannot be approved by the National Treasury;
- ✓ Use funds appropriated as **transfers and subsidies**, that cannot be approved by the National Treasury; and
- ✓ Use funds appropriated for **payments for capital assets**, that cannot be approved by the National Treasury.

Social Equity

2025 allocation for Social Equity function



Table 5: Social Equity Adjusted Allocation 2025/26

	Main appropriation 2025/26 (R million)	Adjusted appropriation 2025/26 (R' million)	Increase/decrease 2025/26 (R'million)	Increase/decrease 2025/26 (%)
Vote 1: The Presidency	R739.1	R754.8	R15.7	2.1%
Vote 20: Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities	R1 361.7	R1 361.7	R0	0%

Medium Term Priorities for the social equity function

According to the MTBPS, the following medium-term priorities for the social equity function are noteworthy:

- ✓ Over the medium term the social development function will continue to help reduce poverty, ensure the sustainability of welfare services and combat gender-based violence.
- ✓ The COVID-19 social relief of distress grant will be extended for another year, to March 2027, while proposals are finalised to link the working-age population to skills development and employment programmes.
- ✓ The Minister noted that Government will be implementing initiatives like early retirement, not to merely reduce the size of the workforce, but also to introduce younger talent to the public service.
- ✓ Changes to main budget non-interest expenditure for the next two years: Includes spending additions for:
 - Capacitation of the National Council on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide

VOTE 1: THE PRESIDENCY

Main Appropriation

R739.056 million

(excluding R8.098 million direct charge against the National Revenue Fund for salaries of the President and Deputy President)

Adjusted Appropriation

R754.775 million

Budget increased with

R15.719 million

Percentage Change

2.1% increase compared to Main Appropriation

Special Appropriation/Other Adjustments: R15.719 million

Funds shifted between votes:

R15.719 million is transferred from other departments' declared savings for the G20 Presidency Social Summit (R10.05 million) and the G20 Leaders' Summit (R5.669 million). The funds will be used for travelling costs, venue hire, catering, security costs and other costs related to organising and hosting the events.

Virements and shifts (total): R7.160 million

Programme 1: Administration- R6.6 million have been shifted within the programme from:

- *Machinery and equipment to:*
 - *Goods and services for Communication* (R2.5 million) **National Treasury approval has been obtained**
- *Compensation of employees (due to vacant posts) to:*
 - *Travel and subsistence* (R2.0 million)
 - *Households for leave gratuities* (R2.1 million)

Programme 2: Executive Support- funds have been shifted from *Compensation of Employees* (due to vacant posts) to:

- *Travel and subsistence* (R500 000) in Programme 1
- *Households for leave gratuities* (R30 000) in the same programme

Programme 3: Policy and Research Services- funds have been shifted within the programme from *Compensation of Employees* (vacant posts) to:

- *Households for leave gratuities* (R30 000)

National Treasury approval has been obtained for the following:

Shift of R2.5 million within Programme 1 from *Machinery and equipment* (due to realignment of funds) to *Goods and services for communication*.

Key areas for oversight

- By mid-year 2025/26, the Presidency had exceeded its annual target on the percentage of Operation Vulindlela economic reforms on track or completed as a result of strong performance in the areas of logistics, water and digital transformation.
- Momentum is increasing in Operation Vulindlela (now in Phase 2 since it started in 2021) in improving energy, logistics, water, and now critically, in local government, spatial integration, and digital transformation to improve large scale service delivery.
- These measures demonstrate that space is being created for private sector investment and building infrastructure.
- Building state capability to provide essential services and in so doing contribute to a developmental state remains a priority.
- The Presidency will focus on supporting the country's obligations to the global community and foreign relations, leading and coordinating government programmes through the project management office, enhancing leadership and partnerships, as well as coordinating government policies, legislation and programmes.
- Initiatives and commitments in relation to these focus areas must be monitored to ensure that objectives are achieved.

VOTE 20: WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Main Appropriation

R1.361 billion

(including allocated budgets to be transferred to the National Youth Development Agency and the Commission for Gender Equality)

Adjusted Appropriation

R 1.361 billion

Budget increased with

R 0

Percentage Change

0% increase compared to Main Appropriation

Virements and shifts (total): R5.7 million

The main virements and shifts are as follows:

Programme 1: Administration- A total of R529 000 is shifted within the programme to purchase software, and audiovisual equipment, while R29 000 is reallocated to Programme 4 for *machinery and equipment* (laptops).

Programme 2: Advocacy and Mainstreaming for the Rights of Women- R3 539 million is shifted within the programme to *compensation of employees* to strengthen the Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) Interim Secretariat, and R51 000 is shifted for the procurement of laptops and ICT resources.

Programme 3: Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Coordination- R1.5 million is shifted to Programme 2 for venues and facilities.

Programme 4: Rights of Persons with Disabilities- R175 000 is shifted within the programme to align spending on minor assets and software, and R5 000 is transferred to Programme 5 to *households* (leave gratuities).

National Treasury approval has been obtained for the following:

Programme 2: Shift of R3.539 million from *Goods and services* (Business and advisory services) to *Compensation of employees* (for the Gender-based violence and femicide secretariat) in the same programme.

Key areas for oversight

- The Department has minimised its virements and shifts substantially since the previous financial year. While these are marginal, it should still be monitored closely.
- The MTBPS continues to remain silent on funding of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) nor does it note any financing related to matters related to Gender-based Violence and Femicide. This must be addressed as it is a national concern and must be prioritised.
- The shift of R3.359 million from *Goods and services* to *Compensation of employees* (for the Gender-based violence and femicide secretariat) is significant. This matter has been raised previously as matter of concern, specifically, regarding lack of funding. While the

allocation is minimal, oversight over how this secretariat will impact on the lives of victims of GBV-F is essential.

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What we do:

The Research Unit offers research support to individual Members of Parliament, to Committees and to the Houses. Researchers proactively provide:

- ✓ Summaries and analysis of Bills
- ✓ Analysis of the State of the Nation Address (SONA), Budget Votes, Annual Performance Plans, Quarterly Performance and Expenditure Reports, and Annual Reports
- ✓ Briefing papers in support of Committee meetings on topical oversight issues
- ✓ Comparative studies and international best practices
- ✓ Briefing papers to prepare for oversight visits and on-site oversight visit support
- ✓ Papers in support of House debates

On request, researchers will provide briefings and presentations to Committees, as well as research support to individual Members of Parliament.

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