



Municipal Budget Circular for the 2020/21 MTREF

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Introduction

This budget circular is a follow-up to MFMA Circular No. 98 that was issued on 06 December 2019. It aims to provide further guidance to municipalities with the preparation of their 2020/21 Medium Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework (MTREF) budgets and should be read together with the budget circulars that have been issued previously.

The grant allocations as per the 2020 Budget Review and the 2020 Division of Revenue Bill are also key focus areas in this circular.

1. The South African economy and inflation targets

Over the past year, economic growth has been weaker than forecasted and is only expected to reach 0.9 per cent in 2020. The 2020 budget highlights the difficult economic and fiscal choices confronting government over the next several years.

It is projected that revenue to be collected for the 2020/21 financial year will amount to R1.5 trillion which equates to 29.2 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), whereas expenditure is projected to be at R1.95 trillion which is equivalent to 36 per cent of GDP. This means that there is a consolidated budget deficit of R370.5 billion or 6.8 per cent of GDP in 2020/21. The gross national debts by the end of 2020/21 is projected to be R3.56 trillion which is 65.6 per cent of GDP.

It is evident that determined action is required to reverse the deterioration of the public finances by narrowing the budget deficit, containing debt and growing the economy faster and in a sustainable manner. Municipalities therefore need to exercise caution when they prepare their 2020/21 MTREF budgets to ensure synergy with national economic and fiscal prudence.

The declining economic growth which might be impacted on further by the Corona virus pandemic and international companies closing down as a result, the deteriorating state of the finances for state-owned entities, continued high unemployment and water and electricity shortages will put pressure on the ability of municipalities to raise revenue. Municipalities are therefore advised to follow a conservative approach when projecting their revenue and to eliminate any waste and unnecessary expenditure. Importantly, municipalities should ensure that they adopt realistic and funded 2020/21 MTREF budgets, collect the debts owed to them and pay their creditors within 30 days of receipt of invoice.

The following macro-economic forecasts must be considered when preparing the 2020/21 MTREF municipal budgets.

Table 1 Macroeconomic performance and projections

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Percentage change	Estimate	Forecast		
Real GDP growth	0.3	0.9	1.3	1.6
CPI inflation	4.1	4.5	4.6	4.6

Source: 2020 Budget Review.

Note: the fiscal year referred to is the national fiscal year (April to March) which is more closely aligned to the municipal fiscal year (July to June) than the calendar year inflation.

2. Key focus areas for the 2020/21 municipal budget process

After budgeting for debt-service costs, the contingency reserve and provisional allocations, 48.2 per cent of the nationally raised funds are allocated to national government, 43 per cent to provinces and 8.8 per cent to local government. This is a reduction from the 9.1 per cent allocated to local government when compared to the 2019/20 financial year.

Local government continue to receive the least share of the division of nationally raised revenue because it has extensive powers to raise its own revenue. On aggregate; the local government sphere raises about 70 per cent of its own revenue. However, municipalities should make every effort to improve the collection rates through improved billing and collection practices. In the present current economic climate, municipalities cannot afford to provide municipal services without recovering the cost of providing these services.

Spending outcomes for 2018/19 varied across the 257 municipalities. Many municipalities adopted unrealistic spending plans. As a result, 211 municipalities underspent their operating budgets and 214 municipalities underspent their capital budgets. This was a slight improvement from the previous year.

Of the R33.6 billion in conditional grants transferred to municipalities in 2018/19, R27.2 billion (80.1 per cent) was spent, compared to 93 per cent spent in 2017/18. This decline was partly due to underspending on drought relief funds allocated in the middle of the financial year.

2.1 Local government grants and municipal revenue strength

The conditional grants to municipalities have been reduced and most conditional grants have been reduced as part of efforts to limit growth in government expenditure and ensure that public debt is sustainable. To manage the effect on services, these reductions take into account:

- Past spending and performance;
- Whether the conditional grant funds salaries, and other related costs; and
- Whether there has been significant real growth in allocations in recent years.

Where possible, the National Treasury has reduced transfers that are more likely to go unspent or to be spent less effectively. Accordingly, grants that have persistently underperformed have been reduced by larger amounts. The largest proportional reduction to local government grants in 2020/21 has been made in respect of the public transport network grant, because only six of the 13 cities receiving the grant have successfully launched public transport systems. The three cities that have shown the least progress, namely Buffalo City, Msunduzi and Mbombela have been suspended from the grant and will not receive allocations in the 2020 MTEF period.

Legislation governing local planning and budgeting emphasises community participation in decision-making. The partnership between municipalities and communities relies on households and businesses recognising the value of, and paying for, municipal services. While government subsidises municipal services for low-income households, these services are only sustainable if people who can afford them and use larger quantities thereof pay their bills. Therefore, the sustainability of municipalities depends on how they collect and spend their own revenues.

Municipalities are reminded that all allocations included in their budgets must correspond to the allocations listed in the Division of Revenue Bill. All the budget documentation can be accessed from the National Treasury website by clicking on the link below:
<http://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/national%20budget/2020/default.aspx>

2.1. Changes to local government allocations

2.1.1. Unconditional grants

Over the next three years, above-inflation growth in allocations to the local government equitable share continues, while growth in conditional grants is slower as a result of the reductions announced in the 2020 Budget. The local government Equitable Share continues to receive above inflation increases because it allows municipalities to offer free basic services to indigent residents who cannot afford to pay for services. The total direct allocations to local government grow at an annual average rate of 6.6 per cent over the MTEF period.

2.1.2. Conditional grants

The 2020 Division of Revenue Bill has technical adjustments which were effected through the shifting of funds between different municipal allocations. However, it should be noted that the technical adjustments do not change the total amount allocated to local government. These changes to the grants include the shifting of:

- R400 million in 2020/21 from the municipal infrastructure grant, the water services infrastructure grants and the urban settlements development grant to the indirect regional bulk infrastructure grant to assist in funding the rehabilitation of wastewater treatment infrastructure in the Vaal River System;
- R160 million from the direct *neighbourhood development partnership grant* to the indirect component of the grant over the MTEF period;
- R3 billion that had been indicatively allocated to the new *informal settlement upgrading partnership grant* in 2020/21. This amount is shifted back to the *urban settlements development grant* following the decision to extend the informal settlements window within this grant for another year; and
- R166 million over the 2020 MTEF period from the *municipal infrastructure grant* to the *integrated urban development grant* for the entry of one additional municipality into the grant.

In addition to funds shifted from other local government grants, R250 million has been added to the indirect *regional bulk infrastructure grant* in 2020/21 to assist with addressing pollution in the Vaal River System. These funds were reprioritised from allocations in other spheres of government.

2.2 Response to the Finance and Fiscal Commission (FFC)'s recommendations

The Finance and Fiscal Commission Act, 1997 (Act No. No 99) requires that the FFC tables their recommendations on financial and fiscal matters at least 10 months before the start of each financial year. The FFC tabled its *Submission for the Division of Revenue 2020/21* to Parliament in May 2019. This year's theme is "reprioritising local government finances". The 2020/21 recommendations cover the following areas: local government financing framework, municipal government capacity building, local government sustainability, infrastructure management and efficiency, investment and developmental challenges in the local government sector.

2.2.1 Supplementary revenue sources for local government

The FFC recommended that the Minister of Finance should take steps (including piloting) to add supplementary revenue sources to the list of allowable taxes for different types of municipalities in a differentiated manner. National government supports this recommendation that additional revenue sources to municipalities should be fully explored. In response, various reforms have been prioritised to supplement the revenue sources of municipalities.

These include: amending the Municipal Fiscal Powers and Functions Act, 2007 (Act No. 12 of 2007) to ensure development charges are uniformly regulated and updating the municipal borrowing policy framework to clarify the funding instruments that municipalities are allowed to use to leverage their borrowing including clarifying the role of development finance institutions in this regard.

The Municipal Fiscal Powers and Functions Act already allows municipalities to apply to the Minister of Finance to levy additional taxes such as the tourism levies and fire levies recommended by the FFC. This Act also allows the Minister of Finance to introduce new municipal taxes on his own initiative. Applications from municipalities to implement new revenue sources provide a good mechanism for piloting new revenue sources like these as it ensures that the pilot municipalities are ready and willing to implement the new taxes. To be considered by the Minister of Finance, an application to introduce additional taxes must include the following:

- What the revenue from the proposed new municipal tax will be used for;
- Its compliance with section 229(2)(a) of the Constitution, which requires that municipal taxes do not prejudice national economic policy;
- The tax base, the desired tax rate, people liable for the tax and tax relief measures;
- The tax collecting authority; and
- Particulars of any consultations conducted, including consultations with a provincial government and organised local government and other municipalities where applicable, and the outcomes of these consultations.

2.2.2 Local government infrastructure management and efficiency

Government continues to provide responses to the FFC's recommendations on an annual basis. These annual recommendations by the FFC are required in terms of section 9 of the Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations Act, 1997 (Act No. 97 of 1997). The FFC recommended that the Ministers of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) and Finance should jointly strengthen the linkage between technical project planning processes and budgeting and foster smooth intergovernmental infrastructure coordination as part of the ongoing local government infrastructure grant reforms.

Government acknowledges the need to consolidate municipal infrastructure grants and to strengthen the linkages between the technical project planning process and the budgeting. The review of local government infrastructure grants has identified consolidation and rationalisation in the number of grants received by each municipality as a key area for reforming the grant system. As the various grants in the system serve different purposes, the consolidation and rationalisation process requires extensive consultation before grants can be merged. As a result, there is no definitive dates set on when the consolidation of grants will take place. However, government is committed to achieving the vision of a differentiated grant system.

2.3 Building capability for infrastructure delivery

The National Treasury continues to expand the tools available for provinces and municipalities to improve spending. Weaknesses in preparing and authorising projects and programmes are one of the main causes of poor performance on infrastructure transfers. The Infrastructure Delivery Management System (IDMS) has assisted provinces to build infrastructure units with qualified staff and institutionalise best practices. In the 2020/21 MTEF, cities will receive grant funding through the *integrated city development grant* to institutionalise an effective system for preparing programmes and projects. Metros will only be eligible for this funding if they:

- Have not had an adverse or disclaimed audit opinion in the last two financial years;

- Have formally adopted the Cities' Infrastructure Delivery and Management System (CIDMS) guidelines;
- Establish a programme and project approval committee to authorise work; and
- Commit to co-financing contributions and budget management arrangements.

National government provides a broad range of capacity-support grants and programmes for local government. These grants and programmes are under review and reforms to improve its effectiveness are likely to be implemented from 2021/22.

2.4 Development Charges reforms

National Treasury continues to explore how municipalities can use a broader package of infrastructure financing sources to meet their developmental mandate. One of these sources is development charges.

A development charge is a once-off charge imposed by a municipality on a land owner as a condition of approving a land development application that will substantially result in increased demand for municipal infrastructure services. These charges are imposed to cover the costs incurred by the municipality when installing new infrastructure or upgrading an existing infrastructure that is required to service the proposed development. It is based on the concept that urban growth and expanded land use creates the need for additional infrastructure services, therefore the developer should pay the incidence costs.

Municipalities have not fully used development charges due to uncertainty surrounding the regulatory frameworks. National Treasury is therefore amending the Municipal Fiscal Powers and Functions Act, 2007 (Act No. 97 of 1997) to incorporate the regulation of development charges. Cabinet has approved the publication of the draft Amendment Bill for public comment. The due date for submitting comments is 31 March 2020.

The draft Bill can be accessed on the National Treasury website at: http://www.treasury.gov.za/legislation/draft_bills/default.aspx.

3. Eskom Bulk Tariff increases

The National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) is responsible for price determination of the bulk costs for electricity. However, there has not been any determination by NERSA since the impasse around Eskom's application.

While the court case between NERSA and Eskom is still pending, municipalities should use the tariff increases previously (March 2019) approved by the regulator of 8.1 per cent for 2020/21, 5.2 per cent 2021/22 and 8.9 per cent for 2022/23.

4. Budgeting issues

4.1 The wage bill

The 2020 Budget Review highlighted the proposed wage bill reduction for the public service. Similar to national and provincial government, municipalities must ensure that compensation demands are balanced with the broader needs of society. In this context, municipalities should start taking decisive action to address bloated organisational structures and above inflation wage increases.

Wage bill increases are crowding out spending on capital projects for future economic growth and impacts on service delivery.

Local government also confronts tough fiscal choices in the face of financial and institutional problems that result in service-delivery breakdowns and unpaid bills. Municipalities can offset these trends by improving own revenue collection, working more efficiently and implementing cost containment measures.

4.2 Pension fund and SARS contributions

In terms of section 13A of the Pension Funds Act, 1956 (Act No. 24 of 1956), an employer must pay contributions it collected from employees' salaries to the relevant pension fund by the 7th day after the end of the month in respect of which the contributions were payable.

According to the latest annual report by the Pension Fund Adjudicator (PFA), it is especially concerned about non-payment of contributions in the municipal sector, thereby putting members' benefits at risk for extended periods of time. Over and above, there is interest on contributions that an employer is liable to pay if pension fund contributions are not paid over timeously. The Financial Services Laws General Amendment Act, 2013 (Act No. 45 of 2013) makes the employer's failure to pay contributions to a retirement fund a **criminal offence**. The amendment to this Act now provides for personal liability of persons who are entrusted with managing the overall financial affairs of the employer.

Section 65(2)(f) of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003) (MFMA) states that the accounting officer must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the municipality complies with its tax, levy, duty, pension, medical aid, audit fees, and their statutory commitments. Section 171(1) of the MFMA provides that the accounting officer commits financial misconduct if that accounting officer fails to comply with a duty imposed by a provision of the Act on the accounting officer of a municipality. In addition, section 173(1)(a)(i) of the MFMA then provides that an accounting officer is guilty an offence if that accounting officer deliberately or in a grossly negligent way amongst other, contravene or fails to comply with the provision of section 65(2)(f) of the MFMA. We will therefore be monitoring whether municipalities are addressing this failure by accounting officers consistent with the legal framework provided for in the Municipal Regulations on Financial Misconduct Procedures and Criminal Proceedings and take the necessary action where there is failure on the part of municipalities to address this matter.

4.3 Water

Access to clean and potable water is a mandatory imperative in terms of the country's Constitution, the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998) and priorities set by the government in the National Development Plan (NDP). Water is also recognised as a fundamental human right and there is no doubt about the important role that water plays in human existence, the environment, economic development and sustainability.

Municipalities should take strategic action to ensure effective water management and resilience to drought, including the security of water supply, environmental degradation, and pollution of resources to achieve economic growth, development and socio-economic priorities in an equitable and sustainable manner.

4.4 Attracting economic investment

Maintaining clean cities underpins economic activity and wellbeing. Investors are not interested in investing in filthy cities. Therefore, municipalities should place emphasis on sensible land use planning and development and building plan control for housing,

commercial, industrial and recreational uses. Investments in waste collection and treatment infrastructure should be made in tandem with industrial and urban developments to minimise pollution to our land and waters.

4.5 Borrowing for multi-year capital projects

In terms of sections 16(3) of the MFMA, money for capital expenditure may be appropriated for a period not exceeding three financial years, provided that a separate appropriation is made for each of those financial years.

Section 19(1) of the MFMA further states that *a municipality may spend money on a capital project only if —*

- (a) the money for the project, excluding the cost of feasibility studies conducted by or on behalf of the municipality, has been appropriated in the capital budget referred to in section 17(2)(b) the project, including the total cost, has been approved by the council;
- (b) section 33 has been complied with, to the extent that that section may be applicable to the project; and
- (c) the sources of funding have been considered, are available and have not been committed *for other purposes*.

Before approving a capital project, the municipal council must consider:

- a) the projected cost covering all financial years until the project is operational; and
- b) the future operational costs and revenue on the project, including municipal tax and tariff implications.

A municipality must adjust the revenue and expenditure estimates in an approved annual budget downwards through an adjustments budget if there is material under-collection of revenue during the current year in terms of section 28(2) of the MFMA. It may also appropriate additional revenues that have become available over and above those anticipated in the annual budget, **but only to revise or accelerate spending programmes already budgeted** for. New capital projects can therefore not be included in the adjustments budget, unless provided for in terms of section 28(2) of the MFMA.

With regard to the shifting of funds between multi-year appropriations, section 31 of the MFMA requires that *when funds for a capital programme are appropriated in terms of section 16(3) for more than one financial year, expenditure for that programme during a financial year may exceed the amount of that year's appropriation for that programme, provided that —*

- (a) *the increase does not exceed 20 per cent of that year's appropriation for the programme;*
- (b) *the increase is funded within the following year's appropriation for that programme;*
- (c) *the municipal manager certifies that -*
 - (i) *actual revenue for the financial year is expected to exceed budgeted revenue; and*
 - (ii) **sufficient funds are available for the increase without incurring further borrowing beyond the annual budget limit;**
- (d) *prior written approval is obtained from the mayor for the increase; and*
- (e) *the documents referred to in paragraphs (c) and (d) are submitted to the relevant provincial treasury and the Auditor-General.*

Considering the above sections of the MFMA, it is clear that section 16(3) allows for a multi-year capital appropriation not exceeding three financial years, while section 31 allows for:

- A maximum increase of 20 per cent in the appropriation for the year provided that it is funded within the following year's appropriation for that programme. By implication it

must be a multi-year programme and the increase should also fit within the limit of the next year's appropriation;

- Sufficient funds are available for the increase **without incurring further borrowing beyond the approved annual budget limit**. This means that additional revenues should be available in the year that the municipality intends to accelerate the expenditure or that a project saving that was funded from the borrowing that was approved for the current year should be used to prevent borrowing to exceed the annual budget limit; and
- This further implies that additional revenues should be available and prohibits the use of accumulated cash backed reserves from previous years for the acceleration of the programme.

Section 28(2)(b) prescribes that additional revenues that have become available may be used to revise or accelerate programmes already budgeted for. The same section further indicates that an adjustments budget process will be required to accelerate a capital programme. The municipal manager must provide certification that the additional revenues will be available within the financial year that the programme will be accelerated in terms of section 31 of the MFMA.

The legislation is not clear as to the timeframes for section 31 other than to state that prior written approval should be obtained from the Mayor. A prudent approach would be to include the documentation as part of the adjustments budget process and the dates set out in the Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations.

This part of the Circular should also be read in conjunction with MFMA Circular No. 58 issued on 14 December 2011.

4.6 Refinancing of existing loans

Section 46(5) of the MFMA allows a municipality to re-financing existing long-term debt, provided that —

- (a) the existing long-term debt was lawfully incurred;
- (b) the re-financing does not extend the term of the debt beyond the useful life of the property, plant or equipment for which the money was originally borrowed;
- (c) the net present value of projected future payments (including principal and interest payments) after re-financing is less than the net present value of projected future payments before re-financing; and
- (d) the discount rate used in projecting net present value referred to in paragraph (c), and any assumptions in connection with the calculations, must be reasonable and in accordance with criteria set out in a framework that may be prescribed.

If the re-financing of an existing loan does not comply with the above requirements, then the municipality should consider going to the market for a new loan that offers more affordable terms and/or negotiate a payment arrangement with the financial institution until the loan can be repaid as per the original terms.

5. Conditional Grant Transfers to Municipalities

This section provides guidance to municipalities with regard to the preparation for the 2019/20 unspent conditional grant and roll-over process and should be referenced against previous annual budget circulars.

5.1 Criteria for the rollover of conditional grant funds

Section 22 of the 2019 Division of Revenue Act (DoRA) requires that any conditional grants which are not spent at the end of the municipal financial year must revert to the National Revenue Fund, unless the receiving officer, provincial treasury and transferring national officer proves to National Treasury that the unspent allocation is committed to identifiable projects, in which case the funds may be rolled over.

When requesting a rollover in terms of section 22(2) of the 2019 DoRA, municipalities must include the following information with their submission to National Treasury:

1. A formal letter, signed by the accounting officer must be addressed to the National Treasury requesting the rollover of unspent conditional grants in terms of section 22(2) of the 2019 DoRA;
2. A list of all the projects that are linked to the unspent conditional grants and a breakdown of how much was allocated and spent per project;
3. The following evidence indicating that work on each of the projects has commenced, as applicable to the specific rollover(s):
 - a) Proof that the project tender was published and the period for tender submissions closed before 31 March;
 - b) Proof that a contractor or service provider was appointed for delivery of the project before 31 March; or
 - c) Proof of a project tender, appointment of contractor or service provider for delivery of service before 30 June in cases where additional funding was allocated during the course of the final year of the project;
 - d) Incorporation of the Appropriation Statement;
 - e) Evidence that all projects linked to an allocation will be fully utilised by 30 June 2021 (attach cash flow projection for the applicable grant).
4. A progress report (also in percentages) on the status of each project's implementation that includes an attached, legible **implementation plan**);
5. The value of the committed project funding, and the conditional allocation from the funding source;
6. Reasons why the grants were not fully spent during the year of original allocation per the DoRA;
7. Rollover of rollovers will not be considered therefore municipalities must not include previous year's unspent conditional grants as rollover request;
8. An indication of the time-period within which the funds are to be spent if the roll over is approved; and
9. Proof that the Municipal Manager and Chief Financial Officer are permanently appointed.

No rollover requests will be considered for municipalities with vacant or acting Chief Financial Officers and Municipal Managers for a period exceeding 6 months from the date of vacancy, this also includes acting appointments as a result of suspensions of either MM or CFO that are more than 12 months.

If any of the above information is not provided or the application is received by National Treasury (Intergovernmental Relations Division) after 31 August 2020, the application will be declined.

In addition, National Treasury will also consider the following information when assessing rollover applications; and reserves the right to decline an application should there be non-performance by the municipality in any of these areas:

1. Compliance with the in-year reporting requirements in terms of sections 71 and 72 of the MFMA and section 12 of the 2019 DoRA, **including the municipal manager and chief financial officer signing-off on the information** sent to National Treasury;
2. Submission of the pre-audited Annual Financial Statements information to National Treasury by 31 August 2020;
3. Accurate disclosure of grant performance in the 2019/20 pre-audited Annual Financial Statements, (i.e. correct disclosure of grant receipts and spending in the notes to the AFS); and
4. Cash available in the bank (net position including short term investments) as at 30 June 2020 is equivalent to the amount that is unspent as at the end of the financial year. If the amount that is requested for roll over is not entirely cash backed, such a roll over will not be approved. National Treasury will not approve portions of roll over requests.

It should be noted that under no circumstances will the National Treasury consider requests to roll-over:

1. The entire 2019/20 allocation to the municipality, in cases whereby the roll over request is more than 50 per cent of the total allocation National Treasury will approve the roll over amount up to 50 per cent of the 2019/20 allocation;
2. Roll Over request of the same grant for the third consecutive time;
3. Funding for projects constituted through Regulation 32 of the Municipal Supply Chain Management Regulations (Gazette No.27636). Projects linked to additional funding and disasters are exempted; and
4. A portion of an allocation where the proof of commitment for the roll over application is linked to invoices that were issued before or on 31 May 2020.

5.2 Unspent conditional grant funds for 2019/20

The process to ensure the return of unspent conditional grants for the 2019/20 financial year will be managed in accordance with section 22 of the DoRA. In addition to the previous MFMA Circulars, the following practical arrangements will apply:

- Step 1: Municipalities must submit their June 2020 conditional grant expenditure reports according to section 71 of the MFMA reflecting all accrued expenditure on conditional grants and further ensure that expenditure reported to both National Treasury and national transferring officers reconcile;
- Step 2: When preparing the Annual Financial Statements, a municipality must determine the portion of each national conditional grant allocation that remained unspent as at 30 June 2020. These amounts **MUST** exclude all interest earned on conditional grants, retentions and VAT related to conditional grant spending that has been reclaimed from SARS, which must be disclosed separately;
- Step 3: If the receiving officer wants to motivate in terms of section 22(2) of the 2018 DoRA that the unspent funds are committed to identifiable projects, the roll over application pack must be submitted to National Treasury by 31 August 2020.

National Treasury will not consider any rollover requests that are incomplete or received after this deadline.

- Step 4: National Treasury will confirm in writing whether or not the municipality may retain any of the unspent funds as a rollover based on criteria outlined above by 23 October 2020;
- Step 5: National Treasury will communicate the unspent conditional grants amount by 06 November 2020. A municipality must return the remaining unspent conditional grant funds that are not subject to a specific repayment arrangement to the National Revenue Fund by 20 November 2020; and

Step 6: Any unspent conditional grant funds that should have, but has not been repaid to the National Revenue Fund by 20 November 2020, and for which a municipality has not requested a repayment arrangement, will be offset against the municipality's 04 December 2020 equitable share allocation.

All other issues pertaining to Appropriation Statement and reporting on approved roll overs are addressed in the Annexure to MFMA Circular No. 86.

6. The Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations

National Treasury, together with the provincial treasuries, are rolling out training on budgeting and transacting in the *mSCOA* environment to all provinces to improve the credibility of the 2020/21 MTREF budgets.

6.1 Assistance with the compilation of budgets

In cases where the municipality requires advice with the compilation of their respective budgets, specifically the budget documents or Schedule A1, they should direct their enquiries to their respective provincial treasuries or to the following National Treasury officials:

Province	Responsible officials	Tel. No.	Email
Eastern Cape	Matjatji Mashoeshoe	012-315 5553	Matjatji.Mashoeshoe@treasury.gov.za
Free State	Cethekile Moshane	012-315 5079	Cethekile.moshane@treasury.gov.za
Gauteng	Kgomotso Baloyi Kevin Bell	012-315 5866 012-315 5725	Kgomotso.Baloyi@treasury.gov.za Kevin.Bell@treasury.gov.za
KwaZulu-Natal	Kgomotso Baloyi Johan Botha	012-315 5936 012-315 5171	Kgomotso.Baloyi@treasury.gov.za Johan.Botha@treasury.gov.za
Limpopo	Willem Voigt Sifiso Mabaso	012-315 5830 012-315 5952	Willem.Voigt@treasury.gov.za Sifiso.Mabaso@treasury.gov.za
Mpumalanga	Mandla Gilimani	012-315 5807	Mandla.Gilimani@treasury.gov.za
Northern Cape	Mandla Gilimani	012-315 5807	Mandla.Gilimani@treasury.gov.za
North West	Willem Voigt Makgabo Mabotja	012-315 5830 012-315 5156	Willem.Voigt@treasury.gov.za Makgabo.Mabotja@treasury.gov.za
Western Cape	Vuyo Mbunge	012-315 5661	Vuyo.Mbunge@treasury.gov.za
Technical issues Local Government Database	Elsabe Rossouw	012-315 5534	lqdataqueries@treasury.gov.za

National Treasury, together with the provincial treasuries, will undertake a compliance check and, where municipalities have not provided complete budget information, the municipal budgets will be returned to the mayors and municipal managers of the affected municipalities for the necessary corrections. Municipal managers are reminded that the annual budget must be accompanied by a quality certificate and council resolution in accordance with the format specified in regulation 31 of Schedule A of the Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations. In addition to the above compliance check, the *mSCOA* data strings will be assessed to determine whether the municipalities are compliant.

The National Treasury herewith emphasises that where municipalities have not adhered to the Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations, ***they will be required to return to the municipal council and table a complete budget document aligned to the requirement of the Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations.***

Municipalities with municipal entities are once again reminded to prepare consolidated budgets and in-year monitoring reports for both the parent municipality and its entity or entities. The following must be compiled:

- An annual budget, adjustments budget and monthly financial reports for the parent municipality in the relevant formats;
- An annual budget, adjustments budget and monthly financial reports for the entity in the relevant formats; and
- A consolidated annual budget, adjustments budget and monthly financial reports for the parent municipality and all its municipal entities in the relevant formats.

The Schedule A that the municipality submits to National Treasury must be a consolidated budget for the municipality (plus entities) and the budget of the parent municipality. Schedules D must be submitted for each entity.

7. Municipal Chart of Accounts (*mSCOA*)

7.1 Release of Version 6.4.1 of the Chart

Version 6.4.1 was released to include the amendments in conditional grants as per the 2020 DoRA. Version 6.4.1 of the chart will be effective from 2020/21 and must be used to compile the 2020/21 MTREF. It is available on the link below:

[Link to *mSCOA*](#)

7.2 Use of funding segment to populate the cash flow tables

It is critical that municipalities undertake balance sheet and cash flow budgeting to provide accurate cash flow information. The general rule that applies is that the “funding” and “Item” segments must be combined to provide cash flow information on how funds have been spent and on what.

This means that the budget is available at a cash flow level (A1 Schedule Budget Table SA30 and A7) and not when billing is done or when invoices are processed (A1 Schedule Budget Table A4: Statement of Financial Performance). Municipalities must apply the budgeted assumed collection rate to determine the cash flow budgets. Therefore, expenditure can only be processed against items with funding in line with the anticipated cash inflow and not billing. Municipalities should therefore identify the relevant source in the funding segment where revenue is received from and identify the funds to be used when payments are made. Guidance on this was provided in MFMA Circular No. 98.

However, there are still challenges to populate the detail of cash payments by type in the A1 Schedule Budget Table SA30 from Item Liabilities: Current Liabilities: Trade and other payables from exchange transactions as payables and accruals are not broken down by type (e.g. other materials, contracted services etc.). This omission of detail in the *mSCOA* chart will be addressed through chart amendments in version 6.5 of the chart.

As an interim measure the cash flow will be populated as follows:

For Cash Receipts:

The **cash receipts by source** will be populated using Item Assets: Current Assets: Cash and cash equivalents: Cash at bank: Bank account: Deposits in conjunction with the Funding Segment.

For Cash Payments:

The **cash payments** by type will be populated using Item Liabilities: Current Liabilities: Trade and other payables Exchange and Non- Exchange Transactions: Withdrawals in conjunction with the Funding Segment.

The cash payments that are not classified by type, will be grouped together as other payments on table SA30. This will enable population of suppliers and employees on the cash flow (Table A7).

National Treasury will share the linking of A1 Schedule Budget Tables SA30 and A7 to the mSCOA chart items to ensure that the cash flow information is populated correctly with municipalities and system vendors.

7.3 Capital Projects using Internally Generated Funding

Capital Projects in acquiring Assets using Internally Generated Funding must use: Funding: Capital: Transfer from Operational Revenue. This will ensure that table A5 will be populated correctly.

8. Budget process and submissions for the 2020/21 MTREF

8.1 Submitting budget documentation and schedules for 2020/21 MTREF

Accounting officers are reminded that Section 22(b)(i) of the MFMA requires that, **immediately** after an annual budget is tabled in a municipal council, it must be submitted to the National Treasury and the relevant provincial treasury in PDF and electronic formats. However, in cases where Council requires amendments to the tabled budget prior to consultation, municipalities should inform the National Treasury and the relevant provincial treasury **immediately** and submit the required budget documents and corresponding mSCOA data strings **within three working days** after the Council meeting.

The approved annual budget must still be submitted to both National Treasury and the relevant provincial treasury **within ten working days** after the council has approved the annual budget.

8.2 Document uploads to the Local Government Upload Portal

Due to the number of queries received on the document upload process using the Local Government Upload Portal, a full guideline will be issued in due course to explain the process and to outline which documents will be required to upload.

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