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2021 Budget Analysis

Parliamentary

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Budget Office



legislature Minister section respective BIII

Outline

- Introduction
- Policy priorities and funding
- Economic situation
- Fiscal framework and contingent liabilities
- Revenue trends
- Summary

Introduction

- The PBO was established to support the Finance and Appropriations Committees in both Houses of Parliament with the implementation of the Money Bills and Related Matters Act
- This presentation provide an analysis of the 2021 Budget Review, which includes a summary of the Estimates of National Expenditure and the Appropriations Bill. The Division of Revenue Bill will be discussed on 17 March 2021
- The presentation analyses on how 2021 budget proposals are likely to affect government service delivery, economic recovery, socio economic situation and the public finances
- The 2021 Budget proposes measures to
 - Reduce debt to GDP levels
 - Respond to COVID-19 pandemic-related health and social needs
 - Improve the composition of expenditure
- This presentation includes:
 - The alignment of the Presidential priorities with the 2021 Budget
 - It includes the detail of the reprioritisation towards the funding priorities
 - It shows the shift in the proportion of the budget within the functional budget groups as well as the shift in the economic groups
 - A discussion on the economic situation informing budget decisions
 - Changes to the fiscal framework
 - Changes to tax policies

Policy priorities

State of the Nation Address

Spending per budget function group

Policy priorities

- The 2021 SONA provided the strategic direction for the 2021 Budget
- The 2021 Budget is framed by the two policy objectives set out by the National Treasury in the 2020 MTBPS:
 - Promoting economic recovery
 - Returning the public finances to a sustainable position
- Medium-term fiscal policy focuses on:
 - Extending temporary support in response to COVID-19
 - Narrowing the budget deficit and stabilising debt as a share of GDP
 - Exercising continued restraint in non-interest expenditure growth while improving the composition of expenditure

Budget's response to SONA

SONA: Presidential priorities	Budget response to SONA
Defeat the coronavirus pandemic	 The budget funds the COVID-19 vaccination campaign In 2021/22 government allocated R1.3 billion for vaccine purchases An additional estimated R9 billion could be drawn on from the contingency reserve Net change to the Health function is: -R8.8 billion in 2021/22 from the NRF
Accelerate economic recovery	 Government's immediate priority is to support a rapid return to economic growth to address the slowdown in economic activity during the COVID-19 lockdowns The vaccination programme will support the reopening of the economy and GDP growth of 3.3 per cent in 2021/22 Government will support the economic recovery by extending short-term economic support and undertaking reforms to lower the cost of doing business and stabilise public finances Operation Vulindlela was initiated to focus on implementing high impact reforms
	 Net change to the Economic development function is: - R8.3 billion in 2021/22 from the NRF

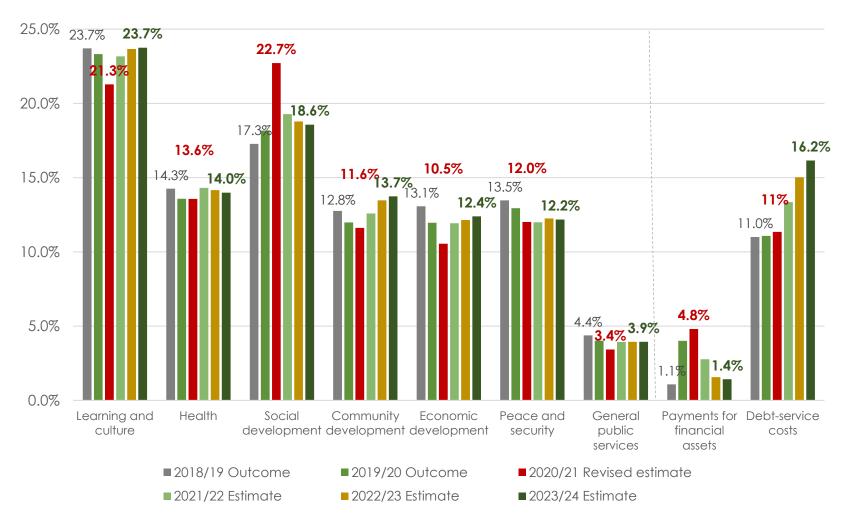
Budget's response to SONA

SONA: Presidential priorities	Budget response to SONA
Implement economic reforms to create sustainable jobs and drive inclusive growth/Mass public employment programme	 2020 Adjustments Budget: R12.6 billion was made available for public employment programmes (a cumulative amount of R83.2 billion was referred to in the budget speech, but is not clear what was included) 2021 budget is supplementing this by R11 billion (provisional) for the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative, taking the total funding for employment creation to nearly R100 billion
(Energy Security prioritised)	 Net change to the General public service function is: + R32.6 billion in 2021/22 from the NRF
Fight corruption and strengthen the state	 Department of Justice and Constitutional Development is allocated R1.8 billion to improve business processes and to support law enforcement agents in the fight against crime and corruption Net change to the Peace and security function is: - R23.9 billion in 2021/22 from the NRF

Reprioritisation towards Presidential priorities

Health function group			
R million	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Net change from the 2020 baseline (percentage)	-3.6%	-11.1%	-10.9%
Health	1 905.0	-1 835.6	-4 736.2
COVID-19 vaccination programme	4 350.0	2 100.0	-
HIV, TB, malaria and community outreach grant: Covid component	1 500.0	900.0	-
HIV, TB, malaria and community outreach grant: HIV and AIDS component	-1 677.4	-2 174.5	-2 567.9
National Treasury (Provincial Health departments)	-10 130.0	-25 954.5	-19 931.1
Provincial equitable share: Provision for COVID-19: Non-COE	5 816.8	-	-
Provincial equitable share: Provision for COVID-19: COE	2 183.2	-	-
Provincial equitable share reduction	-18 130.0	-25 954.5	-19 931.1
Net change to function baseline	-8 823.6	-28 611.9	-25 229.5
Economic development function group			
Net change from the 2020 baseline (percentage)	-5.1%	-6.9%	-7.1%
Public Works and Infrastructure	-333.3	-438.8	-734.3
Expanded public works programme integrated grant for provinces	-17.4	-22.6	-41.1
Expanded public works programme integrated grant for municipalities	-31.3	-40.7	-73.8
Transport	336.3	141.5	5.3
South African Civil Aviation Authority	277.6	187.9	85.8
Road Traffic Infringement Agency	215.8	165.9	143.5
Net change to function baseline	-8 323.3	-11 656.3	-11 734.6
General Public Services function group			
Net change from the 2020 baseline (percentage)	40.0%	-9.8%	-5.7%
National Treasury	2 267.9	-5 266.6	-4 140.7
Land and Agricultural Development Bank of South Africa: Purchase of equity	5 000.0	1 000.0	1 000.0
New Development Bank	565.5	-	-
Development Bank of Southern Africa	73.8	50.4	55.5
Auditor-General of South Africa	50.0	50.0	-
South African Revenue Service	322.1	-840.2	-787.6
Provincial departments - Provincial equitable share reduction	-3 510.4	-5 025.3	-3 859.1
Public Enterprises	64 278.3	-7 435.5	-6 020.9
Payments for financial assets: Eskom: Purchase of equity	31 692.9	-	
Net change to function baseline	32 585.4	-7 435.5	-6 020.9

Spending priorities per budget function group



Note: The consolidated budget includes the main budget framework and spending by provinces, social security funds and public entities financed from their own revenue sources.

Expenditure: changes within a selection of national votes 2020/21 to 2021/22

	Adjusted	Change from	Estimated	Change from	Change from
		Main	Main	Adjusted	appropriation
	appropriation	appropriation	appropriation	appropriation	2020/21
R million	2020/21	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22	2021/22
2 Parliament	2 015.8	-7.5%	2 144.1	6.4%	-1.7%
3 Cooperative Governance	106 942.8	11.1%	100 875.9	-5.7%	4.8%
4 Government Communication and	725.1	0.6%	749.7	3.4%	4.0%
13 Public Works and Infrastructure	7 724.4	-4.3%	8 343.2	8.0%	3.4%
16 Basic Education	23 395.0	-7.6%	27 018.1	15.5%	6.7%
17 Higher Education and Training	94 094.9	-3.4%	97 784.0	3.9%	0.3%
18 Health	58 052.6	4.6%	62 543.3	7.7%	12.7%
19 Social Development	230 807.3	16.7%	205 226.9	-11.1%	3.8%
25 Justice and Constitutional					
_ Dev elopment	18 666.3	-6.0%	19 119.8	2.4%	-3.7%
27 Office of the Chief Justice	1 188.1	-5.7%	1 211.8	2.0%	-3.8%
28 Police	99 560.9	-2.1%	96 355.5	-3.2%	-5.3%
29 Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural					
Dev elopment _	15 247.6	-9.3%	16 920.4	11.0%	0.7%
30 Communications and Digital					
Technologies	3 280.9	-3.3%	3 692.9	12.6%	8.8%
31 Employment and Labour	3 299.3	-9.3%	3 505.7	6.3%	-3.6%
32 Environment, Forestry and Fisheries	9 937.8	11.0%	8 716.8	-12.3%	-2.7%
36 Small Business Development	2 277.8	-5.4%	2 538.3	11.4%	5.5%
39 Trade, Industry and Competition	9 273.3	-16.3%	9 736.6	5.0%	-12.1%
40 Transport	57 354.7	-7.5%	66 691.8	16.3%	7.5%
41 Water and Sanitation	16 994.3	-1.3%	16 910.1	-0.5%	-1.8%
Total appropriation by vote	1 025 349.7	6.5%	980 583.9	-4.4%	1.8%

2021/22 Estimates mainly reverse some of the reprioritisation of allocations during the supplementary and adjustments budgets in 2020/21

Spending priorities per economic classification



Structural reforms: Wage bill

Understanding the strategy of reductions in the wage bill

- Average reduction in personnel numbers on a national level over the MTEF: 2.1 per cent
- Average increase per unit cost over the MTEF: 2.4 per cent (varies between -1.7 per cent and 5.7 per cent this may indicate that higher level positions will be replaced by lower levels and increase in salaries or filling higher level positions).
- Number of funded posts are estimated to amount to 408 267 and number of posts additional to the establishment is 4 231 (2021). The elimination of this practice will reduce staff numbers by 1 per cent.
- Provincial status: Annual average growth in CoE: Basic Education, (0.8 per cent) and Health (0.9 per cent), provides no room for the increase in numbers or notch increases.
- If the number of Education and Health service workers these rates should be applied only to administration and not frontline workers.
- Sustainability of the mass public employment programme: EPWP or other initiatives:
 - Social Development created more than 2000 job in 2020/21, which disappeared in 2021/22

Structural reforms: Other

The ideal structure to ensure efficiency and effectiveness

- Macrostructure:
 - National votes transfer almost 70 per cent of their budgets to other institutions. The incorporation of the smaller institutions as programmes in departments:
 - Could have a major impact on staff numbers
 - Merging other smaller departments with departments providing similar functions could not just result in a possible savings of R4.3 billion, but also reduce duplication
- Balancing expenditure within the economy for effective and efficient service delivery
 - The trade-off between compensation of employees and consultants should be prevented (several adverts noted for service providers to update plans or to monitor policy implementation).
 - Trade-off between compensation and transfers

Structural reforms: Processes and systems

- Reviews, monitoring reports and evaluations:
 - GTAC received an additional R41.5 million in 2021/22
 - Departmental performance plans show several monitoring and evaluation reports on services delivery as outputs
 - Parliament produces BRRR
 - DPME produces evaluations
 - NT: guidelines, frameworks and instructions
- The Parliamentary Budget Office on monitoring service delivery
 - Performance information on public entities (transfers) is not available on the systems provided by government for reporting, for example:
 - Social development does not report on the quarterly performance on expenditure or the number of beneficiaries of social grants.
 - SASSA reports only on operational expenditure. No reporting on social grant beneficiaries on a quarterly basis.
 - Performance information on conditional grants are not available on a quarterly basis.
 - The ENE provides a very useful selection of performance indicators per department and for public entities. Performance on these indicators should be included with the quarterly expenditure reports presented to Parliament to assist Parliament and the public to:
 - Monitor the implementation of the budget
 - Prevent departments from not reporting for example Small Business Development does not provide any performance history in the ENE

Economic situation

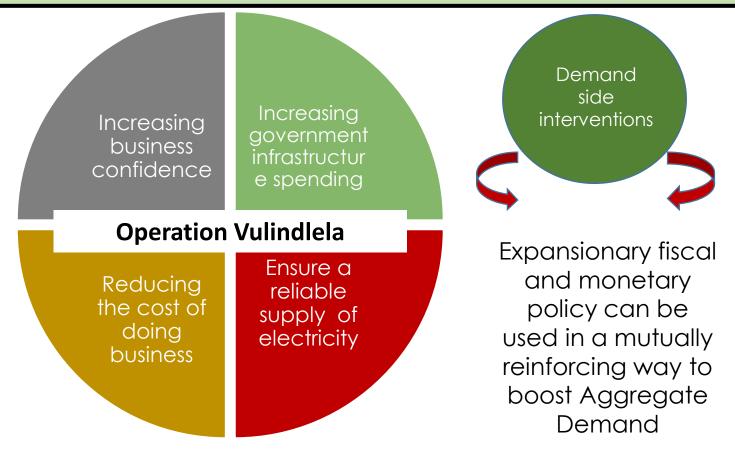
Where will growth come from Macroeconomic approach

The budget does not support growth during the MTEF nor recovery and reconstruction

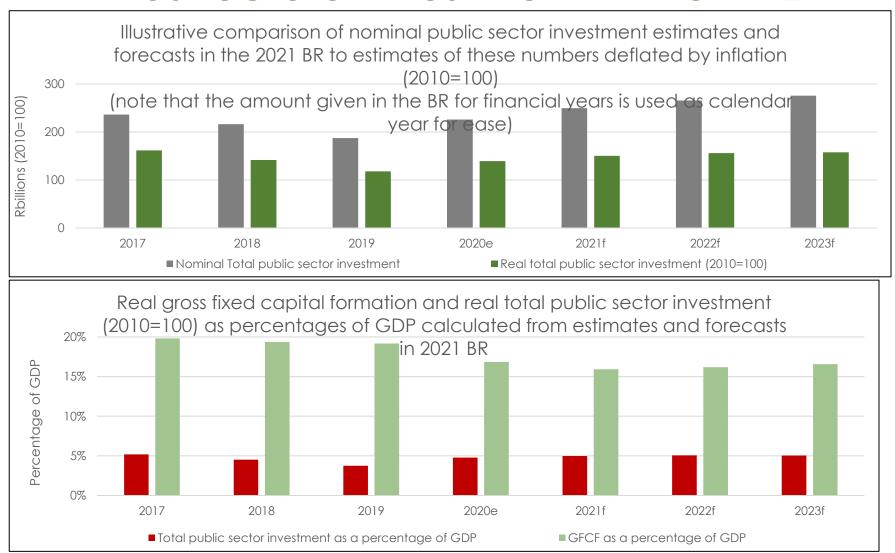
- The proposed expenditure reductions over the medium term does not strike a balance between immediate support for the economy and shoring up the country's finances
- A big risk to SA's post-pandemic reconstruction is sparsity of direct budgetary interventions to grow aggregate demand & drive investment, jobs & growth
- Key components of government's approach are off-budget, these include structural reforms and a fund to leverage private infrastructure investment
- The economy requires both supply-side and demand-side interventions: the success of supply-side interventions depends on responses of private businesses to structural reforms & leveraging infrastructure investment
- Despite the successes with Operation Vulindlela, the time frame for implementation of the structural reforms remains uncertain and response times by the private sector to these reforms may likely occur after the MTEF
- Uncertainty remains high and private businesses prefer to keep their assets liquid in financial assets rather than sunk in fixed investment projects for years
- Financial markets were very profitable during the pandemic & this continues
- At the same time, more unemployment, poverty and inequality have increased the risk of social and political instability

Pandemic-induced low growth and structural issues in the economy: What does the Budget tell us?

The Budget Review is dominated by supply-side interventions to dealing with low growth induced by the pandemic and the prevailing structural issues in the South African economy

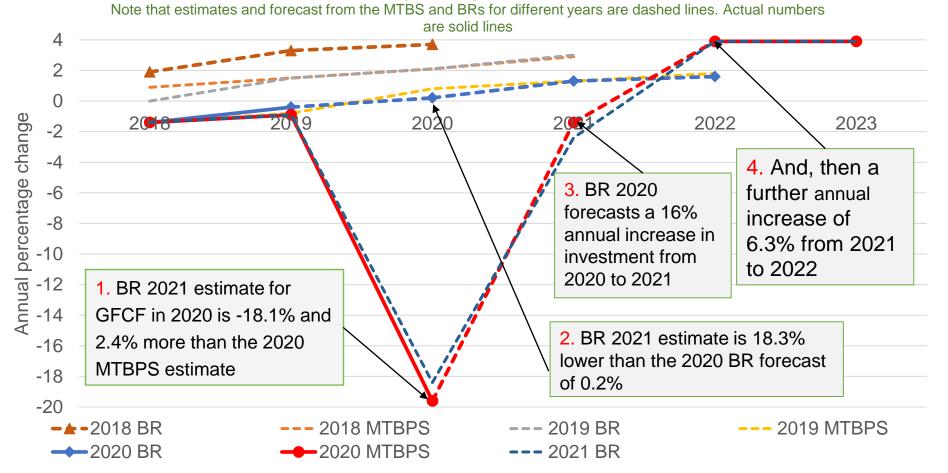


The potential impact of public sector infrastructure investment in the MTEF



The contribution of public sector investment over the MTEF (as outlined in Appendix D of the 2021 BR) will not have a very large impact on GDP growth in the

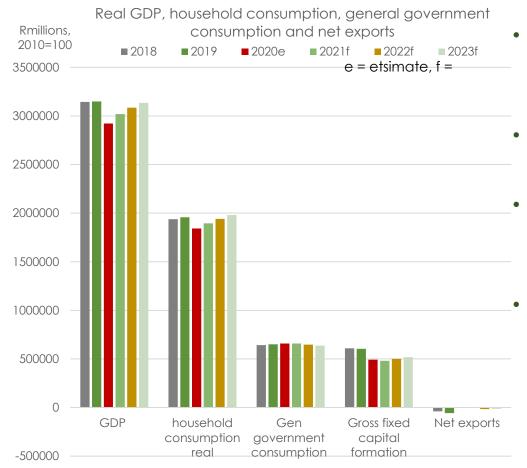
Forecasts for investment (GFCF) in BR and MTBPS since 2018



- There was a real decline in investment growth during 2018 of 1.4% and 2019 of 0.9% while the 2018 BR forecast was much overestimated at 1.9% for 2018 and 3.3% for 2019
- The 2021 BR forecasts an improvement from a drop in investment of 18.1% in 2020 to a much smaller decline of 2.4% in 2021, and
- BR 2021 very possibly overestimates investment growth again at 3.9% for 2022 & 2023
- Therefore, based on these trends, BR 2021 overestimated investment growth at 3.9% for 2022
 & 2023

Increasing consumption by poor households is key for recovery and reconstruction

- The 2021 Budget is focused on reducing expenditure and debt levels rather than providing immediate support for economic growth and adequate support for grants and services to households
- The 2021 BR depends on private investment to drive growth in the MTEF when that growth actually requires greater welfare and purchasing power of poor household



- MTEF GDP growth forecasts in the 2021
 BR are almost totally dependent on real growth in household consumption
- Gen. gvt consumption is a negative contributor to GDP growth in MTEF
- The 2021 BR forecasts for investment growth over the MTEF are very likely to be overestimated
- Real reductions in social expenditure, incl. social grants will not only hurt the poor but constrain growth and government revenue

The search for job-creating economic growth: the unemployment crisis

	Oct-Dec 2019	Jul-Sep 2020	Oct-Dec 2020	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year- onyear change	Qtr-to-qtr change	Year- onyear change		
		Thousand					Per cent		
Population 15–64 yrs	38 727	39 167	39 311	143	583	0,4	1,5		
Labour force	23 146	21 224	22 257	1 033	-889	4,9	-3,8		
Employed	16 420	14 691	15 024	333	-1 397	2,3	-8,5		
Formal sector (non-agricultural)	11 331	10 306	10 495	189	-836	1,8	-7,4		
Informal sector (non-agricultural)	2918	2 456	2 521	65	-397	2,6	-13,6		
Agriculture	885	808	810	2	-75	0,3	-8,5		
Private households	1 286	1 121	1 197	76	-89	6,8	-6,9		
Unemployed	6 726	6 533	7 233	701	507	10,7	7,5		
Not economically active	15 581	17 944	17 054	-890	1 473	-5,0	9,5		
Discouraged work-seekers	2 855	2 696	2 930	234	75	8,7	2,6		
Other (not economically active)	12 726	15 248	14 124	-1 124	1 398	-7,4	11,0		
Rates (%)									
Unemployment rate	29,1	30,8	32,5	1,7	3,4				
Employed/population ratio (absorption)	42,4	37,5	38,2	0,7	-4,2				
Labour force participation rate	59,8	54,2	56,6	2,4	-3,2				

1

2



Source: StatsSA

The search for job-creating economic growth: the unemployment crisis



Compared to Q4:2019, a net loss of 836 000 jobs in the formal sector employment was driven by the Finance, Manufacturing, Construction and Community and social services industries in Q4:2020. In the informal sector 396 000 more net job losses were observed as compared to the fourth quarter of 2019



A large number of people moved from entered the labour force between the two quarters.

The movement however, was proportionately more for the unemployed than for the employed, which resulted in an increase of 1,7% in the unemployment rate to 32,5%.



The labour force participation rate was higher in Q4:2020 as compared to Q3:2020. The rate has declined year-on-year. The absorption rate increased by 0,7 % to 38,2% in the fourth quarter of 2020 compared to the third quarter, but decreased year-on-year.

Unemployment crisis

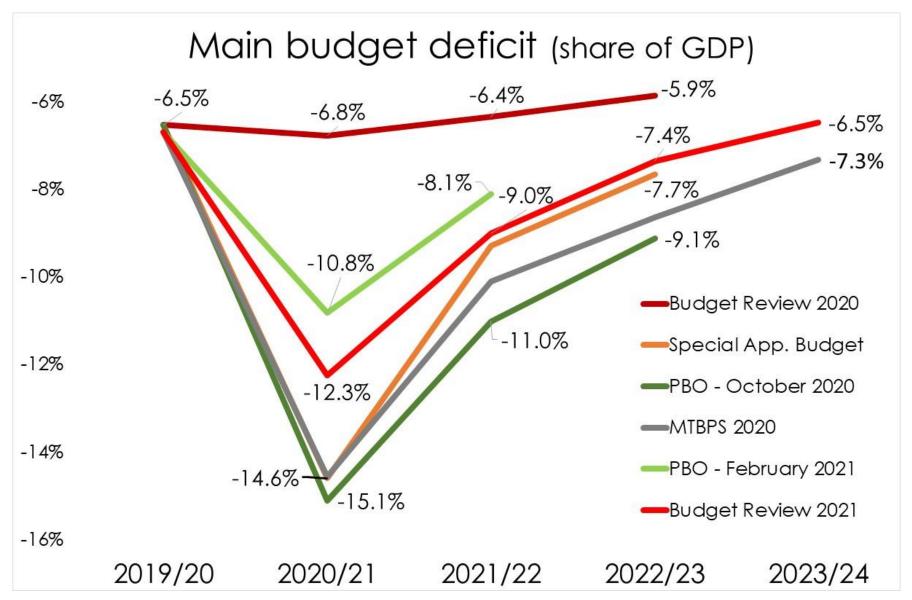
Fiscal framework

Budget balance Contributors to stabilising debt Contingent liabilities and risks

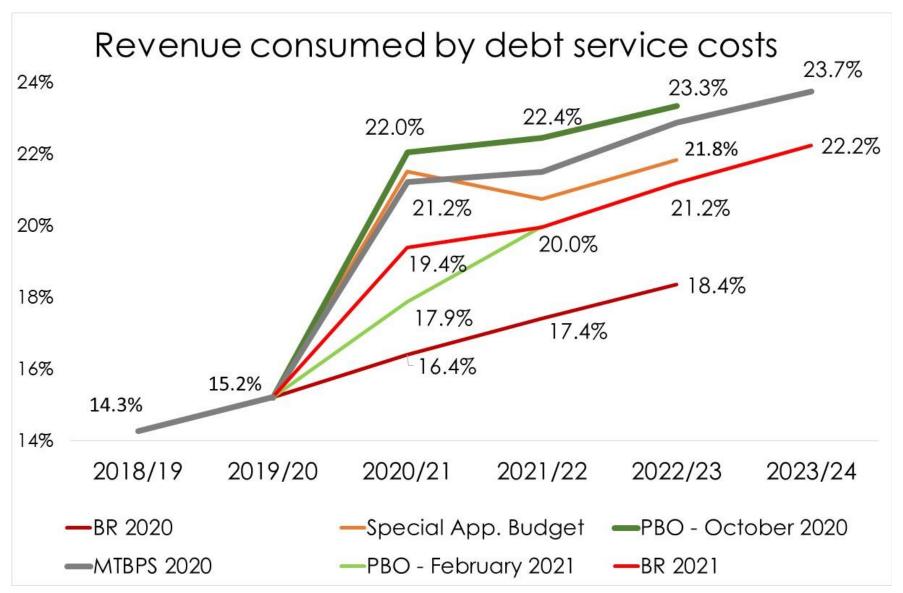
Revised growth outlook

GDP growth outlook - calender year*	2020	2021	2022	2023
National Treasury - Budget 2020	0.9%	1.3%	1.6%	-
National Treasury - Supp Budget - June 2020	-7.2%	0.3%	1.5%	-
National Treasury - MTBPS 2020	-7.8%	3.3%	1.7%	1.5%
National Treasury - Budget 2021	-7.2%	3.3%	2.2%	1.6%
South African Reserve Bank - January 2020	1.2%	1.6%	1.9%	_
South African Reserve Bank - September 2020	-8.2%	3.9%	2.6%	_
South African Reserve Bank - January 2021	-7.1%	3.6%	2.4%	2.5%
IMF - World Economic Outlook - January 2020	0.8%	1.0%	_	_
IMF - World Economic Outlook - October 2020	-8.0%	3.0%	1.5% _	-
IMF - World Economic Outlook - January 2021	-7.5%	2.8%	1.4%	
*Growth projections correspond to publication date and	d not forec	ast date		

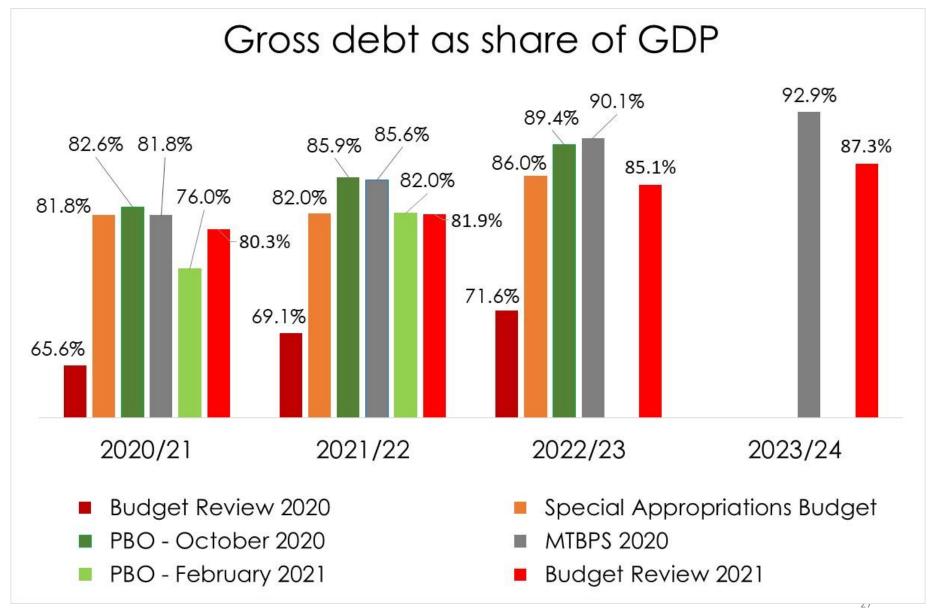
Fiscal outlook: budget balance



Fiscal outlook: Debt service costs



Fiscal outlook: debt



Contingent Liabilities and DFIs

R billion	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Multilateral institutions	260.7	341.9	381.6
of which:			
New Developm ent Bank	57.9	93.0	100.9
African Developm ent Bank	53.9	66.5	56.8
International Monetary Fund	85.9	111.8	159.3
World Bank Group	29.5	36.4	30.4
Other contingent liabilities	303.1	472.4	510.3
of which:			
Export Credit Insurance			
Corporation of South Africa	20.5	20.5	15.6
Post-retirement medical assistar	69.9	69.9	69.9
Road Accident Fund	173.6	332.2	375.0

Source: National Treasury

Risks and Contingent Liabilities and DFIs

- Gross borrowing requirement increased by R237.6 billion to R670.3 billion in 2020/21 as a result of Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Gross loan debt is expected to increase to R5.23 trillion (87.3 per cent of GDP) by 2023/24, and to settle at 88.9 per cent of GDP in 2025/26
- Contingent liabilities are expected to increase by R12 billion over four years from R1.11 trillion in 2020/21 to R1.23 trillion by 2023/24
- Large and persistent increases in budget deficits resulting in higher debt and debt-service costs – compromise the sustainability of the public finances
- The total amount for approved guarantees is expected to increase by R96.2 billion to R581 billion by the end of March 2021
- Government guarantee exposure is estimated to decrease by R3.4 billion to R410.3 billion by the end of March 2021
 - Eskom guarantees, which constitute the largest exposure at 77.2 per cent guarantees, decreased by R10.1 billion due to maturing guaranteed debt
 - Approximately R90 billion of the Covid-19 business loan guarantee scheme had been approved by the Reserve Bank, as at 11 February 2021

Revenue trends

Tax proposals
Tax developments

Impact of tax proposals on 2021/22 revenue

R million	Effecto	n tax proposals
Gross tax revenue (before tax proposals)		1 365 124
Budget 2021/22 proposals		-
Direct taxes		-2 200
Personal income tax		
Increasing brackets by more than inflation	-2 200	
Revenue if no adjustment is made	11 200	
Higher-than-inflation increase in brackets and rebates	-13 400	
Indirect taxes		2 200
Taxes on international trade and transactions		
Introduction of export tax on scrap metal	400	
Specific excise duties		
Increase in excise duties on alcohol	1 100	
Increase in excise duties on tobacco	700	
Gross tax revenue (after tax proposals)		1 365 124

- The 5 per cent increase in the personal income tax bracket will not affect gross tax revenue, because the balance of the R2.2 billion tax revenue shortfall will be recouped from indirect taxes:
 - 8 per cent Increase in excise duties on tobacco & alcohol
 - Fuel levy increase of 15c/litre for petrol and diesel from 7 April 2021
 - Road Accident Fund increase of 11c/litre from 7 April 2021
 - Carbon fuel levy increase by 1c/litre from 7 April 2021
- Paid-up retirement annuities increase from R7 000 to R15 000 from 1 March 2021

Estimates of individuals and taxable income, 2021/22

Taxable bracket	Registered individuals				Income payable b		Income relief a		Income payable	
R thousand	Number	%	R billion	%	R billion	%	R billion	%	R billion	%
R0 - R801	7 183 913	-	256.2	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
R80 - R150	1 855 292	26.7	211.1	8.6	15.7	3.0	-1.3	9.4	14.5	2.8
R150 - R250	1 691 889	24.3	329.3	13.4	29.5	5.6	-1.8	13.4	27.7	5.4
R250 - R350	1 283 954	18.4	378.4	15.4	54.5	10.3	-2.3	16.8	52.3	10.1
R350 - R500	981 993	14.1	409.1	16.6	76.6	14.5	-2.6	19.5	74.0	14.3
R500 - R750	612 177	8.8	369.1	15.0	88.4	16.7	-2.4	18.1	86.0	16.7
R750 - R1 000	262 643	3.8	226.2	9.2	65.1	12.3	-1.3	10.0	63.8	12.4
R1 000 - R1 50	159 127	2.3	191.1	7.8	61.9	11.7	-0.8	6.1	61.0	11.8
R1 500 +	113 192	1.6	346.3	14.1	137.7	26.0	-0.9	6.6	136.8	26.5
Total	6 960 267	100.0	2 460.7	100.0	529.4	100.0	-13.4	100.0	516.0	100.0
Grand total	14 144 180		2 716.8		529.4		-13.4		516.0	

- Increasing brackets by 5 per cent, to ensure that taxpayers (households) continue to pay tax liability similar or slightly lessor than the year;
- The increase in PIT bracket will largely provide relief to middle to lower income earners;
- Top four brackets (higher earners) receive about 20 per cent of the inflation adjustment
- Medical tax credits for is adjusted for inflation; however not all employees or households have medical aid

Tax revenue developments

- The venture capital company (VCC) incentive won't be extended beyond 30 June 2021 due to not sufficiently achieving its objective.
 - More than R11 billion was invested in 360 S12J venture companies, which provided significant tax deductions to wealthy taxpayers, while:
 - Only 37 per cent of these companies created new jobs after receiving funding
 - Small businesses development was slow
 - Economic activities were not generated as planned
- National Treasury is currently reviewing research and development tax incentives that expires in October 2022
- National Treasury will review current travel and home office allowances to investigate their efficacy, equity in application and simplicity of use
- The previously announced tax increase totalling to R40 billion over four years has been withdrawn to support households, businesses and the economy

Corporate Income Taxation developments

- Corporate Income Tax will be lowered from 28 per cent to 27 per cent with effect from 1 April 2022:
 - There is a lack of evidence that lowering the tax rate or tax relief is a major factor considered for investment. A study by IGR in 2018 has shown that out of 10 factors considered before investing, Corporates tax was below at no 05
 - Limiting interest expense deductions, limiting assessed losses
 - PBO recent research brief and other studies has shown that RSA CIT tax rate (28 per cent) compares well with many developing countries; South Africa like many developing countries rely more on income tax (including CIT) as source of government revenue than advanced countries;
 - The PBO's 2017 presentation showed that despite the CIT 28 per cent rate, the Effective Tax Rate (actual tax paid by corporate tax payers) is far lower (lower than 15 per cent) that the statutory rate. The same presentation showed that RSA- ETR was far lower than many countries including advanced countries;
 - Some sector effective tax rates are even far lower, for e.g. that of the mining sector is reported to be to be lower than 10 per cent, Judge Dennis from the DTC, has noted that South African ETR is lower than the CIT statutory rate
 - On the contrary, SMMEs and informal business continue to experience higher EFR than their larger counterparts, in part due to compliance costs associated with claiming the tax relief and allowed deductions
 - Therefore, government has to lead investment drive and the private sector will follow as that would provide confidence in the economy

Summary

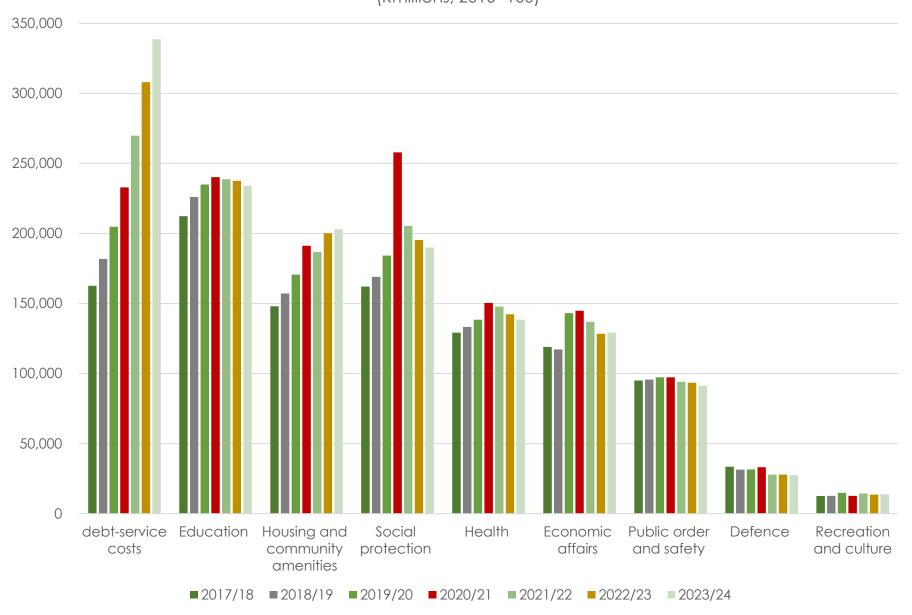
- This budget reprioritises funds mainly towards ensuring Energy Security
- It suggest that employees are replaced by consultants (Over the MTEF, the wage bill is estimated to grow by 1.5 per cent, while goods and services, including consultants is estimated to grow by 3.7 per cent)
- Direct budgetary interventions to grow aggregate demand & drive investment, jobs & growth are not visible
- Key components of government's approach are off-budget, these include structural reforms and a fund to leverage private infrastructure investment
- Higher levels of unemployment, poverty and inequality have increased the risk of social and political instability
- Expansionary fiscal and monetary policy can be used in a mutually reinforcing way to boost Aggregate Demand
- Adjustment of the personal income taxation brackets by 5 per cent, will ensure that taxpayers continue to pay tax liability similar or slightly less than the 2020/21 financial year

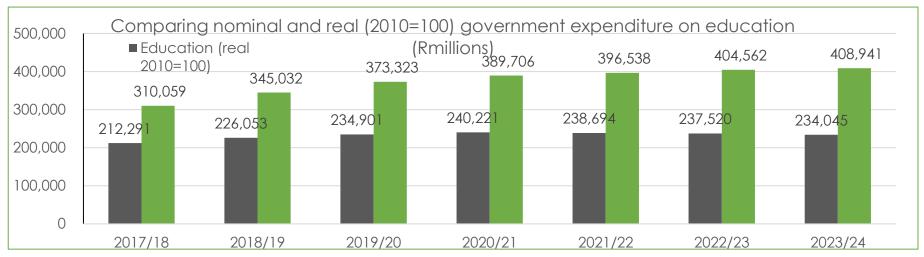
Summary

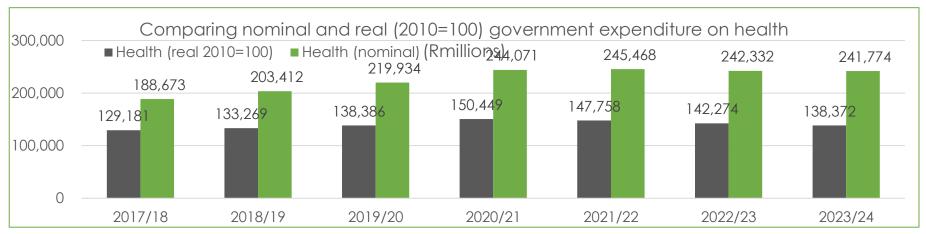
- Tax increases, previously announced, amounting to R40 billion over four years have been withdrawn to support households, businesses and the economy
- Lowering the corporate income taxation rate or giving taxation relief does not always lead to increasing investment levels, but government investment in the economy has better potential to crowd-in private investment
- Large and persistent increases in budget deficits resulting in higher debt and debt-service costs – compromise the sustainability of the public finances unless government can stimulate growth in GDP
- The total amount for approved government guarantees is expected to increase by R96.2 billion to R581 billion by the end of March 2021
- Eskom guarantees, which constitute the largest exposure at 77.2 per cent of government guarantees, decreased by R10.1 billion due to maturing guaranteed debt

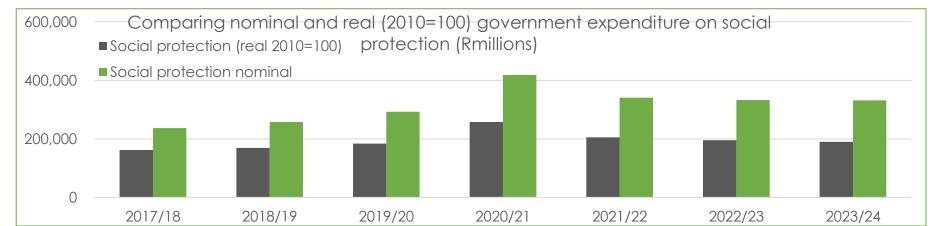
Thank You

Real government expenditure on functions (Rmillions, 2010=100)

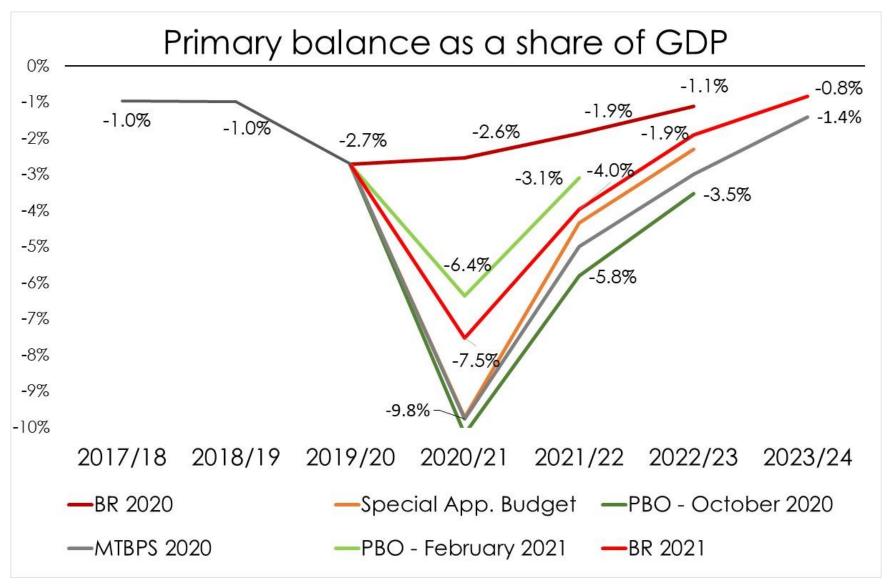








Fiscal outlook: Primary balance



Ability of Digitised Economy taxation to close tax revenue gap

- The PBO research brief showed that:
- South Africa was one of the first countries to introduce taxation on the consumption of digital economy activities, VAT; leading to R2billion additional tax revenue with 4 years and 200 new foreign taxpayers
- However, South Africa is yet to initiate a process to develop tax rules that will specifically focus on taxing income generated from digitalised economic activities;
- Complaints over the years from both online and offline industries in South Africa, that they are taxed while their global counterparts operating in the country escape some local taxes;
- Lack of suitable taxes for income from digital economy lead to an unfair advantage by MNEs operating domestically over local business; e.g. MultiChoice vs Netflix;
- South Africa continue to loose revenue potential by lacking tax regime that focuses on digital economy, more so with expected rapid digitization of economic activities
- The Presidential 4IR Commission report that we gazette by Minister Stella Ndabeni in 2020 has actually recommended that government should have digital economy tax framework
- RSA is currently a member of the multilateral committee led by OECD to develop digital economy tax framework; however:
 - No consensus on the current proposed framework, due to its potential ineffectiveness in generating much needed additional revenue for developing countries
 - High compliance costs if it were to be implemented, more so for developing countries
 - Recent study, 2021, has shown that the OECD proposed framework far more complex to implement and depart from international norm of simplifying multilateral tax system
 - The proposal further increase parallel tax system to the current global tax system