



# GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

*2009 BUDGET EDITION*



'Daily Bread' is an occasional publication of the **Ecumenical Service for Socio-Economic Transformation (ESSET)** aimed at creating a space for churches to understand and confront current socio-economic factors that generates acute poverty and inequality in society.

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**Budgets are an important tool for the production and sharing of the resources of the country so that all may have their daily bread and access to the production thereof. It is therefore imperative that churches and civil society in general should monitor budget processes and prioritise budget advocacy in their quest for socio-economic justice.**

**We provide this publication as a resource to help churches understand the links between budget advocacy and their faith as well as offer examples and strategies of what can be done at various levels of society**

***Rev Desmond Lesejane,  
Executive Director, ESSET***

This Bible Study is meant to readers to reflect on the national budget from a Biblical perspective. It was prepared by Prof Gerald West of Ujamaa Centre, School of Religion and Theology, University of KwaZulu Natal with minor adaptation by ESSET.

Rather than give answers and interpretations of the text throughout we invite readers to respond critically to the questions raised as part of the process of theological reflection. This can be done individually or in groups. Followed through, the study will help readers to develop concrete faith inspired strategies of doing budget advocacy. ESSET further invites you to share your reflections with us. Send them to [info@esset.org.za](mailto:info@esset.org.za)

## The Lord's Prayer: Matthew 6 : 9 - 13

Jesus taught his disciples, saying:  
9 "Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
10 Your kingdom come; your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
11 Our bread for today, give us today.  
12 And release us from our debts, as we also have released our debtors.  
13 And do not bring us into temptation, but rescue us from evil."

**Question 1: In what ways does Matthew's version of 'The Lord's Prayer' differ from the one you are familiar with?**

Matthew's version of the prayer Jesus taught his disciples is probably older than the version in Luke's gospel, and thus reflects most closely the time of Jesus and the issues that Jesus and his disciples were confronting.

The prayer begins with an acknowledgment of God as a parent, as a father (v9). In the time of Jesus the father was the head of the extended household and was responsible for the well-being of the family. God is approached in this prayer as the head of a household, both the heavenly and the earthly household.

*Who is part of God's family? What does it mean for us that God is the parent and is responsible for the well-being of the family?*

**Question 2: According to Matthew's version of the prayer, where will God's kingdom or household come?**

The plea of verse 10 is that the earthly household must match the heavenly household! God's kingdom is not only about the future and heaven; it is also about the present and earth. This is supposed to be the foundation which provides the values, guidelines and principles to assist people live with each other and realize the life that God created them to live. In John 10:10b this is described as **life in abundance**



and we are taught that it is the reason for Jesus Christ's coming to earth.

*In what ways should the earthly household today be like the heavenly household as asked for by the request in verse 10?*

**Question 3: How does verse 11 describe the kingdom of God on earth?**

Verse 11 makes it clear what kind of household Jesus has in mind. Jesus is particularly concerned for the household of the poor. We know this because verse 11 asks God, the head of

the household, for bread. The request is for the basics of human life, enough bread for the household for each day. There is no greed here, only a cry for the basics.

A budget is an instrument used to share the resources of a defined unit with members of the unit. This is also true for the national, provincial and local government budgets. The budget is meant to help the government give each citizen their due portion of the wealth, i.e. the bread, of the country in a given financial year.

*Do you think the 2009 national budget adequately allocates the resources of the country towards the needs of all citizens, especially the poor and marginalised? Make examples and show your example.*

Jesus understood the needs of those who were his first disciples. Because the majority of his disciples were poor, he understood their need, first, for bread for each day. But, second, he understood their deeper systemic need, the need for access to land and food security and economic wellbeing. For this to happen, the economic system of his time needed to be challenged and changed.

## The Lord's Prayer: Matthew 6 : 9 - 13



Members of the Maile community in Sekhukhune, Limpopo who had to build a bridge ( pictured on the right) with their own hands to gain access to services as the responsible council has consistently failed to allocate resources for the building of a proper bridge.



### Question 4: How does verse 12 describe the kingdom of God on earth?

Verse 12 asks a deeper request of God. While verse 11 is focused on food, verse 12 is focused on food security. It is not enough to give the poor bread; the poor need access to the resources that will enable them to secure their own food. During the time of Jesus large numbers of the people of Palestine were poor; and they were poor because they were landless; and they were landless because they had lost their land because of debt.

*Colonialism and the regime of apartheid's skewed land reform in South Africa, has led to the perpetuation of poverty and lack of food security among black communities*

For subsistence farmers, who made up the majority of people in Palestine in the time of Jesus, it was often difficult to remain on their ancestral land. The resources of the cities was vastly greater than the resources of the rural areas, and in times of economic hardship subsistence farmers were forced

to sell their ancestral land in order to pay off their debts to the money-lenders in the city. In fact, money-lenders actively encouraged peasant farmers to become indebted so that they could take their land when they defaulted on their debts. Debt was part of an economic system in which the cities took control of rural land. Debt was the single greatest contributor to landlessness and poverty in the time of Jesus. Jesus knew this and so taught his disciples to ask God, the head of the household, to address the issue of debt.

Jesus makes it clear in the prayer that the poor must also release one another from debt. It was not only the money-lenders and rich who had to take responsibility for changing the system of indebtedness.

Jesus understood the needs of those who were his first disciples. Because the majority of his disciples were poor, he understood their need, first, for bread for each day. But, second, he understood their deeper systemic need, the need for access to land and food security and economic wellbeing. For this to happen, the economic system of his time needed to be

challenged and changed.

*Are there particular things (systems, practices and policies) you know of that prevents the poor from receiving their allocation of the budget at national , provisional and local level?*

*What can make the budget more responsive to the needs of the poor and low income earners?*

### Question 4: Applying lessons from the Bible Study in our daily lives.

- *What are the basic needs of the poor in South Africa and how does the economic system prevent them from having these needs meet?*
- *What do you think is the major needs of the poor in South African today?*
- *What can the poor do to ensure that they receive their bread for today and also that they acquire the resources and means to produce their own 'bread'?*
- *What can churches at local, provincial and national level do to support the poor in making the budget more pro-poor, that is more able to give the poor access to their daily bread and the means to do so?*

# What is the Budget?

Written in conjunction with Fundi Nzimande of NALEDI

## Introduction

A budget is a financial management tool that indicates how available public funds will be used. Politically it expresses the intentions of a government towards the attainment of its political goals.

Budgets therefore have a direct bearing in the economic well being of a nation. They determine how the government caters for people's needs. It can also be seen as a standard which the public can use to evaluate the performance of the elected Government in towards the realisation of the mandate of the electorate.



*In the recent past, members of the communities across the country have held protests to demonstrate their frustrations on poor service delivery by government., largely due to lack of proper utilisation of the nations resources*

Used properly budgets help to promote higher economic growth, create more jobs, reduce poverty and support the destitute and indigent in society. In a country like ours, also seek to address the legacies of the past. These important goals of the budget are also goals of the Gospel. The budget is therefore a matter that Christians must be concerned with.

The critical questions for us must be whether the budget promotes the values of the gospel such as compassion for the poor and justice for all citizens.

## Is the budget process inclusive?

The process of developing the budget must not be left to the executive and economists alone. Parliamentarians as representatives of the people, and the people themselves through their formations must also participate in the process.

The public has a *basic right* to information about the budget and to have its views considered in budget decisions. This is an integral element of the practice of good and democratic governance that values the voice of the population and communities.

## Spending must be monitored.

The basis upon which allocations are made cannot be left to market forces alone. The process of deciding how money should be allocated must be inclusive of all sectors of society. Civil society, including the church, must also be involved in monitoring whether the money allocated has been spent where it is supposed to be spent.

## Allocations must protect and promote the interests of the marginalised and poor.

Allocations must use a gender lens and poverty and deprivation lens. The widespread nature of women's vulnerability to poverty, poor access to education and skills, poor access to resources, disease and ignorance is also an important issue for *consideration in deciding how money is allocated.*

The systemic nature of poverty in our country and the persistent vicious cycle of poverty should inform budget priorities. Is adequate money being spend to break these cycles through effective interventions in, among others, housing, health, water provision, food security, employment, livelihood opportunities, right to trade, access to justice and safety?

## Enhancing people's participation

The Peoples Budget Coalition (PBC) is an example of a civil society initiative founded on the principles of opening spaces for civil society to participate in the budget process in line with the arguments presented above. Involving the people in budgetary processes has numerous benefits such as:

Allowing public participation in budget processes at all levels of governance ensures that the public is not only informed and effectively consulted about processes or that governments are more accountable to the voting public; but that this develops a sense of ownership of the process and the product.

This ensures collective decision-making about budget priorities, a sense of trust in those who have been elected; as well as stability within a country and within its various communities. Public participation in budget processes can be a deterrent to corruption once elected and appointed government officials become aware of higher public scrutiny that is provided by participatory budget development and monitoring processes

## What is the Budget, continued?

Public participation can also lead to better allocations for the poor especially if ordinary citizens, NGOs and other civil society formations are allowed to participate in budget processes and that “citizens who understand the link between revenue generation and spending can better hold their governments to account.”



*A resident of Newton Low Housing scheme protesting against unfair eviction by the authorities over disputed levies by the complex's management company*

### **Measuring our legislation against the actual budget process**

Fortunately for us the South African legislative framework is premised on the principle of public participation, including in financial decision making and management processes. This finds expression broadly in the South African constitution and specifically through 1) **the Public Finance Management Act**, 2) **the Municipal Finance Management Act** and 3) **the Municipal Systems Act**.

#### **The South African Constitution**

Section 195 (1) (e) of the South African constitution states that, “People's needs must be responded to, and the public must be encouraged to participate in policy-making.” This is a clear, unambiguous directive to ensure that the South African public is central to policy making. In addition Section 77 of the Constitution makes provision for the adoption and passage of money bills including the national budget, however, parliament is still unable to amend the budget because the relevant legislation setting out the procedure for such amendment as required by section 77(3) of the Constitution, has never been enacted.

#### **The Public Finance Management Act**

The Public Finance Management Act (PFMA) was adopted by the parliament in 1999. It was meant to promote budget transparency and enhance participation; tighten financial controls and improved accountability. The PFMA has become an important measure for public financial management in South Africa.

#### **The Municipal Finance Management Act**

The Municipal Finance management Act (MFMA) is the only legislation compelling municipalities to consult communities under their jurisdiction in the municipal planning and budgeting processes.

#### **The Municipal Systems Act**

The Municipal Systems Act contains sections dealing with local community participation in the development of Integrated Development Plans. They guide the local municipality on how to ensure that their views on what should be the municipality's development priorities are heard and eventually factored into the budget.

#### **Challenges in the quest for participation**

Despite the provisions of the country's legislation key challenges remain.

Government exclusively plans the national budget and makes recommendations for the division of revenue and expenditure. Parliament's role is to accept or reject such recommendations but not amend them, pending draft money bills legislation. Parliament lacks institutional capacity to ensure that members of the legislature can interact effectively with budget issues. This hinders the legislature's oversight role.

The PFMA is interpreted differently. In contrast to its key principles of adequate reporting and accountability, public servants have seen it as an instrument of curbing spending and to ensure savings on government funds. This wrong interpretation of the Act, has resulted in many Departments, Provincial and Local governments consistently having budget roll-overs despite the huge service delivery backlogs.

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## What is the Budget, continued?

Notwithstanding the fact that legislation demands consultation and public participation in budget processes, actual practice is perceived as something else. In recent interviews conducted by NALEDI amongst 77 people in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal only two people indicated that they participated in the City's budget processes. Most people in this group indicated that they do not know anything about City budget processes. Others indicated that adverts for the ward meetings were called at very short notice.

Participants in ESSET's local governance training processes have indicated that structures within municipalities, such as ward committees and community development workers, have become pawns of councillors and political parties in power at any given time. Anyone with a different political persuasion is often excluded from the process even if they wanted to participate.

An ineffective implementation of a budget consultation process impacts negatively on community participation in the budget process. Community based organisations need sufficient time to consult at street and ward level on what their collective priorities are. Communities need to know the rhythm of the budget cycle in order to be ready with well thought-out and collective submissions to the budget.

While legislative provisions are progressive, the reality within many communities is different. The media used to alert communities about meetings is not universally accessible across municipalities and the notice for such meetings is often too short. The period set aside for consultation with communities is often too short or inconvenient. The timing of these community meetings tends to marginalise large sections of the local community in cases where these are held during the day when employed people are at work or on Sundays when some are at church.



Participants of TSET in Limpopo pictured after attending the training. TSET -Training for Socioeconomic Transformation -is a joint training project of ESSET and PACSA (Pietermaritzburg Agency for Christian Social Awareness).

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## The People's Budget Campaign - A case study

The Peoples Budget Coalition (PBC) is a joint campaign of the South African Council of Churches (SACC), the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and the South African NGO Coalition (SANGOCO). It was founded in 2000 by these membership based organisations in the labour, church and NGO sectors respectively.

ESSET's role in the campaign is to offers technical support to the SACC's participation in the coalition. The National Labour and Economic Development Institute (NALEDI) manage and coordinate the work of the Coalition in addition to providing research support.

### Objectives of the campaign

The main aims and objectives of the PBC are to:

- ⇒ Produce a pro-poor alternative budget framework on an annual basis.
- ⇒ Enhance public participation and monitoring of the national budgetary process,
- ⇒ Widen the parameters of debate on economic and social policy in South Africa, and
- ⇒ Use the People's Budget document as a tool for mass mobilisation and action.

The PBC promotes fiscal strategies that prioritise the eradication of poverty, economic development, accelerated sharing and greater equity by race, gender and class

through the budget. Broadly it believes that this can happen through:

- ◇ Meeting basic needs by public services and social spending;
- ◇ Ensuring the retention and creation of quality jobs;
- ◇ Increasing access to assets and skills by the majority;
- ◇ Deepening democracy through participatory governance;
- ◇ Protecting the environment ; and
- ◇ Promoting regional economic integration.

The campaign produce an annual researched alternative budget framework a year in its quest to influence the government's budget.

### Achievements of the campaign

The great revolutionary Amriral Cabral reminds us "Tell no lies, claim no easy victories". We hold this advice dear to our hearts, when answering the question whether government is listening to the PBC and whether we have an impact on policy. We believe that the PBC, as part of a wider set of actors in civil society is having an impact on the budget and on governments policy as summarised in box below.

(Continued on page 7)

Major Proposals	Progress Indicators
Expansionary fiscal policy	Since 2000, there has been a modest increase in the budget. Significantly, the results since 2000 substantiate the assumptions of our macroeconomic model developed by EPRI. Regrettably there was a surplus in the 2008/9 budget
Increasing tax: GDP ratio	The MTBPS indicates that the Tax: GDP ratio will increase
Infrastructure investment	The PBC called for significant resources for new infrastructure in 1999. The investments in water, electricity, transport and other infrastructure services begin to meet these objectives.
Increase in the education budget	The PBC has called for a 3% real increase in the national education budget. Government has increased the education budget in recent years.
Land	The increases for restitution are good, and broadly inline with suggested spending by the PBC. Land redistribution however falls significantly behind our projections for government to meet its modest goals of halving poverty and inequality.
Housing	The strategic shift in policy towards integrated human settlements is enthusiastically supported by the PBC. However, low-income housing remains under funded in terms of realising the strategic shifts.
HIV/Aids	The PBC has called for an integrated treatment and prevention plan and endorsed the proposals from the TAC. The recommitment of government and civil society to reaching a comprehensive treatment and prevention plan is eagerly anticipated by the PBC.
Expansion of social security	Increasing access to the child support grant, efficiency improvements in the Unemployment Insurance Fund are important starts in extending social security to all South Africans.

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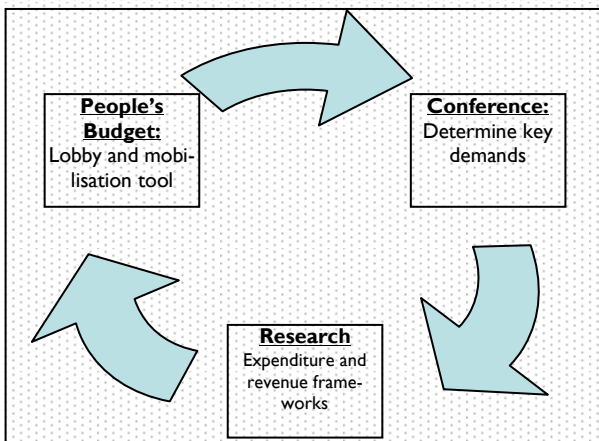
The successes made by the campaign does not imply that the it has achieved all its goal to advocate for a pro-poor and participatory budget. There are still fundamental differences between the PBC and government.

These areas are:

- ✘ Government has not increased deficit spending (until in the 2009/10 budget). In fact, the target had been to work towards a surplus as seen in the 2008/9 budget.
- ✘ Government has continued to spend vast resources on projects that have little developmental impact. The spending on the arms deal was one such project. Today, the Gautrain and the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor are key examples of projects that will have little impact on the developmental challenges of the country.
- ✘ Government has not developed a large scale and efficient redistributive mechanism in South Africa. In combination, we believe our proposals would increase assets for the poor, build long-term capabilities and would be supportive of shared economic growth. A key proposal in this regard in Basic Income Grant, and we are prepared to engage those who have doubts about this intervention.

**How do the PBC work?**

The participation of the **people** in the PBC is done through harnessing resolutions and policy positions of the various member organisations on social and economic justice and formulating demands and key focus areas.



**PBC Cycle**

Members of the coalition meet in a conference annually where the focus areas for the next budget cycle are determined. While the conference is attended by the leaders and technocrats the PBC can claim that the views espoused come from the people who speak through the different partner organisations. Once the key demands have been articulated, research areas are refined. The research and analysis is then commissioned to prepare arguments for expenditure and revenue.



*Some of previous People's Budget editions covers*

Often this is done by member organisation, but occasionally people from organisations who are not members are requested to assist dependent on the required expertise.

Various organs review and refine the submissions until a popular publication entitled "Civil Society Speaks" is produced. The publication is intended to provide civil society views one year in advance of the announcement and presentation of the National Budget.

**Future prospects**

The PBC has also realised the need to broaden participation of communities and the public in budget processes. Over the next few months the coalition partners will be actively building the capacity of communities to participate in budget processes. This project will involve all the nine provinces of South Africa. Whilst it may not be as broad as desirable, it ensures that there is some capacity in each of the nine provinces to monitor and make inputs to budget processes and that there is advocacy on the ground for more inclusive budget processes. The various provincial structures of the partner organisation are encouraged to replicate the national structure in their provinces.

*Churches, provincial councils of churches and other ecumenical agencies can participate in the process. Interested parties can contact Ms Sakina Mohamed at the South African Council of Churches to enquire further on how they can participate. Her contact details are : 011 241 7800 (t) or email smo@sacc.org.za*

## WHAT CAN YOU DO? *Tips for Budget Advocacy*

*Thembele Njenga*

Budget advocacy is just like any other advocacy. The only difference is that it is focused on government budgets. It involves engaging government to persuade them to prioritise the needs and aspirations of the poor in their allocation of budgets. An advantage of this kind of advocacy is that it promotes government accountability to people and transparency. The focus of advocacy can be at national, provincial or local government. Engaging in budget advocacy is not only useful to influence government budgets, but also contributes towards the empowerment of the marginalised communities themselves.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

#### **Organise yourself**

Get yourself organised as a sector or community or interest group. Find as much information as you can get about your issue. This may involve conducting your own needs assessment. This includes seeking information about who is affected by this issue?

- How is it affecting them?
- What other factors are impacting on this issue?
- Why is this issue persisting?
- What legislation exists around this area?
- What is government's responsibility towards its citizens on this area?
- What is the government's allocation towards this area?

#### **Develop a plan of action**

Once you are clear about your issue, be clear about what you want to do. You may decide that you want to advocate for the inclusion of your issue in the budget if it is not included, or for the increase of the budget if you think that the existing allocation is not enough. In the past, it has always been said that budgeting processes are the domain of technical experts in government's Finance department. The advent of democracy has brought this myth to an end.

It is particularly important for marginalised groups to make their voices heard with regards to government allocations. The first thing to do is, familiarise yourself with the budget cycle of the sphere of government you want to influence. Find out from your municipality/provincial government about their budget cycle. You can decide you don't want to engage in all the different spheres of the budget cycle but to influence one particular stage of the budget process.

Influencing government budget needs understanding of not only the budget cycle but also of the different pieces of legislation and programmes about your particular need or community priority (ies). Familiarise yourselves with government processes, your rights and responsibilities, responsibilities of government towards its citizens and what opportunities are available to engage government.

You may also decide that you want to monitor the budget. This involves various aspects such as monitoring whether the government is doing what it said it would do. Often times government makes pronouncements on policies and its seriousness on implementing such policies is seen in its budget allocations. It is also important to note that a particular item will be financed just because a budget line was allocated to it. It is also common knowledge that money is allocated to a particular activity but does not reach the intended beneficiaries due to various reasons such as corruption, lack of capacity or get diverted to do something else. Monitoring financial "resources and input flows, known as *expenditure or input tracking*", is thus key to ensuring that government resources gets to those intended beneficiaries.

It is possible to track the distribution of funds from the national government, at local government and to the beneficiaries. Helpful questions in this process include the following:

- Are you receiving the services as allocated in the budget?
- If they are, what is the level of the services?
- Are you happy about these services, if not, why not?

Exercising this task requires one to get acquainted with the government budget documents, analysing government budgets, attending portfolio committee meetings at the national and provincial government or council meetings depending on the sphere of government being monitored.

#### **Build relationships with others**

Whether you are planning to influence budget allocations or monitor the budget, it is important to know that you cannot do it alone. Establish budget monitoring or budget-watch forum (s) with those affected by or/and interested or sympathetic to your cause. This has a potential to create opportunities for sharing skills and resources.

#### **Build momentum**

Influencing and monitoring budgets is a political and a long process. It is therefore important that you engage in a number of initiatives that will build political support early on in your campaign. Vigorous lobbying involving various actions such as making presentations to key people and committees in government, making submissions and attending budget hearings is necessary.



*Getting yourself organised as a sector or finding interest group to engage on issues of common concern is not as difficult as we usually assume.*

## Tips for Budget Advocacy

Some of the popular committees you may target include portfolio committees relevant to your issue. These exist in the different spheres of government. At a local level, this may require engaging your ward councillor or/ and ward committees. It is also important to participate in processes such as the IDP process and budget processes which are key processes at local government level to influence budget processes. If you are not members of the IDP Representative Forum, apply to participate in the IDP Representative Forum in your municipality. You can engage other existing structures in the community and political parties as well.

You can also submit petitions to government. This is your constitutional right as an organisation or an individual. (A petition is a request, representation, submission or a complaint lodged by a member/s of the public against or on any matter which they feel government needs to attend to).

Develop relationships with media houses and journalists that are sympathetic to your cause, especially community media. Feed them with information all the time on the developments of your campaign.

### **Be prepared at all times**

Clarity of mind is important if you want to convince other people about your issue. Be sure about your facts. Produce information that is easy to read and explain. Make sure you have enough people that can readily speak on your issue at anytime and anywhere. If you are involved in budget advocacy, taking time to work on data is important. This may be time consuming and technical.

If you need help, it is important to ask. It may be useful to work with other organizations or institutions of learning that have a particular interest on your issue. At a national level, it may be advisable to work with campaigns such as the People's Budget Campaign which has been promoting pro-poor budgeting over a long period of time. There are other organizations such as Fair Share which also specialize on government budgeting processes.

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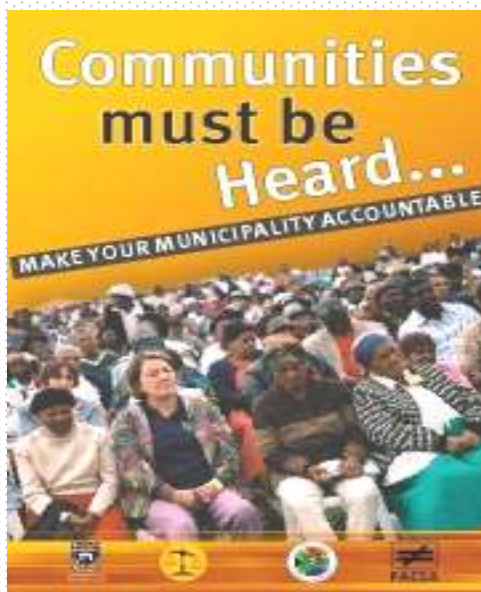
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- ⇒ Angela Wood-Rough Guide to Budget Monitoring: When, Why, What, How, When and Who-December 2006



*The PBC which comprises of organisations from labour, religion and civil society is a typical example that if individuals or the community is determined to make change they all want to see, mobilising for unity become mission possible. Above, participants pictured during one of the PBC*

### **Take advantage of opportunities**

Be vigilant in identifying opportunities to make your issue heard. As you do so, make sure to involve those affected by the issue. There are some spaces created by government for participation in budget processes. Make use of these to your advantage. Sometimes created spaces can be very limiting. Identify other spaces that can benefit your campaign. Don't be shy to create your own spaces. Some of the created spaces though informal that you can exploit is what is called "Your Budget Tips to Trevor". This is the space where the Minister of Finance invites members of the public to give the Minister tips on how they would want the country's money to be spent. This is a campaign that runs throughout the years and the Minister is said to be taking these tips very seriously.



Members of the community have the responsibility to ensure that their voices are heard by the relevant authorities, it be their local municipalities or government department

## The 2009/10 National Budget Allocations

<b>Central Government Administration</b>	<b>Total to be appropriated</b>
The Presidency	R 329.1 billion
Parliament	R 1 350.7 billion
Foreign Affairs	R 5 337 billion
Home Affairs	R 5 050.6 billion
Public Works	R 5 298 billion
<b>Financial &amp; Administration Services</b>	
Government Communication & Information System	R 482 billion
National Treasury	R 354 795.2 billion
Public Administration Leadership & Management Academy	R 119.3 billion
Public Service & Administration	R 355.8 billion
Public Service Commission	R 121.3 billion
Statistics South Africa	R 1 608.6 billion
<b>Social Services</b>	
Arts and Culture	R 2 623.5 billion
Education	R 21 287.2 billion
Health	R 17 058.1 billion
Labour	R 9 876.4 billion
Social Development	R 86 408.3 billion
Sports and Recreation	R 2 859.9 billion
<b>Justice and Protection Services</b>	
Correctional Services	R 13 238.6 billion
Defence	R 32 238.6 billion
Independent Complaints Directorate	R 114.9 billion
Safety and Security	R 46 409.7 billion
Justice and Constitutional Development	R 11 237.7 billion
<b>Economic Services and Infrastructure</b>	
Agriculture	R 2 792.8 billion
Communications	R 2 266.9 billion
Environmental Affairs & Tourism	R 3 480.8 billion
Housing	R 13 588.6 billion
Land Affairs	R 6 099.1 billion

## The 2009/10 National Budget Allocations

Economic Services and Infrastructure	Total to be appropriated
Minerals & Energy	R 4 647.2 billion
Provincial & Local Government	R 35 607 billion
Public Enterprise	R 3 797.3 billion
Science & Technology	R 4 234.1 billion
Trade & Industry	R 6 344.2 billion
Transport	R 23 734.8 billion
Water Affairs & Forestry	R 7 893.8 billion
Source: National Treasury Website	

## Civil Society responses to the 2009/10 National Budget

### **The Ecumenical Service for Socio-Economic Transformation (ESSET):**

“This year’s budget speech by the Minister of Finance, Trevor Manuel was made amidst much uncertainty. The global financial crisis and the political tremors in both government and the ruling party did not provide an ideal backdrop for such a major policy announcement. We remain sceptical for we are too accustomed to hearing such noble commitments in election years only for the rhetoric and the non-action to disappear to the backburner soon thereafter. Sometimes the promises to protect the interests of the poor seem to be aimed at winning the vote of the poor and nothing more. When there are no elections, it is the marginalised and the vulnerable from the rural parts of our beloved country and our inner cities and our townships that remain last in the queue of the sharing of the country’s resources.”

### **Dr Thabo Rapoo, Centre for Policy studies:**

“Over the years, South Africa’s real problem has not been failure to allocate substantive portions of the annual national budget towards social expenditure priorities. Instead, the enduring challenge has always been, and remains, ineffective implementation and delivery of services.

Usually, government service delivery and policy implementing agencies are not geared towards overseeing and monitoring their own activities. That is the work of horizontal oversight bodies, particularly legislative institutions at provincial and local levels. However, given our virtual one-party system of government, combined with poorly resourced and often incompetent legislative oversight practices, these institutions have become ineffective, limp-wristed and ‘toothless’ watch-dogs that are easily whipped into line by the dominant party”.

### **Ahmed Mohamed, Institute for Democracy in South Africa:**

“The 2009 budget was presented amid heightened public discourse over economic policy and service delivery. The central thesis of the debate has centred on the extent to which the ANC after Polokwane will vehemently push for a more leftist economic policy characterised by increased social spending and how effectively government has used funds to alleviate poverty, reduce income inequality, create more jobs and delivery of basic services. Many governments face the key strategic challenges of optimal allocation of funds for service delivery and the efficient use of these resources. In South Africa, the government has over the years committed itself to pro-poor and efficient allocation of resources, but the key challenge has been inefficient resource allocation, particularly at the provincial and local government levels”.

### **The People’s Budget Coalition:**

“The test by which today’s statement must be judged is to what extent it takes forward the progressive policy proposals in last week’s State of the Nation speech. We are particularly concerned that this is an interim budget, since, as the Minister himself states, “There will be a new administration in place next year”. Yet the contingency reserve from which the new administration can fund its programme is R 6 billion, less than 1% of budget. This could seriously restrict a new government wanting to implement its mandate from the voters. We are particularly concerned that this is an interim budget, since, as the Minister himself states, “There will be a new administration in place next year”. Yet the contingency reserve from which the new administration can fund its programme is R6 billion, less than 1% of budget. This could seriously restrict a new government wanting to implement its mandate from the voters”.

## Reflections on the Budget - *Rev Mautji Pataki*

The root of Christ's ministry is found in his passion to work with and for the advancement of the poor and those whom society chose to ignore and marginalise. Although the same Christ had room enough to share his ministry with the rich and the privileged, he used such opportunities to teach what would be a moral and ethical conduct on their part. This he did by ensuring full repentance on their part.

On an occasion when he walked into Jerusalem and ended up in Bethesda – popularly known as the “healing pool”, he mingles with the crowd and still could recognise someone who has been lying around the pool for thirty eight years without anybody paying attention to him. In this instance, God had made a “healing resource” available so that when the water gets stirred up, those with the required strength could pick up the ailing and drop them into the pool for healing. That is all that was required. The resource for healing was available.

This story reminds us that God provides resources for all people to live.

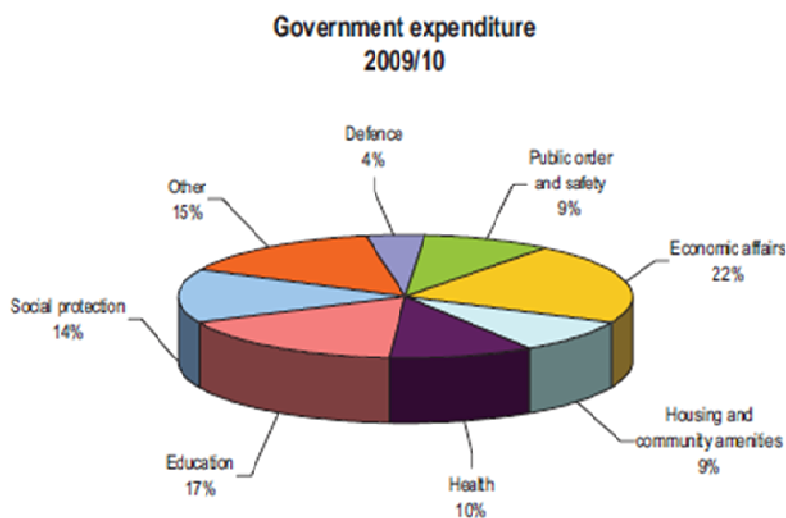


*Reflective insight: by Rev Mautji Pataki*

Tools such as the public budget are meant to share God's resources to people in need. Politicians such as Mr. Trevor Manuel and his colleagues are placed in office to manage and “put into the pool” those like the invalid man who stayed at Bethesda for well over 38 years. Access to the “stirred water” is within their competence.

When Christ recognised the invalid, he asked, “do you wish to be well?” and waited for the response before he acted. When the invalid said, “there is no one...” – which pointed to lack of support to access the resources required to make him well. This engagement is an indication that even if the crowd is huge, there is still need to fill the gap of “someone” in need. It is the space our political, economic and social ministry must fill.

## The 2009/10 National Budget Break-down



Like Christ, the church has to ensure that the needy have access to the source of healing. Such access cannot just be determined by who knows who, who is related to whom, and who has what status in society, leaving a throng of those who are not known by the power holders outside the system.

Budget advocacy means that people with the mind and heart of Christ must arrive, recognise those in need, communicate with them to find out their needs and use this as a basis of ensuring that the budget gives them access to opportunities for life. It is not enough, at based on Christ's approach, to think that all those in authority can decide what is good for the poor without asking them the question, “do you wish to be well?”

## **Values**

ESSET's existence is grounded on the conviction that working for social and economic justice is working for the reign of God which is an imperative of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It values and promotes;

- ✦ The integrity, equality, wholeness and fullness of all life,
- ✦ God's preferential option for the poor, and
- ✦ Responsible stewardship for all creation

## **Our vision**

A transformed society promoting a just economic system that prioritises the needs of the poor.

## **Our Mission**

To enable and challenge the church and other social formations to work for socio-economic justice

This publication is part of series of occasional publications that the Ecumenical Service for Socio-Economic Transformation produces under the theme “give us this day our daily bread”. This petition, the fourth in the Lord’s Prayer, **poignantly** raises sharply the socio-economic challenges that the people of God in first century Palestine faced. In one short phrase Jesus Christ highlights the plight of marginalised and poor communities of God’s people. It was a society without access to basic food supplies and deprived of the means to sustainable livelihoods.

Sadly this situation remains with us today. Millions of God’s people live in acute poverty without access to basic amenities and the means to acquire these. The petition is for us an injunction for us to wage a concerted effort against poverty. The bread that Jesus instructs us to pray for is bread that is produced on a sustainable basis for all. If, as we believe, it is God’s will that all people should have an abundant life, and consequently that God **does provide the daily bread**, as evidenced by the wealth of the resources of the earth, we must then ask critical questions.

The petition is not a cap in hand give ‘me’ ‘my’ bread injunction. It is a radical claim for people to be involved in the making and distribution of bread as co-creators with God. Prayer for us must also be seen as an offering of the self to be an agent of God in the delivery of the object of the prayer. It is not a substitute for action on our side.

These questions speak to economic policy making and economic behaviour of governments, corporations and citizens of the world and our country today. Specifically the series seeks to help churches and communities to:

1. Understand factors that sustain an unjust production and unequal distribution of food
2. Create space for reflections on the action that churches take to confront and transform the current system that generates poverty and inequality in faithful obedience to the gospel imperatives;
3. Translate national campaigns for socio-economic justice into the language of the church to enable Christians to be part of the global campaign for world more reflective of the will of God.

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