

Vuk'uzenzele



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VAT - the poor to be buffered

GOVERNMENT IS ensuring that it protects the country's most vulnerable during these tough economic times.

The effect of an increase in VAT to 15 percent from 14 percent is going to be buffered by South Africa's high level of social services. That's according to Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba who says the increase, which takes effect on 1 April, will also see South Africans enjoy greater relief from below inflation increases in personal income tax rebates and brackets, and steps government is taking towards free higher education.

From 1 April 2018 old-age disability grants will increase from R1 600 to R1 690 and to R1 700 in October. Child support grants will increase from R380 to R400 in April, and to R410 in October.

This is a 6.6 percent annual increase. Since October 2017's Medium-Term Budget an additional R2.6 billion has been added to social grants to enable these increases.

"As highlighted by the President in the State of the Nation Address, government will ensure that social grants will continue to be paid without disruption," said Minister Gigaba.

In its budget review, National Treasury said expenditure on social protection provides social security and a safety net for low-income South Africans.

It also improves social welfare service delivery to vulnerable individuals through policy and legis-



■ Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba is delivering his maiden 2018 Budget speech in the National Assembly.

lative reform, growing the number of social workers, improving access to Early Childhood Development

and facilitating food and nutrition initiatives.

"Spending on social protection is set to rise from R193.4 billion in 2018/19 to R223.9 billion by 2020/21, growing by an average of 7.9 percent. The number of social grant beneficiaries is expected to reach 18.1 million by the end of 2020/21."

An estimated 12.8 million people will receive the child support grant and 3.7 million people will receive the old-age grant.

2018 Tax proposals

- An increase in value-added tax (VAT) from 14 to 15 percent, effective 1 April 2018.
- A below inflation increase in personal income tax rebates and brackets, with greater relief for those in

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South Africans jubilant after SoNA
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Growing the economy

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Kiesersregistrasie vind in Maart 2018 plaas

DIE ONAFHANKLIKE Verkiesingskommissie (OVK) maak seker dat soveel as moontlik Suid-Afrikaners geregistreer is om in die 2019-verkiesing te stem.

More Matshediso



Die OVK van Suid-Afrika het die eerste naweek vir die registrasie van kiesers vir die 2019-verkiesing bekend gemaak. Stemgeregtigde mense regoor die land word aangemoedig om hul stemlokaal te besoek en hulle besonderhede op die kieserslys op datum te bring of om te registreer om te stem.

Die kommissie se hoofverkiesingsbeampte, Sy Mamabolo, sê dat al 22 612 stemlokale op die naweek van 10 en 11 Maart, van 8vm tot 5nm oop sal wees om dit maklik en gerieflik vir kiesers te maak om hul-

le registrasiebesonderhede op datum te bring of om te registreer.

As jy na 'n nuwe stemdistrik verhuis het sedert jy laas geregistreer het om te stem, moet jy herregistreer in jou nuwe stemdistrik.

Alle Suid-Afrikaanse burgers wat 16 jaar en ouer is en in besit is van 'n amptelike identiteitsdokument, kan registreer om te stem. As jy nie geregistreer is om te stem nie, sal jy nie in 2019 toegelaat word om te stem nie.

Geregistreerde kiesers wie se adresbesonderhede nie op die kiesersrol is nie, kan die vereiste inligting tydens registrasie by hulle stemlokaal, verskaf.

"Ons vra dat kiesers opdaag en van die geleentheid gebruik maak", sê Mamabolo.

"Die Verkiesingskommissie het steeds nie adresse vir ongeveer 2,8 miljoen kiesers nie. Ons het 'n verdere 3,5 miljoen adresse wat as 'on-

volledig' of 'generies' geklassifiseer is. Hierdie kategorie vereis verdere ontleding om te bepaal of daar enige ander beskikbare besonderhede is," sê hy voorts.

Die kommissie het adresse verkry deur verskillende inisiatiewe te gebruik, insluitend om rekords, lêers en argiewe na te gaan en adresse wat oor die afgelope

20 jaar deur kiesers verskaf is, aan te teken, sowel as om tydens die munisipale verkiesings in 2016 adresse aan te teken en om voor die registrasienaweke vir die tussenverkiesings veldwerk te doen.

Kiesers wat in die verkeerde stemdistrikte geregistreer was, is waar nodig geskuif soos deur Artikel 12 (1)(d)

van die Kieswet bepaal.

"Ons het, waar moontlik, inligting oor adresse van ander staatsbronne soos Statistiek Suid-Afrika, die Suid-Afrikaanse Agentskap vir Maatskaplike Sekerheid, Telkom, die Suid-Afrikaanse Poskantoor en die Departement van Binnelandse Sake, ontvang en gebruik," sê hy.

Registreer voor Maart 2018

In Oktober 2017 het die Verkiesingskommissie 'n webtuiste (www.elections.org.za) vir geregistreerde kiesers wat toegang tot die internet het, bekendgestel om hulle adresse te hersien of te verskaf.

Kiesers kan ook die Kontaksentrum (0800 11 8000) van Maandag tot Vrydag tydens kantoorure skakel vir inligting oor die ligging van hul stemlokaal en enige ander navrae.

Hierbenewens, kan geregistreerde kiesers ook hul ID-nommer na 32810 stuur om 'n SMS te ontvang met die adres van hulle stemlokaal ('n SMS kos R1).

Wat om saam te neem

Neem jou ID-boek met strepieskode, slim-ID-kaart of tydelike ID-sertifikaat saam wanneer jy registreer.

Jy sal gehelp word om 'n registrasievorm te voltooi wat jou fisiese adres in besonder vra. Dit sal die kommissie in staat stel om jou in die regte stemdistrik te plaas. Bewys van jou woonplek word NIE vereis nie.

Mamabolo het 'n beroep gedoen op individue, politieke partye, burgerlike organisasies, nie-regeringsorganisasies, aktiviste, die media, tradisionele leiers en geloofsgebaseerde organisasies om die sukses van die registrasienaweke, te verseker.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Isuzu Motors invest in SA

The South African economy has received a major boost with the Isuzu Motors purchase of the Struandale plant in Port Elizabeth.

Department of Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies said the investment will save jobs.

"We know that this investment will mean that 1 000 jobs in the facility will be saved and there are 3 000 jobs in the direct supply chain and many thousands more in the supply companies. Jobs will continue to be guaranteed in the future."

CSIR brings technology to improve water safety, delivery

Low-cost technologies to improve the quality of water and service delivery in municipalities were displayed at the 12th National Municipal Managers Forum which took place in Mpumalanga in February.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) displayed these technologies at the forum.

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the lower income tax brackets.

- A 52 cent per litre increase in the levies on fuel, made up of 22 cents per litre for the general fuel levy and 30 cents in the Road Accident Fund levy.
- Increases in alcohol and tobacco excise duties of between 6 and 10 percent.

A move towards fee-free education

Minister Gigaba said government will spend about R57 billion on fee-free higher education over the next three years.

"The largest reallocation of resources towards government's priorities was on higher educa-

tion and training, amounting to additional funding of R57 billion over the medium term. As a result, this is the fastest-growing spending category, with an annual average growth of 13.7 percent," he said.

Government will phase in fee-free higher education and training to students from poor and working-class families.

This means that all new first-year students, with a family income below R350 000 per annum, at universities and technical vocational education and training colleges in 2018 will be funded for the full cost of their studies.

Returning National Student Financial Aid Scheme stu-

dents at universities will also have their loans, for 2018 and going forward, converted to bursaries.

DID YOU KNOW?

The National Treasury has launched Vulekamali, an online budget data portal that will make budget information more accessible and user-friendly. Visit: www.vulekamali.gov.za for more information.



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Red ons renosters

SUID-AFRIKA se pogings het in die 1960's die renoster van uitsterwing gered, maar die spesie, met 'n bevolking van slegs 20 000, word steeds bedreig.



More Matshedis

Die Minister van Omgewingsake, Edna Molewa, het die eerste vorderingsverslag vir 2018 oor die regering se geïntegreerde strategiese bestuursbenadering om renosterstroping teen te staan, vrygestel.

Die verslag, wat ook die laaste kwartaal van 2017 dek, toon vordering in die aantal inhegtenisnemings, ondersoeke en suksesvolle skuldigbevinding van renosterstropers en smokkelaars en 'n klein vermindering in die aantal

renosters wat nasionaal in 2017 gestroop is (1 028), vergeleke met 2016 (1 054).

In 2017 was daar agt keer by OR Tambo internasionale lughawe op renosterhoring beslag gelê en 502 beweerde renosterstropers en 16 beweerde handelaars is in hegtenis geneem, 'n totaal van 518, wat 'n vermindering van 680 in 2016, is.

"In 2017 is daar tot ons spyt 21 amptenare van ons eie personeel vir aktiwiteite verwant aan stroping, in hegtenis geneem," sê Minister Molewa.

Stuit stroping

Die regering en sy vennote

het verskeie maatreëls in plek gestel om renosterstroping te stuit, insluitend patrollieprogramme by nasionale parke en die gebruik van baanbreker-tegnologie.

Altesaam 504 renosters is tussen Januarie en Desember 2017 in die Kruger Nasionale Park (KNP) gestroop, wat 24 persent minder is as die 662 in 2016.

"Ons sien, danksy ons teen-stropingstrategie in die KNP, 'n afname in die aantal stropingsaktiwiteite in die park, met 2 662 aangeteken in 2017, vergeleke met 2 883 in 2016. Dit verteenwoordig 'n persentasie-afname van 7,6 persent," bevestig die

minister.

Die aantal renosters wat in KwaZulu-Natal, die Noord-Kaap, Mpumalanga, die Vrystaat en Noordwes gestroop is, het egter toegeneem.

Uitwerking op die ekonomie

Renosterstroping en onwettige wildhandel het 'n negatiewe invloed op werkskepping en op die land se ekonomiese ontwikkeling, insluitend die ontwikkeling van die biodiverse ekonomie wat die toerismesektor insluit.

"Die verlies van een van Suid-Afrika se ikoniese wildspesies soos die renoster, wat een van die 'Groot Vyf' is, kan 'n negatiewe uitwerking op die aantal toeriste wat Suid-Afrika besoek, hê. Baie toeriste besoek Suid-Afrika om die Groot Vyf – die renoster, leeu, buffel, luiperd en olifant – te sien", sê die

Departement van Omgewingsake in 'n verklaring.

Renosterstroping is erken as 'n sekerheidsrisiko vir die land, wat 'n uitwerking kan hê op die aantal toeriste wat die land besoek en die regering het dit as 'n nasionale prioriteitsmisdad verklaar.

Die onwettige aktiwiteite verwant aan renosterstroping en die handel van renosterhoring bevoordeel slegs 'n betreklike klein misdadigerskorps.

"Dié kriminele netwerke trek voordeel uit die kompleksiteit van hierdie tipe misdad. Terwyl die sindikate die voordele geniet, word die regering se vermoë om sosio-ekonomiese ontwikkeling te verseker, belemmer omdat georganiseerde misdadingsindikate en -aktiwiteite regoor die land meer ingebed in gemeenskappe word," bevestig die departement. ▀

Aantal renosters wat gestroop is



A new Randfontein for residents

JOB OPPORTUNITIES in the pipeline for Randfontein residents.

The Rand West City Local Municipality is changing the face of Randfontein through the Mantrose Mega City Project, which will see thousands of houses being built for locals and will bring various job opportunities to community members.

The recently launched R11 billion project includes the building of a mall, clinic, railway line and other amenities in Middelvlei, which will ensure job creation and boost investor confidence in the area.

Rand West City Local Municipality

spokesperson Tshidiso Tlharipe said the project will change the face of Randfontein.

"We are truly excited about this project and we know that it is going to bring about positive change for our people.

"Not only are we going to build 15 000 houses, we will also provide thousands of job opportunities for our locals and that's ultimately what we want. We want to absorb them in projects in their own town and we believe that this will uplift them as individuals," he said.



The houses will consist of RDP and low-cost units. "We have many business owners who will sub-contract in the development of this project, and locals who will do gener-

al work, such as brick laying, plastering and painting," said Tlharipe.

This will go a long way towards accommodating the less fortunate and those who earn

between R3 000 and R15 000 per month.

The owner and chairperson of Finsbury Middelvlei Consortium, Matshidiso Ngakane, said the project will give them an opportunity to be part of something big in their own communities.

"This is the first project of its kind in Randfontein and we are thrilled as residents. The project will provide much-needed job opportunities for locals for at least seven years and will see business owners able to sustain themselves as well," said Ngakane. ▀