

Where everyone wins

By Ndivhuwo Khangale

Tlala o kotsing. These Sesotho words loosely translate as “hunger you are in trouble”. They were repeatedly used by Finance Minister Trevor Manuel during his Budget Speech.

■ Social services

Manuel could not have chosen better words. His Budget was welcomed by almost all South Africans from different sectors of life. It is viewed as good news for the hungry and the poor.

Education, social grants, small business, municipal service delivery, skills development and health are among the sectors that will get more money.

■ Small business

With the current budget, it is also a good time to start a small business, and maybe time to stop or cut down on drinking alcohol and smoking.

Small businesses that make a profit of R40 000 a year and individuals earning the same amount of money a year, will no longer pay tax. Businesses making R300 000 a year will only pay 10 per cent tax. Last year it was R200 000.



Finance Minister Trevor Manuel presented the nation with a Budget that puts a smile on everyone's face. He tried to make everyone's pockets a little fuller

a 750ml bottle of spirits.

However, Manuel put more smiles on the faces of those receiving social grants. From April 1 this year, disability and care dependency grants will be increased by R40 to R820 a month. The foster care grant will increase by R30 to R590 and child support grant by R10 to R190 a month.

Over the next three years, government will use R33 billion for 2010 World Cup infrastructure like stadiums, the Gautrain Rapid Rail Link and local and national roads.

■ Less tax

It is also now cheaper to buy a house. When buying a house costing under R500 000, there will be no transfer duty cost – that is the money you pay to register the house in your name.

Generally, all South Africans will pay less tax. R13,5 billion has been set aside to cut individual income tax.

The economy is currently growing at 5 per cent a year,

contributing to job creation.

Quoting from a letter he had received from a member of the public, Manuel read: “This is the year of plenty when all South Africans will reap the fruits of economic growth.”

Budget Breakdown

R80,6 billion:	welfare and social security
R92,1 billion:	education
R54,5 billion:	health
R88,6 billion:	economic services
R9,2 billion:	housing
R25,6 billion:	community development
R34,7 billion:	transport and communication
R79,6 billion:	protection services, police, justice and defence.

■ Smokers pay more

Smokers will now have to pay 52 cents more on a packet of cigarettes, while drinkers will pay 5 cents more on a 340ml can of beer, 13 cents more on a 750ml bottle of wine and R1,54 cents more on