

RE: “PROPER BUDGETING, CENTRAL TO PLANNING AND CONTROL OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES”, MEC MODISELLE

“The wellness of the state depends on the efficiency of government employees who undertake various activities to ensure that our people receive services the government sets out to provide.” Central to the efficient delivery of services is the ability by employees assigned the responsibility for financial planning to prepare and manage budgets, because without proper budgeting government programmes cannot be undertaken or implemented successfully”, said MEC Modiselle.

As there is a general weakness of budget management in the public sector, National Treasury has designed an e-based course on budget preparation and management. The course is offered throughout government. So far about 1500 students, over the last four years country-wide, of which 500 are registered in this particular year have gone through the course.

The objective of the course is to equip officials dealing with budgets basic techniques to prepare budgets. It affords students to participate effectively in budget formulation and analysis. The course was designed in collaboration with the United States Department of Treasury and Rio Solado College in Arizona and customized specifically for the South African context.

The course also entails distance-learning where students can study at times of convenient to them, read and print materials from accompanying CDs. Students can further study, practise and communicate with their instructors by e-mail and submit their assignments electronically.

Officials in the North West Provincial Government who enrolled for the course and have completed were from the Departments of Social Development, Transport, Agriculture and the North West Provincial Treasury. During the past week these students were presented with certificates for completing this rigorous course.

“It is indeed encouraging to see our officials committing themselves to further their knowledge on budget matters. I firmly believe that we will soon reap the benefits of our investment and do more for our people”, said MEC Modiselle

MEC Maureen Modiselle thanked the National Treasury Representatives from Pretoria, Mr Chris Adams and Ms Louise Botha who supervised and marked the answer sheets of the students and were there to present the participants with certificates. The two representatives also expressed their appreciation to the students for their diligence during the course and encouraged all those who have not yet considered registering for the course to do so since it will yield greater benefits as far as their work is concerned.

Contact Eben Cobblah on 018 387 3584 for more information.