

# FISCAL OPENNESS ACCELERATOR PROJECT

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REFORM UPDATE



**national treasury**

Department:  
National Treasury  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**



# PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATION

**Participation goal:** Pilot pre-budget consultation with consultations taking place early in the budget process around July- September. Consultations with the public could focus on broad fiscal policy objectives, or around one fiscal theme or one sector. To the extent possible, include representation from CSO at the pre-budget workshop. Consider including recommendations based on inputs received to MTEC and the minister. Data available through Vulekamali could be filtered to offer foundational knowledge to participants (Open call with criteria and outcome of the recommendation).

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NT have control over fiscal policy</li><li>• NT has control over the budget process</li><li>• Timing allows for inputs to be considered early</li><li>• Scalable/replicable and was done before but did not contribute to the budget process</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Exclusive to those with Fiscal matters</li><li>• NT can't change sector Departments decisions (only recommend)</li><li>• Limited number of representatives can join</li></ul>

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SPECTRUM


## IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

### NATIONAL TREASURY INITIATIVES

IAP2's Spectrum of Public Participation was designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role in any public participation process. The Spectrum is used internationally, and it is found in public participation plans around the world.

- TIPS for the minister
- University outreach
- BEMF consultation
- CSO workshop
- NEDLAC
- Parliamentary hearings
- Vulekamali videos

Mainly covered the **INFORM** dimension

		INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION 				
		INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL		To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
	PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

# OBJECTIVES OF PBC

## OBJECTIVES

1. To enrich the national budget process and/or policy/ies with inputs from non-government stakeholders, and other relevant sectors towards better alignment of fiscal policies of the national government with citizens' needs and concerns [better decision-making process]
2. To improve government practice and policy/ies on public participation and closing the feedback loop on the budget process (i.e. ensure documentation of inputs from citizens and government response for stronger accountability) [increased government responsiveness and public accountability]

# TOPICS-AUDIENCE-FORMAT

## TOPICS:

- **Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement/ Fiscal Policy Topics:**
  - Fiscal policy
  - No sector discussions

## AUDIENCE: Open call

E.g Reserve Bank, Economists, Academia, CSOs,PBO,Journalists

## CONSULTATION FORMAT:

- Written submissions, One day workshop (face to face ) Zoom/Teams, Streaming on social media Twitter & Youtube etc for greater coverage

# KEY LESSONS

## Different expectations

- When the project started advisory group members expectations of NT went beyond the ministry's capabilities
- The budget process is such that NT can only make recommendations based on submitted inputs but they cannot override the departments wishes to select priorities
- NT has control over National budget process therefore has limited control over local government
- The National Treasury officials did not want to engage with CSO or the public because they fear they will be setting themselves up for failure – assumption being that CSO are lobby groups and if their agenda is not met the public participation process will be deemed a failure

## Choosing Mechanisms

- They can not meet every public participation principle without compromising on something
- If the mechanism is inclusive it has a chance of being meaningless
- If it is meaningful it might seen as exclusive

# STEPS AFTER TOPIC SELECTION

- On the 1 July 2021 advisory group finalised action plan topics
- The action plan was signed off by DG in August
- Public participation expert and support consultants signed their contracts
- Meetings have been held to refine details of the action plan

# NEXT STEPS

- Agree with DDG on refined plan
- Publish the call
- Secure panel members
- Host pre budget consultation/s - September