SUBMISSIONS TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS ON THE DIVISION OF REVENUE BILL [B 6—2022]

+SECTION27
catalysts for social justice

Prepared by SECTION27 (18 March 2022)

For more information, please contact:

- Matshidiso Lencoasa | lencoasa@section27.org.za | 071 631 6212
- Daniel McLaren | mclaren@section27.org.za | 079 9101 453

Board of Directors: Ms AL Brown (Chair) Dr B Brink, Ms U Rugege (Executive Director), Ms N Seme, Mr N Spaull, Mr B Botha, Ms E Kelly, Justice J Froneman, Dr A Skelton, Ms S Kalla, Ms M Boakye (Treasurer)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SUBMISSION	**RECOMMENDATION**
Analysis from our submission demonstrates that both basic education and healthcare sectors will *experience reductions in funding in real terms over the medium term*. These reductions are applied to the provincial equitable share and various conditional grants and are reflected in reduced baselines for a number of programmes which are critical to the advancement of people's constitutionally protected rights and will be felt on the ground most acutely by the most vulnerable. This will jeopardise government's ability to provide quality basic education and healthcare services to key populations. The immediate and medium-term human rights impact of these cuts must be quantified and reversed.	Parliament must demand that human-rights impact assessments are undertaken to measure the potential costs of regressive expenditure decisions on constitutional rights. Cuts, if they must be made, must be based on transparent and participatory human rights impact assessments which demonstrate that the reductions will not increase inequality and undermine people's access to and the quality of basic education and healthcare services.
Despite numerous policy commitments to *Gender Responsive budgeting*, a feminist analysis of this year's Division of Revenue Bill reveals, we submit, a worrying gender blindness. Reversing the impact of gender inequality, patriarchy, and gender based-violence, all urgently needed in South Africa and demanded by civil society, is notably absent from the priorities – or even the basic text – of Treasury's economic vision for the country. Gender sensitive budgeting is important for transformation, sustainable development, and the realisation of government's human rights obligations.	Parliament must insist that the Division of Revenue Bill and related documents adhere to the Cabinet approved Gender Responsive Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring, Evaluation and Auditing Framework (GRPBMEAF). Treasury must also abide by the Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC)'s recommendations addressing gender inequality in this year's Division of Revenue Bill.
Health conditional grants • Despite serious shortfalls on HIV/AIDS prevention, testing and treatment goals due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the new *District Health Programmes Grant* (responsible for	Recognising that the health system has faced unprecedented strain over the past two years, we recommend that Parliament direct Treasury to ensure that disbursements for health conditional grants must, at the very least, keep up with the costs of inflation and the projected growing numbers of public healthcare users so that

funding HIV programmes) will receive an average of 4.2% less funds each year in real terms for the next three years. Sustained efforts, and increased funding, are needed to recover people living with HIV onto treatment after defaulting, expand testing, and support initiation onto treatment. • The R10.1 billion allocated to the Covid-19 vaccine rollout and R2.3 billion earmarked for purchasing additional vaccines provisionally in future in the *Covid-19 Grant* are to be welcomed. We submit, however, that Parliament should direct the Department of Health and National Treasury to make vaccination more accessible through extended opening hours of vaccine sites, financial incentives to encourage vaccination and increased numbers of mobile units to reach communities. Ringfenced funds are also needed to address attitudes of vaccine hesitancy through well-funded public education campaigns. • Budget allocations to the *Health Facility Revitalisation Grant*, we submit, are cause for concern: with cuts to this grant proposed for all provinces except for the Western Cape and Northern Cape, this allocation cannot be expected to meet the infrastructure backlogs in all provinces over the next year.	our healthcare system can meet the demands placed on it.
Basic education conditional grants • We welcome indications that allocations for the *education Infrastructure grant (EIG)* are set to increase over the next two years, but express concern about the considerable reduction to this grant the outer year of the MTEF. Reductions to the *school*	We recommend that parliament challenge proposed real-term cuts to basic education sector funding, which will hamper the ability of provinces to deliver school infrastructure projects, rollout quality and universal early childhood development or provide adequate portions of nutritious meals to learners daily.

infrastructure backlogs grant will hamstring government's ability to deliver safe school infrastructure, particularly after the suspension or postponement of many crucial projects during Covid-19. • *Early Childhood Development*'s shift from DSD to DBE must be accompanied with adequate allocation to support the provision of quality universal ECD services. At present, our submissions show a worrying real-term decline in funding allocated to ECD over the medium term. • We further submit that contingencies must be made for the funding ring fenced for the *National School Nutrition Programme* given the unprecedented rising costs of food inflation.	

Introduction

SECTION27 welcomes the opportunity to make submissions on the Division of Revenue Bill to the Select Committee on Appropriations. As a public interest law centre that works to advance the rights to basic education and to access healthcare services, SECTION27's submissions focus on an analysis of the human rights impact of this year's Division of Revenue Bill. In addition to these written submissions, SECTION27 requests permission to make oral presentations before Parliament on 23 March 2022.

Section 214(1) of the Constitution requires the yearly promulgation of a Division of Revenue Act in which the equitable division of nationally raised revenue between the national government and the nine provinces is determined. Section 214(2) of the Constitution provides various considerations that Parliament must take into account when enacting the Division of Revenue Act, including the following which are of relevance to the work of SECTION27:

> *"the national interest, the needs and interests of the national government, determined by objective criteria;*
> *the need to ensure that the provinces and municipalities are able to provide basic services and perform the functions allocated to them and the fiscal capacity and efficiency of the provinces and municipalities"*

While considerations surrounding national debt are important to consider when enacting the Division of Revenue Act, the Constitution does not rank this function over the provision of basic services or the realisation and fulfilment of human rights. In the preamble of the Constitution, pre-eminence is given to "Heal[ing] the divisions of the past and establish[ing] a society based on democratic values, social justice, and fundamental human rights." SECTION27 is concerned that the 2022/23 Budget and Division of Revenue Bill, both tabled in Parliament on 23 February 2022, will not enable government to achieve this. We believe this Budget prioritises alleviating the burden of debt servicing costs at the expense of the fulfilment of human rights and social spending sectors. For the first time in recent years, debt servicing costs receive a larger share of expenditure than allocations for either health or basic education. Over the next three years, after accounting for inflation and population growth, the real cuts to social spending will severely limit the capacity of the provinces to ensure the realisation of people's Constitutional rights and will jeopardise your role - as elected representatives - to fulfil your constitutional mandate to respect, promote and protect the human rights of your constituencies.

With this concerning context in mind, SECTION27 proposes that Parliament request more information about which "objective criteria" were used by National Treasury to make allocations, as well as whether this Budget and Division of Revenue Bill will enable the provinces and municipalities to provide basic services, perform the functions allocated to them or strengthen the fiscal capacity and efficiency of the provinces and municipalities in our current post-pandemic context.

While we note the country’s rising debt servicing costs, the introduction of human rights impact assessments can limit the unequal impact of budget cuts on peoples’ right of access to basic services like schooling and healthcare. Thus, we recommend that Parliament insists that if cuts to social spending must be made, that they must be based on transparent and participatory human rights impact assessments which demonstrate that the reductions will not increase inequality and undermine people's rights to access quality basic education and healthcare services.

The United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) released its binding Concluding Observations on South Africa’s implementation of economic and social rights in October 2018 and stated that it was “concerned that [South Africa] has introduced austerity measures to relieve the debt level”. The trend of prioritising the reduction of debt over the provision of basic services, has - far from leading to “higher levels of prosperity” as promised at the tabling of last year’s budget in 2021 - not reduced South Africa’s already vast inequalities: a recent report from the World Bank, for example, finds that South Africa remains the most unequal country in the world based on its latest poverty indicators. As the provinces move to recover from the devastating impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is crucial that budgets and allocations to the provinces do not hamper access to quality basic education and healthcare; now, more than ever, increased injections of funding are needed to help these sectors address backlogs to the provision of services and recover from the adverse effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Gender-Sensitive Allocations

Gender inequality and the exclusion and subordination of women in South Africa is felt at a political, economic, and social level. The Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities states that more women live in extreme poverty than men (42% of females live below the lower-bound poverty line, compared to 38% of males). Moreover, the Financial and Fiscal Commission (FCC) tabled its Submission for the Division of Revenue 2022/23 to Parliament and recommended addressing gender inequality through gender budgeting in the public sector. However, the Division of Revenue Bill of 2022 barely mentions gender and does not allocate grants in a gender responsive manner. Section 214 of the Constitution requires that the FFC’s recommendations be considered before tabling the division of revenue. However, neither the Division of Revenue Bill nor the accompanying explanatory memo consider gender-based budgeting.

Furthermore, we are concerned that the national Budget for 2022 slashes funding for the Department of Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities by 11.9% on average each year over the MTEF and that this slash will trickle down to the provinces, resulting in limited resources to redressing gender inequality and gender-based violence that plagues South African society.

The Department of Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities has expressed that weaknesses in gender mainstreaming across government departments prevent the state from addressing these problems. Thus, it is crucial for government to recognise that budget and the Division of Revenue Bill are powerful tools in advancing inclusive and sustainable gender development. Parliament has the power to unashamedly address the root causes of gender inequality by supporting the care economy, prioritising the most marginalised in times of fiscal constraint, and realising the rights of the most vulnerable groups in South Africa.

In 2019, Cabinet approved the Gender Responsive Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring, Evaluation and Auditing Framework (GRPBMEAF) which gave the National Treasury the mandate to lead in this area. However, the 2022 budget as well as the Division of Revenue Bill disappoint in their failure to budget or plan in a manner that accounts for gender inequity in the country. Cabinet must continue to hold National Treasury to account in this regard.

SECTION27 recommends that Parliament request National Treasury to provide evidence of how, if at all, the Division of Revenue Bill has adhered to section 214 of the Constitution and considered the FFC's recommendation for gender-sensitive budgeting. Moreover, it is imperative that Parliament insist on adequate resource allocation to Provinces in order to implement the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide to address the scourge of Gender-Based Violence. We call on Parliament to request a robust plan for the medium term that reflects steps in advancing gender-responsive budgeting moving forward.

National Treasury along with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) recognised last year that effective gender responsive budgeting can result in other vulnerable groups being prioritised in the country. In the long term, concepts and learnings from gender responsive budgeting can result in budgets that are sensitive to people with disabilities and youth, contributing towards transformation.

Basic Education conditional grants

Education Infrastructure Grant (EIG)

The Constitution protects everyone's right to a basic education. In addition, this right is immediately realisable, and government is obligated to protect this right even in times of fiscal constraint. An important component of the right to basic education is ensuring that schools have the proper infrastructure they need to operate safely and effectively. In this regard, increased allocations to public school infrastructure are welcome. The Education Infrastructure Grant (EIG) supplements funding for ongoing school infrastructure programmes in provinces, maintaining existing infrastructure and building new infrastructure to ensure schools are compliant with the Regulations Relating to Minimum Norms and Standards for Public School Infrastructure. SECTION27 welcomes the proposed increased allocations to the EIG of 4.5% over this MTEF, which matches CPI projections over this period. The EIG budget for this year and next is at an historic high and has recovered fully from the cuts that were made to it in 2020/21 when EIG funds were reprioritised to support the Covid-19 response.

While we welcome the increases in allocations to provinces in which schools were damaged by natural disasters like KwaZulu Natal, the Select Committee on Appropriations should reject the nominal cuts proposed this year to provinces with a pre-existing infrastructure crises like the Eastern Cape (whose allocations have been reduced by 2,1% in 2022/2023 year despite the persistence of pit latrines and other unsafe school infrastructure in this province) and the North West (whose allocations were cut by 4,7% in 2022/2023 year in a context where more than three quarters of the province's schools do not have libraries).

Moreover, while some provinces are receiving increased allocations for EIG projects, like Limpopo, whose allocation increases on average by 4,4% over the MTEF, it is unclear whether these increases are sufficient to address the extent of school infrastructure problems in the province. Schools, many of which are poor and already fragile, are continuously ravaged by storms or vandalism. In addition, in 2020/21, provinces like Limpopo had to suspend public school infrastructure projects when funds were reprioritised in favour of immediate COVID-19 needs. This has resulted in a backlog of public school infrastructure projects that urgently need to be addressed. It is not clear whether suspended school infrastructure projects, which exist throughout the country and must urgently resume, have been taken into account and that this budget will accommodate these backlogs.

Per the explanatory memorandum which accompanies the Division of Revenue Bill, Limpopo and Mpumalanga departments of basic education did not qualify for the incentive component of the EIG. In a context where provinces are plagued by public school infrastructure delays, SECTION27 would like to understand why these provinces did not qualify and what steps will be taken to enable them to qualify for the incentive component in future.

Finally, there is a proposed nominal cut to the EIG in the outer year of the MTEF. Because school infrastructure challenges are so systemic, budgeting and planning for delivery of safe school infrastructure must continue in the medium and long-term. In 2024/25, after accounting for the projected inflation for that period, there is a reduction of 2,4% to the EIG. This is short-sighted and we call for it to increase at least in line with CPI inflation as any decrease has a severe impact on the lives of learners who are still learning in unsafe school conditions

School Infrastructure Backlog Grant (SIBG)

The School Infrastructure Backlog Grant (SIBG) - which provides schools with water and sanitation and replaces schools constructed out of inappropriate materials such as mud - has been allocated R6.7 billion towards the building of 30 new schools, providing water to 50 schools and providing safe sanitation to 450 schools by the end of 2022/23 financial year through the Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI).

Despite the huge importance of addressing backlogs in school infrastructure, this grant increases by 0.3% this year, far below CPI, and is then cut significantly by 13.5% next year. Increased allocations to the EIG do not justify such significant cuts to the SIBG, particularly because the delivery of infrastructure projects at schools with pre-existing backlogs has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic reallocations. SECTION27 calls for clarity on this massive cut considering the provinces that still have backlogs, and are failing to comply with the Regulations Relating to Minimum Norms and Standards for Public School Infrastructure.

Furthermore, we call for a human rights impact assessment to ensure that these budget cuts will not be detrimental to the quality of basic education in the provinces.

Early Childhood Development Grant

From April 2022 the DBE is set to take over the early childhood development (ECD) function from the Department of Social Development. Despite government's rhetoric regarding the need for universal access to ECD programmes, growth in the ECD grant is only 1.7% on average which, when considering inflation, is expected to decrease by 2.8% in real terms until 2024/2025. It is concerning that only three provinces experience increases in the provincial equitable share in the ECD grant and that these increases are only marginal and below inflation over the medium term. Therefore, once inflation has been factored in, the amounts allocated for ECD funding in most provinces are set to decrease. This means there will be less money to subsidise ECD, particularly for indigent learners, as well as less money to construct the low-cost ECD centres that government intends to pilot, and less money to maintain existing ECD centres to ensure they are conducive to learning. Just this month, there have been saddening reports of ECD centres being unable to reopen and closing down owing to staff retrenchments and delays in paying out their stimulus packages.

The Division of Revenue Bill proposes the biggest cuts to the Free State's share (14%), Mpumalanga (8,55%) and the Western Cape (8,25%). The ECD sector is grossly underfunded and under-supported by government, with attendance at ECD centres being below 50% even prior to the pandemic. While the 2022 Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill proposes that Grade R becomes compulsory, this is likely impossible if ECD grant allocations continue to decrease at this rate. For government to ensure higher ECD attendance at quality ECD centres, funding for the sector must increase radically.

Moreover, reducing access to ECD services has been found to aggravate the burden of care on women. This reflects a lack of gender sensitivity in the Division of Revenue Bill of 2022 and failure to address the root causes of gender inequality in South Africa.

National School Nutrition Programme Grant (NSNP)

The National School Nutrition Programme Grant seeks to improve the nutrition of poor school children to allow them to learn better by providing a free daily meal to learners in quintile 1 to 3 schools. The State has committed to providing 9 million learners with a nutritious meal each school day over the next 3 years through the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) which has been allocated R26.7 billion in total and will ensure that qualifying learners will receive a meal on all school calendar days, even when learners stay at home due to rotational learning or COVID-19 restrictions. While SECTION27 welcomes the increases in the NSNP Grant, we are concerned that the increase does not consider the rising cost to feed children nutritious meals, as food price inflation remains higher than ordinary inflation. Recent research by the Pietermaritzburg Economic Justice and Dignity Group (PEJD) shows that the price of an average food basket increased by 8.6% between January 2021 and January 2022. As the cost of electricity is expected to increase over the next 3 years, and fuel prices are likely to rise as a consequence of Russia's invasion in the Ukraine, the PEJD also predicts an increase in food prices over the next year. If food prices increase at a similar rate over the next 3 years, the NSNP will not be adequately funded to carry the cost of meals to all 9 million learners. While the DBE has stated that the NSNP is able to produce nutritious food affordably due to economies of scale and local supply chains, planning must account for potential shocks to food prices so that the quality of food or size of portions offered to learners is not sacrificed. Thus, SECTION27 proposes increases to the NSNP Grant that are aligned with the food price inflation rate.

Health conditional grants

District Health Programmes Grant (DHPG)

This grant was formerly known as the HIV, TB, Malaria and Community Outreach conditional grant and has now been consolidated and renamed as the District Health Programmes Grant. This grant now has two main components: a comprehensive HIV and AIDS component, including the delivery of antiretroviral therapy as well as TB and HIV prevention and treatment; and a district health component comprising community outreach, Malaria, HPV and Covid-19 vaccine sub-programmes. The provision of oncology and mental healthcare services, formerly grouped in this grant, has been transferred to the National Health Insurance conditional grant.

While this restructuring and consolidation could signal opportunities for improvements in grant performance, the budget proposes a reduced allocation to the DHPG over the next three years, over and above the reallocation of the oncology and mental health services component of the grant to the National Health Insurance (NHI) grant. After accounting for the reallocation of approximately R300 million to the NHI grant, the budget for DHPG is expected to fall by roughly 4,2% on average each year for the next three years, in real terms. This means that provinces will have diminished funds to allocate to HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and delivery of ARVs and TB treatment. This reduction in the budget allocated to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment is both a regressive measure and also one that undermines the severity of the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on access to testing and treatment for HIV/AIDS. South African provinces faced disrupted access to prevention, care and testing for HIV/AIDS owing to the pandemic which resulted in a spike in infections.

The allocations made in the Division of Revenue Bill ignore the fact that performance on important HIV indicators is lagging. By the third quarter of 2021, targets for the numbers of people living with HIV being on treatment were missed by 500 000 people. The 2022 predictions are seemingly just as dire, with Treasury acknowledging that the target of 5.7 million people living with HIV remaining on treatment by the end of 2022 is "unlikely to be achieved". The budget and the Division of Revenue Bill must account for national strategies to increase HIV/AIDS testing and treatment in order to address the backlog caused by the pandemic. A post-pandemic budget and Division of Revenue Bill that does not do this falls short of the standard set out in section 214(2) of the Constitution.

A further reason for concern over the reallocation of the mental health and oncology component of the DHPG to the NHI grant, is the void it creates in mental health and oncology funding, which are already both under-resourced areas of healthcare. Strong oversight and leadership are required to address the historical and pervasive challenges in the delivery of these services. The crippling backlogs for radiation oncology in Gauteng province, for example, are evidence of the need for specific ring fencing of funds for these services and better capacitation of provinces to deliver them.

COVID-19 Grant

SECTION27 welcomes the health budget's target to vaccinate 70% of the population by March 2023, including the R10.1 billion allocated to the vaccine rollout and R2.3 billion earmarked for purchasing additional vaccines provisionally in future. However, buying vaccines alone will not position South Africa to reach this goal. This must be accompanied by a concerted effort to make vaccine sites more accessible through extended opening hours and increased mobile units to reach communities: in a recent nation-wide survey on vaccine hesitancy, researchers from SALDRU at the University of Cape Town found that 33% of unvaccinated participants would get vaccinated 'as soon as possible', largely if access-related barriers to vaccination were removed:

- 71% of this group reported that they would get vaccinated if mobile vaccine units visited them at home or work;
- 81% of this group said they would get vaccinated if sites stayed open past 5pm
- 80% of this group said they would be vaccinated if vaccine sites stayed open on weekends.
- 25% of this group said that vaccine sites were too far away from their homes, and an additional 24% said that the travel costs were too high for them to get to the vaccine sites.
- Financial nudges may offset travel costs and make the process of vaccination easier for these subgroups, researchers showed - 57% of this group of currently unvaccinated people who wanted to get vaccinated 'as soon as possible' showed willingness to get vaccinated if they received a R100 voucher.

The successes of the Vooma Voucher programme, where over 125 000 people over the age of 60 received R200 vouchers in exchange for getting vaccinated, demonstrate the huge potential of financial incentives in support of vaccination. Continued and expanded monetary incentives for vaccination need increased allocations in order to be effective.

In addition to tackling some of the barriers to accessing vaccine sites, more public education is needed. 38% of adults who were surveyed by UJ/HSRC researchers between October and November 2021 said that they were willing to get vaccinated. Of this group, 23% said they did not know where to go to get vaccinated. Public awareness and branding campaigns about the locations of vaccine sites could dispel some of the confusion driving people to delay getting vaccinated.

Undoubtedly, a more robust vaccine strategy will require further allocations to tackle vaccine hesitancy. The Department of Health and the South African Health Products Regulatory

Authority (Sahpra) have proposed that lack of education and mass messaging could be driving vaccine hesitancy. Thus, to reach this goal, there needs to be funding for a robust and targeted vaccine education campaign.

Health Facility Revitalisation Grant

The Division of Revenue Bill has allocated R21.3 billion to the provinces towards the health facility revitalisation grant to improve and maintain 200 health facilities around the country over the medium term. While we applaud Treasury's ambitions in this regard, it is difficult to see how this goal will be achieved. Firstly, the Division of Revenue Bill proposes cuts to the Health Facility Revitalisation Grant allocations in all the provinces in the next year, excluding the Northern Cape and the Western Cape. Secondly, the increases to these two provinces are not aligned with inflation, resulting in real cuts over the medium term. The spike in illness and consequent hospital visitation during the COVID-19 pandemic placed significant pressure on hospitals and their already crippled infrastructure and equipment. These budget allocations cannot be expected to meet the infrastructure backlogs in the provinces, which predate the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as address the rapid deterioration of hospital equipment because of the spike in hospital visitation due to the pandemic.

The decrease to the proposed Health Facility Revitalisation Grant allocation to the Eastern Cape of 1,9% over the medium term while the Eastern Cape Health Department continues to use mud clinics, is indicative of the disconnect between the provisions of the Division of Revenue Bill and the lived realities of many South Africans. Similarly, the Gauteng province has seen cuts in the proposed allocation for health infrastructure, while its hospitals are in dire conditions. For example, Tembisa hospital, which services three metros (Tshwane, Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni) in Gauteng, needed more funding to provide more wards, as stated by Parliament's portfolio committee on Health. This grant's allocation should provide additional funding to the provinces in addition to the infrastructure construction and maintenance funding allocated from their provincial equitable share to account for these dire infrastructure needs. Further, R4.4 billion was allocated to infrastructure revitalisation through the National Health Insurance indirect grant for the purpose of improving the "public health system's readiness for the national health insurance". The health revitalisation grant is set to increase by 4.6% over the medium term, just in line with the government's fiscal policy of shifting the composition of government expenditure towards capital investments. Although this is linked with inflation, we are concerned that it is not linked to the rising costs of healthcare.

Conclusions and recommendations

The proposed budget cuts and reduced allocations for conditional grants will hamper the ability of the provinces to deliver basic education and healthcare services. Government has not undertaken human rights impact assessments called for by civil society organisations in terms of its proposed budget cuts. SECTION27 calls on Parliament to request human rights impact assessments on areas of reduced allocations and budget cuts. Such assessments would enable the government to better understand the impact of austerity on people's enjoyment of socio-economic rights and provide valuable information on how to mitigate the unequal impact of these cuts, particularly in a post-crisis climate. Moreover, we call on Parliament to request National Treasury to evidence how the Division of Revenue Bill has adhered to section 214 of the Constitution and considered the FFC's recommendation for gender-sensitive budgeting. Through these spending cuts, the government is entrenching gender inequality and poverty and reversing gains made during the democratic era. We submit that Parliament must demand that Treasury undertake an assessment of the short and long-term impacts that retrogressive budget decisions of recent years have had on human rights.

SECTION27 requests permission to make oral presentations before Parliament in support of these submissions.

For more information, please contact:

- Matshidiso Lencoasa | lencoasa@section27.org.za | 071 631 6212
- Daniel McLaren | mclaren@section27.org.za | 079 9101 453

ABOUT SECTION27

SECTION27 is a public interest law centre that seeks to achieve substantive equality and social justice in South Africa. Guided by the principles of the Constitution, SECTION27 uses law, advocacy, legal literacy, research, and community mobilisation to achieve access to healthcare services and basic education. SECTION27 aims to achieve structural change and accountability to ensure the dignity and equality of everyone. - http://section27.org.za/