Hon Carrim

Chairperson

Standing Committee on Finance

Care of Mr Allen Wicomb awicomb@parliament.gov.za

And

Hon de Beer

Chairperson

Select Committee on Finance

Care of Mr Zolani Rento zrento@parliament.gov.za

21 February 2019

Dear Hon Carrim and Hon de Beer,

**Submissions to the Committees relating to the Fiscal Framework and Revenue Proposals 2019**

The Budget Justice Coalition has valued the opportunities you’ve provided for our engagement with your committees over the past two years. Once again we are developing submissions on the 2019 Budget and Fiscal Framework and Revenue Proposal.

This morning, we received notification of the deadline for submissions of 12:00 on Monday 25 February 2019, this effectively allows 2,5 working days in which to analyse, consult, develop positions and write the submissions. Budget Justice Coalition Members are committed to utilising our democratic right to participate in these processes in order to contribute to the information available to your committees. We will undertake to work over the weekend on these submissions – however even then the timeframes are woefully inadequate; furthermore family responsibilities for members of the coalition, in particular the womxn and people who have childcare and other domestic responsibilities affects the amount of time available for this outside of structured working hours.

We’d also like to make note of the fact that while these timeframes are extremely limiting to the quality of consultation and submissions that members of the BJC can prepare, these timeframes severely limit the possibility of smaller, less resourced, civil society structures who have an interest in commenting on these issues, and importantly, on members of the public engaging with these critical questions.

We appreciate that under the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Amendment Act 2009, as amended by Act 13 of 2018, your committees are under an extreme time pressure to process these important proposals and table reports to the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces. We thus respect what motivates these very short turnaround times for submissions. However we do note that the recent amendments have provided some lee-way for the committee to submit the reports “…within 16 days after the tabling of the national budget or as soon as reasonably possible thereafter…”.

In light of all of the above, we respectfully request an extension of the deadline for written submissions to close of business on Tuesday 26th. We note that if it is possible to grant this extension it would assist larger CSOs but would not address the bigger question of public engagement with these processes through the legislatures. Should an extension to Tuesday be completely impossible for your committees please indicate what additional time, if any is possible.

Sincerely

Zukiswa Kota

The Public Service Accountability Monitor

072 648 3398

On behalf of the Budget Justice Coalition

The Budget Justice Coalition is a coalition of civil society organisations formed to collaboratively build people’s understanding of, and participation in South Africa’s planning and budget processes to ensure that the state advances social, economic and environmental justice, to meet people’s needs and wellbeing in a developmental, equitable and redistributive way. Organisations (CSOs)  that are part of the Budget Justice Coalition include the Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute (SPII), SECTION27, Equal Education (EE), Equal Education Law Centre (EELC), Oxfam South Africa, the Rural Health Advocacy Project (RHAP), the Children’s Institute, the Alternative Information and Development Centre (AIDC), the Institute for Economic Justice (IEJ), the Dullah Omar Institute (DOI), Pietermaritzburg Economic Justice and Dignity (PMEJD), the National Shelter Movement, and the Public Service Accountability Monitor (PSAM).