



ELECTORAL COMMISSION  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

# 2023

Ensuring Free and Fair Elections



**SOUTH AFRICA**





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SOUTH AFRICA

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# OVERVIEW





SOUTH AFRICA

# CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER'S OVERVIEW

*“We table this report as an account of our performance vis-à-vis the Electoral Commission’s legal mandate. It is also a story we are telling with the help of our constitutional assurance provider about the manner in which we expended the fiscal resources that were placed at our disposal. In a sense, therefore, this report is about our institutional efficacy, on the one hand, and the forte of our internal controls, on the other.”*

**Chief Electoral Officer  
Phatudi Simon Mamabolo**

# ELECTORAL MATTERS



## ELECTORAL AMENDMENT ACT

The President of the Republic of South Africa signed into law the Electoral Amendment Bill on 17 April 2023.



## VOTERS ROLL

At the commencement of the reporting period on 1 April 2022, there were 26 103 641 voters on the voters' roll. On 31 March 2023, which is the end of the reporting period, the voters' roll reflected 26 048 668 voters, which translates into a decline of 0.21%.



## REGISTRATION WEEKEND

A well-executed logistical operation is the cornerstone of a successful registration process. Procurement of logistical supplies for the conduct of the general registration weekend is well underway and the delivery of ordered items has been concluded.



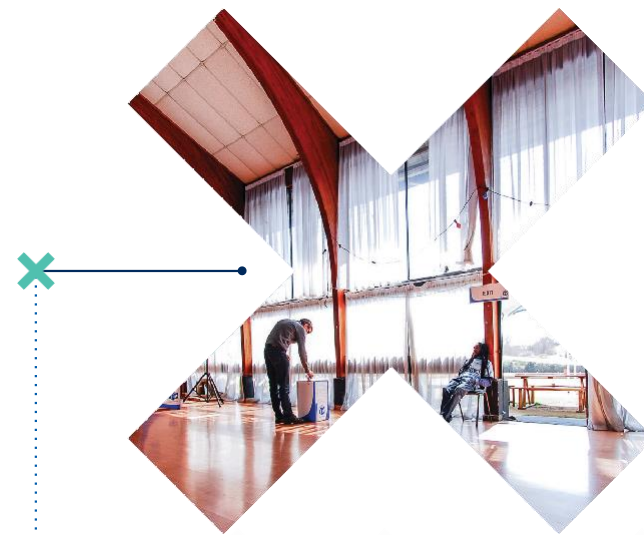
## BY-ELECTIONS

In the reporting period, the Electoral Commission has successfully managed 120 by-elections and 322 PR replacements. Election of representatives is statutorily defined to ensure that citizens enjoy the benefit of political representation within local communities.



# ELECTORAL MATTERS

*Consequent to the revised electoral system, voters will have a changed ballot experience at voting stations. Pertinently, the change involves the use of three ballot papers instead of two, as was previously the case. The three ballots will represent the following aspects of the electoral system:*



## 1ST BALLOT PAPER

*The regional ballot is intended to ensure the representation of provincial interests in the National Assembly. The nine regions (provinces) of the country will share the second 200 seats of the National Assembly based on the number of registered voters in each province. Nine unique regional ballots will contain the names of the participating parties and independent candidates contesting the respective regional elections.*



## 2ND BALLOT PAPER

*The second ballot is the National Compensatory Ballot, which contains only the names of participating political parties contesting 200 seats in the National Assembly. The central purpose of this component of the electoral system is to ensure the restoration of proportionality to the allocation of seats.*



## 3RD BALLOT PAPER

*The third ballot is the Provincial Ballot. This will contain political parties and independent candidates contesting seats in the provincial legislature of a specific province.*

# PERFORMANCE

## CLEAN AUDIT

The Commission takes special pride in achieving a third successive clean audit.



## TARGETS

The Commission achieved 71% of its planned targets for the year.





# OUR CAMPAIGN

Annual April 2022 - March 2023 Social Media Overview

## YOUTUBE

Total subscribers: 3  
200

## LINKEDIN

Total followers: 2  
993

## TWITTER

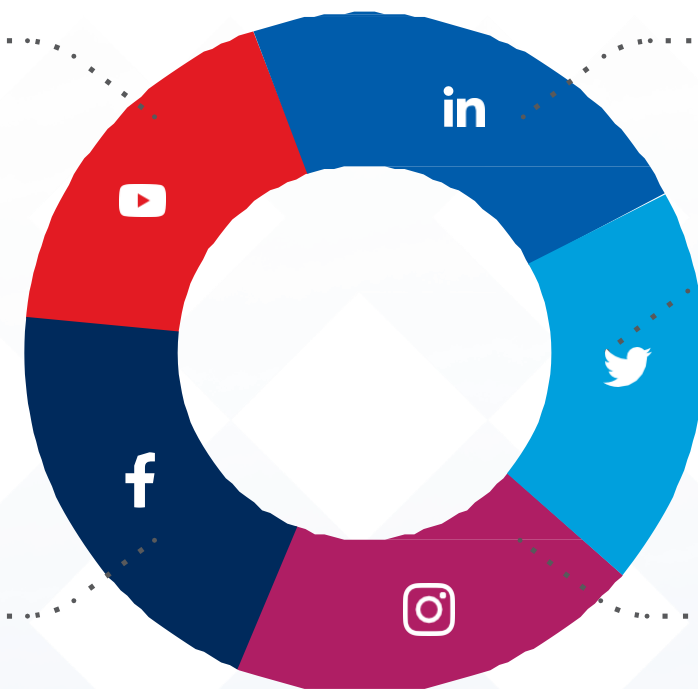
Total following: 239  
449

## FACEBOOK

Total following: 374  
195

## INSTAGRAM

Total following: 6 255



*Our campaign to motivate young South Africans to register online is beginning to succeed. In the period under review, 134 125 citizens used the online portal to register or re-register. Since the portal was launched in 2021, close to 717 064 citizens used the portal for registration activities.*





SOUTH AFRICA



# PERFORMANCE INFORMATION



# STRATEGIC OUTCOME-ORIENTED GOALS

PROGRAMME	STRATEGIC OUTCOME-ORIENTED GOAL	NUMBER OF TARGETS	NUMBER ACHIEVED/ EXCEEDED	NUMBER NOT ACHIEVED	PERCENTAGE ACHIEVEMENT
<b>PROGRAMME 1:</b> Administration	<b>GOAL 1:</b> Strengthening governance, institutional excellence, professionalism and enabling business processes at all levels of the organisation	3	2	1	67%
<b>PROGRAMME 2:</b> Electoral Operations	<b>GOAL 2:</b> Achieving pre-eminence in the area of managing elections and referenda, including the strengthening of a cooperative relationship with political parties	2	1	1	50%
<b>PROGRAMME 3:</b> Outreach	<b>GOAL 3:</b> Strengthening electoral democracy	5	3	2	60%
<b>PROGRAMME 4:</b> Party Funding	<b>GOAL 4:</b> Contributing to the enhancement of transparency in elections and party funding	3	3	0	100%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>71%</b>



# PROGRAMME 1: ADMINISTRATION

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES, KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS, PLANNED TARGETS AND ACTUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

No.	Outcome	Outputs	Output indicators	Audited/ actual performance 2020/21	Audited/ actual per- formance 2021/22	Planned an- nual target 2022/23	Actual achieve- ment 2022/23	Deviation from planned tar- get to actual achievement 2022/23	Reasons for deviations
1.1.1	Strengthened institutional effectiveness	Exercise leadership and governance, monitoring and evaluation to ensure the effective implementation of the Electoral Commission's core mandate, strategic outcomes and outputs, aligned with the corresponding budget allocations and risk mitigation.	Number of quarterly reviews of the Strategic Risk Register by the Executive Risk Management Committee within 30 days after the start of the next quarter.	4	4	4	4	0	Target achieved
1.1.2		Provide a cutting-edge, stable, secure ICT environment that meets all the functional needs of the Electoral Commission and supports innovative business processes.	Minimum annual percentage network and application systems availability measured in hours (system-generated report available)	97.384% (2 156.060 hours)	98.3% (2 214 hours achieved)	97% (2 223 hours achieved)	91.816% (2 042 hours achieved)	(5.18%)	Target not achieved due to loadshedding.
1.1.3		Recruit and retain a talented permanent staff complement to meet operational requirements, as well as constitutional obligations	Number of funded positions filled per annum	81% (909 of 1 121 approved posts filled)	81.4% (906 of 1 113 approved posts filled)	95% of funded posts filled (938 posts filled) calculated pro-rata over the year	906 posts filled at 31 March 2023	92% of funded posts filled (906 of 987 funded posts filled)	Target not achieved. Filling of posts delayed by the unexpected withdrawal of the risk assessment service provider as well as the HR review matter in the Labour Court
1.1.4		Effectively manage financial resources in compliance with legislation.	Obtain a clean audit outcome from the annual external audit process	Obtained a clean audit opinion	Obtained a clean audit opinion	Obtain a clean audit outcome	Obtained a clean audit opinion	None	Target achieved



# PROGRAMME 2: ELECTORAL OPERATIONS

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES, KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS, PLANNED TARGETS AND ACTUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

No.	Outcome	Outputs	Output indicators	Audited/ actual performance 2020/21	Audited/ actual performance 2021/22	Planned annual target 2022/23	Actual achievement 2022/23	Deviation from planned target to actual achievement 2022/23	Reasons for deviations
2.1.1	Free and fair elections delivered	Manage free and fair elections in accordance with the applicable electoral timetables to ensure the efficient and credible execution of the mandate of the Electoral Commission	Percentage of elections set aside	(None)	One election set aside	0%	0%	0%	Target achieved
2.1.2		Maintain a credible national voters' roll that is cutting-edge technology	Number of registered voters as at 31 March each year	25 802 362	26 096 884	26 180 000	26 048 668	(131 332)	Target not achieved. The variance is largely ascribed to the 2021/22 gap, which resulted in a reduced baseline and there being no voting station-based registration drives in 2022/23 owing to the period being a non-election period.

# PROGRAMME 3: OUTREACH

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES, KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS, PLANNED TARGETS AND ACTUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

No.	Outcome	Outputs	Output indicators	Audited/ actual performance 2020/21	Audited/ actual performance 2021/22	Planned annual target 2022/23	Actual achievement 2022/23	Deviation from planned target to actual achievement 2022/23	Reasons for deviations
3.1.1	Informed and engaged citizens and stakeholders in electoral democracy	Provide research and thought leadership to strengthen electoral democracy	The number of research initiatives achieved per annum	0	3	3	2	1	Target not met due to outstanding research.
3.1.2			The number of thought leadership interactions achieved per annum	4	10	10	11	1	Target achieved
3.1.3		Actively promote and foster awareness and participation in electoral processes through civic and democracy education (CDE) programmes	The number of face-to-face CDE events held per annum	13 036	42 619	40 000	49 687	9 687	Target achieved
3.1.4		Interact with domestic, regional and international stakeholders to build an understanding of the Electoral Commission's role in delivering credible elections	Number of meetings Electoral Commission holds with key stakeholders per annum	70	55	10	110	100	Target achieved



# PROGRAMME 3: OUTREACH

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES, KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS, PLANNED TARGETS AND ACTUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

No.	Outcome	Outputs	Output indicators	Audited/ actual performance 2020/21	Audited/ actual performance 2021/22	Planned annual target 2022/23	Actual achievement 2022/23	Deviation from planned target to actual achievement 2022/23	Reasons for deviations
3.1.5	Informed and engaged citizens and stakeholders in electoral democracy	Advance and promote electoral processes through communication campaigns on diverse platforms to sustain visibility across the electoral cycle	Recorded reach across multimedia communications platforms (digital, television, print, radio and out-of-home)	New	Facebook – 36 952 653 Twitter – 2 950 332 YouTube – 58 265 162 Google AdWords – 5 069 419 SMS – 3 368 411 Please Call Me – 165 035 871 Television – 25 155 000 Radio listeners – 32 132 000 Print – 16 553 000 Billboards – 238 Street pole posters – 13 232 012 Transit TV – 4 294 Commuter transport – 50 long-distance buses	4 million Facebook impressions 20 000 Twitter ad reach 200 000 YouTube ad views 2 million impressions on Google AdWords 200 000 SMSs sent 15 million callbacks 600 000 TV viewers 500 000 radio listeners 600 000 readers and out-of-home 15 billboards 18 000 street pole posters 200 transit TV screens commuter transport 2 long-distance buses	26 817 157 Facebook impressions 1 778 140 Twitter ad reach 299 349 YouTube ad views 2 613 978 Google AdWords 2 341 861 SMSs sent 12 114 802 callbacks 11 915 000 TV viewers 22 652 000 radio listeners 914 000 readers 15 billboards 18 000 street pole posters 856 TV screens 2 bus backs	22 877 157 Facebook impressions 1 758 140 Twitter ad reach 99 349 YouTube ad views 613 978 Google AdWords 2 141 861 SMSs sent (2 885 198) callbacks 11 315 000 TV viewers 22 152 000 radio listeners 314 000 readers 0 0 656 TV screens	Overall target not achieved. The target for the number of callbacks received was not achieved. The service provider's monitoring tool for reporting purposes has been severely affected by the intermittent electrical power issues.

# PROGRAMME 4: PARTY FUNDING

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES, KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS, PLANNED TARGETS AND ACTUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

No.	Outcome	Outputs	Output indicators	Audited/ actual performance 2020/21	Audited/ actual performance 2021/22	Planned annual target 2022/23	Actual achievement 2022/23	Deviation from planned target to actual achievement 2022/23	Reasons for deviations
4.1.1	Contributed to the enhancement of transparency in elections and party funding	Manage party funding in compliance with relevant legislation	Number of disbursements to represented parties per annum	4	4	4	4	0	Target achieved
4.1.2		Provide consultative and cooperative liaison platforms between the Electoral Commission, and stakeholders and potential contributors to promote the funding of a multi-party democracy.	Number of liaison sessions held with stakeholders and potential contributors to the Multi-party Democracy Fund	10	19	10	18	10	Target achieved
4.1.3		Manage party funding in compliance with the relevant legislation	Number of publications of declarations by political parties and private donors	New indicator	New indicator	4	4	0	Target achieved



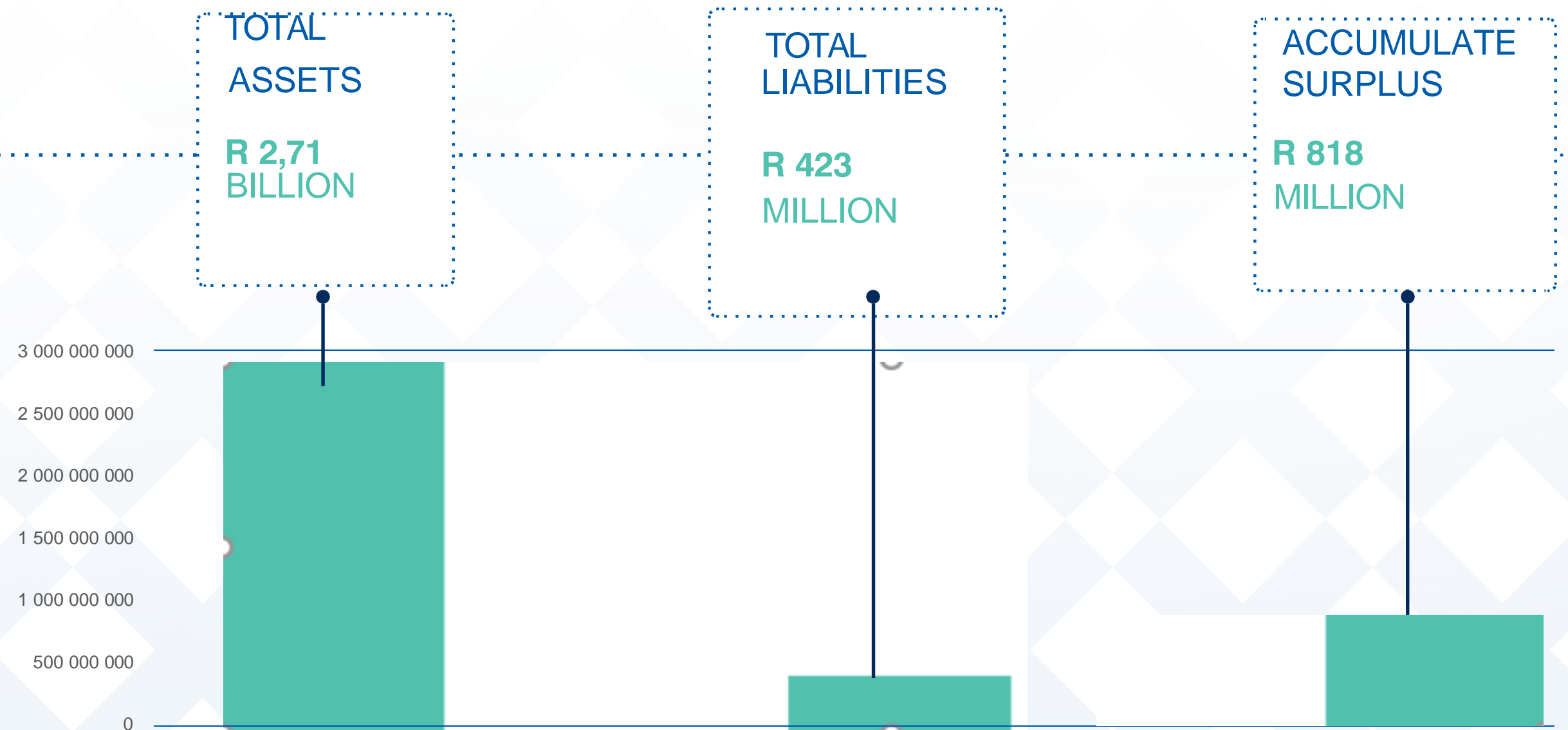


SOUTH AFRICA

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# ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION






# FINANCIAL POSITION

	Note	31 March 2023 R	*Restated 31 March 2022 R
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	3,4	1 739 516 226	818 753 225
Trade and other receivables from exchange transactions	5	47 255 455	52 525 340
Short-term portion of operating lease	11	7 277 710	4 718 559
Inventories	6	36 162 525	42 865 506
		<b>881 370 419</b>	<b>941 892 342*</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	7	656 828 521	724 925 808*
Heritage assets	8	1 671 143	1 671 143
Intangible assets	9	212 665 955	205 419 509*
Trade and other receivables from exchange transactions	5	10 204 800	9 875 882
		<b>2 711 582 335</b>	<b>1 860 754 972</b>
<b>Total assets</b>			
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables from exchange transactions	3,10	188 953 001	180 733 802
Lump sums retirement benefit	12	8 617 000	3 957 000
		<b>197 570 001</b>	<b>184 690 802</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Operating lease liability	11	31 157 096	33 213 344
Lump sums retirement benefit	12	194 416 000	173 113 000
		<b>225 573 096</b>	<b>206 326 344</b>
		<b>423 143 097</b>	<b>391 017 146</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>			
<b>Net assets</b>			
Accumulated surplus		<b>2 288 439 238</b>	<b>1 469 737 826*</b>
		<b>2 711 582 335</b>	<b>1 860 754 972</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>			

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

1. Current assets increased by 99% to R1,810 Billion due to higher bank balance as a result of straight lining of budget by National treasury.
2. Trade and other receivables are mostly made up of deposits on office accommodation and are long term in nature.
3. Non-Current assets decreased by 6% to R881 Million mainly due depreciation of Voter Management Devices.
4. R18,77 Million was added to Property, Plant and Equipment. Additionally R23,2 Million was added to Intangible assets of this R18 million is internally generated.
5. Additions of R18,77 Million on Property, Plant and Equipment.
6. To achieve fair presentation management made a restatement in 2022 on Intangible assets in terms of GRAP 3. The intangible assets were amortised incorrectly and the treatment was not compliant with the requirement of GRAP 31 and the net effect of the change was R89 million.
7. Trade payables increased by 5% to R188 million mainly due to accruals at year-end.

 **99%**  
INCREASED  
CURRENT  
ASSETS

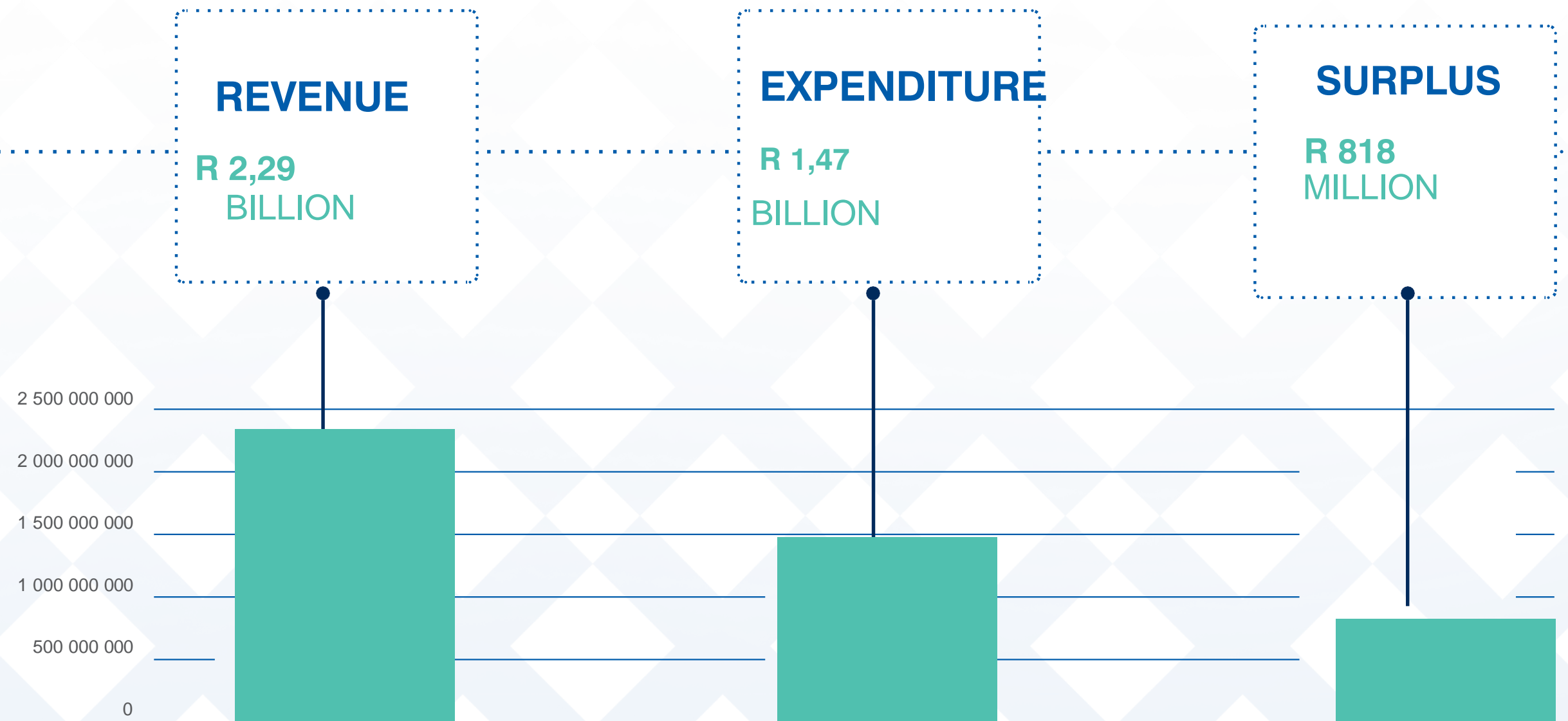
 **6%**  
DECREASED  
NON-  
CURRENT  
ASSETS

 **R18,77**  
MILLION  
ADDED TO  
PROPERTY, PLANT  
AND EQUIPMENT

 **R23,2**  
MILLION  
ADDED TO  
INTANGIBLE ASSETS

 **5%**  
TRADE  
PAYABLES  
INCREASED

# SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE





# FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

	Note	31 March 2023 R	*Restated 31 March 2022 R
<b>Revenue</b>			
<b>Revenue from non-exchange transactions</b>	13	<b>2 223 912 231</b>	<b>2 256 616 035</b>
Parliamentary allocation Sponsorship revenue Lease revenue		2 223 790 000 - 122 231	2 250 255 000 67 151 6 293 884
<b>Revenue from exchange transactions</b>	14	<b>68 661 883</b>	<b>105 709 715</b>
Political party registration fees Election-related revenue Investment revenue Other operating revenue	14.1	160 501 - 67 893 544	53 500 55 095 532 50 088 680 472 003
<b>Total revenue</b>		<b>607 838</b>	<b>2 362 325 750</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Employee-related costs Goods and services Depreciation, amortisation and impairment Audit fees Lease rental costs Finance costs Debt impairment	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	(1 467 355 987) (796 427 325) (467 985 477) (88 878 474) (6 925 496) (106 850 294) (9 767) (279 154)	(2 597 768 471)* (962 041 899) (1 448 634 297) (71 431 160)* (10 159 351) (105 280 948) (2 767) (218 049)
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>(2 597 768 471)*</b>	<b>(2 597 768 471)*</b>
(Deficit) on disposal of assets	22	(1 467 355 987)	(10 876 910)*
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>		<b>(6 516 714)</b>	<b>(246 319 631)*</b>
		<b>818 701 413</b>	

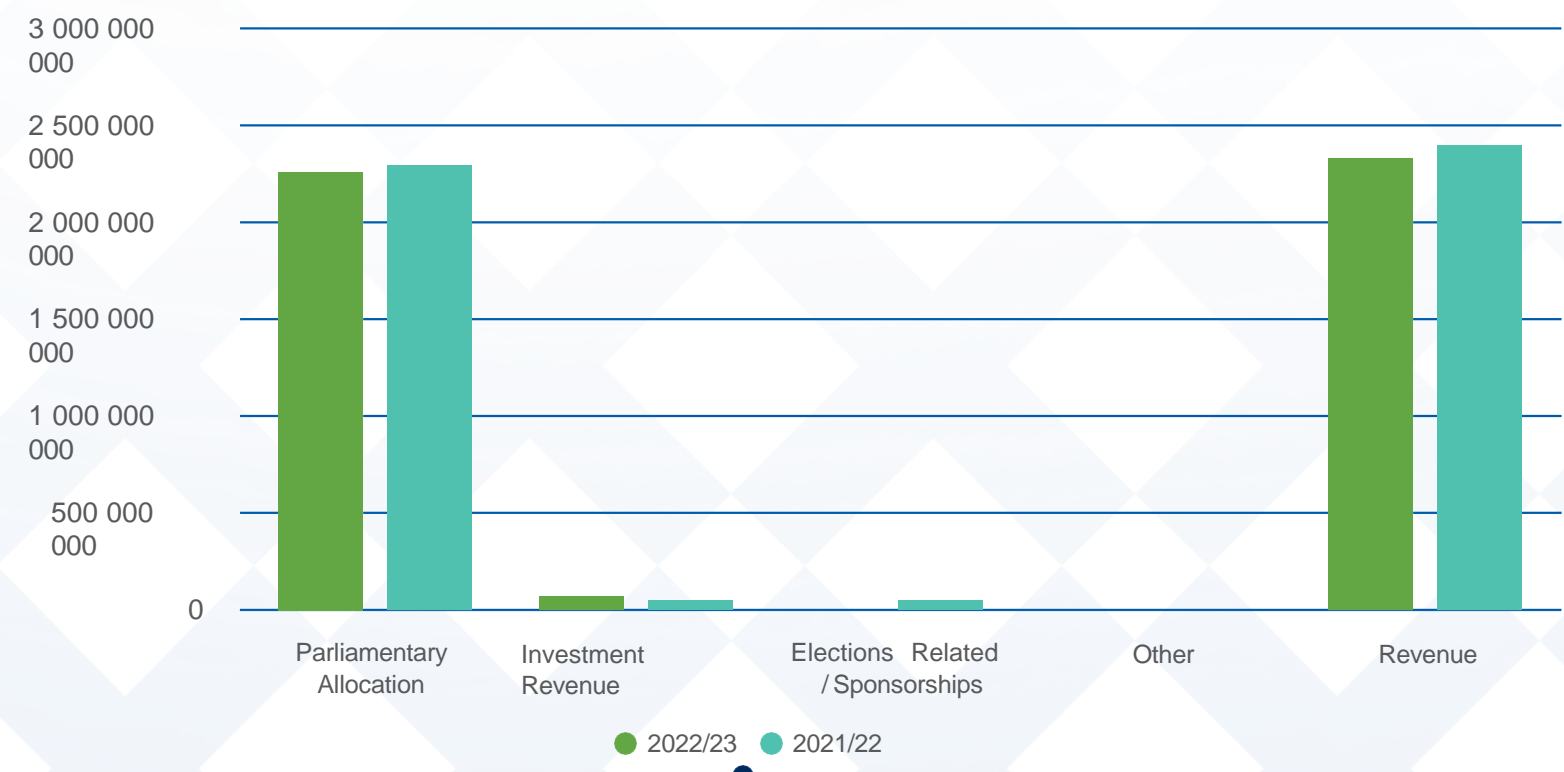
## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

1. Revenue and expenditure is mainly influenced by the election cycle, peaking during preparations for elections and then decreasing to fund regular activities in a non-election year. 2021/22 includes revenue and expenditure relating to the 2021 Local Government Elections whereas 2022/23 was a non-election year with decreased activity.
2. Revenue: The increase in revenue is due to investment revenue being higher than projected as a result of higher bank balances owing to various project delays. Projects were delayed in part due to the delay in the passing of the Electoral Amendment Bill, as well as changes brought about by National Treasury in the procurement regime. Lease revenue, political party registration fees and other operating revenue are not budgeted for and are therefore not included in the ENE budget.
3. Employee-related costs: The underspend on employee-related costs is mainly due to permanent staff vacancies not being filled due to an ongoing labour case related to the implementation of an organisational review.
4. Goods and services: Underspend is mainly due to changes brought about by National Treasury in the procurement regime and the moratorium on procurement above the R30 000 threshold. In addition, the passing of the Electoral Amendment Bill was delayed. This resulted in a delay in various projects planned for the year.
5. Depreciation, amortisation and impairment: Depreciation was less than projected due to a prior-period error correction and restatement of intangible assets.

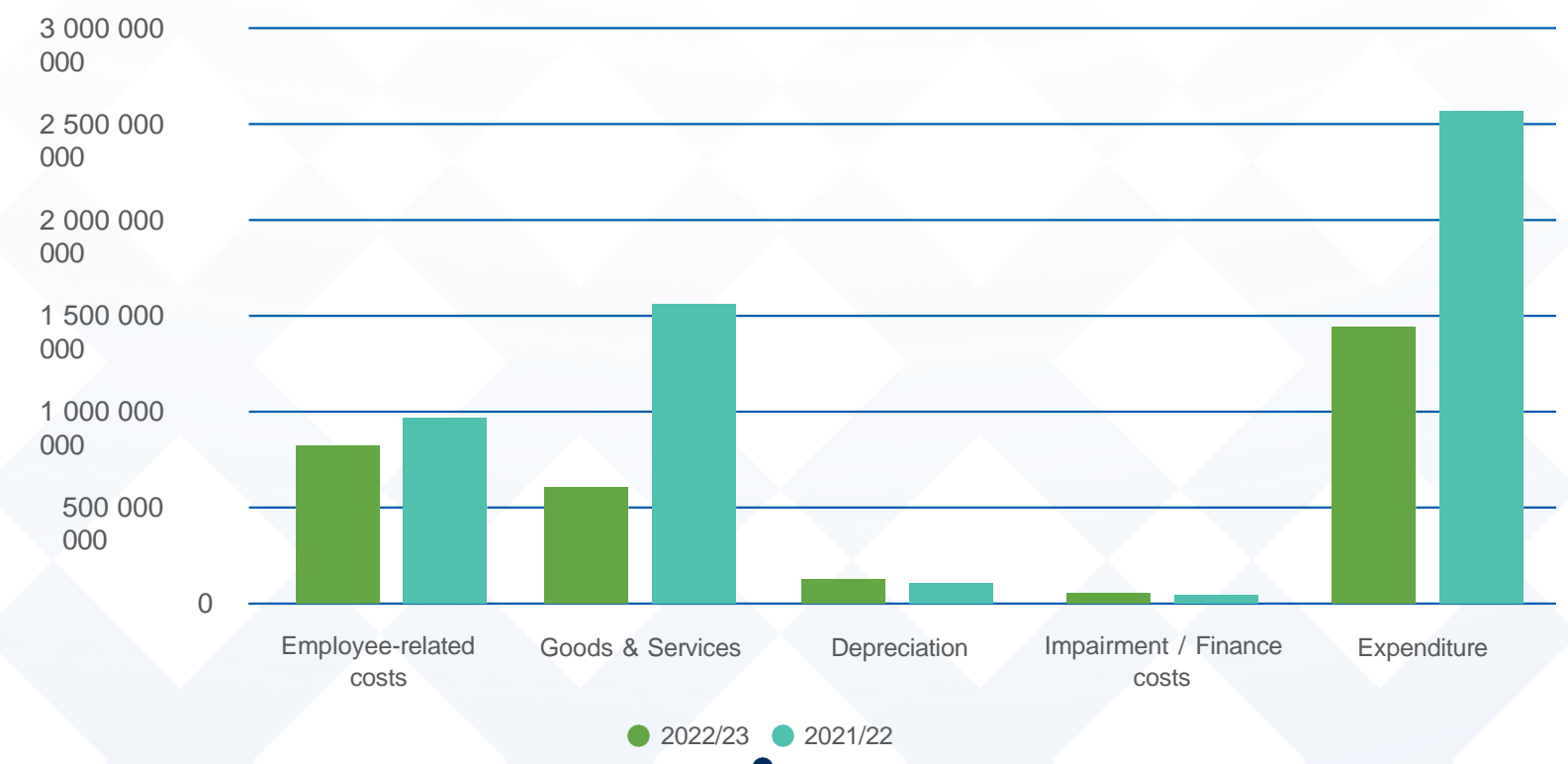
# REVENUE & EXPENDITURE

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE IS MAINLY INFLUENCED BY THE ELECTION CYCLE, PEAKING DURING PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS AND THEN DECREASING TO FUND REGULAR ACTIVITIES IN A NON-ELECTION YEAR. 2021/22 INCLUDES REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE RELATING TO THE 2021 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS WHEREAS 2022/23 WAS A NON-ELECTION YEAR WITH DECREASED ACTIVITY.

## REVENUE

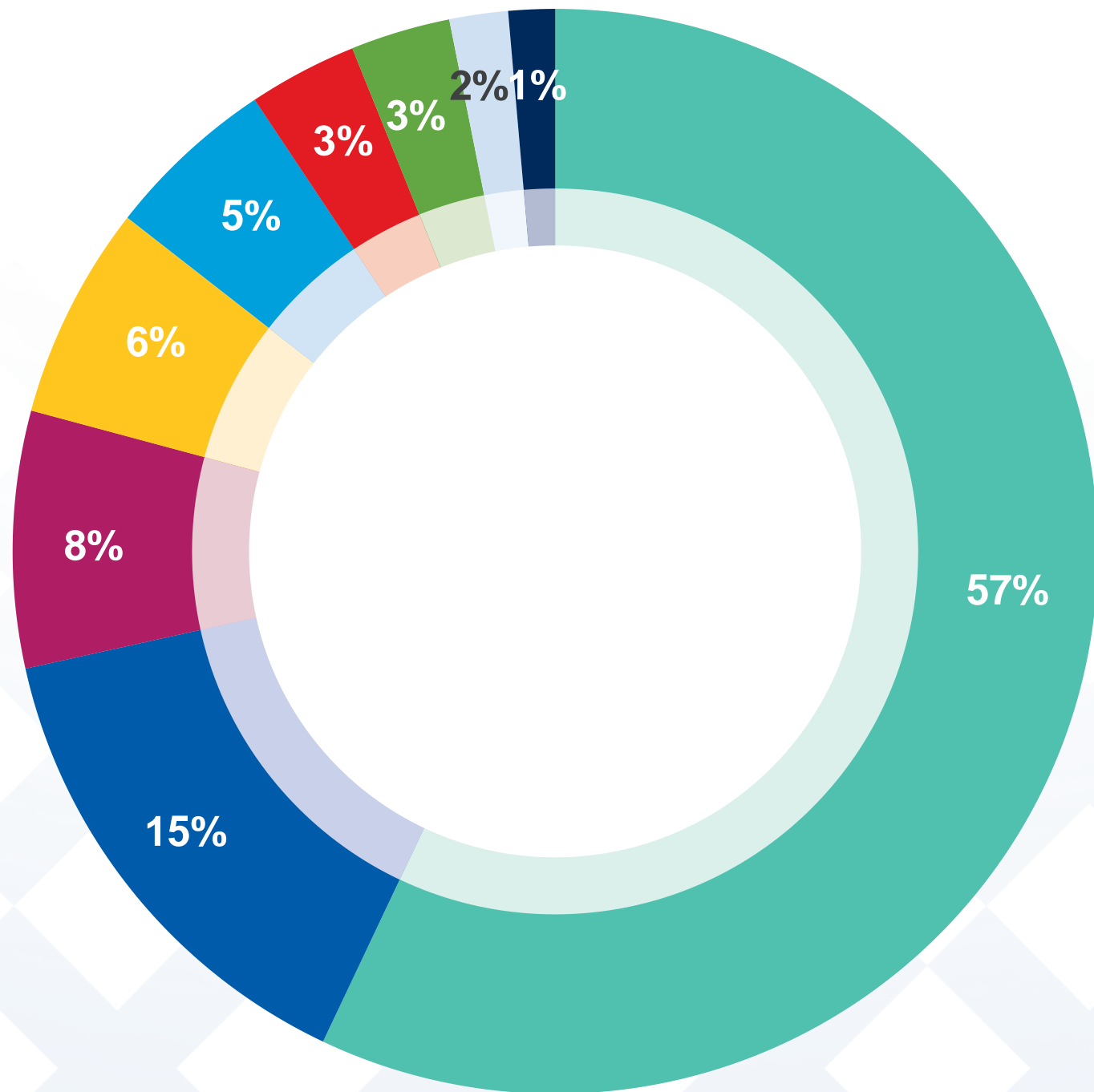


## EXPENDITURE

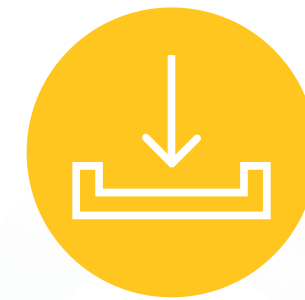




# KEY COST DRIVERS IN A NON-ELECTION YEAR



**57%**  
EMPLOYEE  
RELATED  
COSTS



**6%**  
DEPRECIATION,  
AMORTISATION  
& IMPAIRMENT



**3%**  
SOFTWARE  
LICENSES



**15%**  
PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICES



**5%**  
COMMUNICATION  
& CONNECTIVITY



**2%**  
PROPERTY  
EXPENSES -  
OTHER



**8%**  
LEASE RENTAL  
COSTS



**3%**  
TRAVEL  
EXPENSES



**1%**  
ADVERTISING





**COMPLIANCE  
PFMA**



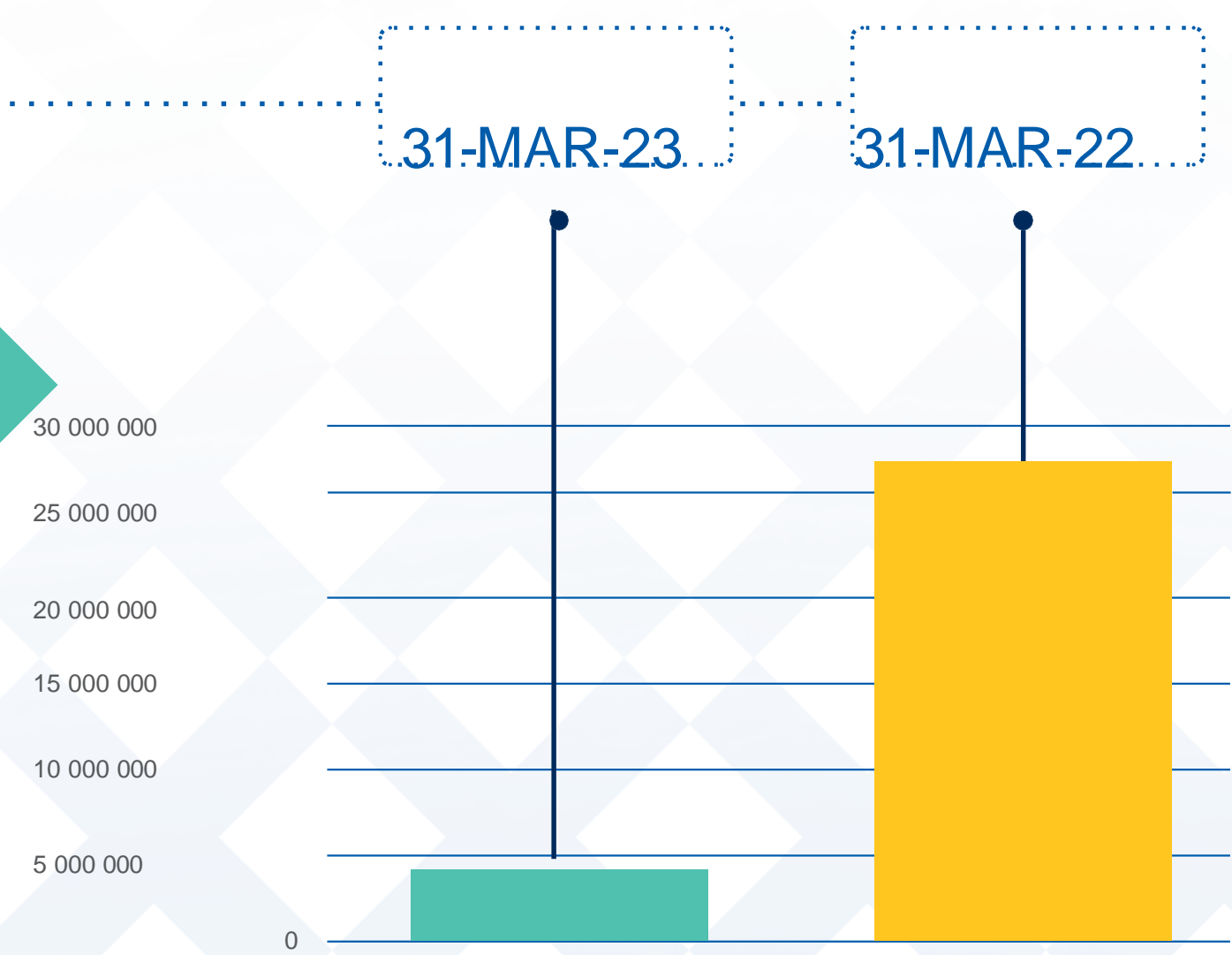
# NATIONAL TREASURY ISSUED INSTRUCTION NOTE 4 OF 2022/23

## **NATIONAL TREASURY ISSUED INSTRUCTION NOTE 4 OF 2022/23 :**

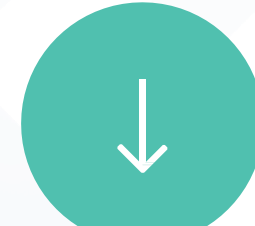
PFMA Compliance and Reporting Framework. The instruction is issued in terms of section 76(1)(b), (e) and (f), (2)(e) and (4)(a) and (c) of the PFMA. The instruction became effective from 3 January 2023. Instruction Note 4 of 2022/23 requires revised disclosure and reporting requirements for both irregular expenditure, and fruitless and wasteful expenditure when incurred and confirmed . Details of current and previous-year irregular expenditure (under assessment, determination and investigation) and details of current and previous-year fruitless and wasteful expenditure (under assessment, determination and investigation) are reported in the Annual Report . The current figures and comparatives have been adjusted to reflect the requirement of the new instruction in terms of the legislative requirement.



# IRREGULAR, FRUITLESS & WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE



 **97%**  
FRUITLESS AND WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE DECREASED BY 97% FROM THE PRIOR YEAR

 **83%**  
IRREGULAR EXPENDITURE INCURRED HAS DECREASED BY 83% FROM THE PRIOR YEAR.

 **LOCAL OFFICES**  
WE OCCUPIED LOCAL OFFICES BECAUSE OF LOCATION, AFFORDABILITY AND EASY ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC.

	31-Mar-23	31-Mar-22
Irregular Expenditure	R 4 054 553	R 28 262 244
Fruitless and wasteful expenditure	R 7166	R 227 219
<b>Total</b>	<b>R 4 061 720</b>	<b>R 28 489 463</b>



# THANK YOU

Ensuring Free and Fair Elections



SOUTH AFRICA