

**Parliamentary Budget Office:
South African Parliament on par internationally**

PRESS STATEMENT / MEDIA RELEASE

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ETHICORE Political Consulting welcomes the announcement today by the Parliament of the Republic South Africa on the establishment of the much anticipated Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO), which takes Parliament a step further towards the full implementation of the Money Bills Amendment Procedure and Related Matters Act of 2009.

The Act affords Parliament statutory powers, norms and standards to review and amend government budgets and money bills tabled in Parliament, to ensure that government plans to address key national service delivery and development priorities and challenges are optimally resourced.

The PBO continues to place the South African parliament as the legislative authority vested with oversight of national government, at the forefront of excellence in public financial and budgetary oversight on par with other leading parliaments and legislatures of the world.

According to ETHICORE Managing Director Abdul Waheed Patel: “The journey towards the realisation of the Act and the PBO is virtually as old as South Africa’s democratic dispensation. We have long advocated for the establishment of the PBO as part of efforts to strengthening parliamentary budgeting capacity. The coming to fruition of the PBO enhances parliamentary oversight of government finances and the efficient use of public finances for the effective delivery of public services and national development. This includes increasing public participation and citizen engagement on the budget and empowering legislators and members of parliament to undertake informed budgetary decision-making and oversight.”

“Within the context of the National Development Plan (NDP) and its focus on citizen activism in strengthening developing planning and implementation, the PBO represents a practical opportunity for deepening citizen engagement and strengthening parliamentary oversight of government resources and plans towards the realisation of the NDP,” says Patel.

Issued by:
Abdul Waheed Patel
Managing Director
079 888 0452
awpatel@ethicore.co.za

Enquiries:
Wisahl Jappie
072 227 1144
wjappie@ethicore.co.za

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