

How every R100 in tax you pay is spent in South Africa



Since 2017, South Africa's budget allocation for debt repayment and interest has surged, surpassing expenditures on education, social grants, health, and community development. As a result, spending in these social wage areas had to be reduced to fund debt servicing.

Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana, while presenting the 2026 budget to Parliament, declared that South Africa has "turned a corner" and that government debt is becoming stable.

A chart compiled by The Outlier indicated that for every R100 the government spends:

- R16.31 is used towards debt-service costs
- R13.36 towards basic education
- R12.19 towards social protection
- R11.45 towards health
- R11.28 towards community development
- R6.11 towards economic regulation and infrastructure
- R5.94 for post-school education and training
- R5.18 for police services
- R3.49 for social security funds
- R14.69 for other government expenditure by function

