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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

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FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE WITH REGARDS TO PUBLIC FINANCES

Minister of finance

Minister of finance is responsible for matters relating to the collection, management and control of public money. This include developing and implementing budgetary, economic fiscal responsibility policies, plans and financial management systems. The Minister establish and maintain systems and procedures. Minister along with the Deputy Head of Finance or equivalent and other members of the senior management team is responsible for ensuring that the financial affairs of operations within his or her responsibility are properly administrated. Minister of Finance must be the one who propose bills related to the management of government employees, particularly bills related to staffing, salaries, benefits and pensions as well as coordination financial activities carried out within the scope of it's for the different ministers and their related entities.

The role of the president in public funding

The office of the President is automatically executive and has a very crucial effect on his or her role regarding public funding. This makes the president to be directly involved in decision making over public finance matters and to play a huge leading role in such issues. The president was elected in terms of the Constitution that stipulates that the executive authority of the Republic is vested in the President who should be the chairperson of the cabinet and exercise his or her executive powers in consultation with the cabinet. The President has the authority to appoint a candidate as Minister of Finance and also has the powers to personally take charge in cabinet meetings when decisions are made on the economic development of the country and the handling of public money. The example on this will be our current President Cyril Ramaphosa who just secured a loan from China as an investment for South Africa.

Appointments and functions of the cabinet

The Cabinet of South Africa is the most senior level of the executive branch of the Government of South Africa, The Cabinet is made of the President, The Deputy President and the appointed Ministers in place. Ministers are appointed to take charge of the allocated assignment such as the Minister of Finance already discussed above. There are laws which assign specific responsibilities to Ministers. The cabinet s role is to direct government policy and make decisions about national matters. Cabinet Ministers spend a lot of time discussing current national affairs and how these can be resolved. In cabinet meetings, the members as the Ministers get the opportunity to present bills from their government departments and the whole Cabinet will examine these bills, especially the costs and then give recommendations on whether this bills should proceed to Parliament or changes should be made.

The party political function

Ministers form part of the political members where they generally receive their offices because they are leading personnel within a political party. South Africa currently has a government system in which a minister will present bills to Parliament within the

framework of cooperative government. The political ideology will always have a decisive influence on the financial pattern of political voting influence in the public sector. Public funding of political parties in South Africa is regulated by Section 236 of the Constitution which states that to enhance multi-party democracy, national legislation must provide for the funding of political party's participation in national and provincial legislature on an equitable and proportional basis.

The parliamentary function

In democratic country like South Africa, the parliament plays a very important role. The members of the parliament are elected in terms of a democracy system to represent or be the voice of the people. One of the Parliament's most important role is to approve the government's budget for providing services to the people of South Africa. The budget is introduced in the National Assembly by the Minister of Finance, where after the house proceeds to discuss the money to be allocated for each separate government department. At the end of this process, Parliament approves the budget because it is its duty to ensure that public funds are spent on improving the quality of life of all South Africans. This whole process includes Ministers because they must put forward their bills and justify the allocation of the funds, any unauthorised or excessive expenditure. They do this because they are politically responsible for the request of using the public money required or used by their department.

The policy function

The minister's policy function is related to the position of the cabinet in the parliamentary system of government. Ministers also have the authority to lead figures in political parties and this means that they can control much of both the policy and the legislative processes. The cabinet is in fact the most fundamental policy making institution. The cabinet uses principles of its member's political party or parties as the basis for bills. Parliament will normally accept these bills because the cabinet's party controls Parliament. The ministers then become responsible for the execution of laws involving their departments and because they have discretion in the execution of their offices, this discretion is used to pursue policy objectives such as economic development.

The executive function

Ministers are referred and work as the executive heads of state departments and they are acting as state officials. Their executive capacity always makes them to be in front as official functionaries and not politicians. They must give account of their actions in front of the camera for the public because they must always remain within the bounds of their legal authority and keep administrative justice in view.