

# Salary increase for councillors?

Councillors may see an increase of 7% in their salaries, benefits and allowances.

This was the recommendation to the President by the Independent Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers. If approved, the increase will be backdated to 1 July 2004 for public office bearers at the local level and 1 April for all other office bearers.

The recommendation was reached after considering the rate of inflation, trends in salary increases, the possible impact of fuel increases on the inflation rate and other relevant factors prescribed by applicable legislation. The Commission's recommendations were published in *Government Gazette* No. 26868 of 5 October 2004 as the culmination of a lengthy process.

It is important to note that these are only recommendations. Government Communications (GCIS) explained that the recommendations are only the first step in determining the remuneration of public office bearers and only one of the factors to be considered in the prescribed process. The final decision will be made through a legally-prescribed process, which takes place at various levels. First, the President determines the actual remuneration of public office bearers at the national level. The President

## key points

- Councillors may see an increase of 7% in salaries, benefits and allowances.
- The mandate of the Commission is now subject to review by the Minister for Provincial and Local Government, but the final decision is made by the relevant Municipal Council.

then sets the upper limits of the actual remuneration of the office bearers at the provincial level. The Minister for Provincial and Local Government sets the upper limits for public office bearers at the local level. However, the salary and allowances of members of municipal councils are determined by the councils themselves. This is done by a majority vote of a council's members, in consultation with the member of the Executive Council responsible for local government in the province concerned, after having considered, among other things, the upper limits set by the Minister.

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