



Citizen Participation in the National Budget

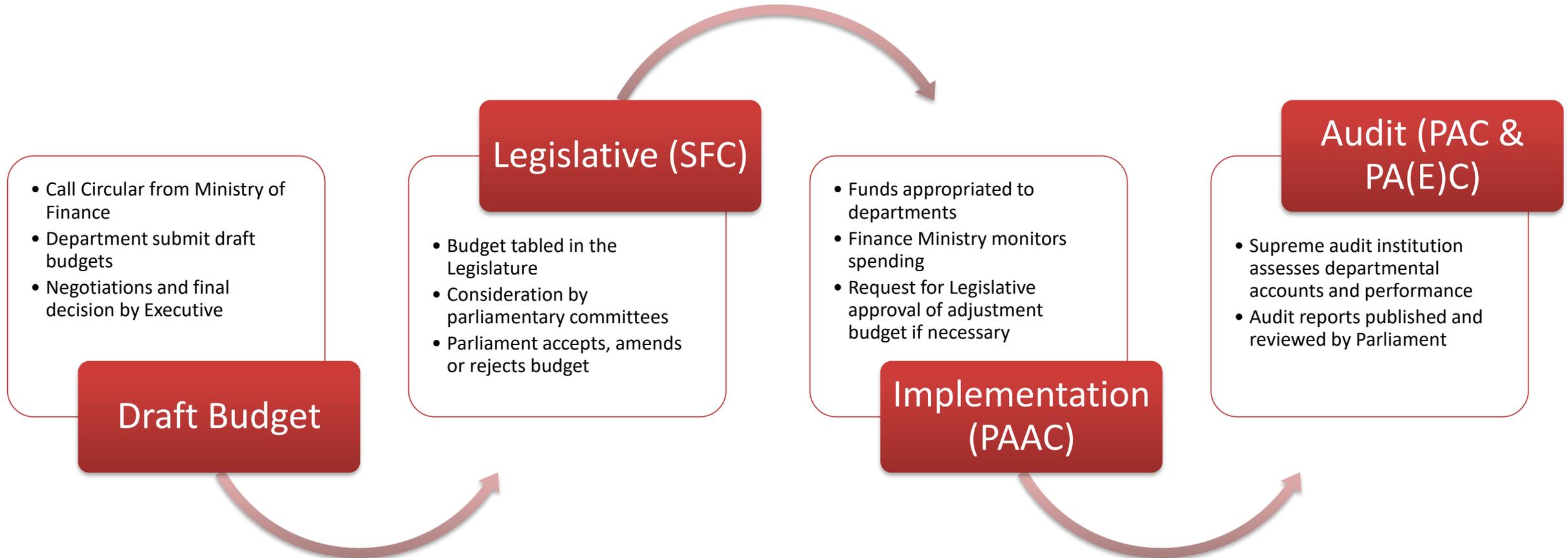
Fostering accountability, transparency and
dissemination of information.

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The Role of Parliament in the National Budget Process

- Ensure transparency and accountability in service delivery
- Hold Government to account on behalf of the people
- Ensuring that Government policies and actions are both efficient and commensurate with the needs of the public

The Budget Cycle



Budget Debate

- The Minister of Finance gives Budget speech
- Budget documents are distributed – online and print
- Opposition responds after a minimum of three clear days
- Budget debate – maximum five days
- Standing Finance Committee (SFC) convenes after debate ends

Standing Finance Committee

- Committee of the whole House
- Chaired by the Speaker
- consider the Estimates and the Appropriation Bill.
- The Committee is allotted five (5) days to complete its work.
- Opposition determines the order of Heads of Expenditure for examination
- SFC required to consider all Appropriation Bills
- Meetings of the SFC held in public

Ongoing Oversight - PAAC

- Public Administration and Appropriations Committee (PAAC):
- Chaired by the Speaker of the House
- considers and reports to the House on:
 - the budgetary expenditure of Government agencies to ensure that expenditure is embarked upon in accordance with parliamentary approval;
 - the budgetary expenditure of Government agencies as it occurs and keeps Parliament informed of how the budget allocation is being implemented; and
 - the administration of Government agencies to determine hindrances to their efficiency and to make recommendations to the Government for improvement of public administration.
- Conducts public hearings

Post-Implementation Oversight

Public Accounts Committee (PAC)

- Examines Government ministries and departments
 - Chaired by an Opposition Member in the House of Representatives
- Conducts public hearings (including live broadcast)
 - Power to send for persons, papers and records
 - Adjourn from place to place
 - Report to Parliament from time to time
 - Appoint specialist advisors

Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee (PA(E)C)

- examines the state enterprises
- Chaired by an Opposition Member in the Senate

Conclusion

- Citizen participation in the budget is facilitated by:
 - Public sitting of the SFC to enhance transparency by allowing citizens to witness the line by line examination of the budget.
 - unrestricted access to budget documents – online and print
 - public hearings of the Financial Oversight Committees (PAAC, PAC & PA(E)C)

Thank you

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