Government & Public Sector | South Africa

A South African department raised budget transparency 35% with one public asset register

A South African government department recorded its public assets, their depreciation and the budgets that pay for them in one system, so it can show what public money bought and what it is worth.



35%
increase in budget transparency

20%
improvement in public asset management

AT A GLANCE

INDUSTRY
Government department

REGION
South Africa

ASSETS
Buildings' contents, vehicles, equipment, IT

OBLIGATION
Public asset and financial management rules

FEATURES USED
Assets | Finance | Work

01 The client

The client is a government department in South Africa responsible for a wide range of public assets: office furniture and equipment, vehicles, IT hardware and the contents of the buildings it occupies.

Like the rest of the public sector, it must account for every asset bought with public money, report its value, and show that budgets for buying and maintaining assets were spent as allocated.

02 The challenge

The department could not link its budgets to the assets they paid for. Asset records were incomplete, maintenance costs were rising on underused equipment, and meeting the regulations on asset and financial reporting took great effort.

- Budget allocation and use were not transparent, which matters for public accountability.
- Some assets were underused while maintenance costs kept rising.
- Complying with government rules on asset and financial management was difficult.
- Tracking and reporting on public assets were inadequate.

03 What they set up in Asset Infinity

The department kept its public assets, depreciation, maintenance requests and budgets in Asset Infinity, configured to its regulatory reporting needs.

Assets

A register of every public asset

Each asset carries its cost, location, custodian, condition and labels, so the department knows what it holds and who is responsible for it.

Finance

Depreciation and book value

Regular depreciation runs keep each asset's book value current, and disposals are recorded against the register for financial statements.

Finance

Budgets linked to spending

Budgets for acquisitions and upkeep are set up in the system, and spending is recorded against them so allocation and use can be compared.

Work

Maintenance requests on record

Staff report faults on public assets as requests, so maintenance costs build up on each asset's record and inform repair-or-replace decisions.

04 How it works day to day

Here is the asset year in the department, from purchase to disposal.

ASSET OFFICER

Captures a new acquisition

A newly bought vehicle or set of office equipment is added with its cost, budget line, custodian and depreciation method, and labeled.

FINANCE OFFICER

Compares spend with the budget

Each acquisition and maintenance cost is recorded against its budget, so allocation and actual use can be reported at any time.

STAFF MEMBER

Reports a fault

A broken item is reported as a request, and the repair and its cost are recorded on that asset.

FINANCE OFFICER

Runs depreciation

A depreciation run updates book values across the register for the reporting period.

VERIFICATION TEAM

Counts assets at each office

Teams scan labels in the mobile app and mark each asset verified, moved, not found or damaged.

DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

Approves disposals

Assets beyond economic repair go through approval steps and are disposed of, with the disposal recorded on the register.

ACCOUNTING OFFICER

Reviews the reports

Scheduled reports on budget use, asset values and condition support financial statements and decisions on future spending.

05 Before and after

	BEFORE	WITH ASSET INFINITY
Budget	Allocation and use not transparent	Spending recorded against each budget
Asset use	Underused, with rising maintenance costs	Better utilization, longer lifespans
Compliance	Difficult to meet government rules	Records and reports configured to the rules
Tracking	Inadequate records of public assets	One labeled register with custodians
Reporting	Hard to show what public money bought	Regular reports on value, cost and condition

06 How it rolled out

1

Register built. Public assets were brought into one register with their cost, custodian and depreciation details.

2

Configured to regulation. Fields, approval steps and reports were configured to match public asset and financial management requirements.

3

Budgets in place. Acquisition and maintenance budgets were set up so spending could be tracked from day one.

07 The results

- Compliance with South African regulatory requirements for asset and financial management.
- Better use of public assets and longer asset lifespans.
- Long-term cost savings from improved asset management practices.
- Clear tracking and reporting on every public asset.

08 Why it worked

Budget and asset linked

Every asset points to the budget that paid for it, which answers the first question any auditor asks.

Fits public sector rules

Fields, approvals and reports were configured without code to match the department's regulatory needs.

Costs on each asset

Repair costs recorded on each asset show when keeping it costs more than replacing it.

09 Looking ahead

Linking budgets, assets and their book values in one register let the department show where public money went, with budget transparency up 35% and public asset management improved by 20%.

The same records guide decisions on what to acquire, maintain or retire, and give other public bodies a practical example of accountable asset management.

See it on your own assets

A 30-minute demo, set up for a government department or public body.

The client's name is withheld for confidentiality. Results are as reported by the client.

Book a demo

Start a 14-day free trial