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**FISCAL & FINANCIAL COMMISSION**

# Tripping up

**The Financial & Fiscal Commission**, the advisory body that deals with all things financial and fiscal within SA's three spheres of government, seems to have stumbled in the very duties it advises on.

The auditor-general's report on the commission, which was filed in parliament, suggests that the FFC has failed to secure sufficient funding and has inadequate financial controls.

The Democratic Alliance's Douglas Gibson plans to table a question in parliament asking finance minister Trevor Manuel "whether he has taken any of the actions open to him to facilitate the performance of this vital institution".

According to the auditor-general's report, the FFC:

- Incurred a loss of R3m;
- Could not meet liabilities in the amount of R733 000; and
- Had to be advanced R3m by treasury from its 2007/2008 allocation in order to remain operational.

Last month, a review of SA's Chapter

Nine and associated institutions found that the funding model of the FFC was flawed.

It recommended measures to improve

its functioning and ability to account properly for its actions, and to ensure its independence is maintained.

**Prakash Naidoo**