Commission congratulates government

The Financial and Fiscal Commission believes government has done a good job in cushioning the poor against the recession.

The commission made recommendations to Parliament on Monday on how it should spend the 2011 budget.

It suggested a revision of social grants and municipal spending, amongst other things.

The commission said that in the last year government had pulled out all the stops to protect the poor from the recession.

Between the third and the fourth quarter in 2008/09, the economy shrunk by more than three percent.

This resulted in more than one million people losing their jobs.

The commission believes the large social grant system and the extension of the public works programme paid off as many who had lost jobs were able to find another one within the sector.

The commission’s Bongani Khumalo said government had moved in the right direction in terms of creating jobs and securing investments.

He said South Africa fared well compared to other third world countries.