



**GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA**

## **Malaysian Public Sector Accounting Standards**

### **MPSAS 3**

**Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and  
Errors**

**March 2013**

**MPSAS 3—ACCOUNTING POLICIES, CHANGES IN  
ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND ERRORS**

**Acknowledgment**

The Malaysian Public Sector Accounting Standard (MPSAS) 3 is based on International Public Sector Accounting Standard (IPSAS) 3, *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* from the *Handbook of International Public Sector Accounting Pronouncements* of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board, published by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) in April 2011 and is used with permission of IFAC.

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Issued by:  
Accountant General's Department  
No. 1, Persiaran Perdana  
Kompleks Kementerian Kewangan  
Presint 2, Pusat Pentadbiran Kerajaan Persekutuan  
62594 Putrajaya

Tel : 03-88821000  
Faks : 03-88821765  
Web: <http://www.anm.gov.my>

**MPSAS 3 – ACCOUNTING POLICIES, CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND ERRORS**

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## **MPSAS 3 - Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors**

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Malaysian Public Sector Accounting Standard (MPSAS) 3, *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*, is set out in paragraphs 1-61. All the paragraphs have equal authority. MPSAS 3 should be read in the context of its objective and the *Preface to the Malaysian Public Sector Accounting Standards*. MPSAS 3 provides a basis for selecting and applying accounting policies in the absence of explicit guidance.

## Objective

1. The objective of this Standard is to prescribe the criteria for selecting and changing accounting policies, together with the:
  - (a) Accounting treatment and disclosure of changes in accounting policies;
  - (b) Changes in accounting estimates; and
  - (c) The corrections of errors.

This Standard is intended to enhance the relevance and reliability of an entity's financial statements and the comparability of those financial statements over time and with the financial statements of other entities.

2. Disclosure requirements for accounting policies, except those for changes in accounting policies, are set out in MPSAS 1, *Presentation of Financial Statements*.

## Scope

3. **This Standard shall be applied in selecting and applying accounting policies, and accounting for changes in accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates, and corrections of prior period errors.**
4. The tax effects of corrections of prior period errors and of retrospective adjustments made to apply changes in accounting policies are not considered in this Standard, as they are not relevant for many public sector entities. International or national accounting standards dealing with income taxes contain guidance on the treatment of tax effects.
5. **This Standard applies to all public sector entities other than Government Business Enterprises (GBEs).**
6. The Preface to Malaysian Public Sector Accounting Standards issued by the Accountant General's Department explains that GBEs apply approved accounting standards issued by the Malaysian Accounting Standards Board (MASB). GBEs are defined in MPSAS 1, *Presentation of Financial Statements*.

## Definitions

7. **The following terms are used in this Standard with the meanings specified:**

**Accounting policies** are the specific principles, bases, conventions, rules, and practices applied by an entity in preparing and presenting financial statements.

**A change in accounting estimate** is an adjustment of the carrying amount of an asset or a liability, or the amount of the periodic consumption of an asset, that results from the assessment of the present status of, and expected future benefits and obligations associated with, assets and liabilities. Changes in accounting estimates result from new information or new developments and, accordingly, are not correction of errors.

**Impracticable** Applying a requirement is impracticable when the entity cannot apply it after making every reasonable effort to do so. For a particular prior period, it is impracticable to apply a change in an

accounting policy retrospectively or to make a retrospective restatement to correct an error if:

- (a) The effects of the retrospective application or retrospective restatement are not determinable
- (b) The retrospective application or retrospective restatement requires assumptions about what management's intent would have been in that period; or
- (c) The retrospective application or retrospective restatement requires significant estimates of amounts and it is impossible to distinguish objectively information about those estimates that:
  - (i) Provides evidence of circumstances that existed on the date(s) as at which those amounts are to be recognized, measured, or disclosed; and
  - (ii) Would have been available when the financial statements for that prior period were authorized for issue;

from other information.

**Material Omissions** or misstatements of items are material if they could, individually or collectively, influence the decisions or assessments of users made on the basis of the financial statements.

**Prior period errors** are omissions from, and misstatements in, the entity's financial statements for one or more prior periods arising from a failure to use, or a misuse of, reliable information that:

- (a) Was available when financial statements for those periods were authorized for issue; and
- (b) Could reasonably be expected to have been obtained and taken into account in the preparation and presentation of those financial statements.

Such errors include the effects of mathematical mistakes, mistakes in applying accounting policies, oversights or misinterpretations of facts, and fraud.

**Prospective application** of a change in accounting policy and of recognizing the effect of a change in an accounting estimate, respectively, are:

- (a) Applying the new accounting policy to transactions, other events, and conditions occurring after the date as at which the policy is changed; and
- (b) Recognizing the effect of the change in the accounting estimate in the current and future periods affected by the change.

**Retrospective application** is applying a new accounting policy to transactions, other events, and conditions as if that policy had always been applied.

**Retrospective restatement** is correcting the recognition, measurement, and disclosure of amounts of elements of financial statements as if a prior period error had never occurred.

Terms defined in other MPSASs are used in this Standard with the same meaning as in those Standards, and are reproduced in the Glossary of Defined Terms published separately.

## **Materiality**

8. Assessing whether an omission or misstatement could influence decisions of users, and so be material, requires consideration of the characteristics of those users. Users are assumed to have a reasonable knowledge of the public sector and economic activities and accounting and a willingness to study the information with reasonable diligence. Therefore, the assessment needs to take into account how users with such attributes could reasonably be expected to be influenced in making and evaluating decisions.

## **Accounting Policies**

### **Selection and Application of Accounting Policies**

9. **When an MPSAS specifically applies to a transaction, other event or condition, the accounting policy or policies applied to that item shall be determined by applying the Standard.**
10. MPSASs set out accounting policies that the Accountant General's Department has concluded result in financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about the transactions, other events, and conditions to which they apply. Those policies need not be applied when the effect of applying them is immaterial. However, it is inappropriate to make, or leave uncorrected, immaterial departures from MPSASs to achieve a particular presentation of an entity's financial position, financial performance, or cash flows.
11. MPSASs are accompanied by guidance to assist entities in applying their requirements. All such guidance states whether it is an integral part of MPSASs. Guidance that is an integral part of MPSASs is mandatory. Guidance that is not an integral part of MPSASs does not contain requirements for financial statements.
12. **In the absence of an MPSAS that specifically applies to a transaction, other event, or condition, management shall use its judgment in developing and applying an accounting policy that results in information that is:**
  - (a) **Relevant to the decision-making needs of users; and**
  - (b) **Reliable, in that the financial statements:**
    - (i) **Represent faithfully the financial position, financial performance, and cash flows of the entity;**
    - (ii) **Reflect the economic substance of transactions, other events, and conditions and not merely the legal form;**
    - (iii) **Are neutral, i.e., free from bias;**
    - (iv) **Are prudent; and**
    - (v) **Are complete in all material respects.**
13. Paragraph 10 requires the development of accounting policies to ensure that the financial statements provide information that meets a number of qualitative characteristics. Appendix A in MPSAS 1 summarizes the qualitative characteristics of financial reporting.
14. **In making the judgment, described in paragraph 12, management shall refer to, and consider the applicability of, the following sources in descending order:**
  - (a) **The requirements in MPSASs dealing with similar and related issues; and**

- (b) **The definitions, recognition and measurement criteria for assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses described in other MPSASs.**
15. **In making the judgment described in paragraph 12 management may also consider:**
- (a) **The most recent pronouncements of other standard-setting bodies; and**
  - (b) **Accepted public or private sector practices;**
- but only to the extent that these do not conflict with the sources in paragraph 14. Examples of such pronouncements include pronouncements of the MASB, including the Conceptual Framework for the Financial Reporting, MFRSs and IC Interpretations issued by MASB.**

### **Consistency of Accounting Policies**

16. **An entity shall select and apply its accounting policies consistently for similar transactions, other events, and conditions, unless an MPSAS specifically requires or permits categorization of items for which different policies may be appropriate. If an MPSAS requires or permits such categorization, an appropriate accounting policy shall be selected and applied consistently to each category.**

### **Changes in Accounting Policies**

17. **An entity shall change an accounting policy only if the change:**
- (a) **Is required by an MPSAS; or**
  - (b) **Results in the financial statements providing reliable and more relevant information about the effects of transactions, other events, and conditions on the entity's financial position, financial performance, or cash flows.**
18. **Users of financial statements need to be able to compare the financial statements of an entity over time to identify trends in its financial position, performance, and cash flows. Therefore, the same accounting policies are applied within each period and from one period to the next, unless a change in accounting policy meets one of the criteria in paragraph 17.**
19. **A change from one basis of accounting to another basis of accounting is a change in accounting policy.**
20. **A change in the accounting treatment, recognition, or measurement of a transaction, event, or condition within a basis of accounting is regarded as a change in accounting policy.**
21. **The following are not changes in accounting policies:**
- (a) **The application of an accounting policy for transactions, other events or conditions that differ in substance from those previously occurring; and**
  - (b) **The application of a new accounting policy for transactions, other events, or conditions that did not occur previously or that were immaterial.**
22. **The initial application of a policy to revalue assets in accordance with MPSAS 17, *Property, Plant, and Equipment*, or MPSAS 31, *Intangible Assets*, is a change in accounting policy to be dealt with as a revaluation in accordance with MPSAS 17 or MPSAS 31, rather than in accordance with this Standard.**
23. **Paragraphs 24-36 do not apply to the change in accounting policy described in paragraph 22.**

*Applying Changes in Accounting Policies*

**24. Subject to paragraph 28:**

- (a) **An entity shall account for a change in accounting policy resulting from the initial application of an MPSAS in accordance with the specific transitional provisions, if any, in that Standard; and**
- (b) **When an entity changes an accounting policy upon initial application of an MPSAS that does not include specific transitional provisions applying to that change, or changes an accounting policy voluntarily, it shall apply the change retrospectively.**

25. For the purpose of this Standard, early application of a Standard is not a voluntary change in accounting policy.

26. In the absence of an MPSAS that specifically applies to a transaction, other event, or condition, management may, in accordance with paragraph 14, apply an accounting policy from:

- (a) The most recent pronouncements of other standard-setting bodies; and
- (b) Accepted public or private sector practices;

but only to the extent that these are consistent with paragraph 14. Examples of such pronouncements include pronouncements of the MASB, including the Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting, MFRSs and IC Interpretations Issued by MASB. If, following an amendment of such a pronouncement, the entity chooses to change an accounting policy, that change is accounted for and disclosed as a voluntary change in accounting policy.

**Retrospective Application**

27. **Subject to paragraph 28, when a change in accounting policy is applied retrospectively in accordance with paragraph 24(a) or (b), the entity shall adjust the opening balance of each affected component of net assets/equity for the earliest period presented, and the other comparative amounts disclosed for each prior period presented as if the new accounting policy had always been applied.**

**Limitations on Retrospective Application**

28. **When retrospective application is required by paragraph 24(a) or (b), a change in accounting policy shall be applied retrospectively, except to the extent that it is impracticable to determine either the period-specific effects or the cumulative effect of the change.**

29. **When it is impracticable to determine the period-specific effects of changing an accounting policy on comparative information for one or more prior periods presented, the entity shall apply the new accounting policy to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities as at the beginning of the earliest period for which retrospective application is practicable, which may be the current period, and shall make a corresponding adjustment to the opening balance of each affected component of net assets/equity for that period.**

30. **When it is impracticable to determine the cumulative effect, at the beginning of the current period, of applying a new accounting policy to all prior periods, the entity shall**

**adjust the comparative information to apply the new accounting policy prospectively from the earliest date practicable.**

31. When an entity applies a new accounting policy retrospectively, it applies the new accounting policy to comparative information for prior periods as far back as is practicable. Retrospective application to a prior period is not practicable unless it is practicable to determine the cumulative effect on the amounts in both the opening and closing statement of financial positions for that period. The amount of the resulting adjustment relating to periods before those presented in the financial statements is made to the opening balance of each affected component of net assets/equity of the earliest prior period presented. Usually the adjustment is made to accumulated surpluses or deficits. However, the adjustment may be made to another component of net assets/equity (for example, to comply with an MPSAS). Any other information about prior periods, such as historical summaries of financial data, is also adjusted as far back as is practicable.
32. When it is impracticable for an entity to apply a new accounting policy retrospectively, because it cannot determine the cumulative effect of applying the policy to all prior periods, the entity, in accordance with paragraph 30, applies the new policy prospectively from the start of the earliest period practicable. It therefore disregards the portion of the cumulative adjustment to assets, liabilities, and net assets/equity arising before that date. Changing an accounting policy is permitted even if it is impracticable to apply the policy prospectively for any prior period. Paragraphs 55-58 provide guidance when it is impracticable to apply a new accounting policy to one or more prior periods.

*Disclosure*

33. **When initial application of an MPSAS (a) has an effect on the current period or any prior period, (b) would have such an effect, except that it is impracticable to determine the amount of the adjustment, or (c) might have an effect on future periods, an entity shall disclose:**
- (a) **The title of the Standard;**
  - (b) **When applicable, that the change in accounting policy is made in accordance with its transitional provisions;**
  - (c) **The nature of the change in accounting policy;**
  - (d) **When applicable, a description of the transitional provisions;**
  - (e) **When applicable, the transitional provisions that might have an effect on future periods;**
  - (f) **For the current period and each prior period presented, to the extent practicable, the amount of the adjustment for each financial statement line item affected;**
  - (g) **The amount of the adjustment relating to periods before those presented, to the extent practicable; and**
  - (h) **If retrospective application required by paragraph 24(a) or (b) is impracticable for a particular prior period, or for periods before those presented, the circumstances that led to the existence of that condition and a description of how and from when the change in accounting policy has been applied.**

**Financial statements of subsequent periods need not repeat these disclosures.**

34. **When a voluntary change in accounting policy (a) has an effect on the current period or any prior period, (b) would have an effect on that period, except that it is impracticable to determine the amount of the adjustment, or (c) might have an effect on future periods, an entity shall disclose:**
- (a) The nature of the change in accounting policy;**
  - (b) The reasons why applying the new accounting policy provides reliable and more relevant information;**
  - (c) For the current period and each prior period presented, to the extent practicable, the amount of the adjustment for each financial statement line item affected;**
  - (d) The amount of the adjustment relating to periods before those presented, to the extent practicable; and**
  - (e) If retrospective application is impracticable for a particular prior period, or for periods before those presented, the circumstances that led to the existence of that condition and a description of how and from when the change in accounting policy has been applied.**

**Financial statements of subsequent periods need not repeat these disclosures.**

35. **When an entity has not applied a new MPSAS that has been issued but is not yet effective, the entity shall disclose:**
- (a) This fact; and**
  - (b) Known or reasonably estimable information relevant to assessing the possible impact that application of the new Standard will have on the entity's financial statements in the period of initial application.**
36. In complying with paragraph 35, an entity considers disclosing:
- (a) The title of the new MPSAS;**
  - (b) The nature of the impending change or changes in accounting policy;**
  - (c) The date by which application of the Standard is required;**
  - (d) The date as at which it plans to apply the Standard initially; and**
  - (e) Either:**
    - (i) A discussion of the impact that initial application of the Standard is expected to have on the entity's financial statements; or**
    - (ii) If that impact is not known or reasonably estimable, a statement to that effect.**

### **Changes in Accounting Estimates**

37. As a result of the uncertainties inherent in delivering services, conducting trading, or other activities, many items in financial statements cannot be measured with precision but can only be estimated. Estimation involves judgments based on the latest available, reliable information. For example, estimates may be required of:
- (a) Tax revenue due to government;**

- (b) Bad debts arising from uncollected taxes;
  - (c) Inventory obsolescence;
  - (d) The fair value of financial assets or financial liabilities;
  - (e) The useful lives of, or expected pattern of consumption of future economic benefits or service potential embodied in, depreciable assets, or the percentage completion of road construction; and
  - (f) Warranty obligations.
38. The use of reasonable estimates is an essential part of the preparation of financial statements and does not undermine their reliability.
39. An estimate may need revision if changes occur in the circumstances on which the estimate was based or as a result of new information or more experience. By its nature, the revision of an estimate does not relate to prior periods and is not the correction of an error.
40. A change in the measurement basis applied is a change in an accounting policy, and is not a change in an accounting estimate. When it is difficult to distinguish a change in an accounting policy from a change in an accounting estimate, the change is treated as a change in an accounting estimate.
41. **The effect of a change in an accounting estimate, other than a change to which paragraph 42 applies, shall be recognized prospectively by including it in surplus or deficit in:**
- (a) **The period of the change, if the change affects the period only; or**
  - (b) **The period of the change and future periods, if the change affects both.**
42. **To the extent that a change in an accounting estimate gives rise to changes in assets and liabilities, or relates to an item of net assets/equity, it shall be recognized by adjusting the carrying amount of the related asset, liability, or net assets/equity item in the period of change.**
43. Prospective recognition of the effect of a change in an accounting estimate means that the change is applied to transactions, other events, and conditions from the date of the change in estimate. A change in an accounting estimate may affect only the current period's surplus or deficit, or the surplus or deficit of both the current period and future periods. For example, a change in the estimate of the amount of bad debts affects only the current period's surplus or deficit, and therefore is recognized in the current period. However, a change in the estimated useful life of, or the expected pattern of consumption of economic benefits or service potential embodied in, a depreciable asset affects the depreciation expense for the current period and for each future period during the asset's remaining useful life. In both cases, the effect of the change relating to the current period is recognized as revenue or expense in the current period. The effect, if any, on future periods is recognized in future periods.

### **Disclosure**

44. **An entity shall disclose the nature and amount of a change in an accounting estimate that has an effect in the current period or is expected to have an effect on future periods, except for the disclosure of the effect on future periods when it is impracticable to estimate that effect.**

45. **If the amount of the effect in future periods is not disclosed because estimating it is impracticable, the entity shall disclose that fact.**

## **Errors**

46. Errors can arise in respect of the recognition, measurement, presentation, or disclosure of elements of financial statements. Financial statements do not comply with MPSASs if they contain either material errors, or immaterial errors made intentionally to achieve a particular presentation of an entity's financial position, financial performance, or cash flows. Potential current period errors discovered in that period are corrected before the financial statements are authorized for issue. However, material errors are sometimes not discovered until a subsequent period, and these prior period errors are corrected in the comparative information presented in the financial statements for that subsequent period (see paragraphs 47- 53).
47. **Subject to paragraph 48, an entity shall correct material prior period errors retrospectively in the first set of financial statements authorized for issue after their discovery by:**
- (a) **Restating the comparative amounts for prior period(s) presented in which the error occurred; or**
  - (b) **If the error occurred before the earliest prior period presented, restating the opening balances of assets, liabilities and net assets/equity for the earliest prior period presented.**

## **Limitations of Retrospective Restatement**

48. **A prior period error shall be corrected by retrospective restatement, except to the extent that it is impracticable to determine either the period specific effects or the cumulative effect of the error.**
49. **When it is impracticable to determine the period-specific effects of an error on comparative information for one or more prior periods presented, the entity shall restate the opening balances of assets, liabilities, and net assets/equity for the earliest period for which retrospective restatement is practicable (which may be the current period).**
50. **When it is impracticable to determine the cumulative effect, at the beginning of the current period, of an error on all prior periods, the entity shall restate the comparative information to correct the error prospectively from the earliest date practicable.**
51. The correction of a prior period error is excluded from surplus or deficit for the period in which the error is discovered. Any information presented about prior periods, including historical summaries of financial data, is also restated as far back as is practicable.
52. When it is impracticable to determine the amount of an error (e.g., a mistake in applying an accounting policy) for all prior periods, the entity, in accordance with paragraph 50, restates the comparative information prospectively from the earliest date practicable. It therefore disregards the portion of the cumulative restatement of assets, liabilities, and net assets/equity arising before that date. Paragraphs 55-58 provide guidance on when it is impracticable to correct an error for one or more prior periods.
53. Corrections of errors are distinguished from changes in accounting estimates. Accounting estimates by their nature are approximations that may need revision as additional information

becomes known. For example, the gain or loss recognized on the outcome of a contingency is not the correction of an error.

### **Disclosure of Prior Period Errors**

54. **In applying paragraph 47, an entity shall disclose the following:**
- (a) **The nature of the prior period error;**
  - (b) **For each prior period presented, to the extent practicable, the amount of the correction for each financial statement line item affected;**
  - (c) **The amount of the correction at the beginning of the earliest prior period presented; and**
  - (d) **If retrospective restatement is impracticable for a particular prior period, the circumstances that led to the existence of that condition and a description of how and from when the error has been corrected.**

**Financial statements of subsequent periods need not repeat these disclosures.**

### **Impracticability in Respect of Retrospective Application and Retrospective Restatement**

55. In some circumstances, it is impracticable to adjust comparative information for one or more prior periods to achieve comparability with the current period. For example, data may not have been collected in the prior period(s) in a way that allows either retrospective application of a new accounting policy (including, for the purpose of paragraphs 56-58, its prospective application to prior periods) or retrospective restatement to correct a prior period error, and it may be impracticable to re-create the information.
56. It is frequently necessary to make estimates in applying an accounting policy to elements of financial statements recognized or disclosed in respect of transactions, other events, or conditions. Estimation is inherently subjective, and estimates may be developed after the reporting date. Developing estimates is potentially more difficult when retrospectively applying an accounting policy or making a retrospective restatement to correct a prior period error, because of the longer period of time that might have passed since the affected transaction, other event, or condition occurred. However, the objective of estimates related to prior periods remains the same as for estimates made in the current period, namely, for the estimate to reflect the circumstances that existed when the transaction, other event, or condition occurred.
57. Therefore, retrospectively applying a new accounting policy or correcting a prior period error requires distinguishing information that:
- (a) Provides evidence of circumstances that existed on the date(s) as at which the transaction, other event, or condition occurred; and
  - (b) Would have been available when the financial statements for that prior period were authorized for issue;

from other information. For some types of estimates (e.g., an estimate of fair value not based on an observable price or observable inputs), it is impracticable to distinguish these types of information. When retrospective application or retrospective restatement would require making a significant estimate for which it is impossible to distinguish these two types

of information, it is impracticable to apply the new accounting policy or correct the prior period error retrospectively.

58. Hindsight should not be used when applying a new accounting policy to, or correcting amounts for, a prior period, either in making assumptions about what management's intentions would have been in a prior period or estimating the amounts recognized, measured, or disclosed in a prior period. For example, when an entity corrects a prior period error in classifying a government building as an investment property (the building was previously classified as property, plant, and equipment), it does not change the basis of classification for that period, if management decided later to use that building as an owner-occupied office building. In addition, when an entity corrects a prior period error in calculating its liability for provision of cleaning costs of pollution resulting from government operations in accordance with MPSAS 19, *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets*, it disregards information about an unusually large oil leak from a naval supply ship during the next period that became available after the financial statements for the prior period were authorized for issue. The fact that significant estimates are frequently required when amending comparative information presented for prior periods does not prevent reliable adjustment or correction of the comparative information.

### **Effective Date**

59. **An entity shall apply this Standard for annual financial statements covering periods beginning on or after January 1, 2017. Earlier application is encouraged. If an entity applies this Standard for a period beginning before January 1, 2017, it shall disclose that fact.**
- 59A. *(Deleted)*
60. When an entity adopts the accrual basis of accounting as defined by MPSASs for financial reporting purposes subsequent to this effective date, this Standard applies to the entity's annual financial statements covering periods beginning on or after the date of adoption.

### **Withdrawal of IPSAS 3 (2000)**

61. *(Deleted).*

## Implementation Guidance

*This guidance accompanies, but is not part of, MPSAS 3.*

### Retrospective Restatement of Errors

IG1. During 20X2, the entity discovered that revenue from income taxes was incorrect. Income taxes of RM36,500 that should have been recognized in 20X1 were incorrectly omitted from 20X1 and recognized as revenue in 20X2.

IG2. The entity's accounting records for 20X2 show revenue from taxation of RM60,000 (including the RM6,500 taxation that should have been recognized in opening balances), and expenses of RM86,500.

IG3. In 20X1, the entity reported:

	RM
Revenue from taxation	34,000
User charges	3,000
Other operating revenue	30,000
Total revenue	67,000
Expenses	(60,000)
Surplus	7,000

IG4. 20X1 opening accumulated surplus was RM20,000, and closing accumulated surplus was RM27,000.

IG5. The entity had no other revenue or expenses.

IG6. The entity had RM5,000 of contributed capital throughout, and no other components of net assets/equity except for accumulated surplus.

### Public Sector Entity Statement of Financial Performance

	20X2	(restated) 20X1
	RM	RM
Revenue from taxation	53,500	40,500
User charges	4,000	3,000
Other operating revenue	40,000	30,000
Total revenue	97,500	73,500
Expenses	(86,500)	(60,000)
Surplus	11,000	13,500

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<sup>3</sup> In these examples, monetary amounts are denominated in "currency units" (RM).

**Public Sector Entity X Statement of Changes in Equity**

	Contributed Capital	Accumulated Surpluses	Total
	RM	RM	RM
Balance at 31 December 20X0	5,000	20,000	15,000
Surplus for the year ended 31 December, 20X1 as restated	–	13,500	13,500
Balance at 31 December 20X1	5,000	33,500	38,500
Surplus for the year ended 31 December, 20X2	–	11,000	11,000
Balance at 31 December, 20X2	5,000	44,500	49,500

*Extracts from Notes to the Financial Statements*

1. Revenue from taxation of RM 6,500 was incorrectly omitted from the financial statements of 20X1. The financial statements of 20X1 have been restated to correct this error. The effect of the restatement on those financial statements is summarized below. There is no effect in 20X2.

	Effect on 20X1
	RM
Increase revenue	6,500
Increase in surplus	6,500
Increase in debtors	6,500
Increase in net assets/equity	6,500

**Change in Accounting Policy with Retrospective Application**

- IG7. During 20X2, the entity changed its accounting policy for the treatment of borrowing costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition of a hydro-electric power station that is under construction. In previous periods, the entity had capitalized such costs. The entity has now decided to expense, rather than capitalize them. Management judges that the new policy is preferable, because it results in a more transparent treatment of finance costs and is consistent with local industry practice, making the entity's financial statements more comparable.
- IG8. The entity capitalized borrowing costs incurred of RM2,600 during 20X1 and RM5,200 in periods prior to 20X1. All borrowing costs incurred in previous years with respect to the acquisition of the power station were capitalized.
- IG9. The accounting records for 20X2 show surplus before interest of RM30,000; and interest expense of RM3,000 (which relates only to 20X2).
- IG10. The entity has not recognized any depreciation on the power station because it is not yet in use.

## MPSAS 3 - Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors

IG11. In 20X1, the entity reported:

	<b>RM</b>
Surplus before interest	18,000
Interest	-
Surplus	18,000

IG12. 20X1 opening accumulated surpluses was RM20,000 and closing accumulated surpluses was RM38,000.

IG13. The entity had RM10,000 of contributed capital throughout, and no other components of net assets/equity except for accumulated surplus.

### Public Sector Entity Statement of Financial Performance

	20X2	(restated) 20X1
	RM	RM
Surplus before interest	30,000	18,000
Interest expense	(3,000)	(2,600)
Surplus	27,000	15,400

### Public Sector Entity Statement of Changes in Net Assets/Equity

	Contributed capital	(restated) Accumulated Surplus	Total
	RM	RM	RM
Balance at 31 December 20X0 as previously reported	10,000	20,000	30,000
Change in accounting policy with respect to the capitalization of interest (Note 1)	-	(5,200)	(5,200)
Balance at 31 December 20X0 as restated	10,000	14,800	24,800
Surplus for the year ended 31 December 20X1 (restated)	-	15,400	15,400
Balance at 31 December 20X1	10,000	30,200	40,200
Surplus for the year ended 31 December 20X2	-	27,000	27,000
Closing at 31 December 20X2	10,000	57,200	67,200

#### *Extracts from Notes to the Financial Statements*

- During 20X2, the entity changed its accounting policy for the treatment of borrowing costs related to a hydro-electric power station. Previously, the entity capitalized such costs. They are now written off as expenses as incurred. Management judges that this policy provides reliable and more relevant information, because it results in a more transparent treatment of finance costs and is consistent with local industry practice, making the entity's financial statements more comparable. This change in accounting policy has been accounted for retrospectively, and the comparative statements for 20X1 have been restated. The effect of the

## MPSAS 3 - Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors

change on 20X1 is tabulated below. Opening accumulated surpluses for 20X1 have been reduced by RM5,200, which is the amount of the adjustment relating to periods prior to 20X1.

<i>Effect on 20-1</i>	RM
(Increase) in interest expense	(2,600)
(Decrease) in surplus	<u>(2,600)</u>
<i>Effect on periods prior to 20-1</i>	
(Decrease) in surplus	(5,200)
(Decrease) in assets in the course of construction and in accumulated surplus	<u><u>(7,800)</u></u>

### Prospective Application of a Change in Accounting Policy When Retrospective Application is not practicable

IG14. During 20X2, the entity changed its accounting policy for depreciating property, plant, and equipment, so as to apply much more fully a components approach, while at the same time adopting the revaluation model.

IG15. In years before 20X2, the entity's asset records were not sufficiently detailed to apply a components approach fully. At the end of year 20X1, management commissioned an engineering survey, which provided information on the components held and their fair values, useful lives, estimated residual values, and depreciable amounts at the beginning of 20X2. However, the survey did not provide a sufficient basis for reliably estimating the cost of those components that had not previously been accounted for separately, and the existing records before the survey did not permit this information to be reconstructed.

IG16. Management considered how to account for each of the two aspects of the accounting change. They determined that it was not practicable to account for the change to a fuller components approach retrospectively, or to account for that change prospectively from any earlier date than the start of 20X2. Also, the change from a cost model to a revaluation model is required to be accounted for prospectively. Therefore, management concluded that it should apply the entity's new policy prospectively from the start of 20X2.

IG17. Additional information:

	RM
Property, plant and equipment	
Cost	25,000
Depreciation	(14,000)
Net book value	<u>11,000</u>
Prospective depreciation expense for 20X2 (old basis)	1,500
Some results of the engineering survey	
Valuation	17,000
Estimated residual value	3,000
Average remaining assets life (years)	7
Depreciation expense on existing property, plant and equipment for 20X2 (new basis)	2,000

*Extracts from Notes to the Financial Statements*

1. From the start of 20X2, the entity changed its accounting policy for depreciating property, plant, and equipment, so as to apply much more fully a components approach, while at the same time adopting the revaluation model. Management takes the view that this policy provides reliable and more relevant information, because it deals more accurately with the components of property, plant, and equipment and is based on up-to-date values. The policy has been applied prospectively from the start of 20X2, because it was not practicable to estimate the effects of applying the policy either retrospectively or prospectively from any earlier date. Accordingly the adopting of the new policy has no effect on prior periods. The effect on the current year is to (a) increase the carrying amount of property, plant, and equipment at the start of the year by RM6,000, (b) create a revaluation reserve at the start of the year of RM6,000, and (c) increase depreciation expense by RM500.

**Comparison with IPSAS 3**

MPSAS 3 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* is drawn primarily from IPSAS 3(2011). Main differences between MPSAS 3 and IPSAS 3 are as follows:

- In paragraph 6, MPSAS 3 explains that GBEs apply approved accounting standards issued by the MASB whereas IPSAS 3 explains that GBEs apply IFRS issued by IASB.
- In paragraph 13, the words “paragraph 11” is amended as “paragraph 10’ because Paragraph 11 describes the application of implementation guidance. Paragraph 10 which prescribes the qualitative characteristics of financial reporting appears to be more relevant.
- In paragraph 15, , the words “paragraph 11” is amended as “paragraph 12’ because Paragraph 12 (instead of paragraph 11) is more relevant as it requires management to use judgment in the absence of a MPSAS that specifically applies to a transaction, other event, or condition.
- In paragraph 26, MPSAS 3 has amended the examples of such pronouncements include pronouncements of the MASB, including the Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting, MFRSs and IC Interpretations Issued by MASB,
- In paragraph 46, the words “paragraph 47 -51” is amended as “paragraph 47 -52’ because Paragraph 52 further clarifies the accounting treatment in relation to limitations of retrospective restatement. Therefore, the reference should be extended to paragraph 52.