



What Every NGO Should Know About Financial Compliance in South Africa

Operating an NGO in South Africa means more than just doing good - it also means doing things by the book. Financial compliance is essential for maintaining your registration, securing donor trust, and avoiding legal penalties.

1. You Must Register with the Right Bodies

- NPO Act Registration under the Department of Social Development (DSD)
- Section 18A PBO status via SARS
- Maintain up-to-date information with the CIPC, DSD, and SARS

2. Annual Financial Statements Are Non-Negotiable

- Prepare annual financial statements, either audited or reviewed (depending on size)
- Submit them to the DSD

3. You Must Submit Annual Returns

- NPO Annual Narrative and Financial Reports within 9 months of year-end
- SARS and CIPC annual returns also required

4. Proper Recordkeeping Is Key

- Keep records of income/expenses, board minutes, donor agreements, payroll, etc.
- Good bookkeeping saves time and protects your funding

5. Donors Care About Governance

- Strong governance attracts funding
- Regular board meetings, financial reports, and transparency are critical

6. Have a Compliance Calendar

- Track deadlines for SARS, DSD, CIPC, and financial reporting
- Missing a deadline can delay or forfeit funding

Conclusion:

Financial compliance doesn't have to be overwhelming. At JAAC, we help NGOs navigate these requirements confidently and efficiently. From audit prep to returns and reporting - we've got your back.



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