



BLUE CRANE ROUTE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Audit Report

For the year ended 30 June 2022



**AUDITOR - GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA**

Auditing to build public confidence

Report of the auditor-general to Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature and Council on Blue Crane Route Local Municipality

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

1. I have audited the financial statements of the Blue Crane Route Local Municipality set out on pages xx to xx, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets, cash flow statement and statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts for the year then ended, as well as notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.
2. In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Blue Crane Route Local Municipality as at 30 June 2022, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with South African Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (SA Standard of GRAP) and the requirements of the Municipal Finance Management Act of South Africa, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003) (MFMA) and the Division of Revenue Act, 2021 (Act No. 9 of 2021) (Dora).

Basis for opinion

3. I conducted my audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor-general's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report.
4. I am independent of the municipality in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *International code of ethics for professional accountants (including International Independence Standards)* (IESBA code) as well as other ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit in South Africa. I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA code.
5. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Material uncertainty relating to going concern

6. I draw attention to the matter below. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.
7. As disclosed in note 43 to the financial statements, which indicates the high levels of electricity losses, debt and credit payment ratios not in the norm and the potential risk that contingent liabilities as disclosed in this set of financial statements may materialise into actual commitments to pay. A deficit was realised for the year under review. The municipality was in a net current liabilities position in the current year. As stated in note 43, these events or conditions, along with other matters as set forth in note 43, indicate that material uncertainty exists that may cast doubt on the municipality's ability to continue as a going concern.

Emphasis of matter

8. I draw attention to the matter below. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Underspending of the Conditional Grant

9. As disclosed in note 15 to the financial statements, the municipality materially underspent the allocated Water Services and Infrastructure grant (WSIG) by R13,2 million.

Responsibilities of the accounting officer for the financial statements

10. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the standards of GRAP and the requirements of the MFMA and Dora and for such internal control as the accounting officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
11. In preparing the financial statements, the accounting officer is responsible for assessing the municipality's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the appropriate governance structure either intends to liquidate the municipality or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor-general's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

12. My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.
13. A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is included in the annexure to this auditor's report.

Report on the annual performance report

14. In accordance with the Public Audit Act 25 of 2004 (PAA) and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I have a responsibility to report material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information against predetermined objectives presented in the annual performance report. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation of the annual performance report.
15. I performed procedures to evaluate the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information on selected performance indicators in accordance with the criteria developed from the performance management and reporting framework, as defined in the general notice.

16. I performed the procedures in accordance with the AGSA audit methodology. This engagement is not an assurance engagement. Accordingly, I do not express an opinion or an assurance conclusion.
17. My procedures address the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information on the selected performance indicators, which must be based on the municipality's approved performance planning documents. I have not evaluated the completeness and appropriateness of the performance indicators included in the planning documents. My procedures do not examine whether the actions taken by the municipality enabled service delivery. My procedures do not extend to any disclosures or assertions relating to the extent of achievements in the current year or planned performance strategies and information in respect of future periods that may be included as part of the reported performance information. Accordingly, my findings do not extend to these matters.
18. I performed procedures to determine whether the reported performance information was properly presented and whether the performance was consistent with the approved performance planning documents. I performed further procedures to determine whether the selected performance indicators and related targets were measurable and relevant, and assessed the reliability of the reported performance information to determine whether it was valid, accurate and complete.
19. I selected the following material performance indicators contained in the Service Delivery and Infrastructure Development department presented in the municipality's annual performance report for the year ended 30 June 2022 set out on pages ... to I selected the indicators that measure the municipality's performance on its primary mandated functions and which are of significant national, community or public interest.

Performance indicators Service Delivery and Infrastructure Development
KPI 10 - % progress on the upgrading Orange Fish Water Treatment Works
KPI 11 - No. of contractors appointed to upgrade cookhouse water treatment works
KPI 13 - Distance in km of 315mm diameter pipeline installed
KPI 14 - % progress on site of the augmentation of bulk water supply in Pearston
KPI 15 - No. of contractors appointed to upgrade the sewer pump stations in Mayila, Memese and Aeroville
KPI 29 - No. of bacteriological water samples and chemical water samples taken

20. I did not identify any material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for the selected material performance indicators.

Other matters

21. I draw attention to the matters below.

Achievement of planned targets

22. Refer to the annual performance report on page(s) x to x; x to x for information on the achievement of planned targets for the year.

Adjustment of material misstatements

23. I identified a material finding in the annual performance report submitted for auditing. This material finding was in the reported performance information of KPI 29: No. of bacteriological water samples and chemical water samples taken. As management subsequently corrected the finding, we did not raise any material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information.

Report on compliance with legislation

24. In accordance with the PAA and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I have a responsibility to report material findings on the municipality's compliance with applicable legislation relating to financial matters, financial management and other related matters. The accounting officer is responsible for the municipality's compliance with legislation.
25. I performed procedures to test compliance with selected requirements in key legislation in accordance with the AGSA audit methodology. This engagement is not an assurance engagement. Accordingly, I do not express an assurance opinion or conclusion.
26. I selected requirements in key legislation for compliance testing that are relevant to the financial and performance management of the municipality, clear to allow consistent measurement and evaluation, while also sufficiently detailed and adequately available to report in an understandable manner. The selection is done through an established AGSA process. The selected legislative requirements are included in the annexure to this auditor's report.
27. The material findings on compliance with the selected legislative requirements, presented per compliance theme, are as follows:

Annual Financial Statements, Annual Performance Report and Annual Report

28. The financial statements submitted for auditing were not fully prepared in all material respects in accordance with the requirements of section 122(1) of the MFMA. Material misstatements on non-current assets, liabilities, and revenue and disclosure items identified by the auditors in the submitted financial statement were subsequently corrected and/or the supporting records were provided subsequently, resulting in the financial statements receiving an unqualified audit opinion.

Expenditure management

29. Reasonable steps were not taken to prevent irregular expenditure amounting to R10 million as disclosed in note 47 to the annual financial statements, as required by section 62(1)(d) of the MFMA. The majority of the irregular expenditure was caused by non-compliance with regulation 36(1)(a).

Asset management

30. An effective system of internal control for assets was not in place, as required by section 63(2)(c) of the MFMA.

Procurement and contract management

31. Some of the goods and services with a transaction value of below R200 000 were procured without obtaining the required price quotations, in contravention of SCM Regulation 17(1)(a) and (c).
32. Some of the goods and services of a transaction value above R200 000 were procured without inviting competitive bids, as required by SCM Regulation 19(a). Deviations were approved by the accounting officer even though it was not impractical to invite competitive bids, in contravention of SCM Regulation 36(1). Similar non-compliance was also reported in the prior year.
33. Some of the invitation to tender for procurement of commodities designated for local content and production, did not stipulate the minimum threshold for local production and content as required by the 2017 Preferential Procurement Regulation 8(2). This non-compliance was identified in the procurement processes for the supply and delivery of transformers and personal protective equipment.
34. The performance of some of the providers was not monitored on a monthly basis, as required by section 116(2)(b) of the MFMA.
35. The contract performance and monitoring measures were not in place to ensure effective contract management, as required by section 116(2)(c)(ii) of the MFMA. Similar non-compliance was also reported in the prior year.

Consequence management

36. Some of the irregular expenditure incurred by the municipality were not investigated to determine if any person is liable for the expenditure, as required by section 32(2)(b) of the MFMA.

Other information

37. The accounting officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, which includes the mayor's foreword, executive summary, governance, environmental protection, organisational development, performance and financial performance. The other information does not include the financial statements, the auditor's report and those selected material indicators presented in the annual performance report that have been specifically reported in this auditor's report.
38. My opinion on the financial statements and material findings on the reported performance information and compliance with legislation do not cover the other information and I do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion on it.

39. In connection with my audit, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and the material indicators presented in the annual performance report, or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.
40. I did not receive any other information prior to the date of this auditor's report. When we do receive and read this information, if we conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, we are required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and request that the other information be corrected. If the other information is not corrected, we may have to retract the audit report and re-issue an amended report as appropriate, however, if it is corrected, this will not be necessary.

Internal control deficiencies

41. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements, reported performance information and compliance with applicable legislation; however, my objective was not to express any form of assurance on it. The matters reported below are limited to the significant internal control deficiencies that resulted in the unqualified with findings opinion, the findings on the annual performance report and the findings on compliance with legislation included in this report.
42. Management did not perform their oversight responsibility over the internal controls of the municipality on a regular basis. This is evidenced by the significant errors in the annual financial statements submitted for audit.
43. Material non-compliance with key legislations and policies of the municipality was identified. This indicates that the audit action plan was not effective as matters communicated to management in the prior year were not addressed in the current reporting period.

Auditor General

Auditor-General

East London

13 December 2022



AUDITOR - GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA

Auditing to build public confidence

Annexure to the auditor's report

The annexure includes the following:

- the auditor-general's responsibility for the audit
- the selected compliance requirements for compliance testing

Auditor-general's responsibility for the audit

1. As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs and the AGSA audit methodology, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout my audit of the financial statements and the procedures performed on reported performance information for selected performance indicators and on the 's compliance with selected requirements in key legislation.

Financial statements

2. In addition to my responsibility for the audit of the financial statements as described in this auditor's report, I also:
 - identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control
 - obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the 's internal control
 - evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the [board of directors, which constitutes the accounting officer
 - conclude on the appropriateness of the accounting officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements. I also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Blue Crane Route Local Municipality to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements about the material uncertainty or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion on the financial statements. My conclusions are based on the information available to me at the date of this auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause a to cease operating as a going concern
 - evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and determine whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation
 - obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the group to express an opinion on the consolidated

financial statements. I am responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. I remain solely responsible for my audit opinion.

Communication with those charged with governance

3. I communicate with the accounting officer regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.
4. I also provide the accounting officer with a statement that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on my independence and, where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

Compliance with legislation - selected legislative requirements

5. The selected legislative requirements are as follows:

Selected legislation and regulations	Consolidated firm level requirements
Municipal Finance Management Act 56 of 2003 (MFMA)	Section 1 (a), (b) & (d) of the definition: irregular expenditure Section 1 Definition of SDBIP Sections 11(1); 13(2); 14(1); 14(2)(a); 14(2)(b); 15 Sections 24(2)(c)(iv); 29(1); 29(2)(b); 32(2) Sections 32(2)(a); 32(2)(a)(i); 32(2)(a)(ii); 32(2)(b) Sections 32(6)(a); 32(7); 53(1)(c)(ii); 54(1)(c) Sections 62(1)(d); 62(1)(f)(i); 62(1)(f)(ii); 62(1)(f)(iii) Sections 63(2)(a); 63(2)(c); 64(2)(b); 64(2)(c); 64(2)(e) Sections 64(2)(f); 64(2)(g); 65(2)(a); 65(2)(b); 65(2)(e) Sections 72(1)(a)(ii); 95(a); 112(l)(iii); 112(1)(i) Sections 116(2)(b); 116(2)(c)(ii); 117; 122(1); 122(2) Sections 126(1)(a); 126(1)(b); 127(2); 127(5)(a)(i) Sections 127(5)(a)(ii); 129(1); 129(3); 133(1)(a) Sections 133(1)(c)(i); 133(1)(c)(ii); 170; 171(4)(a); 171(4)(b)
LG: MFMA: Municipal budget and reporting regulations, 2009	Regulations 71(1); 71(2); 72
LG: MFMA: Municipal investment regulations, 2005	Regulations 3(1)(a); 3(3); 6; 7; 12(2); 12(3)
LG: MFMA: Municipal regulations on financial misconduct procedures and criminal proceedings, 2014	Regulations 5(4); 6(8)(a); 6(8)(b); 10(1)
LG: MFMA: Municipal supply chain management (SCM) regulations, 2017	Regulations 5; 12(1)(b); 12(1)(c); 12(3); 13(b); 13(c); 13(c)(i) Regulations 16(a); 17(1)(a); 17(1)(b); 17(1)(c); 19(a) Regulations 21(b); 22(1)(b)(i); 22(2); 27(2)(a); 27(2)(e) Regulations 28(1)(a)(i); 28(1)(a)(ii); 29(1) (a) and (b) Regulations 29(5)(a)(ii); 29(5)(b)(ii); 32; 36(1) Regulations 38(1) (c); 38(1)(d)(ii); 38(1)(e); 38(1)(g)(i) Regulations 38(1)(g)(ii); 38(1)(g)(iii) Regualtions 43; 44; 46(2)(e); 46(2)(f)

Selected legislation and regulations	Consolidated firm level requirements
Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000 (MSA)	Sections 25(1); 26(a); 26(c); 26(i); 26(h); 29(1)(b)(ii) Sections 29(3)(b); 34(a); 34(b); 38(a) Sections 41(1)(a); 41(1)(b); 41(1)(c)(ii); 42; 43(2); Sections 56(a); 57(2)(a); 57(4B); 57(6)(a) Sections 66(1)(a); 66(1)(b); 67(1)(d); 74(1) Sections 93B(a); 93B(b); 93C(a)(iv); 93C(a)(v); 96(b)
LG: MSA: Municipal planning and performance management regulations, 2001	Regulations 2(1)(e); 2(3)(a); 3(3); 3(4)(b); 3(6)(a); 7(1); 8 Regulations 9(1)(a); 10(a); 12(1); 15(1)(a)(i); 15(1)(a)(ii)
LG: MSA: Municipal performance regulations for municipal managers and managers directly accountable to municipal managers, 2006	Regulations 2(3)(a); 4(4)(b); 8(1); 8(2); 8(3)
LG: MSA: Regulations on appointment and conditions of employment of senior managers, 2014	Regulations 17(2); 36(1)(a)
LG: MSA: Disciplinary Regulations for Senior Managers, 2011	Reg 5(2); 5(3); 5(6); 8(4)
Annual Division of Revenue Act (DoRA)	Sections 11(6)(b); 12(5); 16(1); 16(3)
Construction Industry Development Board Act 38 of 2000 (CIDB)	Section 18(1)
CIDB regulations	Regulations 17; 25(7A)
Municipal Property Rates Act 6 of 2004 (MPRA)	Section 3(1)
Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act 5 of 2000 (PPPFA)	Sections 2(1)(a); 2(1)(f)
Preferential Procurement regulations (PPR), 2011	Regulations 4(1); 4(3); 4(4); 4(5) Regulations 5(1); 5(2); 5(3); 5(5) Regulations 6(1); 6(2); 6(3); 6(4); 6(5) Regulations 7(1); 10; 11(2); 11(4); 11(5); 11(8)
Preferential Procurement regulations (PPR), 2017	Regulations 5(1); 5(3); 5(6); 5(7) Regulations 6(1); 6(2); 6(3); 6(5); 6(6); 6(8) Regulations 7(1); 7(2); 7(3); 7(5); 7(6); 7(8) Regulations 8(2); 8(5); 9(1); 10(1); 10(2); 11(1)
Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act 12 of 2004 (PRECCA)	PRECCA 34(1)