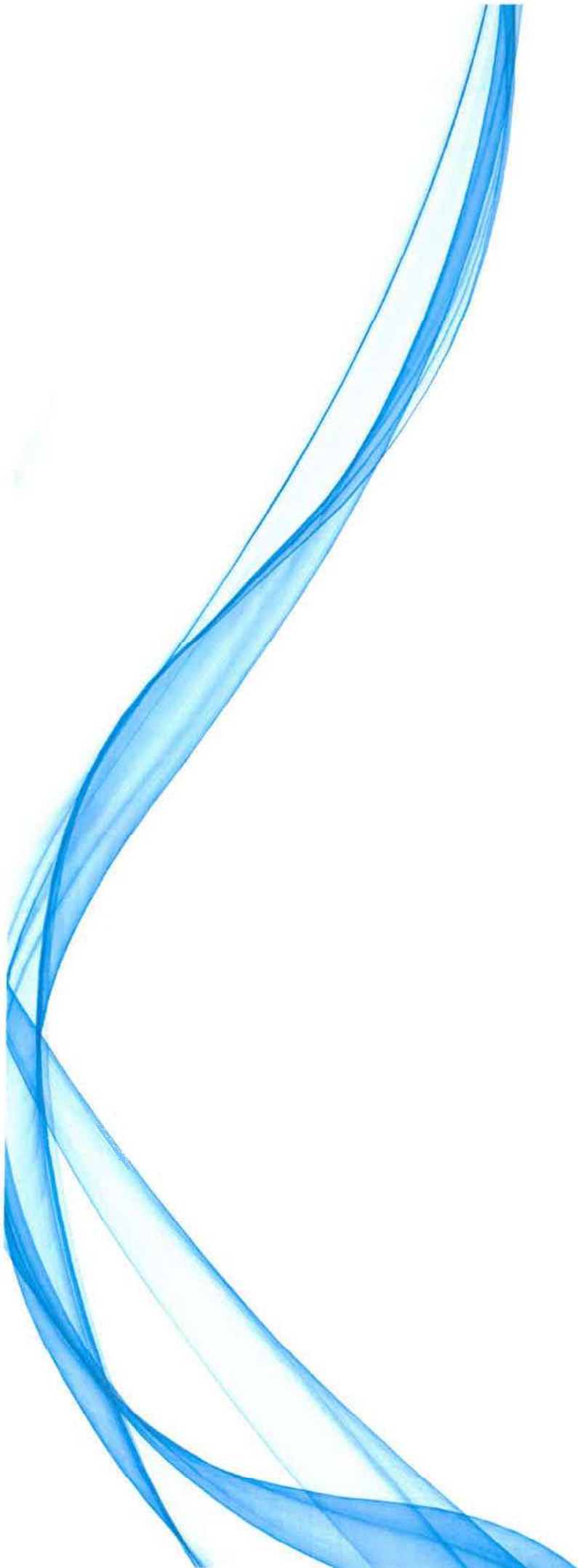




GREAT KEI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Audit Report

For the year ended 30 June 2023



**AUDITOR - GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA**

Auditing to build public confidence

Report of the auditor-general to the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature and the council on the Great Kei Local Municipality

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

1. I have audited the financial statements of the Great Kei Local Municipality set out on pages xx to xx, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, 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 Great Kei Local Municipality as at 30 June 2023 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP) and the requirements of the Municipal Finance Management Act 56 of 2003 (MFMA) and the Division of Revenue Act 5 of 2022 (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 responsibilities of the auditor-general 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.

Emphasis of matters

6. I draw attention to the matters below. My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

Impairments – receivables

7. As disclosed in notes 3 and 4 to the financial statements, receivables from exchange transactions and receivables from non-exchange transactions had a provision for impairment of R12,9 million (2021-22: R10,6 million) and R67,9 million (2021-22: R58,9 million) respectively.

Material losses – electricity

8. As disclosed in note 28 to the financial statements, the municipality incurred material losses of R3,8 million (2021-22: R4,8 million), which represents 33% (2021-22: 39%) of total electricity purchased. The losses were due to dilapidated electrical infrastructure and illegal tampering by consumers.

Other matter

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

Unaudited disclosure note

10. In terms of section 125 (2) (e) of the MFMA, the municipality is required to disclose particulars of non-compliance with the MFMA in the financial statements. This disclosure requirement did not form part of the financial statements and, accordingly, I do not express an opinion on it.

Responsibilities of the accounting officer for the financial statements

11. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the 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.
12. 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.

Responsibilities of the auditor-general for the audit of the financial statements

13. 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.
14. 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 audit of the annual performance report

15. In accordance with the Public Audit Act 25 of 2004 (PAA) and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I must audit and report on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance against predetermined objectives for the selected development priority presented in the annual performance report. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation of the annual performance report.
16. I selected the following development priority presented in the annual performance report for the year ended 30 June 2023 for auditing. I selected a development priority that measures the municipality's performance on its primary mandated functions and that is of significant national, community or public interest.

Development priority	Page numbers	Purpose
Service delivery and infrastructure provision	[XX]	To ensure accessible roads, provision of public amenities and to increase access to electricity within the Great Kei communities.

17. I evaluated the reported performance information for the selected development priority against the criteria developed from the performance management and reporting framework, as defined in the general notice. When an annual performance report is prepared using these criteria, it provides useful and reliable information and insights to users on the municipality's planning and delivery on its mandate and objectives.
18. I performed procedures to test whether:
- the indicators used for planning and reporting on performance can be linked directly to the municipality's mandate and the achievement of its planned objectives
 - the indicators are well defined to ensure that they are easy to understand and can be applied consistently, as well as verifiable so that I can confirm the methods and processes to be used for measuring achievements
 - the targets can be linked directly to the achievement of the indicators and are specific, time bound and measurable to ensure that it is easy to understand what should be delivered and by when, the required level of performance as well as how performance will be evaluated
 - the indicators and targets reported on in the annual performance report are the same as those committed to in the approved initial or revised planning documents
 - the reported performance information is presented in the annual performance report in the prescribed manner
 - there is adequate supporting evidence for the achievements reported and for the measures taken to improve performance.
19. I performed the procedures for the purpose of reporting material findings only; and not to express an assurance opinion or conclusion.

20. I did not identify any material findings on the reported performance information for the selected development priority.

Material misstatements

21. I identified material misstatements in the annual performance report submitted for auditing. These material misstatements were in the reported performance information for service delivery and infrastructure provision. Management subsequently corrected all the misstatements, and I did not include any material findings in this report.

Report on compliance with legislation

22. In accordance with the PAA and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I must audit and report on 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.
23. I performed procedures to test compliance with selected requirements in key legislation in accordance with the findings engagement methodology of the Auditor-General of South Africa (AGSA). This engagement is not an assurance engagement. Accordingly, I do not express an assurance opinion or conclusion.
24. Through an established AGSA process, 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 readily available to report in an understandable manner. The selected legislative requirements are included in the annexure to this auditor's report.
25. The material findings on compliance with the selected legislative requirements, presented per compliance theme, are as follows:

Expenditure management

26. Reasonable steps were not taken to prevent fruitless and wasteful expenditure of R238 661, as disclosed in note 40 to the annual financial statements, in contravention of section 62(1)(d) of the MFMA. The majority of the disclosed fruitless and wasteful expenditure was caused by interest charged by suppliers for non-payment within 30 days.

Strategic planning and performance management

27. The performance management system and related controls were inadequate because the described processes of performance planning, monitoring and reporting were not managed, as required by municipal planning and performance management regulation 7(1).

Other information in the annual report

28. The accounting officer is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information referred to does not include the financial statements, the auditor's report

and those selected development priorities presented in the annual performance report that have been specifically reported on in this auditor's report.

29. My opinion on the financial statements, the report on the audit of the annual performance report and the report on compliance with legislation do not cover the other information included in the annual report and I do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion on it.
30. My responsibility is to read this other information and, in doing so, consider whether it is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and the selected development priorities presented in the annual performance report or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.
31. I did not receive the other information prior to the date of this auditor's report. When I do receive and read this information, if I conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, I am 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, I may have to retract this auditor's report and re-issue an amended report as appropriate. However, if it is corrected this will not be necessary.

Internal control deficiencies

32. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements, annual performance report and compliance with applicable legislation; however, my objective was not to express any form of assurance on it.
33. The matters reported below are limited to the significant internal control deficiencies that resulted in the basis for the opinion and the material findings on compliance with legislation included in this report.
34. Leadership did not adequately exercise effective responsibility over performance reporting, compliance with legislation and related internal controls. As a result, material misstatements on the annual performance report were identified during the audit process and instances of non-compliance with legislation were not prevented.

35. The audit action plan was not adequately implemented and monitored to address prior year findings, as repeat material findings were identified on the annual performance reporting processes.

AUDITOR - GENERAL

East London

30 November 2023



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SOUTH AFRICA

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