



# ENGCOBO LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Audit Report

*For the year ended 30 June 2021*



**AUDITOR-GENERAL  
SOUTH AFRICA**

*Auditing to build public confidence*

# Report of the auditor-general to Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature and the council on the Engcobo local municipality

## Report on the audit of the financial statements

### Qualified opinion

1. I have audited the financial statements of the Engcobo local municipality set out on pages ... to ..., which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, 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, except for the effects of the matters described in the basis for qualified opinion section of this auditor's report, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Engcobo local municipality as at 30 June 2021, and financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Generally Recognised Accounting Practices (Standards of GRAP) and the requirements of the Municipal Finance Management Act 56 of 2003 (MFMA) and the Division of Revenue Act of South Africa, (Act No. 4 of 2020).

### Basis for qualified opinion

#### Property, plant and equipment

3. The municipality did not assess all assets for impairment in accordance with the GRAP 21, *Impairment-of-Non-cash-generating-assets*. Damaged and vandalised assets were included in the infrastructure assets without being impaired. Consequently, I was unable to determine the full extent of the overstatement of property, plant and equipment stated at R243 million (2019: R240 million) in note 3 to the financial statements, and an understatement of impairment loss stated at R1,9 million (2020: R1,5 million) in note 28 to the financial statements as it was impractical to do so.

#### Commitments

4. *GRAP 17, Property, plant and equipment* requires the disclosure of contractual commitments for the acquisition on property, plant and equipment. An adequate record of commitments was not maintained and reviewed by the municipality for the year under review. Invoices inspected were inconsistent with the disclosed amounts, retentions were incorrectly included in the commitments register and some commitments have not been recorded in the register. This resulted in an understatement of R4,7 million of commitments disclosed in note 40 to the financial statements.

## Context for the opinion

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my qualified opinion.

## Emphasis of matters

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

### Material impairments – trade debtors

9. As disclosed in note 31 to the financial statements, material impairments for receivables from exchange and non-exchange transactions of R4,1 million were incurred as a result of non-payment by trade debtors.

### Irregular expenditure

10. As disclosed in note 45 to the financial statements, the municipality incurred irregular expenditure of R7,5 million, as it did not follow a proper tender process.

### Impact of covid-19 in the auditee's financial statements

11. I draw attention to note 50 to the financial statements, which deals with subsequent events and, specifically, the possible effects of the future implications of covid-19 on the municipality's future prospects, performance and cash flows. Management has also described how it plans to deal with these events and circumstances. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

## Other matter

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

### Unaudited disclosure notes

13. 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 audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, I do not express an opinion on it.

## **Responsibilities of the accounting officer for the financial statements**

14. 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 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.
15. 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**

16. 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.
17. 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**

### **Introduction and scope**

18. 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 on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information against predetermined objectives for selected key performance areas presented in the annual performance report. I performed procedures to identify material findings but not to gather evidence to express assurance.
19. My procedures address the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information, 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.

20. I evaluated the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information in accordance with the criteria developed from the performance management and reporting framework, as defined in the general notice, for the following selected key performance areas presented in the municipality's annual performance report for the year ended 30 June 2021:

Key performance areas	Pages in the annual performance report
Key performance area 2: Infrastructure and service delivery	x – x

21. I performed procedures to determine whether the reported performance information was properly presented and whether performance was consistent with the approved performance planning documents. I performed further procedures to determine whether the 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.
22. The material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the performance information of the selected key performance areas are as follows:

#### **BSD 2.1.26 Number of Energizable Households for Electrification of Gqobonco phase 2 by June 2021**

23. The achievement of 150 Energizable Households or Electrification of Gqobonco phase 2 by 28th May 2021 was reported against target 115 Energizable Households or Electrification of Gqobonco phase 2 by June 2021 in the annual performance report. However, some supporting evidence provided materially differed from the reported achievement, while in other instances I was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence. This was due to the lack of accurate and complete records. I was unable to further confirm the reported achievement by alternative means. Consequently, I was unable to determine whether any further adjustments were required to the reported achievement.

#### **BSD 2.1.17 Number of Km constructed for access roads (7 km of Chibini - Bhojane access road) by June 2021**

24. The achievement of 7 Kmz constructed for access roads (7km of Chibini - Bhojane access road) by 4th March 2021 was reported against target 7 kms constructed for access roads (7 km of Chibini - Bhojane access road) by June 2021 in the annual performance report. However, the supporting evidence provided did not agree to the reported achievement and indicated an achievement of 6km constructed for access roads (6km of Chibini – Bhojane access road).

## **Other matters**

25. I draw attention to the matters below.

### **Achievement of planned targets**

26. Refer to the annual performance report on pages ... to ... for information on the achievement of planned targets for the year. This information should be considered in the context of the material findings on the reliability of the reported performance information in paragraphs x to x of this report.

## **Report on the audit of compliance with legislation**

### **Introduction and scope**

27. 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 specific matters in key legislation. I performed procedures to identify findings but not to gather evidence to express assurance.

28. The material findings on compliance with specific matters in key legislation are as follows:

### **Annual financial statements and annual reports**

29. The financial statements submitted for auditing were not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the requirements of section 122(1) of the MFMA. Material misstatements identified by the auditors in the submitted financial statements were not adequately corrected and the supporting records could not be provided subsequently, which resulted in the financial statements receiving a qualified audit opinion.

### **Procurement and contract management**

30. Sufficient appropriate audit evidence could not be obtained that the performance of contractors or providers was monitored on a monthly basis as required by section 116(2) of the MFMA.

31. Sufficient appropriate audit evidence could not be obtained that contract performance and monitoring measures were in place to ensure effective contract management as required by section 116(2)(c)(ii) of the MFMA.

### **Strategic planning and performance management**

32. The performance management system and related controls were inadequate as the described processes of performance measurement and reporting were not conducted as intended, as required by municipal planning and performance management regulation 7(1).

## Other information

33. The accounting officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report. The other information does not include the financial statements, the auditor's report and those selected key performance areas presented in the annual performance report that have been specifically reported in this auditor's report.
34. My opinion on the financial statements and 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.
35. 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 selected key performance areas presented in the annual performance report, or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.
36. The other information I obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report is the annual report, and is expected to be made available to us after 31 January 2022.
37. If, based on the work I have performed on the other information that I obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.
38. When I do receive and read the annual report, 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

39. 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 basis for the qualified opinion, the findings on the annual performance report and the findings on compliance with legislation included in this report.
40. Leadership did not adequately discharge its oversight responsibilities with regards to implementing and monitoring internal controls to ensure sound compliance with laws and regulations. Management did not effectively review and monitor compliance with laws and regulations relating to financial reporting and performance management.

41. Adequate internal controls have not been implemented over year-end reporting, management did not adequately review and verify the supporting evidence for each reported target on the annual performance report.
42. Audit action plan was not adequately implemented and monitored to address prior year findings as repeated material findings were identified on compliance with the legislation.

Auditor General

East London

31 January 2022



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SOUTH AFRICA

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## Annexure – Auditor-general’s responsibility for the audit

1. As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, 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 key performance areas and on the municipality’s compliance with respect to the selected subject matters.

### 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 municipality’s internal control
  - evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by 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 Engcobo 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 municipality 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

## **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.