



AUDITOR - GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA

Auditing to build public confidence

The Accounting Officer
Senqu Municipality
19 Murray Street
Lady Grey
9755

30 November 2024

Reference: 21290REG23/24

Dear Accounting Officer

Report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements, annual performance report, compliance with legislation and other legal and regulatory requirements of Senqu Local Municipality for the year ended 30 June 2024

1. The above-mentioned report of the Auditor-General is submitted herewith in terms of section 21(1) of the Public Audit Act No. 25 of 2004 (PAA) read in conjunction with section 188 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa section 126(3) of the Municipal Finance Management Act 56 of 2003 (MFMA).
2. We have not yet received the other information that will be included in the annual report with the audited financial statements and the annual performance report and have thus not been able to establish whether there are any inconsistencies between this information and the audited financial statements, the annual performance report or our report on compliance with legislation. You are requested to supply this information as soon as possible. Once this information is received it will be read and should any inconsistencies be identified, these will be communicated to you, and you will be requested to make the necessary corrections. Should the corrections not be made we will amend and reissue the audit report.
3. In terms of section 121(3) of the MFMA you are required to include the auditor's report in the [type of auditee]'s annual report to be tabled.
4. Prior to printing or copying the annual report which will include the auditor's report you are required to do the following:
 - Submit the final printer's proof of the annual report to the relevant senior manager of the Auditor-General of South Africa for verification of the audit-related references in the auditor's report and for confirmation that the financial statements, annual performance report and other information are those documents that have been read and audited. Special care should be taken with the page references in your report, since an incorrect reference could have audit implications.

- The signature *Auditor-General* in the handwriting of the auditor authorised to sign the audit report at the end of the hard copy of the audit report should be scanned in when preparing to print the report. This signature, as well as the place and date of signing and the Auditor-General of South Africa's logo, should appear at the end of the report, as in the hard copy that is provided to you. The official logo will be made available to you in electronic format.
5. Please notify the undersigned Business Unit Leader / Senior Manager well in advance of the date on which the annual report containing this audit report will be tabled.
 6. The confidentiality of information obtained in an engagement must be observed at all times. In terms of section 50 of the PAA and the International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (*including International Independence Standards*), members of the staff of the Auditor General (AG), or an audit firm appointed in terms of section 25 of the PAA, may not disclose or make available any information obtained during an audit, other than the final auditor's report, to any third party without the permission of the AG or his/her delegate, unless this is to a legislature or internal committee of a legislature or a court in a criminal matter..
 7. Until the steps described in paragraphs 2 and 4 of this document are completed and the annual report is tabled as required by section 127(2) of the MFMA, the audit report is not a final and public document and you are therefore requested to treat it as confidential.
 8. Your cooperation to ensure that all these requirements are met would be much appreciated.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely



.....
Senior Manager: BUEC

Enquiries: Lwandile Madalane
Telephone: 071/780-6265
Fax: 043-7097300
Email: LwandileM@agsa.co.za

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

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

1. I have audited the financial statements of the Senqu Local Municipality set out on pages xx to xx, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024 statement of financial performance statement of changes in net assets, cash flow statement and statement of comparison of budget information with actual information 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 Senqu Local Municipality as at 30 June 2024 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP) and the requirements of the Municipal Finance Management Act 56 of 2003 and the Division of Revenue Act 5 of 2023 (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.

Irregular expenditure

7. As disclosed in note 48.3 to the financial statements, the municipality has R65,3 million (2023: R59,5 million) irregular expenditure that has not been recovered, written off or condoned.

Debt impairment

8. As disclosed in note 3 and 4 to the financial statements, allowance for impairment of R78,5 million (2023: R68,5 million) relating to receivables from exchange transactions and R30,1 million (2023: R26,4 million) relating to receivables from non-exchange transactions were incurred.

Other matters

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

Unaudited disclosure notes

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

Unaudited supplementary schedules

11. The supplementary schedules set out in pages ... to ... do not form part of the financial statements and is presented as additional information. We have not audited these schedules and, accordingly I do not express an opinion on them.

Responsibilities of the accounting officer for the financial statements

12. 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.
13. 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

14. 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.

15. A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is included in the annexure to this auditor's report. This description, which is located at page 7 forms part of our auditor's report.

Report on the audit of the annual performance report

16. 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.

17. I selected the following programme presented in the annual performance report for the year ended 30, June, 2024 for auditing. I selected a programme that measure the municipality's performance on its primary mandated functions and that is of significant national, community or public interest.

Programme	Page numbers	Purpose
Service delivery and infrastructure development	[XX]	Service delivery and infrastructure development is the core mandate of the municipality

18. I evaluated the reported performance information for the selected programme 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.

19. 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
- all the indicators relevant for measuring the municipality's performance against its primary mandated and prioritised functions and planned objectives are included
- 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 and is comparable and understandable.
- there is adequate supporting evidence for the achievements reported and measures taken to improve performance.

20. I performed the procedures for the purpose of reporting material findings only; and not to express an assurance opinion or conclusion.

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

Other matters

22. I draw attention to the matter below.

Achievement of planned targets

23. The annual performance report includes information on reported achievements against planned targets and provides explanations for over- or under achievements / measures taken to improve performance.

Report on compliance with legislation

24. 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.

25. 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.

26. 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.

27. I did not identify any material non-compliance with the selected legislative requirements.

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 programmes 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 programmes 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. I did not identify any significant deficiencies in internal control.

Auditor General
East London

30 November 2024



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 legislative requirements for compliance testing

Auditor-general's responsibility for the audit

Professional judgement and professional scepticism

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 development priorities and on the municipality's compliance with selected requirements in key legislation.

Financial statements

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
- conclude on the appropriateness of the 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 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

I communicate with the audit committee 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. I also provide the audit committee with a statement that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and 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

The selected legislative requirements are as follows:

Legislation	Sections or regulations
Municipal Finance Management Act (Act No. 56 of 2003)	Section 122(1) Section 122(2) Section 126(1) (a) Section 133(1)(a) and 133(1)(c) Section 127(2) and 127(5)(a) Section 129(1) and 129(3) Section 65(2)(e), 65(2)(a), 65(1)(d) and 65(2)(b) Section 11(1) Section 62(1)(d) Section 15 Section 29 (1) and 29 (2) (b) Section 62(1)(f)(ii), 62(1)(f)(iii) and 62(1)(f)(i) Section 63(2)(a) and 63(2)(c) Section 64(2)(e), 64(2)(b) and 64(2)(f) Section 64(2)(c) and 64(2)(g) Section 13(2) Section 14(1) Section 14(2)(a) and 14(2)(b) Section 33(2) Section 170 Section 32(2) Section 32(2)(a), 32(2)(b), 32(6)(a) and 32(7) Section 171 (4)(a) Section 53(1)(c)(ii) Section 1 Section 72(1)(a)(ii) Section 24(2)(c)(iv) Section 54(1)(c) Section 171(4)(a) Section 117
Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations	Regulation 71(1) and 71(2) Regulation 72 Regulation 75(2)
Municipal Structures Act ,(Act No.32 of 2000)	Section 74(1) Section 96(b)

Legislation	Sections or regulations
	Section 29(1)(b)(ii) Section 29(3)(b) Section 42 Section 25(1) Section 26 Section 41(1)(a) and 41(1)(b) Section 43(2) Section 34(a) and 41(1)(c)(ii) Section 34(b) Section 38(a)
Municipal Property Rates Act ,(Act No.06 of 2004)	Section 3(1)
Municipal investment regulations	Regulation 3(1)(a) and 3(3) Regulation 6 Regulation 7 Regulation 12(2) and 12(3)
Prevention and Combatting of Corrupt Activities Act (Act No.12 of 2004)	Section 34(1)
Municipal Planning and Performance Management Regulations	Regulation 15(1)(a)(i) Regulation 2(1)(e) Regulation 2(3)(a) Regulation 9(1)(a) Regulation 10(a) Regulation 12(1) Regulation 3(4)(b) and 15(1)(a)(ii) Regulation 3(5)(a) Regulation 3(6)(a) Regulation 3(3) Regulation 8 Regulation 7(1)
Disciplinary Regulations for Senior Managers	Regulation 5(2) Regulation 5(3) Regulation 5 (6) Regulation 8 (4)
Financial Misconduct Regulations	Regulation 5(4) Regulation 6(8)(a) Regulations 6(8)(b)

Legislation	Sections or regulations
	Regulation 10(1)
Supply Chain Management Regulations	Regulation 121(1)(c) Regulation 16(a) Regulation 17(a) and (c) Regulation 17(b) Regulation 43 Regulation 19(a) &(b) Regulation 36(1)(a) Regulation 12(3) Regulation 27(2)(a) & (e) Regulation 22(1)(b) & 22(2) Regulation 28(1)(a)(i) Regulation 21(b) Regulation 29(1) (a) & (b) Regulation 29(5)(a)(ii) & (b)(i) Regulation 13(c) Regulation 38(1) (c) Regulation 38(1)(d)(ii) & (g)(iii) Regulation 38(1) (e) Regulation 38(1)(g)(i) and 38(1)(g)(ii) Regulation 32 Regulation 5 Regulation 44 Regulation 46(2)(e) and 46(2)(f)