

Auditor-General of South Africa

**uMshwathi Local Municipality**  
**Audit Report for the year ended**  
**30 June 2021**

# Report of the auditor-general to the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature and the council on uMshwathi Local Municipality

## Report on the audit of the financial statements

### Qualified opinion

1. I have audited the financial statements of the uMshwathi Local Municipality set out on pages xx to xx, 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 the 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 uMshwathi Local Municipality as at 30 June 2021, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the South African Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (SA Standard of GRAP), the requirements of the Municipal Finance Management Act of South Africa, 2003 (Act No.56 of 2003) (MFMA) and the Division of Revenue Act of South Africa, 2020 (Act No. 4 of 2020) (Dora).

### Basis for qualified opinion

#### Property, Plant and Equipment - Roads Infrastructure

3. The municipality did not review the residual values and useful lives of property plant and equipment at each reporting date and did not also componentise their road infrastructure in accordance with GRAP 17, *Property, plant and equipment*. As a result, roads infrastructure with a cost value amounting to R31,67 million had a zero net carrying amount while still being in use. I was unable to determine the impact on the net carrying amount of property plant and equipment – road infrastructure disclosed in note 7 to the annual financial statements, as it was impracticable to do so.

#### Property, Plant and Equipment - Furniture and Equipment

4. The municipality did not review the residual values and useful lives of property plant and equipment at each reporting date in accordance with GRAP 17, *Property, plant and equipment*. As a result, furniture and equipment with a cost value amounting to R6,02 million had a zero net carrying amount while still being in use. I was unable to determine the impact on the net carrying amount of property plant and equipment – furniture and equipment disclosed in note 7 to the annual financial statements, as it was impracticable to do so.

#### Property, Plant and Equipment - Vehicles

5. The municipality did not review the residual values and useful lives of property plant and equipment at each reporting date in accordance with GRAP 17, *Property, plant and*

*equipment.* As a result, vehicles with a cost value amounting to R4,55 million had a zero net carrying amount while still being in use. I was unable to determine the impact on the net carrying amount of property plant and equipment – vehicles disclosed in note 7 to the annual financial statements, as it was impracticable to do so.

### **Context for the opinion**

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

### **Emphasis of matters**

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

#### **Material impairments – receivables from exchange and non-exchange transactions**

10. As disclosed in note 10 to the financial statements, receivables from exchange and non-exchange transactions were impaired by a total of R123,37 million (2019-20: R60,74 million) as a result of the annual review of the recoverability of the debt.

#### **Restatement of corresponding figures**

11. As disclosed in note 29 to the financial statements, the corresponding figures for 30 June 2020 were restated as a result of an error in the financial statements of the municipality at, and for the year ended 30 June 2021.

### **Other matters**

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

#### **Unaudited disclosure note**

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.

## Unaudited supplementary schedules

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

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

15. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the SA 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.
16. In preparing the financial statements, the accounting officer is responsible for assessing the Umshwathi Local 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**

17. 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.
18. 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**

19. In accordance with the Public Audit Act, 2004 (Act No. 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 the selected key performance area presented in the annual performance report. I performed procedures to identify material findings but not to gather evidence to express assurance.
20. 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.

21. 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 *basic service delivery* key performance area presented on pages xx - xx of the municipality's annual performance report for the year ended 30 June 2021.
22. 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.
23. I did not identify any material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for the selected key performance area.

#### **Other matters**

24. I draw attention to the matters below.

#### **Achievement of planned targets**

25. The annual performance report on pages xx to xx includes information on the achievement of planned targets for the year.

#### **Adjustment of material misstatements**

26. I identified material misstatements in the annual performance report submitted for auditing. These material misstatements were in the reported performance information of the *basic service delivery* key performance area. As management subsequently corrected the misstatements, I did not raise material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information.

### **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**

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 of revenue, expenditure, current assets, current liabilities and disclosures identified by the auditors in the submitted financial statements were subsequently corrected and the supporting records were provided subsequently, but the uncorrected material misstatements on property, plant and equipment resulted in the financial statements receiving a qualified audit opinion.

## **Revenue management**

30. Interest was not charged on all accounts in arrears, as required by section 64(2)(g) of the MFMA.

## **Asset management**

31. 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**

32. Persons in the service of the municipality who had a private or business interest in contracts awarded by the municipality failed to disclose such interest, in contravention of Municipal Supply Chain Management Regulation 46(2)(e) and the code of conduct for staff members issued in terms of the Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000).

## **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 the selected key performance area presented in the annual performance report that have been specifically reported in the 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 area presented in the annual performance report, or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.
36. 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.

37. 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 and the findings on compliance with legislation included in this report.
38. Senior management did not respond in a timely manner to address the risk of credible and reliable financial reporting and compliance with key legislation relating to revenue, asset management and procurement and contract management.

*Auditor - General*

Pietermaritzburg

31 January 2022



**AUDITOR - GENERAL  
SOUTH AFRICA**

*Auditing to build public confidence*

## **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 the selected key performance area 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 uMshwathi 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 confirm to the accounting officer that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and communicate all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to have a bearing on my independence and, where applicable, the actions taken to eliminate threats or the safeguards applied.