



AUDITOR - GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA

Mr M Khanyile
The accounting officer
eDumbe Local Municipality
10 Hoog Street
Paulpieterburg
3180

30 November 2025

Reference: 60636REG24-25

Dear Sir/Madam

Report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements, annual performance report, compliance with legislation and other legal and regulatory requirements of eDumbe Local Municipality for the year ended 30 June 2025

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 municipality'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 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

Signed



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Merusha Vather

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AUDITOR-GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA

AUDIT REPORT

eDumbe Local Municipality

2024-2025

Date: 30 November 2025

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

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

1. I have audited the financial statements of the eDumbe Local Municipality set out on pages xx to xx, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, 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 eDumbe Local Municipality as at 30 June 2025 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Standards of General Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP) and the requirements of the Municipal Finance Management Act 56 of 2003 (MFMA) and the Division of Revenue Act 24 of 2024 (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

Material impairments-Receivables from exchange and non-exchange transactions

7. As disclosed in note 4 to the financial statements, receivables from exchange transactions were impaired by R127,38 million (2023-24: R123,26 million) respectively as the recoverability of these amounts were doubtful.
8. As disclosed in notes 5 and 7 to the financial statements, receivables from non-exchange transactions were impaired by R111,11 million (2023-24: R90,23 million) and R24,03 million (2023-24: R21,84 million) respectively as the recoverability of these amounts were doubtful.

Material Losses-Electricity losses

9. As disclosed in note 37 to the financial statements, material electricity losses of R15,62 million (2023-2024: R17, 06 million) was incurred, which represents 40% (2023-2024: 40%) of total electricity purchased. This was mainly due to ageing infrastructure, illegal connections and meter tampering.

Restatement of the corresponding figures

10. As disclosed in note 47 to the financial statements, the corresponding figures for 30 June 2024 were restated as a result of an error in the financial statements of the municipality at and for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Other matter

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

Unaudited disclosure notes

12. In terms of section 125(2)(e) of the MFMA, the particulars of non-compliance with the MFMA should be disclosed 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

13. 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 the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
14. 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

15. 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.

16. 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 9, forms part of our auditor's report.

Report on the annual performance report

17. 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 information against predetermined objectives for the selected material performance indicators presented in the annual performance report. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation of the annual performance report.

18. I selected the following material performance indicators related to basic service delivery and infrastructure development key performance area presented in the annual performance report for the year ended 30 June 2025. I selected those indicators that measure the municipality's performance on its primary mandated functions and that are of significant national, community or public interest.

- Provide more than 150 qualifying indigent consumers with free basic electricity (first 50KWH) by 30 June 2025
- Provide 100% of consumers with a property value of R110 000 and less with free basic waste by 30 June 2025.
- Re-gravelling and completion of 1.2km Kwamadinsi road by 30 June 2025
- Re-gravelling and completion of 2km C Section Ezingadini Road by 30 June 2025
- Re-gravelling and completion of 1.5km Mangosuthu Taxi Road by 30 June 2025.
- 100% Construction and completion of Manzamnyama Bridge by 30 June 2025.
- Completion of final Designs for Ndabambi Electrification by 30 June 2025.
- Completion of final Designs for Bucangosi Electrification by 30 June 2025.
- Completion of final Designs for Mqothuka Electrification by 30 June 2025.
- 100% Infrastructure upgrade of eDumbe Switching Station by 30 June 2025.

19. I evaluated the reported performance information for the selected material performance indicators 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.

20. 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
- there is adequate supporting evidence for the achievements reported measures taken to improve performance.

21. I performed the procedures to report material findings only; and not to express an assurance opinion or conclusion.

22. The material finding on the reported performance information for the selected material indicator is as follows:

Provide more than 150 qualifying indigent consumers with free basic electricity (first 50 KWH) by 30 June 2025

23. Adequate processes had not been established to consistently measure and reliably report on the achievement of this indicator, and it targets of more than of more than 150 qualifying indigent consumers provided with free basic electricity (first 50 KWH) by 30 June 2025. I could not determine whether the reported achievement was correct, as well defined and adequate supporting evidence to clarify the methods and processes for measuring achievement were not provided. Consequently, the reported achievement might be more or less than reported and was not reliable for determining if the target has been achieved.

Other matters

24. I draw attention to the matters below.

Achievement of planned targets

25. The annual performance report includes information on reported achievements against planned targets and provides measures taken to improve performance. This information should be considered in the context of the material findings on the reported performance information.

26. The table that follows provides information on the achievement of planned targets and lists the key service delivery indicator that was not achieved as reported in the annual performance

report. The measures taken to improve performance are included in the annual performance report on pages xx to xx.

Key Performance Area: Basic service delivery and infrastructure development

<i>Targets achieved: 75%</i>		
Key service delivery indicator not achieved	Planned target	Reported achievement
Provide 100% of consumers with a property value of R110 000 and less with free basic waste by 30 June 2025.	100% consumers with a property value of R110 000 and less provided with free basic waste by 30 June 2025	90% of consumers with a property value of R110 000 and less provided with free basic waste by 30 June 2025
Re-gravelling and completion of 1.5km Mangosuthu Taxi Road by 30 June 2025.	1.5km of Mangosuthu Taxi Road be completed by 30 June 2025.	1.5km of Mangosuthu Road was completed with the exception of drainage by 30 June 2025

Material misstatements

27. I identified preventable material misstatements in the annual performance report submitted for auditing. These material misstatements were in the reported performance information for the basic service delivery and infrastructure development key performance area. Management did not correct the misstatement and I reported material findings in this regard.

Report on compliance with legislation

28. 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.
29. 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.
30. 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.
31. The material findings on compliance with the selected legislative requirements, presented per compliance theme, are as follows:

Expenditure management

32. Reasonable steps were not taken to ensure that money owed by the municipality was always paid within 30 days, as required by section 65(2)(e) of the MFMA.
33. Reasonable steps were not taken to prevent unauthorised expenditure amounting to R28,37 million as disclosed in note 49 to the annual financial statements, in contravention of section 62(1)(d) of the MFMA. The majority of the unauthorised expenditure was caused by overspending on the approved budget relating to non-cash items.
34. Reasonable steps were not taken to prevent fruitless and wasteful expenditure amounting to R120 179 as disclosed in note 50 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 incurred on overdue accounts.
35. Reasonable steps were not taken to prevent irregular expenditure amounting to R23,42 million as disclosed in note 51 to the annual financial statements, as required by section 62(1)(d) of the MFMA. The majority of the disclosed irregular expenditure was caused by non-compliance with the municipal supply chain management regulations.

Asset Management

36. Capital assets were disposed of without the municipal council having, in a meeting open to the public, decided on whether the assets were still needed to provide the minimum level of basic municipal services and considered the fair market value of the assets and the economic and community value to be received in exchange for the assets, as required by section 14(2)(a) and 14(2)(b) of the MFMA.

Grant Management

37. The Integrated National Electrification Programme was not spent for its intended purposes as required by section 16(1) of the Division of Revenue Act 24 of 2024.

Procurement and Contract Management

38. Sufficient appropriate audit evidence could not be obtained that all contracts were awarded in accordance with the legislative requirements as it could not be confirmed that these awards went through the official procurement process.
39. The performance of contractors or providers was not monitored on a monthly basis, as required by section 116(2)(b) of the MFMA. This non-compliance was identified in the procurement processes for the construction of Manzamyama Bridge, Section C Ezingadini Access Road, Kwamandinsi Road – Ward 6, Mangosuthu Access Road, Natal Spa/Kwamanzi Hall and eDumbe Switching Station upgrade phase 2.
40. 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.

Other information in the annual report

41. 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 material indicators in the scoped-in key performance area presented in the annual performance report that have been specifically reported on in this auditor's report.
42. 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.
43. 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 material indicators in the scoped-in key performance area presented in the annual performance report or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.
44. 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 the auditor's report and re-issue an amended report as appropriate. However, if it is corrected this will not be necessary.

Internal control deficiencies

45. 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.
52. The matters reported below are limited to the significant internal control deficiencies that resulted in the basis for the opinion, the finding on the selected material indicator included in the annual performance report and the material findings on compliance with legislation included in this report.
53. The accounting officer's oversight of internal controls was insufficient, resulting in recurring issues with performance reporting and compliance with key legislation, as evidenced by repeated findings and multiple procurement compliance breaches.

Other reports

54. I draw attention to the following engagements conducted by various parties. These reports did not form part of my opinion on the financial statements or my findings on the reported performance information or compliance with legislation.
55. The municipality investigated allegations of fraudulent payments made to a service provider by a municipal official which was discovered during the 2023-24 financial year. The allegation was

reported to South African Police Services (SAPS) and the municipality's banking institution.
The investigation is currently in progress as at the date of this report.

Auditor General

Pietermaritzburg

30 November 2025



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 material performance indicators 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 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 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.

I also provide the accounting officer 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 56 of 2003	Sections: 1, 11(1), 13(2), 14(1), 14(2)(a), 14(2)(b), 15, 24(2)(c)(iv), 28(1), 29(1), 29(2)(b), 32(2), 32(2)(a), 32(2)(a)(i), 32(2)(a)(ii), Sections: 32(2)(b), 32(6)(a), 32(7), 53(1)(c)(ii), 54(1)(c), 62(1)(d), 63(2)(a), 63(2)(c), 64(2)(b), 64(2)(c), 64(2)(e), 64(2)(f), Sections: 64(2)(g), 65(2)(a), 65(2)(b), 65(2)(e), 72(1)(a)(ii), 112(1)(j), 116(2)(b), 116(2)(c)(ii), 117, 122(1), 122(2), 126(1)(a), Sections: 126(1)(b), 127(2), 127(5)(a)(i), 127(5)(a)(ii), 129(1), 129(3), 133(1)(a), 133(1)(c)(i), 133(1)(c)(ii), 170, 171(4)(a), 171(4)(b)
MFMA: Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations, 2009	Regulations: 71(1)(a), 71(1)(a)(b), 71(2)(a), 71(2)(b), 71(2)(d), 72(a), 72(b), 72(c)
MFMA: Municipal Investment Regulations, 2005	Regulations: 3(1)(a), 3(3), 6, 7, 12(2), 12(3)
MFMA: Municipal Regulations on Financial Misconduct Procedures and Criminal Proceedings, 2014	Regulations: 5(4), 6(8)(a), 6(8)(b), 10(1)
MFMA: Municipal Supply Chain Management Regulations, 2017	Regulations: 5, 12(1)(c), 12(3), 13(b), 13(c), 16(a), 17(1)(a), 17(1)(b), 17(1)(c), 19(a), 21(b), 22(1)(b)(i), 22(2), 27(2)(a), 27(2)(e), Regulations: 28(1)(a)(i), 29(1)(a), 29(1)(b), 29(5)(a)(ii), 29(5)(b)(ii), 32, 36(1), 36(1)(a), 38(1)(c), 38(1)(d)(ii), 38(1)(e), 38(1)(g)(i), Regulations: 38(1)(g)(ii), 38(1)(g)(iii), 43, 44, 46(2)(e), 46(2)(f)
Construction Industry Development Board Act 38 of 2000	Section: 18(1)
Construction Industry Development Board Regulations, 2004	Regulations: 17, 25(7A)
Division of Revenue Act	Sections: 11(6)(b), 12(5), 16(1); 16(3)
Municipal Property Rates Act 6 of 2004	Section: 3(1)
Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000	Sections: 25(1), 26(a), 26(c), 26(h), 26(i), 29(1)(b)(ii), 34(a), 34(b), 38(a), 41(1)(a), 41(1)(b), 41(1)(c)(ii), 42, 43(2), Sections: 54A(1)(a), 56(1)(a), 57(2)(a), 57(6)(a), 66(1)(a), 66(1)(b), 67(1)(d), 74(1), 96(b)
MSA: Disciplinary Regulations for Senior Managers, 2011	Regulations: 5(2), 5(3), 5(6), 8(4)
MSA: Municipal Planning and Performance Management Regulations, 2001	Regulations: 2(1)(e), 2(3)(a), 3(3), 3(4)(b), 7(1), 8, 9(1)(a), 10(a), 12(1), 15(1)(a)(i), 15(1)(a)(ii)
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)
MSA: Regulations on Appointment and Conditions of Employment of Senior Managers, 2014	Regulations: 17(2), 36(1)(a)
MSA: Municipal Staff Regulations	Regulations: 7(1), 31
Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act 12 of 2004	Section: 34(1)
Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act 5 of 2000	Sections: 2(1)(a), 2(1)(f)
Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2017	Regulations: 4(1), 4(2), 5(1), 5(3), 5(6), 5(7), 6(1), 6(2), 6(3), 6(6), 6(8), 7(1), 7(2), 7(3), 7(6), 7(8), 8(2), 8(5), 9(1), 10(1), 10(2),

Legislation	Sections or regulations
	Regulations: 11(1), 11(2)
Preferential Procurement Regulations, 2022	Regulations: 4(1), 4(2), 4(3), 4(4), 5(1), 5(2), 5(3), 5(4)

