



**The Accounting Officer**  
Umlalazi Municipality  
P.O Box 37  
Eshowe  
3815

30 November 2021

Reference: 21242REG20-21

Dear Sir

**Report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements, annual performance report, compliance with legislation and other legal and regulatory requirements of Umlalazi Municipality for the year ended 30 June 2021**

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 audit committee report 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 audit 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 audit report in the Municipality's annual report to be tabled.
4. Prior to printing or copying the annual report which will include the audit 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 audit 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 authorized 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*), the AGSA, 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 unless this is to a legislature or internal committee of a legislature or a court in a criminal matter and the disclosure has been approved by the auditee and the Auditor-General.
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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Naseem Mohamed

Senior Manager: Kwazulu-Natal

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Auditor-General of South Africa  
**uMlalazi Municipality**  
Audit report 2020-21

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

## Report on the audit of the financial statements

### Opinion

1. I have audited the financial statements of the uMlalazi 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 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 uMlalazi 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 Standards of GRAP) and 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 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 auditor-general's responsibilities 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 impairment - receivables

7. As disclosed in note 5 to the financial statements, the municipality increased the provision for impairment on trade receivables from exchange transactions to R18,62 million (2019-20: R16,65 million) as the recoverability of these amounts was considered to be doubtful.

8. As disclosed in note 6 to the financial statements, the municipality increased the provision for impairment on receivables from non-exchange transactions to R204,01 million (2019-20: R193,74 million) as the recoverability of these amounts was considered doubtful.

#### **Material losses – electricity**

9. As disclosed in note 40 to the financial statements, material electricity losses of R9,15 million (2019-20: R7,91 million) was incurred, which represents 15% (2019-2020: 14%) of total electricity purchased. Technical losses amounted to R3,43 million (2019-20: R3,16 million) and these were due to substation equipment losses, transmission lines losses, MV and LV cable network losses, electricity meters, MV and LV ring main units losses, minisubs losses and transformers losses. Non-technical losses amounted to R5,72 million (2019-20: 4,76 million) and were due to tampering with electricity installations and streetlights consumptions that are not metered.

#### **Other matter**

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

#### **Unaudited supplementary schedules**

11. 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**

12. 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.
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.

#### **Auditor-general's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

14. My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether 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.

## **Report on the audit of the annual performance report**

### **Introduction and scope**

16. 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 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.
17. 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.
18. 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 and infrastructure development key performance area presented on pages xx to xx of the municipality's annual performance report for the year ended 30 June 2021.
19. 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.
20. I did not identify any material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for the Basic service delivery and infrastructure development key performance area.

## Other matters

21. I draw attention to the matter below.

### Achievement of planned targets

22. Refer to the annual performance report on pages xx to xx for information on the achievement of planned targets for the year and management's explanations provided for the under/over achievement of targets.

## Report on the audit of compliance with legislation

### Introduction and scope

23. 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.

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

### Expenditure management

25. Reasonable steps were not taken to prevent irregular expenditure amounting to R3,01 million as disclosed in note 57 to the annual financial statements, as required by section 62(1)(d) of the MFMA. The majority of the irregular expenditure was caused by the municipality doing business with suppliers that are not tax compliant and deviations from procurement processes with insufficient reasons.

## Other information

26. The accounting officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, which includes the mayor's foreword, municipal manager's overview, governance, audit committee's report and other information included in the annual report. The other information does not include the financial statements, the auditor's report and that selected key performance area presented in the annual performance report that has been specifically reported in this auditor's report.

27. 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.

28. 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.

29. The other information I obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report is the mayor's foreword, municipal manager's overview and governance. The audit committee's report and other information to be included in the annual report is expected to be made available to me after 30 November 2021.
30. 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. I have nothing to report in this regard.
31. When I do receive and read the audit committee's report and other information to be included in 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**

32. 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 findings on compliance with legislation included in this report.
33. There was inadequate oversight and monitoring over compliance with legislation by management and those charged with governance to prevent instances of non-compliance.

### **Other reports**

34. I draw attention to the following engagement conducted that had, or could have an impact on the matters reported in the municipality's financial statements, reported performance information, compliance with applicable legislation and other related matters. This report did not form part of my opinion on the financial statements or my findings on the reported performance information or compliance with legislation.

## Investigation

35. At the request of the municipality, an independent consultant was appointed during the years' 2013 to 2017 to investigate payments made to a service provider in respect of legal services rendered to the municipality, during an employee's disciplinary proceedings. This investigation was not finalised at the date of this auditor's report.

*Auditor - General*

Pietermaritzburg

30 November 2021



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 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 uMlalazi 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**

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.