

# Report of the auditor-general to the North West Provincial Legislature and the council on Mahikeng Local Municipality

## Report on the audit of the financial statements

### Qualified opinion

1. I have audited the financial statements of Mahikeng Local Municipality set out on pages xx to xx, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, 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 the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.
2. In my opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter 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 Mahikeng Local Municipality as at 30 June 2023, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP) and the requirements of the Municipal Finance Management Act 56 of 2003 (MFMA) and the Division of Revenue Act 5 of 2022 (Dora).

### Basis for opinion

#### General expenses

3. The municipality did not account for general expenses in accordance with GRAP 1, *Presentation of financial statements*. This is due to the submitted invoices not agreeing to the accounting records. Consequently, general expenditure and trade payable are overstated by R26 019 305 as disclosed in note 33 and note 6 to the financial statements respectively.

### Context for opinion

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my qualified opinion.

## **Emphasis of matter**

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

## **Restatement of corresponding figures**

8. As disclosed in note 47 to the financial statements, the corresponding figures for 30 June 2022 were restated as a result of correction of errors identified by the municipality in the prior year financial statements of the municipality at, and for the year ended, 30 June 2023.

## **Other matter**

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

## **Unaudited disclosure notes**

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

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

11. 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.
12. 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 there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

## **Responsibilities of the auditor-general for the audit of the financial statements**

13. 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.
14. 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

15. 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.
16. I selected the following material programmes presented in the annual performance report for the year ended 30 June 2023. I selected programmes that measure the municipality's performance on its primary mandated functions and that are of significant national, community or public interest.

| Key performance areas (KPA)                                       | Page numbers | Purpose                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>KPA: Basic Service Delivery and Infrastructure Development</b> | [XX]         | Distribution of water and wastewater treatment and Operation and maintenance of the wastewater network, lift stations and wastewater treatment plants and infrastructure development.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>KPA: Local Economic Development and Spatial Rational</b>       | [XX]         | The purpose is to collate all economic information and investigate the coordinated and integrated options and opportunities available to broaden the economic base of the study area, packaged as a strategic implementation framework in order to address the creation of employment opportunities, investment and business development and the resultant positive spin-off effects throughout the district economy |

17. I evaluated the reported performance information for the selected programmes 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.
18. 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.
  - 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 and for the measures taken to improve performance.

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

20. The material findings on the reported performance information for the selected programmes are as follows:

#### **KPA: Basic service delivery and Infrastructure development**

##### **KPI 72: Volume in KL of water distributed in urban areas**

21. An achievement of 3 751 523 KL was reported against a target of 7 500 000 KL, but the audit evidence showed the actual achievement to be 7 858 373 KL. The achievement against the target was better than reported.

##### **KPI 89: Number of high mast lights to be constructed**

22. An achievement of *“Foundation casted, poles erected awaiting Eskom connection”* was reported against a target of *“80 high mast lights”*. However, the audit evidence showed the actual achievement to be zero. Consequently, the target was not achieved. Additionally, the reported achievements were not consistent with planned targets as the indicators targeted the completion of 80 high mast lights, however the achievements were reported in terms of stages of completion. Furthermore, the audit evidence provided did not provide the latest progress at year end.

##### **KPI 102: Number of weekly collections of refuse at trade premises and urban residential areas**

23. I could not determine if the predetermined nature and required level of performance to be used when measuring the achievement of the target of *“Once weekly collection of refuse at trade premises and urban residential areas by 30 June 2023”* was correct, as the target was not determined as a number consistent with how the indicator is described.

##### **KPI 106: Number of landfill site operational and maintained**

24. An achievement of 1 was reported against a target of 1. However, the audit evidence showed the actual achievement to be zero. Consequently, the target was not achieved and the reported performance was overstated.

#### **Various indicators**

25. I could not determine if the reported achievements were correct, as adequate supporting evidence was not provided for auditing. Consequently, the achievements might be more or less than reported.

| Indicator                                                   | Target                                                                                            | Reported achievement                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| KPI 79: Number of high Masts lights retrofitted             | 494 High Masts light retrofitted by 31 March 2023                                                 | 494 High Masts light retrofitted                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| KPI 81: Upgrading of road in Masutlhe from gravel to Paving | Upgrading of 4km of road in Masutlhe from gravel to Paving project to be complete by 30 June 2023 | Upgrading of 4km of road in Masutlhe from gravel to Paving project not completed<br><b>Progress report:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subbase - 100%</li> <li>• Paving - 85%</li> <li>• Kerbing - 95%</li> </ul> |

### Various indicators

26. I could not determine if the reported achievements were correct, due to the poor state of the performance records as the listings or monthly reports differed with the reported achievements. Consequently, the achievements might be more or less than reported.

| Indicator                                                                                 | Target                                                                                            | Reported achievement                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| KPI 73: Volume in KL of treated wastewater discharged from the wastewater treatment Works | 5 750 000 KL of treated wastewater discharged from the wastewater treatment Works by 30 June 2023 | 3 917 708,67 KL of treated wastewater discharged from the wastewater treatment Works |
| KPI 77: Number of Street lighting maintained                                              | 600 Street lighting maintained by 30 June 2023                                                    | 1 244 Street lighting maintained                                                     |
| KPI 78: Number of High Masts lights maintained                                            | 500 High Masts lights maintained by 30 June 2023                                                  | 938 High Masts lights maintained                                                     |
| KPI 103: Number of illegal dumping spots cleaned                                          | 47 illegal dumping spots cleaned by 30 June 2023                                                  | 52 illegal dumping spots cleaned                                                     |

### Various indicators

27. Based on audit evidence, the actual achievement for the 2 indicators did not agree to the achievements reported. Consequently, the targets were not achieved. Furthermore, the audit evidence provided did not provide the latest progress at year end.

| Indicator                                                          | Target                                                                                            | Reported achievement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Audited value                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| KPI 83: Upgrading of road from Tloung Village to Bokone - Phase II | Upgrading of road from Tloung Village to Bokone - Phase II project to be complete by 30 June 2023 | Upgrading of road from Tloung Village to Bokone - Phase II project not complete<br><b>Progress report:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Base - 80%</li> <li>• Kerbing - 53%</li> <li>• Paving - 53%</li> <li>• V-Drain - 33%</li> </ul> | Upgrading of road from Tloung Village to Bokone - Phase II project not complete<br><b>Progress report:</b><br>The overall progress is 50% and time elapse is 34%, contractor is behind by 16%. They have done |

| Indicator                                                                      | Target                                                                                          | Reported achievement                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Audited value                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                |                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 240m of roadbed and 220m of selected layer which still need to be verified and tested.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| KPI 88: Number of new outdoor sports centre developed Mmabatho Stadium phase 3 | 1 new outdoor sports centre developed Mmabatho Stadium phase 3 project complete by 30 June 2023 | <p>1 new outdoor sports centre developed Mmabatho Stadium phase 3 project not completed.</p> <p><b><u>Progress report:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Platform excavation - 100%</li> <li>Main building foundation - 100%</li> <li>Casting of columns - 10%</li> <li>Brick works - 25%</li> <li>Plumbing - 20%</li> </ul> | <p>1 new outdoor sports centre developed Mmabatho Stadium phase 3 project not completed.</p> <p><b><u>Progress report:</u></b></p> <p>Detailed progress</p> <p>Excavation = 10%</p> <p>Compaction = 0%</p> <p>Testing = 0%</p> <p>Reinforcement = 0%</p> <p>Concrete = 0%</p> <p>Brickwork = 0%</p> <p>Wall plate level = 0%</p> <p>Roof = 0%</p> <p>Plaster = 0%</p> <p>Paint = 0%</p> <p>Plumbing = 0%</p> <p>Electrical work = 0%</p> <p>Mechanical = 0%</p> <p>Summary progress</p> <p>Expenditure: 14,75%</p> <p>Construction Progress:15%</p> <p>Time lapsed :23%</p> |

### Various indicators

28. The measures below were reported to improve the performance against the target. I could not determine if the measures were correct, as adequate supporting evidence was not provided for auditing. Consequently, I could not determine whether the reported measures were reliable.

| Indicator                                                                                 | Target                                                                                            | Remedial action taken to improve performance                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| KPI 72: Volume in KL of water distributed in urban areas                                  | 7 500 000 KL of water distributed in urban areas by 30 June 2023                                  | Procurement of standby generators and the meeting to be held between Magalies water and Mahikeng Local Municipality. |
| KPI 73: Volume in KL of treated wastewater discharged from the wastewater treatment Works | 5 750 000 KL of treated wastewater discharged from the wastewater treatment Works by 30 June 2023 | Fixing of wastewater treatment plants and upgrading of pumpstations to ensure continuous flow and                    |

| Indicator                                                                      | Target                                                                                                        | Remedial action taken to improve performance                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                |                                                                                                               | environmental compliance regarding sewer                                                                                    |
| KPI 74: Number of square meters of surfaced road maintained                    | 10 000 m2 of surfaced road maintained by 30 June 2023                                                         | To request additional budget in the next financial year for procuring small plant machine and material for pothole patching |
| KPI 75: Length in kilometres of stormwater drainage systems maintained         | 30 kilometres of stormwater drainage systems maintained by 30 June 2023                                       | To request additional budget in the next financial year for procuring additional TLB to focus on Stormwater.                |
| KPI 81: Upgrading of road in Masutlhe from gravel to Paving                    | Upgrading of 4km of road in Masutlhe from gravel to Paving project to be complete by 30 June 2023             | Speed up the delivery of material                                                                                           |
| KPI 83: Upgrading of road from Tloung Village to Bokone - Phase II             | Upgrading of road from Tloung Village to Bokone - Phase II project to be complete by 30 June 2023             | The projects to be completed in the next financial year.                                                                    |
| KPI 87: Construction of kilometres of new access road to Matlalong Graveyard   | Construction of 2 kilometres of new access road to Matlalong Graveyard project to be complete by 30 June 2023 | Appointment letters for projects to indicate the kms for the projects.                                                      |
| KPI 88: Number of new outdoor sports centre developed Mmabatho Stadium phase 3 | 1 new outdoor sports centre developed Mmabatho Stadium phase 3 project complete by 30 June 2023               | The projects to be completed in the next financial year.                                                                    |
| KPI 89: Number of high mast lights to be constructed                           | 80 high mast lights to be constructed project to be complete by 30 June 2023                                  | Eskom to electrification connection and Project will be completed                                                           |

## KPA: Local Economic Development and Spatial Rational

### KPI 61: Number of agricultural projects farmers and/or supported and monitored

29. An achievement of 91 was reported against a target of 12 but the audit evidence indicate the actual achievement to be 20. The target was still achieved and the reported performance was overstated.

### Various indicators

30. I could not determine if the reported achievements were correct, as adequate supporting evidence was not provided for auditing. Consequently, the achievements might be more or less than reported.

| Indicator                                                 | Target                                                      | Reported achievement                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| KPI 53: Review of Mahikeng Land Use Scheme                | Review of Mahikeng Land Use Scheme by 30 June 2023          | Final Land Use Scheme Maps Report submitted by 30 June 2023                                                                                                                           |
| KPI 54: Preparation of Village Development Strategy       | Preparation of Village Development Strategy by 30 June 2023 | Implementation Framework submitted by 30 June 2023                                                                                                                                    |
| KPI 66: Number of arts projects facilitated               | 4 Arts and culture activities by 30 June 2023               | 3 Arts and culture activities by 30 June 2023                                                                                                                                         |
| KPI 70: Number of SMMEs supported through LED initiatives | 5 SMMEs Supported through LED Initiatives by 30 June 2023   | Three (3) business licences were issued, Transport assistance for Bamboo Tree Promotions was granted; Billboards & street pole ads for Fill Up Mmabatho Stadium and 1 SMME supported. |

### Various indicators

31. The measures below were reported to improve the performance against the target. I could not determine if the measures were correct, as adequate supporting evidence was not provided for auditing. Consequently, I could not determine whether the reported measures were reliable.

| Indicator                                                            | Target                                               | Remedial action taken to improve performance                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| KPI 56: Development of Ottoshoop Master plan                         | Development of Ottoshoop Master plan by 30 June 2023 | To request for budget to be available to appoint service provider to develop the Ottoshoop Master plan      |
| KPI 57: Number of bricks making projects facilitated and established | 1 Brick making projects by 30 June 2023              | To request for budget to be available to appoint service provider for feasibility study                     |
| KPI 66: Number of Arts projects facilitated                          | 4 Arts and Culture Activities by 30 June 2023        | Arts and Culture activities to be achieved on availability of Budget allocation in the next financial year. |

### Other matters

32. I draw attention to the matters below.

### Achievement of planned targets

33. 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. This information should be considered in the context of the material findings on the reported performance information.

## Material misstatements

34. I identified material misstatements in the annual performance report submitted for auditing. These material misstatements were in the reported performance information for Basic Service Delivery and Infrastructure Development and Local Economic Development and Spatial Rational. Management did not correct all the misstatements and I reported material findings in this regard.

## Report on compliance with legislation

35. 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.
36. 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.
37. 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.
38. The material findings on compliance with the selected legislative requirements, presented per compliance theme, are as follows:

## Annual financial statements

39. 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. Some material misstatements of current liabilities, cashflow statement and disclosures identified by the auditors in the submitted financial statements were subsequently corrected, but the uncorrected material misstatements and supporting records that could not be provided resulted in the financial statements receiving a qualified audit opinion.

## Expenditure management

40. Reasonable steps were not taken to prevent irregular expenditure amounting to R209 063 530 as disclosed in note 41 to the annual financial statements, as required by section 62(1)(d) of the MFMA. The majority of the irregular expenditure was due to tax and other non-compliance with supply chain management (SCM) regulation 29(2) and procurement processes not being followed.
41. Reasonable steps were not taken to prevent unauthorised expenditure amounting to R163 992 285, as disclosed in note 39 to the annual financial statements, in contravention of section 62(1)(d) of the MFMA.

## Procurement and contract management

42. 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. This limitation was identified in the procurement processes for the provision of eighty high mast lights.
43. 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. This limitation was identified in the procurement processes for the provision of eighty high mast lights.
44. Some of the goods and services of a transaction value above R200 000 were procured without inviting competitive bids, as required by SCM Regulation 19(a). Deviations were approved by the accounting officer even though it was not impractical to invite competitive bids, in contravention of SCM Regulation 36(1).
45. Some of the goods and services with a transaction value of below R200 000 were procured without obtaining the required price quotations, in contravention of by SCM Regulation 17(1)(a) and (c). Similar non-compliance was also reported in the prior year.
46. The preference point system was not applied to some of the procurement of goods and services as required by section 2(1)(a) of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act. Similar non-compliance was also reported in the prior year.

## Asset Management

47. 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/or 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.

## Human resource management

48. Senior manager was appointed without submitting original/certified copies of academic and professional qualifications prior to signing employment contracts, as required by municipal performance regulations for municipal managers and managers directly accountable to municipal managers 4(4)(b).

## Consequence management

49. Unauthorised, irregular or fruitless and wasteful expenditure incurred by the municipality were not investigated to determine if any person is liable for the expenditure, as required by section 32(2)(a) and (b) of the MFMA.

|                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------|
| <h2>Other information in the annual report</h2> |
|-------------------------------------------------|

50. The accounting officer is responsible for the other information included in the annual report which includes the audit committees 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 development priority presented in the annual performance report that have been specifically reported on in this auditor's report.

51. 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.
52. 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 development priority presented in the annual performance report or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.
53. 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**

54. 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. The matters reported below are limited to the significant internal control deficiencies that resulted in the basis for the qualified of opinion, and the material findings on the annual performance report and the material findings on compliance with legislation included in this report.
55. Management did not implement proper record keeping in a timely manner to ensure that complete, relevant, and accurate information was accessible and available to support financial and performance reporting.
56. Management did not implement controls over daily and monthly processing and reconciling of transactions.
57. Management did not implement effective human resource management to ensure that adequate and sufficiently skilled resources were in place and that performance was monitored.
58. Management did not review and monitor compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

#### **Material irregularities**

59. In accordance with the PAA and the Material Irregularity Regulations, I have a responsibility to report on material irregularities identified during the audit and on the status of the material irregularities reported in the previous year's auditor's report.

## Status of previously reported material irregularities

### Investment of funds in contradiction of the Municipal Investment Regulations

60. During 2018, the municipality invested funds in a 32 day notice account with a mutual bank that was not registered in terms of the Banks Act 94 of 1990, which is a contravention of municipal investment regulation 6(c). As the mutual bank was placed under curatorship on 11 March 2018, the non-compliance is likely to result in a material financial loss if the municipality cannot obtain a refund of these deposits. During the 2019-20 financial year, the municipality impaired the investment of R83 440 312 (including interest).
61. The accounting officer was notified of the material irregularity on 24 February 2021. The following actions have been taken to resolve the material irregularity:
- The municipality successfully lodged a claim against the estate of the mutual bank on 13 November 2018 in the Gauteng High Court. During the 2021-22 financial year, the curators of VBS mutual bank made a preliminary distribution of R5 948 284.85 to the municipality. The claim and the process to recover the deposits from the estate of the mutual bank are still in progress.
  - An investigation concluded that the previous accounting officer was responsible for the non-compliance and the related financial loss. The municipality instituted disciplinary action against the previous accounting officer, resulting in his dismissal.
  - Criminal proceedings against the previous accounting officer are ongoing. He appeared in the Molopo Magistrate Court on 11 August 2021 and 6 November 2021.
62. The material irregularity was resolved.

*AUDITOR GENERAL*

Rustenburg

15 December 2023



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 key performance area 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 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                                                   | Section 1 - Paragraph (a), (b) & (d) of the definition: irregular expenditure,<br>Section 1 - Definition: service delivery and budget implementation plan,<br>Sections 11(1), 13(2), 14(1), 14(2)(a), 14(2)(b), 15, 24(2)(c)(iv), 29(1),<br>Sections 29(2)(b), 32(2), 32(2)(a), 32(2)(a)(i), 32(2)(a)(ii), 32(2)(b),<br>Sections 32(6)(a), 32(7), 53(1)(c)(ii), 54(1)(c), 62(1)(d), 62(1)(f)(i),<br>Sections 62(1)(f)(ii), 62(1)(f)(iii), 63(1)(a), 63(2)(a), 63(2)(c),<br>64(2)(b),<br>Sections 64(2)(c), 64(2)(e), 64(2)(f), 64(2)(g), 65(2)(a), 65(2)(b),<br>65(2)(e),<br>Sections 72(1)(a)(ii), 112(1)(j), 116(2)(b), 116(2)(c)(ii), 117,<br>122(1),<br>Sections 122(2), 126(1)(a), 126(1)(b), 127(2), 127(5)(a)(i),<br>127(5)(a)(ii),<br>Sections 129(1), 129(3), 133(1)(a), 133(1)(c)(i), 133(1)(c)(ii), 170,<br>Sections 171(4)(a), 171(4)(b) |
| MFMA: Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations, 2009                                        | Regulations 71(1), 71(2), 72                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 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), 13(c)(i), 16(a),<br>17(1)(a),<br>Regulations 17(1)(b), 17(1)(c), 19(a), 21(b), 22(1)(b)(i), 22(2),<br>27(2)(a),<br>Regulations 27(2)(e), 28(1)(a)(i), 28(1)(a)(ii), 29(1)(a), 29(1)(b),<br>Regulations 29(5)(a)(ii), 29(5)(b)(ii), 32, 36(1), 36(1)(a), 38(1)(c),<br>Regulations 38(1)(d)(ii), 38(1)(e), 38(1)(g)(i), 38(1)(g)(ii),<br>38(1)(g)(iii), 43,<br>Regulations 44, 46(2)(e), 46(2)(f)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Municipal Systems Act 32 of 2000                                                              | Sections 25(1), 26(a), 26(c), 26(h), 26(i), 29(1)(b)(ii), 29(3)(b),<br>34(a), 34(b),<br>Sections 38(a), 41(1)(a), 41(1)(b), 41(1)(c)(ii), 42, 43(2), 56(a),<br>57(2)(a),<br>Sections 57(4B), 57(6)(a), 66(1)(a), 66(1)(b), 67(1)(d), 74(1),<br>93J(1), 96(b)<br><br>Parent municipality with ME:<br>Sections 93B(a), 93B(b)<br><br>Parent municipality with shared control of ME:<br>Sections 93C(a)(iv), 93C(a)(v)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

| Legislation                                                                                                                 | Sections or regulations                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MSA: Municipal Planning and performance Management Regulations, 2001                                                        | Regulations 2(1)(e), 2(3)(a), 3(3), 3(4)(b), 3(6)(a), 7(1), 8, 9(1)(a), 10(a), Regulations 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: Disciplinary Regulations for Senior Managers, 2011                                                                     | Regulations 5(2), 5(3), 5(6), 8(4)                                                                                                                                              |
| Annual Division of Revenue Act                                                                                              | Section 11(6)(b), 12(5), 16(1); 16(3)                                                                                                                                           |
| Construction Industry Development Board Act 38 of 2000                                                                      | Section 18(1)                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Construction Industry Development Board Regulations                                                                         | Regulations 17, 25(7A)                                                                                                                                                          |
| Municipal Property Rates Act 6 of 2004                                                                                      | Section 3(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), Regulations 7(1), 7(2), 7(3), 7(6), 7(8), 8(2), 8(5) 9(1), 10(1), 10(2), 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)                                                                                                                      |
| Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act 12 of 2004                                                               | Section 34(1)                                                                                                                                                                   |