

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL TO THE MPUMALANGA LEGISLATURE AND THE COUNCIL ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION OF THE NKANGALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

3.1 REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Introduction

1. I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Nkangala District Municipality which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2009, and the statement of financial performance, the statement of changes in net assets and the cash flow statement for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes, as set out on pages 30 to 38.

The accounting officer's responsibility for the financial statements

2. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the Statements of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (Statements of GRAP) and in the manner required by the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003) (MFMA) 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.

The Auditor-General's responsibility

3. As required by section 188 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 read with section 4 of the Public Audit Act, 2004 (Act No. 25 of 2004) (PAA), my responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.
4. I conducted my audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing read with *General Notice 616 of 2008*, issued in *Government Gazette No. 31057 of 15 May 2008*. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.
5. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to

the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

6. Paragraph 11 *et seq.* of the Statement of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice, GRAP 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements* requires that financial reporting by entities shall provide information on whether resources were obtained and used in accordance with the legally adopted budget. As the budget reporting standard is not effective for this financial year, I have determined that my audit of any disclosures made by the Nkangala District Municipality in this respect will be limited to reporting on non-compliance with this disclosure requirement.
7. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

8. In my opinion the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Nkangala District Municipality as at 30 June 2009 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the Statements of GRAP and in the manner required by the MFMA.

Other matters

Without qualifying my opinion, I draw attention to the following matters that relate to my responsibilities in the audit of the financial statements:

Unaudited supplementary schedules

9. The municipality provided supplementary information in the financial statements on whether resources were obtained and used in accordance with the legally adopted budget, in accordance with GRAP 1 *Presentation of Financial Statements*. The supplementary budget information set out on pages 57 to 63 does not form part of the financial statements and is presented as additional information. Accordingly I do not express an opinion thereon.

Governance framework

10. The governance principles that impact the auditor's opinion on the financial statements are related to the responsibilities and practices exercised by the accounting officer and executive management and are reflected in the key governance responsibilities addressed below:

Key governance responsibilities

11. The MFMA tasks the accounting officer with a number of responsibilities concerning financial and risk management and internal control. Fundamental to achieving this is the implementation of key governance responsibilities, which I have assessed as follows:

No.	Matter	Y	N
Clear trail of supporting documentation that is easily available and provided in a timely manner			
1.	No significant difficulties were experienced during the audit concerning delays or the availability of requested information.	Y	
Quality of financial statements and related management information			
2.	The financial statements were not subject to any material amendments resulting from the audit.		N
3.	The annual report was submitted for consideration prior to the tabling of the auditor's report.	Y	
Timeliness of financial statements and management information			
4.	The annual financial statements were submitted for auditing as per the legislated deadlines (section 126 of the MFMA).	Y	
Availability of key officials during audit			
5.	Key officials were available throughout the audit process.	Y	
Development of and compliance with risk management, effective internal control and governance practices			
6.	Audit committee		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The municipality had an audit committee in operation throughout the financial year. 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The audit committee operates in accordance with approved, written terms of reference. 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The audit committee substantially fulfilled its responsibilities for the year, as set out in section 166(2) of the MFMA. 	Y	
7.	Internal audit		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The municipality had an internal audit function in operation throughout the financial year. 	Y	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The internal audit function operates in terms of an approved internal audit plan. 		N
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The internal audit function substantially fulfilled its responsibilities for the year, as set out in section 165(2) of the MFMA. 		N
8.	There are no significant deficiencies in the design and implementation of internal control in respect of financial and risk management.		N
9.	There are no significant deficiencies in the design and implementation of internal control in respect of compliance with applicable laws and regulations.	Y	
10.	The information systems were appropriate to facilitate the preparation of the financial statements.	Y	
11.	A risk assessment was conducted on a regular basis and a risk management strategy, which includes a fraud prevention plan, is documented and used as set out in section 62(1)(c)(i) of the MFMA.		N
12.	Delegations of responsibility are in place, as set out in section 79 of the MFMA.	Y	
Follow-up of audit findings			
13.	The prior year audit findings have been substantially addressed.	Y	
14.	SCOPA resolutions have been substantially implemented.	Y	
Issues relating to the reporting of performance information			
15.	The information systems were appropriate to facilitate the preparation of a performance report that is accurate and complete.		N
16.	Adequate control processes and procedures are designed and implemented to ensure the accuracy and completeness of reported performance information.	Y	
17.	A strategic plan was prepared and approved for the financial year under review for purposes of monitoring the performance in relation to the budget and delivery by the municipality against its mandate, predetermined objectives, outputs, indicators and targets (section 68 of the MFMA).	Y	

No.	Matter	Y	N
18.	There is a functioning performance management system and performance bonuses are only paid after proper assessment and approval by those charged with governance.	Y	

12. Although the audit committee was operational throughout the year, the fulfilment of all its responsibilities was hampered by the non-existence of an internal audit unit, through which the committee functions. Management's failure to deliver from their side also contributed to the audit committee's failure to operate effectively.

REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Report on performance information

13. I was engaged to review the performance information.

The accounting officer's responsibility for the performance information

14. In terms of section 121(3)(c) of the MFMA, the annual report of a municipality must include the annual performance report of the municipality, prepared by the municipality in terms of section 46 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No. 32 of 2000) (MSA).

The Auditor-General's responsibility

15. I conducted my engagement in accordance with section 13 of the PAA read with *General Notice 616 of 2008*, issued in *Government Gazette No. 31057 of 15 May 2008* and section 45 of the MSA.

16. In terms of the foregoing my engagement included performing procedures of an audit nature to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence about the performance information and related systems, processes and procedures. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement.

17. I believe that the evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for the findings reported below.

Findings on performance information

Performance information not received in time

18. An assessment could not be performed of the reliability of the reported performance information, as set out on pages 65 to 70 of the annual report, since the information was not received in time for the audit process.

APPRECIATION

19. The assistance rendered by the staff of the Nkangala District Municipality during the audit is sincerely appreciated.

Nelspruit

30 November 2009



AUDITOR - GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA

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3.2 ISSUES OF CONCERN FROM AUDITOR GENERAL

This section deals with the issues of governance raised in the Auditor General's report as contained in section 3.1 above.

Issue

3.2.1 The internal audit function was not operating in terms of an approved audit plan.

Response:

The internal audit function operates in terms of the Internal Audit Plan as approved by Council per Resolution DM110/09/2009 subsequent to the audit by the Auditor-General.

Issue

3.2.2 A risk assessment was not conducted on a regular basis and a risk management strategy which includes a fraud prevention plan, is documented and used as set out in section 62(i)(c)(i) of the MFMA.

Response:

A risk assessment was conducted and a Risk Management Strategy was adopted by Council per Resolution DM110/09/2009 subsequent to the audit by the Auditor-General.

Issue

3.2.3 The information systems were not appropriate to facilitate the preparation of a performance report that is accurate and complete.

Response:

The information systems will be provided in such a manner that will facilitate preparation of a performance report that is accurate and complete.

Issue

3.2.4 The audit committee could not review the annual financial statements prior to submission for audit purposes as management did not submit the financial statements to the audit committee on time.

Response

The Council will ensure that the annual financial statements are submitted to the audit committee for review prior to submission for audit purposes to the Auditor-General.

Issue

3.2.5 An assessment could not be performed of the reliability of the reported performance information, as set out on pages 63 to 68 of the annual report, since the information was not received in time for the audit process.

Response

The municipality will ensure that performance information is provided in time to the Auditor-General for the purpose of audit process.