



A U D I T O R - G E N E R A L
S O U T H A F R I C A

Mr G Tloubatla
The acting accounting officer
Waterberg District Municipality
Private Bag X 1018
Modimolle
0510

17 January 2019

Reference: 08005REG17/18

Dear Sir

Report of the Auditor-General on the financial statements and other legal and regulatory requirements of Waterberg District Municipality for the year ended 30 June 2018

1. The above-mentioned report of the Auditor-General is submitted herewith in terms of section 21(1) of the Public Audit Act of South Africa read in conjunction with section 188 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa section 121(3) of the Municipal Finance Management Act of South Africa (MFMA)
2. We have not yet received the other information that will be included in the annual report with the audited financial statements and have thus not been able to establish whether there are any inconsistencies between this information and the audited financial statements and the reported performance against pre-determined objectives. 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. Until the annual report is tabled as required by section 127(2) of the MFMA the audit report is not a public document and should therefore be treated as confidential.
5. 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 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.

6. Please notify the undersigned Senior Manager well in advance of the date on which the annual report containing this audit report will be tabled.
7. Your cooperation to ensure that all these requirements are met would be much appreciated.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely



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Senior Manager: National D

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Report of the auditor-general to Limpopo provincial legislature and the council of Waterberg District Municipality

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Qualified opinion

1. I have audited the financial statements of the Waterberg District Municipality set out on pages ... to ..., which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018, the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets and cash flow statement and statement of comparison of budget information with actual information 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 effects of the matter described in the basis for qualified opinion section of my report, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Waterberg District Municipality as at 30 June 2018, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with South African standard of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (SA Standard of GRAP) and the requirements of the Municipal Finance Management Act of South Africa (Act No. 56 of 2003) (MFMA) and Division Of Revenue Act of South Africa, 2017 (Act No.3 of 2017) (DORA).

Basis for qualified opinion

Irregular expenditure

3. The municipality did not include the particulars of all irregular expenditure in the notes to the financial statements as required by section 125(2)(d)(i) of the Municipal Finance Management Act of South Africa (Act No. 56 of 2003) (MFMA). Furthermore, the municipality did not implement adequate internal control systems to identify and record all instances of irregular expenditure in both the current and prior years. This resulted in the irregular expenditure disclosure being understated. The full extent of the misstatement of irregular expenditure to be disclosed could not be quantified as it was impracticable to do so. Consequently, I was unable to determine the extent of adjustments necessary to the opening and closing balance of irregular expenditure disclosure stated at R 20 310 958 (2017: R 19 981 639) in note 32 to the financial statements.

Context for the 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 auditor-general's responsibilities for the audit of the separate financial statements section of this auditor's report.
5. I am independent of the municipality in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *Code of ethics for professional accountants* (IESBA code) and the 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 matters

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

Restatement of corresponding figures

8. The corresponding figures for 30 June 2017 were restated as a result of an error in the receipts and payments disclosed in the cash flow statement of the municipality at, and for the year ended, 30 June 2018.

Other matters

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

Unaudited supplementary schedules

10. 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 thereon.

Unaudited disclosure notes

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

Responsibilities of the party for the financial statements

12. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework and the requirements of the South African Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (GRAP), Municipal Finance Management Act of South Africa, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003) (MFMA) and the Division of Revenue Act of South Africa, 2017 (Act No. 3 of 2017) (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 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.
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 of South Africa, 2004 (Act No. 25 of 2004) (PAA) and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I have a responsibility to report material findings on the reported performance information against predetermined objectives for selected development priorities presented in the annual performance report. I performed procedures to identify findings but not to gather evidence to express assurance.
17. My procedures address the reported performance information, which must be based on the approved performance planning documents of the municipality. I have not evaluated the completeness and appropriateness of the performance indicators included in the planning documents. My procedures also did not extend to any disclosures or assertions relating to 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 following selected development priorities presented in the annual performance report of the municipality for the year ended 30 June 2018:

Development priorities	Pages in the annual performance report
Key Performance Area (KPA) 2: Basic service delivery	x – x
KPA 4: Local economic development	x – x

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. The material findings in respect of the usefulness and reliability of the selected development priorities are as follows:

KPA 2: Basic service delivery

Municipal health: % food outlets issued with certificates of compliance (for outlets that comply with set standard)

21. I was unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence that clearly defined the predetermined source information to be used when measuring the actual achievement of 100%. This was due to a lack of technical indicator descriptions and formal standard operating procedures or documented system descriptions. I was unable to test whether the indicator was well-defined by alternative means. Consequently, I was unable to determine whether any adjustments were required to the achievement of 100% (101/101 certificates of acceptability were issued for the year 2017/18) as reported in the annual performance report.

Percentage of Local Economic Development forum resolutions implemented

22. The achievement for the percentage of local economic development forum resolutions implemented reported in the organisational performance scorecard was 48%. However, the supporting evidence provided did not agree to the reported achievement and indicated an achievement of 42% instead.

KPA 4: Local economic development

Job creation: Number of jobs created through Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP)

23. The achievement for target number of jobs created through EPWP reported in the annual performance report was 15 jobs. However, the supporting evidence provided did not agree to the reported achievement and indicated an achievement of 9 jobs created through EPWP.

Other matter

24. I draw attention to the matters below.

Achievement of planned targets

25. Refer to the annual performance report on pages **x to x** for information on the achievement of planned targets for the year and explanations provided for the under and overachievement of a significant number of targets. This information should be considered in the context of the material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information in paragraphs 21, 22 and 23 of this report.

Introduction and scope

26. In accordance with the PAA and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I have a responsibility to report material findings on the compliance of the municipality with specific matters in key legislation. I performed procedures to identify findings but not to gather evidence to express assurance.
27. The material findings on compliance with specific matters in key legislations are as follows:

Annual financial statements, performance and annual report

28. The financial statements submitted for auditing were not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the requirements of section 122(1) of the MFMA. Material misstatements of non-current assets, expenditure and disclosure items identified by the auditors in the submitted financial statements were subsequently corrected and the supporting records were provided subsequently, but the uncorrected material misstatements and supporting records that could not be provided resulted in the financial statements receiving a qualified audit opinion.

Consequence management

29. Irregular expenditure incurred by the municipality were not investigated to determine if any person is liable for the expenditure, as required by section 32(2)(b) of the MFMA.
30. Losses resulting from irregular expenditure were certified by council as irrecoverable without having conducted an investigation to determine the recoverability of the expenditure, in contravention of section 32(2)(b) of the MFMA.

Expenditure management

31. Money owed by the municipality was not always paid within 30 days, as required by section 65(2)(e) of the MFMA.
32. Reasonable steps were not taken to prevent irregular expenditure, as required by section 62(1)(d) of the MFMA. The full extent of the irregular expenditure could not be quantified as indicated in the basis for qualification paragraph. The majority of the disclosed irregular expenditure was caused by the municipality not demonstrating the benefits or discounts of participating in contracts secured by another organ of state.

Procurement and contract management

33. 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 SCM regulation 17(a) and (c). Similar non-compliance was also reported in the prior year.
34. 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). Similar non-compliance was also reported in the prior year.

35. The performance of some of the contractors or providers was not monitored on a monthly basis, as required by section 116(2)(b) of the MFMA. Similar non-compliance was also reported in the prior year.

Strategic planning and performance

36. Annual performance objectives and indicators were not established for Waterberg Economic Development Agency, as required by section 93B(a) of the MSA.
37. The performance of Waterberg Economic Development Agency was not monitored and reviewed as part of the annual budget process, as required by section 93B(b) of the MSA.

Other information

38. The accounting officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual. The other information does not include the financial statements, the auditor's report and those selected development priorities presented in the annual performance report that have been specifically reported in this auditor's report.
39. 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 thereon.
40. 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 development priorities presented in the annual performance report, or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

Internal control deficiencies

41. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements, reported performance information and compliance with applicable legislation; however, my objective was not to express any form of assurance on it. The matters reported below are limited to the significant internal control deficiencies that resulted in the basis for the qualified opinion, the findings on the annual performance report and the findings on compliance with legislation included in this report:
42. Reviews conducted on the annual financial statements and performance report did not detect or prevent the risks of material misstatements identified during the audit process. Management's slow response in resolving prior year findings and inability to follow a pro-active approach have resulted in material misstatements in the annual financial statements, performance reports and material non-compliance with laws and regulations.
43. The municipality developed a plan to address internal and external audit findings, but the plan was not adhered to and/or timeously implemented to address matters reported in the prior year.
44. Senior management did not adequately oversee the operations of the municipality, as the financial statements and annual performance report contained material misstatements not detected by the municipality's own system of internal control.

45. There was inadequate human resource planning, skills assessment and evaluation of performance to mitigate the municipality's reliance on consultants.
46. The implementation of the supply chain management processes and procedures were inadequate resulting in irregular expenditure. There was also inadequate review and monitoring of compliance with applicable laws and regulations relating to various other key areas within the municipality.
47. The municipality did not implement proper record keeping in a timely manner to ensure that complete, relevant and accurate information is accessible and available to support financial and performance reporting.
48. Those charged with governance did not provide adequate oversight over the effectiveness of the internal control environment, including financial and performance reporting and compliance with laws and regulations.

Auditor General

Pretoria

17 January 2019



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 development priorities 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 related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Waterberg District Municipality’s ability 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 the 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 continuing as a going concern
 - evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation

Communication with those charged with governance

3. I communicate with the accounting officer regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.
4. I also confirm to the accounting officer that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and communicate all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to have a bearing on my independence and, where applicable, related safeguards.