

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL TO THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL ON THE MOSSEL BAY MUNICIPALITY

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Introduction

1. I have audited the financial statements of the Mossel Bay Municipality set out on pages 27 to 118, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2013, 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, and the notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

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 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, 2012 (Act No. 5 of 2012) (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.

Auditor-general's responsibility

3. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with the Public Audit Act of South Africa, 2004 (Act No. 25 of 2004) (PAA), the general notice issued in terms thereof and International Standards on Auditing. 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.
4. 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 control 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.
5. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

6. In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Mossel Bay Municipality as at 30 June 2013 and its financial performance, cash flows and comparison of budget and actual amounts for the year then ended in accordance with SA Standards of GRAP and the requirements of the MFMA and DoRA.

Emphasis of matters

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

Significant uncertainties

8. As disclosed in note 55.1 to the financial statements, contractual claims in respect of court cases that are currently in dispute and being addressed through mediation have been estimated at a maximum liability of R87,7 million.

Restatement of corresponding figures

9. As disclosed in note 42 to the financial statements, the corresponding figures for 30 June 2012 have been restated as a result of errors discovered during 2013 in the financial statements of the municipality at, and for the year ended, 30 June 2012.

Material impairments

10. As disclosed in notes 19, 22 and 23 to the financial statements, the provision for bad debt for long-term debtors amounts to R1,3 million (2011-12: R0,9 million), while consumer debtors from exchange transactions amount to R18,9 million (2011-12: R24 million) and from non-exchange transactions R5,2 million (2011-12: R4,7 million). Also disclosed in notes 19, 22 and 23 is the total bad debt written off during the year amounting to R19,2 million (2011-12: R22,3 million).

Material losses

11. As disclosed in note 50.9 to the financial statements, the municipality suffered material electricity losses of 23 177 734 kWh (8,26%) during the year under review (2011-12: 17 234 906 kWh or 5,96%) due to technical losses on the distribution system (transformers, cables and overhead lines), faulty meters, theft and vandalism.
12. As disclosed in note 50.9 to the financial statements, the municipality suffered material water losses of 1 293 megalitres (17,69%) during the year under review (2011-12: 621 megalitres or 9,12%) due to defective meters, losses in the water network (breakage in pipelines and pumps as well as leaking valves), evaporation, damages due to blind excavations, theft and vandalism.

Material underspending of the budget

13. As disclosed in note 46 to the financial statements, the municipality materially underspent its capital budget by R12,9 million (10%), which had an impact on the R3,9 million shelter for the homeless project and housing projects of R5 million.

Additional matters

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

Material inconsistencies in other information included in the annual report

15. The draft annual report was provided for auditing. A high-level overview was performed on the draft document and no material inconsistencies were identified. The final printer's proof of the annual report will again be reviewed and any material inconsistencies then identified will be communicated to management. Should the inconsistencies not be corrected, it may result in the matter being included in the audit report.

Unaudited supplementary schedules

16. The supplementary information set out on pages 119 to 123 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.

REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

17. In accordance with the PAA and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I report the following findings relevant to performance against predetermined objectives, compliance with laws and regulations and internal control, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion.

Predetermined objectives

18. I performed procedures to obtain evidence about the usefulness and reliability of the information in the annual performance report as set out on pages 42 to 200 of the annual report.
19. The reported performance against predetermined objectives was evaluated against the overall criteria of usefulness and reliability.
20. The usefulness of information in the annual performance report relates to whether it is presented in accordance with the National Treasury's annual reporting principles and whether the reported performance is consistent with the planned objectives. The usefulness of information further relates to whether indicators and targets are measurable (i.e. well defined, verifiable, specific, measurable and time bound) and relevant as required by the National Treasury's *Framework for managing programme performance information*.
21. The reliability of the information in respect of the selected objectives is assessed to determine whether it adequately reflects the facts (i.e. whether it is valid, accurate and complete).
22. There were no material findings on the annual performance report concerning the usefulness and reliability of the information.

Compliance with laws and regulations

23. I performed procedures to obtain evidence that the entity has complied with applicable laws and regulations regarding financial matters, financial management and other related matters.
24. I did not identify any instances of material non-compliance with specific matters in key applicable laws and regulations as set out in the general notice issued in terms of the PAA.

Internal control

25. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements, annual performance report and compliance with laws and regulations.
26. I did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that I considered sufficiently significant for inclusion in this report.

Auditor-General

Cape Town

30 November 2013



AUDITOR - GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA

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