

Report of the auditor-general to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and the council on the Hessequa Municipality

Report on the financial statements

Introduction

1. I have audited the financial statements of the Hessequa Municipality set out on pages 7 to 82, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2015, the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets, cash flow statement and statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts for the year then ended, as well as 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, 2014 (Act No. 10 of 2014) (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 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 municipality'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 municipality'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 Hessequa Municipality as at 30 June 2015 and its financial performance and cash flows 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.

Restatement of corresponding figures

8. As disclosed in notes 47 and 48 to the financial statements, the corresponding figures for 30 June 2014 have been restated as a result of errors discovered during 2014-15 in the financial statements of the municipality at, and for the year ended, 30 June 2014.

Material losses and impairments

9. As disclosed in note 53 to the financial statements, the municipality suffered a significant water loss amounting to 730 229 kilolitres (34,5%) as a result of leakages and tampering with meters.
10. As disclosed in note 4 to the financial statements, the receivables of R31,7 million from exchange transactions (consumer debtors) were significantly impaired by R14,95 million (47%). Furthermore, as disclosed in note 5, the receivables from non-exchange transactions, which included traffic fines and rate debtors, were significantly impaired by R42,5 million (69,8%).

Material underspending of the budget

11. As disclosed in the appropriation statement of the financial statements, the municipality materially underspent its finally approved capital budget of R81,3 million by approximately R52,4 million (64,5%). The explanations for the significant under-expenditure are disclosed in note 57 to the financial statements.

Additional matters

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

Unaudited disclosure note

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

Unaudited supplementary schedules

14. The supplementary information set out in appendices A to F on pages 83 to 93 does not form part of the financial statements and is presented as additional information. I have not audited these appendices and, accordingly, I do not express an opinion thereon.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

15. 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 findings on the reported performance information against predetermined objectives for selected objectives presented in the annual performance report, compliance with legislation and internal control. The objective of my tests was to identify reportable findings as described under each subheading, but not to gather evidence to express assurance on these matters. Accordingly, I do not express an opinion or conclusion on these matters.

Predetermined objectives

16. I performed procedures to obtain evidence about the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for the following selected objective presented in the annual performance report of the municipality for the year ended 30 June 2015:
 - Objective: Maintenance and development of infrastructure, as set out on pages 10 to 12
17. I evaluated the reported performance information against the overall criteria of usefulness and reliability.
18. I evaluated the usefulness of the reported performance information to determine whether it was presented in accordance with the National Treasury's annual reporting principles and whether the reported performance was consistent with the planned objectives. I further performed tests to determine whether indicators and targets were well defined, verifiable, specific, measurable, time bound and relevant, as required by the National Treasury's *Framework for managing programme performance information*.
19. I assessed the reliability of the reported performance information to determine whether it was valid, accurate and complete.
20. I did not identify material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for the following objective:
 - Objective: Maintenance and development of infrastructure, as set out on pages 10 to 12

Additional matters

21. Although I identified no material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for the selected objective, I draw attention to the following matters:

Achievement of planned targets

22. Refer to the annual performance report on pages 5 to 13 for information on the achievement of the planned targets for the year.

Adjustment of material misstatements

23. I identified material misstatements in the annual performance report submitted for auditing on the reported performance information for the objective relating to maintenance and development of infrastructure. As management subsequently corrected the misstatements, I did not report material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information.

Compliance with legislation

24. I performed procedures to obtain evidence that the municipality had complied with applicable legislation regarding financial matters, financial management and other related matters. I did not identify any instances of material non-compliance with specific matters in key legislation, 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 legislation. I did not identify any significant deficiencies in internal control.

Auditor-General

Cape Town

30 November 2015



AUDITOR - GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA

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