

# **Report of the auditor-general to the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and the council on the Swellendam Municipality**

## **Report on the financial statements**

### **Introduction**

1. I have audited the financial statements of the Swellendam Municipality set out on pages 3 to 90, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016, 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, 2015 (Act No. 1 of 2015) (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 Swellendam Municipality as at 30 June 2016 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 note 37 to the financial statements, the corresponding figures for 30 June 2015 have been restated as a result of errors discovered during 2016 in the financial statements of the municipality at, and for the year ended, 30 June 2015.

## **Material losses and impairments**

9. As disclosed in note 43.4 to the financial statements, the municipality suffered significant electricity and water losses amounting to 7 079 422 kilowatt units (13,07%) and 636 078 kilolitres (33,62%), respectively.
10. As disclosed in notes 20 and 21 to the financial statements, the municipality provided for a significant impairment of receivables from exchange transactions and receivables from non-exchange transactions of R16,1 million and R38,8 million, respectively.

## **Additional matters**

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

## **Unaudited disclosure note**

12. 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 on note 44.9 to the financial statements.

## **Report on other legal and regulatory requirements**

13. 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**

14. I performed procedures to obtain evidence about the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for the following selected objectives presented in the annual performance report of the municipality for the year ended 30 June 2016:
- Objective B: to create a safe and healthy living environment on page 62
  - Objective C: to develop integrated and sustainable settlements with the view to correct spatial imbalances on page 62
  - Objective D: to enhance access to basic services and address maintenance backlogs on pages 63 to 66
  - Objective E: to enhance economic development with focus on both first and second economies on pages 66 to 67
15. I evaluated the usefulness of the reported performance information to determine whether it 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.
16. I assessed the reliability of the reported performance information to determine whether it was valid, accurate and complete.
17. I did not raise material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for the following objectives:
- Objective B: to create a safe and healthy living environment
  - Objective C: to develop integrated and sustainable settlements with the view to correct spatial imbalances
  - Objective D: to enhance access to basic services and address maintenance backlogs
  - Objective E: to enhance economic development with focus on both first and second economies

## **Additional matters**

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

## **Achievement of planned targets**

19. Refer to the annual performance report on pages 61 to 68 for information on the achievement of the planned targets for the year.

## Adjustment of material misstatements

20. I identified material misstatements in the annual performance report submitted for auditing. These material misstatements were on the reported performance information for objective D: to enhance access to basic services and address maintenance backlogs and objective E: to enhance economic development with focus on both first and second economies. As management subsequently corrected the misstatements, I did not raise material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information.

## Compliance with legislation

21. 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

22. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements, performance report and compliance with legislation. I did not identify any significant deficiencies in internal control.

*Auditor-General*

Cape Town

29 November 2016



AUDITOR-GENERAL  
SOUTH AFRICA

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