

Report of the auditor-general to the Gauteng Provincial Legislature and the council on the City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality

Report on the audit of the consolidated and separate financial statements

Opinion

1. I have audited the consolidated and separate financial statements of the City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality and its subsidiaries (the group) set out on pages ... to ..., which comprise the consolidated and separate appropriation statement, consolidated and separate statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, the consolidated and separate statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets, cash flow statement and the statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts for the year then ended, as well as the notes to the consolidated and separate financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.
2. In my opinion, the consolidated and separate financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the group as at 30 June 2022, and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with South African Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (SA Standards of GRAP) and the requirements of the Municipal Finance Management Act 56 of 2003 (MFMA) and the Division of Revenue Act 9 of 2021 (Dora).

Basis for opinion

3. 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 consolidated and separate financial statements section of my report.
4. I am independent of the group in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *International code of ethics for professional accountants (including International Independence Standards)* (IESBA code) as well as other 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.
5. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Key audit matters

6. I have determined that there are no key audit matters to communicate in this auditor's report.

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 54 to the consolidated and separate financial statements, the corresponding figures for 30 June 2021 were restated as a result of errors in the financial statements of the group at, and for the year then ended, 30 June 2022.

Material impairments

9. As disclosed in note 13 to the consolidated and separate financial statements, the consumer debtor's balance has been impaired. The allowance for impairment of consumer debtors amounts to R20 505 208 909 (2021: R16 126 582 172) in the consolidated and separate financial statements which represents 73% (2021: 73%) of total consumer debtors. The contribution to the allowance for debt impairment was R4 848 693 063 (2021: R4 116 187 914) in the consolidated and separate financial statements.
10. As disclosed in note 12 to the consolidated and separate financial statements, the traffic fines receivables' balance has been impaired. The allowance for impairment of traffic fines receivables amounts to R1 750 211 616 (2021: R1 350 493 038) in the consolidated and separate financial statements which represents 81% (2021: 81%) of total traffic fines receivables.

Material losses

11. As disclosed in note 60 to the consolidated and separate financial statements, material electricity losses of R2 400 497 279 (2021: R1 953 320 409) was incurred, which represents 17% (2021: 16%) of total electricity purchased. Technical losses amounted to R622 851 521 (2021: R524 032 620) and non-technical losses amounted to R1 777 645 758 (2021: R1 429 287 789).
12. As disclosed in note 60 to the consolidated and separate financial statements, material water losses of R1 219 419 449 (2021: R1 179 288 614) was incurred, which represents 32% (2021: 33%) of total water purchased. Technical losses amounted to R182 738 128 (2021: R 176 893 291) and non-technical losses amounted to R1 036 681 321 (2021: R1 002 395 323).

Material uncertainties

13. With reference to note 42 to the financial statements, the group is the defendant in various claims. The ultimate outcome of the matters could not be determined and no provision for any liability that may result was made in the consolidated and separate financial statements.

Other matter

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

Unaudited disclosure notes

15. In terms of section 125(2)(e) of the MFMA, the group is required to disclose particulars of non-compliance with the MFMA in the consolidated and separate financial statements. This disclosure requirement did not form part of the audit of the consolidated and separate financial statements and, accordingly, I do not express an opinion on it.

Responsibilities of the accounting officer for the consolidated and separate financial statements

16. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated and separate financial statements in accordance with the SA Standards of GRAP and the requirements of the MFMA and the Dora, and for such internal control as the accounting officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated and separate financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
17. In preparing the consolidated and separate financial statements, the accounting officer is responsible for assessing the group'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 group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor-general's responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated and separate financial statements

18. My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated and separate 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 consolidated and separate financial statements.
19. A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated and separate financial statements is included in the annexure to this auditor's report.

Report on the audit of the annual performance report

Introduction and scope

20. In accordance with the Public Audit Act 25 of 2004 (PAA) and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I have a responsibility to report on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information against predetermined objectives for selected strategic objectives presented in the annual performance report. I performed procedures to identify material findings but not to gather evidence to express assurance.

21. My procedures address the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information, which must be based on the municipality's' approved performance planning documents. I have not evaluated the completeness and appropriateness of the performance indicators included in the planning documents. My procedures do not examine whether the actions taken by the municipality enabled service delivery. My procedures do not extend to any disclosures or assertions relating to the extent of achievements in the current year or 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.
22. 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 strategic objective presented in the municipality's annual performance report for the year ended 30 June 2022:

Strategic objective	Pages in the annual performance report
Strategic objective 1 – To promote integrated human settlements through massive infrastructure and services roll-out	x – x

23. 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.
24. I did not identify any material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for this strategic objective:
- Strategic objective 1 – To promote integrated human settlements through massive infrastructure and services roll-out

Other matter

25. I draw attention to the matter below.

Achievement of planned targets

26. Refer to the annual performance report on page(s) x to x for information on the achievement of planned targets for the year. The City of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality achieved 76% (34) of the planned targets for the year in the selected Strategic objective 1 – To promote integrated human settlement through massive infrastructure and services roll-out. Some of the planned targets that were not achieved relate to key service delivery indicators on water, sanitation and electricity, per the table below:

	Indicator	Planned target	Reported achievement
1.	Number of reservoirs constructed	7	4
2.	Percentage of Callouts resolved within 24 hours (sanitation/wastewater)	85%	33%
3.	Percentage of Callouts resolved within 24 hours (water)	85%	18%
4.	Percentage of total water connections metered	94,1%	92%
5.	Number of water meters installed and uploaded on the billing system	5000	2593
6.	Percentage of valid customer applications for new electricity connections processed in terms of municipal service standards	90%	62,50%
7.	Kilometres of water and sewer pipes replaced, upgraded and extended	9	5,889

Reasons for underachievement of targets are included in the annual performance report on pages ... to

Report on the audit of compliance with legislation

Introduction and scope

27. In accordance with the PAA and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I have a responsibility to report material findings on the municipality's compliance with specific matters in key legislation. I performed procedures to identify findings but not to gather evidence to express assurance.
28. I did not identify any material findings on compliance with the specific matters in key legislation set out in the general notice issued in terms of the PAA.

Other information

29. The accounting officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report. The other information does not include the consolidated and separate financial statements, the auditor's report and the selected strategic objective presented in the annual performance report that has been specifically reported in the auditor's report.
30. My opinion on the consolidated and separate 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 on it.
31. 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 consolidated and separate financial statements and the selected strategic objective presented in the annual

performance report, or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

32. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement in this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Internal control deficiencies

33. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the consolidated and separate financial statements, reported performance information and compliance with applicable legislation; however, my objective was not to express any form of assurance on it. I did not identify any significant deficiencies in internal control.

Other reports

34. I draw attention to the following engagements conducted by various parties which had, or could have, an impact on the matters reported in the group's financial statements, reported performance information, compliance with applicable legislation and other related matters. These reports did not form part of my opinion on the consolidated and separate financial statements or my findings on the reported performance information or compliance with legislation.

35. An investigation relating to the allegations of possible irregularities with regards to the appointment of panel of suppliers for the maintenance and repairs of the group's fleet has been commissioned on 16 March 2022. The investigation report has not been finalised at the time of reporting.

Auditor-General

Johannesburg

31 December 2022



**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 consolidated and separate financial statements and the procedures performed on reported performance information for selected strategic objective and on the municipality’s compliance with respect to the selected subject matters.

Consolidated and separate financial statements

2. In addition to my responsibility for the audit of the consolidated and separate financial statements as described in this auditor’s report, I also:
 - identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated and separate 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 group’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 consolidated and separate financial statements. I also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the City of Ekurhuleni and its subsidiaries 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 consolidated and separate financial statements about the material uncertainty or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion on the consolidated and separate 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 group to cease operating as a going concern
 - evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated and separate financial statements, including the consolidated and separate disclosures, and determine whether the consolidated and separate financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation
 - obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. I am responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. I remain solely responsible for my audit opinion.

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 provide the accounting officer with a statement that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on my independence and, where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.
5. From the matters communicated to those charged with governance, I determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the consolidated and separate financial statements for the current period and are therefore key audit matters. I describe these matters in this auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, I determine that a matter should not be communicated in this auditor's report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest of such communication.