

**REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL TO THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCIAL
LEGISLATURE AND THE COUNCIL ON THE FRANCES BAARD DISTRICT
MUNICIPALITY**

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Introduction

1. I have audited the financial statements of the Frances Baard District Municipality set out on pages ... to ..., which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2013, the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets, the statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts and the cash flow statement 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 Frances Baard District Municipality as at 30 June 2013 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.

Additional matters

7. 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

8. I have not obtained the other information included in the annual report. Consequently, I have not been able to identify whether the other information to be included in the annual report is materially inconsistent with the information in the financial statements.

Unaudited supplementary schedules

9. The supplementary information set out on pages A to D 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

10. 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

11. I performed procedures to obtain evidence about the usefulness and reliability of the information in the annual performance report as set out on pages ... to ... of the annual report.
12. The reported performance against predetermined objectives was evaluated against the overall criteria of usefulness and reliability.
13. 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* (FMPPi).
14. 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).
15. The material findings are as follows:

Reliability of information

Programme 1 – Basic service delivery

16. The framework for managing programme performance information requires institutions to have appropriate systems to collect, collate, verify and store performance information to ensure valid, accurate and complete reporting of actual achievements against planned objectives, indicators and targets.
17. Significantly important targets with respect to the basic service delivery programme were materially misstated and not reliable when compared to the source information. This was due to a lack of monitoring of the completeness of source documentation in support of actual achievements, a lack of frequent review of the validity of reported achievements against source documentation, and a lack of oversight during reporting to ensure that reported performance was accurate, valid and complete.

Programme 3 – Municipal institutional development and transformation

18. The framework for managing programme performance information requires institutions to have appropriate systems to collect, collate, verify and store performance information to ensure valid, accurate and complete reporting of actual achievements against planned objectives, indicators and targets.

19. Significantly important targets with respect to the municipal financial viability management programme were materially misstated and not reliable when compared to the source information. This was due to a lack of standard operating procedures for the accurate recording of actual achievements, a lack of monitoring of the completeness of source documentation in support of actual achievements, and a lack of frequent review of the validity of reported achievements against source documentation.

Compliance with laws and regulations

20. 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 Public Audit Act.

Internal control

21. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements, annual performance report and compliance with laws and regulations. The matters reported below under the fundamentals of internal control are limited to the significant deficiencies that resulted in the findings on the annual performance report included in this report.

Financial and performance management

22. Management did not document and approve internal policies and procedures to address the process of collecting, recording, processing, monitoring and reporting on predetermined objectives. This was due to a lack of understanding of the processes that should be performed to prepare a complete and valid report on predetermined objectives.

23. Adequate documentation supporting the reported performance information could not be provided for audit purposes. The evidence provided for audit purposes was not clearly linked to the specific performance information reported in the annual performance report, as a result of a lack of adequate communication and understanding of the supporting documentation required for the performance information reported.

Auditor - General
Kimberley

29 November 2013



AUDITOR - GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA

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