

REPORT TO THE uMGUNGUNDLOVU DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY COUNCIL



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For consideration

1 st Level – MANCO	: /03/2020
2 nd Level – Portfolio Committee	: 11/03/2020
3 rd Level – EXCO	: /03/2020
4 th Level – Council	: /03/2020

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY MONTHLY IN YEAR MONITORING FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

DATE : 11 MARCH 2021

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to comply with section 71 of the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) and the requirements as promulgated in the Government Gazette No 32141 of 17 April 2009.

2. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

To ensure good governance, financial viability and optimal institutional transformation with capacity to execute its mandate.”

3. BACKGROUND

Section 71 of the MFMA and in terms of Section 28 of the Government Notice 32141 dated 17 April 2009, regarding the “Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act 56 of 2003, Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations” necessitates that specific financial particulars be reported on and in the format prescribed, hence this report to meet legislative compliance.

“The Mayor of a municipality-

Section 71(1) The accounting officer of a municipality must by no later than **10 working days after the end of each month** submit to the Mayor or of the municipality and the relevant treasury a statement in the prescribed format on the state of the municipality’s budget reflecting the following particulars for the month and for the financial year up to the end of that month: ...”.

The monthly budget statement of a municipality must be in the format specified in Schedule C and include all the required tables, charts and explanatory information, taking into account any guidelines issued by the Minister in terms of section 168(1) of the Act.”

For the reporting period ending **28 FEBRUARY 2021** the ten working day reporting limit expires on **11 MARCH 2021**.

4. REPORT

The below is the summary of financial performance for the period ended 28 FEBRUARY 2021.

Table 1

Summary of Financial Performance	
Actual Revenue to Budgeted Revenue	69
Actual OPEX to budgeted OPEX	59
Actual CAPEX to budgeted CAPEX	38
Employee related cost exp to total OPEX	35
% Grant Utilisation	76.39
Cash Coverage Ratio	2.49
Debt Service to Revenue Ratio	0.26
% Debt to Revenue Ratio	27.84
Creditors Age Analysis	47% or R 43.3 million of creditors is outstanding longer than 30 days.
Debt Collection Rate	46

4.1 Operating Budget

The revenue raised as at 28 February 2021 is R 677.5 million against the adjusted budget of R 976.7 million for the year and R 546.5 million for the period. This reflects a revenue rate of 69% against the adjusted budget.

The operating expenditure as at 31 January 2021 was R 470.4 million vs a year to date budget of R 473.8 million reflecting YTD expenditure of 99% and 59% of the adjusted budget. The operating surplus for the period was **R 207.2 million**.

4.2 Capital Expenditure

The total adjusted capital budget for the 2020/ 2021 financial year is **R 225 million** including the allocation for the Rural Roads Assets Management Grant of R 2.5 million. The MIG allocation is R 101 million, R41.2 million is an additional allocation from Treasury for Covid 19 Response and the Water Services Infrastructure Grant is R 80 million and the adjusted Capital Expenditure is **R225 million**. Year to date expenditure for MIG is R 52.5 million and WSIG is R 47.8 million.

Total capital expenditure to date is **R 102 million** or **45.33%** against the adjusted budget.

4.3 Employee Related Costs and Councilor Allowances

The total salaries budget for councillor's amounts to R 13.7 million while salaries budget for staff amounts to R 269.9 million. This brings the total salaries budget to R 283.7 million, which is 36% of the total operational budget. This is within the norm of 25% - 40% in terms of National Treasury circular 71 of 2014.

As at 28 February 2020, % of the councilor's allowances budget was spent and % was spent on the employee costs. The total actual salary cost including councilor's allowances represented 35% of total operating expenditure for the period which is within the norm of 25%-40% to total operating expenses as set by National Treasury circular 71.1

4.4 Conditional Grants

As at the end of February 2021 a total of R 175.7 million of conditional grants was received since 1 July 2020, whilst an additional R 26.5 million was available and was received in the previous financial year. R 104.8 million was spent during the month of February 2021. The operating grant utilisation is at 27.29% and the capital grant utilisation was 53.59% of allocations received. Overall grant utilisation is at 52.01%.

4.5 Cash and Cash Equivalents

An amount of R 11 881 was accrued in investment interest income for the month of February 2021. The cash in bank as at 28 February 2021 amounted to **R 148.6 million** and investments amounted to **R 3.8 million** bringing a total cash and cash equivalents of **R 152.5 million**. The average interest rate on investment is at 4.1%. The cash coverage ratio as at 28 February 2021 is **0.69 based** on average of R 75 million per month fixed operating expenditure. This indicates that the municipality as at 28 February 2021 have enough cash to run its operation for **20.78 days** based on a 30-day calendar month. The norm as set out in the uniform financial ratios and norms circular 71 is 1 to 3 months.

4.6 Borrowings

As at 28 February 2021 the loans book was sitting at R 188 .2 million. The average interest rate on remaining loans is 10.8 %. The debt to revenue ratio at % as projected which is below the treasury norm of below 45%. This indicates that the debt book is funded by % of the internally generated operating income.

4.7 Outstanding Creditors

The balance of trade payables as at 28 February 2021 was R million.

Total R million or % of invoices remained outside the compliance period of 30 days as at 28 February 2021. None of the bulk services, 3rd party and statutory invoices were outstanding for longer than 30 days as at 28 February 2021.

The invoices that are outstanding longer than 150 days, are mostly invoices under dispute. The Heads of Departments have been requested to finalize the disputes with the service providers or the service providers have been requested to submit a credit note to cancel the raised invoices. The municipality has extended rental lease agreements to allow for the supply chain processes to be finalized.

4.8 Billing Revenue and Debtors

Billing revenue for the month of February 2021 was R 31.6 million. Actual collections during February 2021 were R 13.1 million which represented 46% of the December 2020 billed revenue. The overall collection rate is 56 % which is below the collection rate for the same period in the previous financial year.

The percentage of collection for Water Schemes is low as consumers in these areas refuse to pay for water services rendered. Certain rural schemes have constant interruption of water supply and it is therefore difficult to implement the Credit Control Policy in these areas.

The municipality has partnered with the Development Bank of Southern Africa to embark on a pilot data cleansing and revenue management exercise. The pilot has since been completed with recommendations that are considered by the municipality to increase and enhance revenue raising and collection strategies.

The debtor book value as at 28 February 2021 amounted to **R million**. Engagements with organized labour through the Local Labor Forum have been finalized and agreed upon to deal with regards to staff balances. Individual letters are being sent to individuals to sign consent for the Municipality to deduct the monies owed above 90 days.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That, in compliance with, Section 71 of the MFMA and in terms of Government Notice 32141 dated 17 April 2009, regarding the “Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act 2003 Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations” the **preliminary** financial results regarding the operating and capital budgets for the second month of the 2020/ 2021 financial year, and supporting documents as required by National Treasury (Schedule C) be submitted to Council.
- (2) In order to comply with Section 31(1) of the Government Gazette No 32141 of 17 April 2009 this report be submitted to the National Treasury and the relevant Provincial Treasury within five days of tabling of the report in the council, in both a Council approved document and in electronic format.
- (3) That Committee notes and approves the following:
 - 3.1 Surplus for the period ending 28 February 2021 is R million.
 - 3.2 Cash & Cash Equivalent for the period ending 28 February 2021 is R million excluding the investment of R 3.7 million held as security for the loan.
 - 3.3 Capital Expenditure for the period ending 28 February 2021 is R million.
 - 3.4 Trade Payables for the period ending 28 February is R million.
 - 3.5 Trade Receivables for the period ending 28 February 2021 is R million.
 - 3.6 Unspent conditional Grants for the period ending 28 February 2021 is R million.
- (4) The Committee notes the cash and cash equivalents of R million translates to a positive cash Coverage of 86.85 days. National Treasury Norm of 1 – 3 months.