

AUDITS SHOW SOME MOVE

24 July 2012

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None of the 20 Free State municipalities received a clean audit from the auditor-general, with six showing improvements and 13 remaining unchanged and one sliding down further.

“The province displays a tendency to have improvements as well as regressions every year,” noted auditor-general Terence Nombembe.

Of the six audit reports not included, four audits were in progress and two had not yet submitted their annual financial statements for audit purposes.

“Most of the mayors did not perform their oversight role as emphasised and agreed upon.

“As such, very little impact is visible due to such lack of commitment at municipal level by most mayors and accounting officers, as well as capacity challenges experienced by municipalities,” he said.

Thabo Mofutsanyana district municipality, that improved from disclaimer to financially unqualified.

Motheo district municipality, which had since been incorporated into the Mangaung metro, improved from qualified to financially unqualified.

Dhlabeng, Mantsopa and Nketoana local municipalities and Xhariep district municipality had improved from a disclaimer to a qualification.

“The improvements are mainly attributed to leadership taking active steps to correct prior year challenges, the submission of documentation and the involvement of consultants. No consultants were appointed at Mantsopa local municipality,” Nombembe said.

The 13 that were unchanged were Kopanong, Letsemeng, Mafube, Maluti-A-Phofung, Mangaung, Matjhabeng, Metsimaholo, Mohokare, Ngwathe and Phumelela, Setsoto, Fezile Dabi and Lejweleputswa local municipalities.

Tswelopele local municipality was the only municipality that regressed.

Audits of four municipalities – Moqhaka, Masilonyana, Nala and Tokologo – were not finalised by the January 31 deadline due to late submissions or financial statements outstanding. Moqhaka, known for its open toilet saga, submitted its financial statements late.

The audit identified unauthorised expenditure of more than R450m in 11 municipalities and fruitless and wasteful expenditure of more than R33m in 15 municipalities.

[Source: www.thenewage.co.za]