

**2020-2021**  
**ADJUSTMENT BUDGET**  
**REPORT**



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## **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To seek approval from Council on the adjustments proposed to the 2020/2021 original Operational and Capital Budget.

To set out the options available to Council to fund the adjusted capital budget and to improve the municipality's cash flow position.

## **LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND**

Section 72(3) of the MFMA requires that the Accounting Officer must as part of the (mid-year) review:

- (a) Make recommendations as to whether an adjustments budget is necessary; and
- (b) Recommend revised projections for revenue and expenditure to the extent that this may be necessary.

In addition, Regulation 23(3) of the Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations requires that if a National or Provincial Adjustments Budget allocates or transfers additional revenues to a municipality, the Mayor of the municipality must, at the next available Council meeting, but within 60 days of the approval of the relevant National or Provincial Adjustments Budget, table an Adjustments Budget referred to in Section 28(2)(b) of the MFMA in the municipal council to appropriate these additional revenues.

In terms of Section 28(2) of the MFMA, an Adjustments Budget-

- a) Must adjust the revenue and expenditure estimates downwards if there is material under-collection of revenue during the current year;
- b) May appropriate additional revenues that have become available over and above those anticipated in the annual budget, but only to revise or accelerate spending programs already budgeted for;
- c) May, within a prescribed framework, authorize unforeseeable and unavoidable expenditure recommended by the Mayor or the municipality;
- d) May authorize the utilization of projected savings in one vote towards spending under another vote;
- e) May authorize the spending of funds that were unspent at the end of the past financial year where the under-spending could not reasonably have been foreseen at the time to include projected roll-overs when current year was approved by the Council;
- f) May correct any errors in the annual budget; and
- g) May provide for any other expenditure within a prescribed framework.

Regulation 21 of the Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations states that an Adjustments Budget and supporting documentation of a municipality must be in the format specified in Schedule B and include all the tables, charts and explanatory information, taking into account any guidelines issued by the Minister in terms of Section 168(1) of the Act.

Regulation 22 of the Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations further states that

- 1) an adjustments budget must be appropriately funded and
- 2) the supporting documentation tabled in a municipal council in terms of Section 28(5) of the Act must contain an explanation of how the adjustments budget is funded.

When processing virements in the annual budget, the municipality must consider MFMA Circular No. 51 and ensure that the virements are made in accordance with the municipality's approved virements policy. The following principles should be adhered to:

- virements should not be permitted in relation to the revenue side of the budget;
- virements between votes should be permitted where the proposed shifts in funding facilitate sound risk and financial management;
- virements from the capital budget to the operating budget should not be permitted;
- virements to or from the following items should not be permitted: bulk purchases, debt impairment, interest charges, depreciation, grants to individuals, revenue foregone, insurance and VAT;
- virements should not result in adding 'new' projects to the Capital Budget;
- virements of conditional grant funds to purposes outside of that specified in the relevant conditional grant framework must not be permitted; and
- there should be prudent limits on the amount of funds that may be moved to and from votes and sub-votes (e.g. not more than 5% of the budget may be moved to or from a vote, program, project etc.)

The importance of tabling funded budgets is highlighted in MFMA Circular 89 and is one of the game changers identified in local government to ensure financial sustainability. The municipality has challenges in correcting the budget to ensure it is funded in one financial year. As a result, the municipality must together with the 2021/2022 MTREF budget table a plan in the council on how and by when the budget will improve from an unfunded to a funded position.

Virements may be used by the municipality to address differences between the mSCOA data string and the Council approved budget. In line with this the virement policy needs to be reviewed and aligned to mSCOA requirements. The virement policy is required to be aligned to MFMA Circular 51. Cognizance must be taken of a change to any of the prescribed segments of

mSCOA. Restrictions and/or limitations within MFMA Circular No 51 must be adhered to when aligning the virement policy to the requirements of mSCOA.

The Adjustment budget submission must ensure that the project detail (IDP) contains all projects from the strategic initiative of the municipality and are aligned to the financial data contained in the adjustment budget.

Only the Mayor may table an Adjustments budget in the municipal council. When an adjustments budget is tabled it must be accompanied by-

- a) An explanation of how the adjustments budget affects the annual budget;
- b) A motivation of any material changes to the annual budget;
- c) An explanation of the impact of any increased spending on the annual budget and the annual budgets for the next two financial years;
- d) Any other supporting documentation that may be prescribed.

## ADJUSTMENT BUDGET SPEECH

2020/2021 Adjustment Budget Speech by his worship the Mayor, Councillor MC Maphisa, at Abaqulusi Council Chambers on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 at a Council and Exco meeting.

Mr Speaker, I wish to present an overview of the adjustment budget for the 2020/2021 budget year. This adjustment document is prepared in terms of the Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations.

With the tabling and approval of the 2020/2021 budget, a strong focus is placed on Service Delivery and fighting poverty.

It is important to state that the focus of the adjustment budget is based on the result of the Mid-year review concentrating on the performance management of each department looking at the mid-year expenditure against the budget.

The adjustment budget has been prepared in such a way that value for money and sustainability are key considerations. It is important to note that expenditure required to address the challenges facing the municipality and our communities will always exceed the available funding, hence difficult choices have been made in balancing expenditure against realistically anticipated revenue as stipulated in Section 18 of the MFMA.

### **MID-YEAR BUDGET ASSESSMENT**

The following observations were made during the mid-year budget assessment report that was tabled before Council at the beginning of February 2021.

#### **Operating Budget Revenue**

The municipality collected 83,30% of the property rates compared to the approved budget at mid-year which is R35 million collected against a budget of R42 million.

Revenue from service charges was under collected as follows:

Revenue from electricity actual is 72,68% or R67,7 million and budget of R93,2 million and the estimated actual for the financial year is R135,5 million

Revenue from water actual is 71,36% or R14 million and budget of R19,6 million and the estimated actual for the financial year is R28 million

Revenue from sanitation is 73,1% or R9,7 million and budget of R13,3 million, the estimated actual for the financial year is R19,5 million

Revenue from refuse collection is 81,75% or R7,5 million and budget of R9,2 million and the estimated actual for the financial year is R27,4 million

The collection of revenue from fines and penalties is 100% or R12,1 million compared to a budget of R12,1 million. Included under fines and penalties is the penalties charged to consumers on overdue accounts.

Revenue collected for licences and permits amounts to 61,22% or R1,5 million compared to the mid-year budget of R2,5 million

Revenue from investments is 41,03% or R366 thousand compared to a mid-year budget of R893 thousand

Total internal revenue estimated for the financial year is R307,4 million which is R83 million less than the original budget, total equitable share and operating grants of R213 million and R28,4 million for MIG due to R6,6 million roll-over for 2018/2019 not approved by National Treasury, a further amount of R453,000 has been withheld on National Adjusted Gazette dated 23 February 2021

In total 78,7% of revenue or R307,4 million compared to the budget of R390,7 million has been received. To date 2 tranches of Equitable Share and all other grant funding has been received.

The total estimated revenue for 2020/2021 is R505,6 million

## **Expenditure**

The actual expenditure for the first 6 months is 84,76% or R270,3 million against the approved budget of R318,9 million and this is attributed to:

- Employee costs of 103,84% or R82,4 million compared to the budget of R79,4 million due to bonuses paid in December
- Bulk purchases of 93,79% or R89,9 million compared to the budget of R95,9 million which has been paid in the 1<sup>st</sup> six months of the year, this includes the final payment arrangement with Eskom. From January 2021 payments for bulk purchases to Eskom will be for the current accounts only
- Free basic services costs of 114,32% or R5,7 million compared to the budget of R5 million
- Repairs and Maintenance expenditure of 27,19% or R3,8 million compared to the budget of R14 million
- Contract payments of 103,4% or R42,8 million compared to the budget of R41,4 million
- Capital payments of 71,05% or R24,5 million mostly from MIG compared to the budget of R34,5 million
- General expenditure of 70,4% or R12 million compared to the budget of R17 million

## Main Challenges

- The main challenge the municipality is facing is the impact that Covid is having on the community to pay for services and this has resulted in less revenue being collected
- The ongoing challenge due to the ageing of water and sanitation pumps is impacting on expenditure and communities being without water
- The ongoing theft of cable and cutting of poles is a big loss of income from service charges
- One of the main challenges being experienced is the need to reprioritize projects and high expenditure rate given the cash flow realities and declining cash position of the municipality
- The on-going growth of the debtor ageing and indigent applications, the municipality is struggling to maintain a 90% collection rate as in the past

The non-collectable debtors which should be written off as no debt has been written off since 2012. The outstanding debtors amounts to R248,6 million of which R206,5 million is older than 90 days

- Ageing infrastructure for water, sanitation, roads and electricity as well as limited resources within the departments
- Continuous high tariff increases making services no longer affordable and the Eskom % increase compared to the % increase allowed by municipalities
- Affordability of capital own funded capital projects, original allocations have to be reduced during the current year and factored where possible into the following financial year placing a further burden on the draft budget

## Achievements

During the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the year the municipality managed to spend 71% on MIG

## Focus

As it is clear that the municipality is cash strapped, over and above cost containment measures preferred by the National Treasury, the municipality needs to adopt a bold and radical approach in its revenue enhancement program. As a matter of utmost urgency, the municipality needs to consider the following from March ongoing:

- ✓ The writing off the old debt that has been identified following the data cleansing exercise and maintenance of the consumer database
- ✓ Disconnect fraudulent consumers, in all respects
- ✓ Provide and replace water meters
- ✓ Provide and replace electricity meters
- ✓ Upgrade of street lighting
- ✓ Source funding from National Departments
- ✓ Rehabilitate our environment
- ✓ Improve tourist attraction



- ✓ Make a foot print on local economic development
- ✓ Update the water distribution register
- ✓ Review all budget related policies as soon as possible to circumvent high tariff increases and ensure the policies are mSCOA compliant
- ✓ Using funds for purposes they are meant for and have time-lined implementation plans
- ✓ Ward IDP

I would like to thank all members of this Council, including all representatives of all political parties and all members of the administration for their contributions made. A budget is defined as “a plan for spending money wisely” and the administration under the Municipal Manager and the Acting CFO and her team are trying to install strict fiscal discipline. I would further like to thank all members of the public who assisted and took part in putting the municipality on the winning path. Every input, suggestion and all active participation is valued. Abaqulusi Municipality is an example of what can be achieved with a partnership of an active and participating community and a responding Council. We must never forget that this is the purpose of local government and that we are mere servants placed here to serve our community. I would also like to thank all sectors of the community who still need upgrading of services and facilities who have been patiently waiting with us to achieve it. Trust us we are equal to the task.

Mr Speaker I am humbled by the huge task entrusted to me as leader of this Council, and the opportunity to table this Adjustment Budget to better serve our people. My team and I would like to ensure every citizen of Abaqulusi that we shall work tirelessly and leave no stone unturned to create a community of excellence for all with the funds entrusted to us. Trust us we will gradually achieve this

Mr Speaker, in the item serving before Council the recommendations are set out as recommended in the Adjustment Budget item. I herewith formally submit recommendations to Council for consideration and approval of the 2020/2021 adjustments budget.

I would like to make the following recommendations: (Proposed Resolutions)

1. That the operational expenditure budget be adjusted from R 550,4 million to R 579,8 million. The main proposed adjustments are for the increase in the expenditure budget of R1 million for employee costs, an increase of R14,8 million for bulk purchases. The provision for bad debt increases by R17,4 million, repairs and maintenance is reduced by R 9,1 million, capital is reduced by R22 million
2. That the revenue budget be adjusted from R608 million to R631,1 million including capital transfers and contributions. The proposed amendments to the revenue are a reduction in rates and electricity, an increase in fines and penalties due to the interest charged to consumers with overdue accounts and additional revenue from the sale of stands as well as the additional Equitable Share that was tabled in August following the amended DORA allocation in June 2020.
3. That the payment levels which in previous been above 92% but reduced in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter to 85,06% be monitored and ensure the collection rate increases to above 90%

4. To implement and monitor the cash flow turnaround strategy to improve effective financial management
5. To monitor collection levels during the remaining budget period to ensure that funding is available to finance expenditure
6. That under no circumstances should expenditure be incurred that is not budgeted for. Disciplinary action be taken against the person liable for that unbudgeted expenditure
7. That, in compliance with the MFMA the financial results regarding the operating and capital budgets for the Adjustment Budget of the 2020/2021 financial year, and supporting documents as required by National Treasury (Schedule B) be submitted to Council for approval
8. 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
9. The Planning Section of Finance does the necessary adjustments to the Revenue & Expenditure **Budgets** on the Munsoft Financial System and all projects other than the projects for infrastructure maintenance be blocked and expenditure only be incurred if supporting documentation motivating the expenditure be submitted to the Accounting Officer and CFO for approval **prior** to the expenditure being incurred
10. No hand orders be issued for suppliers, only suppliers registered on the CSD be utilized to ensure there is no expenditure incurred for which there is no budget.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The application of sound financial management principles for the compilation of the Municipality's financial plan is essential and critical to ensure that the Municipality remains financially viable and that municipal services are provided sustainably, economically and equitably to all communities

The Municipality's service delivery priorities were reviewed as part of the planning and adjustment budget process. A critical review was undertaken of expenditure on non-essential and 'nice-to-have' items. The Adjustment Budget for 2019/20 is based on the realisation that revenues and cash flows remain under pressure and the municipality must adopt a conservative approach when projecting expected revenues and cash receipts

The Adjustment budget was compiled by ensuring that the financial management processes are transparent, aligned to the accountability cycle and facilitate good governance that is accountable to the local community

During the approval of the 2020/2021 budget we had advised that the cash collection rate may still feel the impact of the recession the country is experiencing. In the previous financial year, the collection rate was 85,27% and for the six months of this financial year it has decreased to 85,06%

Some of the anticipated own revenue collection on trading services (i.e. Electricity, Water, Sanitation & Waste Management) has not materialised as projected, however when compared to the 1<sup>st</sup> six months in the previous financial year revenue the billed revenue has increased and is much more in line with the budgeted amount for water and electricity

In keeping with National Treasury Circulars regarding the managing of costs, reductions have been made on costs which are not urgent in the current financial year, or in the short term, have been deferred to the next financial year should resources be available. The reductions are in keeping with the cost containment that has been implemented

### **Current funding compliance assessment information**

The audit outcomes relate to the past performance of a municipality and provide a good indication on the state of municipal financial management rather than the state of municipal finances.

The following key financial management objectives are used:

- a) Short term viability and consideration of whether the community is 'paying its way' relative to economic benefits received;
- b) Medium and long-term sustainability; ensuring that the broader community maintains control over outcomes within appropriate levels of affordability;
- c) Achievement of community aspirations and service delivery goals;
- d) Maintenance of a good credit rating and minimising financing costs; and
- e) Achieving and maintaining key prudential measurements; e.g. borrowing limits.

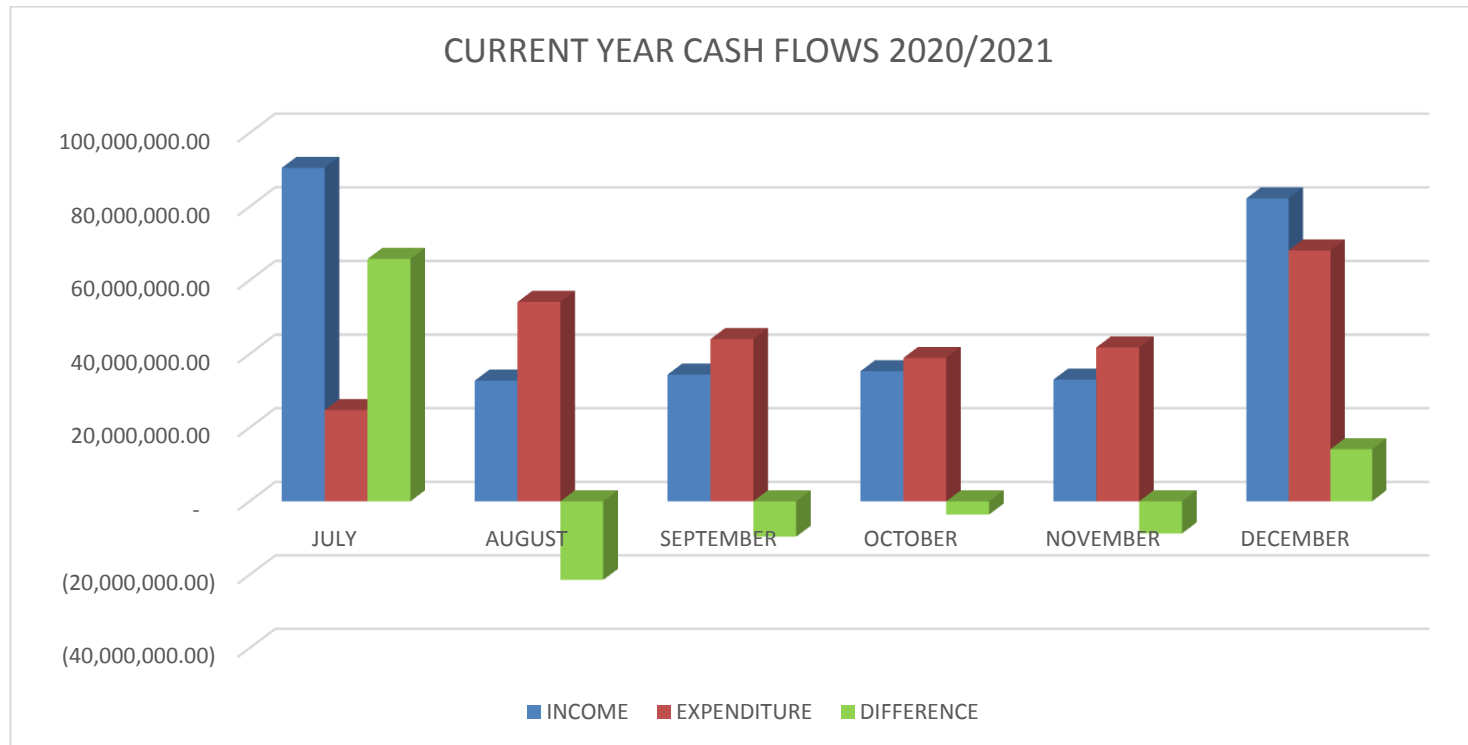
### **Vulnerable cash position**

The municipality may not in terms of section 45 of the MFMA close the financial year with any short-term borrowing or overdraft. It must further ensure that there must be sufficient cash and investments to fulfill our legal obligations to provide not only to be able to meet the monthly payments as and when they fall due but for the cash-backing of reserves and other working capital requirements. It is generally accepted that the municipality must have sufficient cash coverage of three months of average operational expenditure.

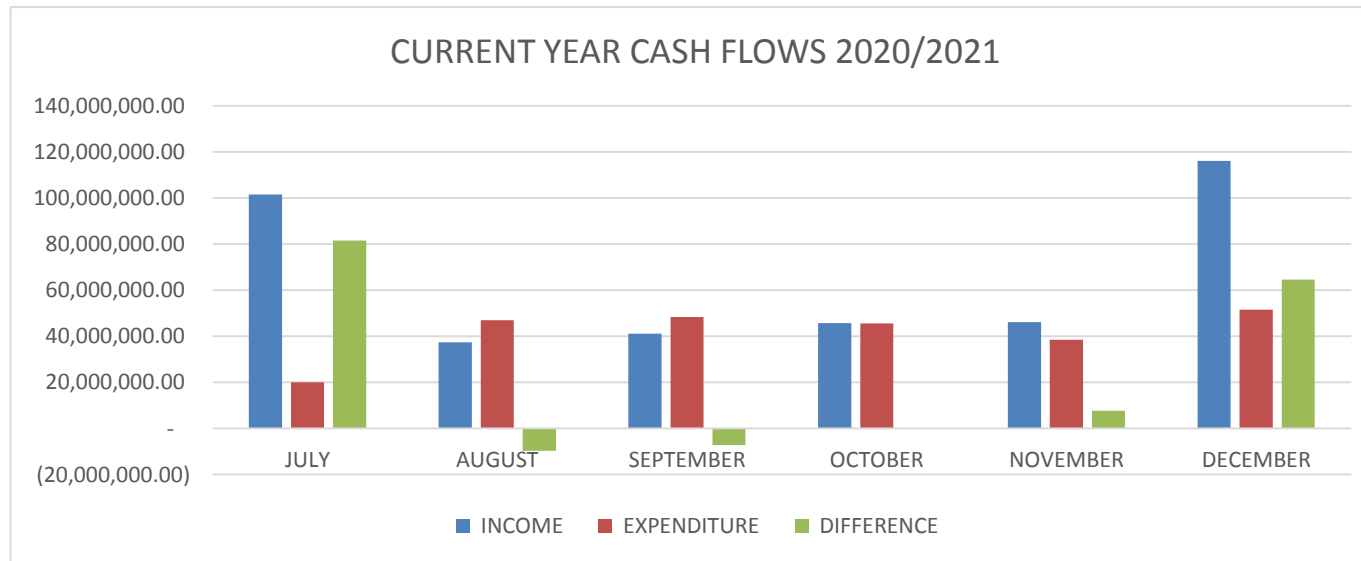
Of the reasons noted by National Treasury why municipalities' cash coverage is:

- A deterioration in revenue collections due to the impact of the economic recession and the rising rates and tariffs on the affordability of household budgets;
- The need to pay suppliers, especially contractors responsible for capital projects;
- The need to finance the cash-flow difference between paying for the increased cost of bulk electricity and the collection of revenues from customers;
- Any major breakdown in service delivery resulting in non-supply (especially water and electricity), and therefore no revenue.
- A rate-payers/consumers boycott.

PRIOR YEAR CASH FLOWS 2019/2020			
	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	DIFFERENCE
JULY	90 533 344.38	24 734 288.62	65 799 055.76
AUGUST	32 748 053.65	54 139 386.78	-21 391 333.13
SEPTEMBER	34 421 777.47	44 028 600.17	-9 606 822.70
OCTOBER	35 336 011.48	38 926 151.51	-3 590 140.03
NOVEMBER	33 053 147.56	41 783 309.94	-8 730 162.38
DECEMBER	82 250 138.09	68 114 840.74	14 135 297.35
	308 342 472.63	271 726 577.76	36 615 894.87



CURRENT YEAR CASH FLOWS 2020/2021			
	INCOME	EXPENDITURE	DIFFERENCE
JULY	101 563 463.11	20 001 506.31	81 561 956.80
AUGUST	37 383 829.84	47 010 761.10	-9 626 931.26
SEPTEMBER	41 156 002.59	48 379 138.42	-7 223 135.83
OCTOBER	45 759 393.44	45 631 266.49	128 126.95
NOVEMBER	46 119 562.34	38 492 437.82	7 627 124.52
DECEMBER	116 190 594.12	51 544 559.47	64 646 034.65
	388 172 845.44	251 059 669.61	137 113 175.83



### **Risks posed by the current state of finances**

The municipality must ensure that it does not fall into the risks associated with financial stress which are:

#### Service delivery risks

- Staff do not get paid – and so refuse to work
- Bulk services do not get paid for – so services could be cut
- Contractors and suppliers do not get paid
- Repairs and maintenance are invariably among the first expenditures cut placing service delivery at risk, as well as future revenue

### **Fiscal risks**

- Poor financial management processes and systems exposes the municipality to corruption
- The municipalities are failing to properly utilise the resources available to them by failing to collect available revenues
- Poor financial management increases the cost of borrowing

### **Budget Related Resolutions**

The Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) No 56 of 2003 requires that the municipality table and adopt the budget and budget resolutions. The format of the budget and supporting documentation is prescribed by the Municipal Budget and Reporting Regulations.

### **Summary Statement of Financial Performance**

Description	Approved Budget R'000	Adjustment Budget R'000	Variance Fav (Unfav) R'000
Total Revenue	608 175	631 269	23 094
Total Operating Expenditure	550 403	609 896	-29 475
Employment Costs	158 854	159 298	-444
Operating Expenses	322 382	373 413	-51 031
Capital	69 167	47 167	22 000
<b>(SURPLUS)/DEFICIT</b>	<b>57 772</b>	<b>51 390</b>	<b>6 382</b>

The operating expenditure variances against budget are:

- Employee costs – R 3 million more than budget
- Repairs and Maintenance – R 10,2 million less than budget
- Bulk purchases – R5,9 million less than budget
- General expenses – R5 million less than budget
- Capital – R10 million less than budget

### **CHALLENGES FOR THE 2ND HALF OF 2020/2021**

The major challenge the municipality faces going forward is that due to the depleted revenue and the current over commitments the general expenditure will be blocked. Further challenges include the cost containment measures that National Treasury have advised municipalities to implement to provide reasonable assurance that all expenditure in all sections are necessary, appropriate, paid promptly and adequately recorded. Given the economic challenges facing the community where resources are scarce it is imperative that funds are utilised effectively and economically.

To ensure compliance the following measures must be implemented as National Treasury have notified the Auditor-General who will be monitoring whether these changes have been implemented when the audit is conducted:

- Engagement of consultants – ensure a needs analysis has been confirmed that the relevant section does not have the requisite skills or resources in its full time employ to perform the assignment in question. The appointment of consultants may only be approved by the Accounting Officer and consultants may only be remunerated in terms of the guidelines issued by SAICA.
- Hotel accommodation must be in terms of the National Treasury policy. Overnight accommodation must be limited to instances where the distance by road exceeds 500 kilometers to and from the destination.
- Trips by vehicles must be optimised to reduce costs. Travel must be limited to meetings or events that are considered absolutely critical and the number of employees attending such meetings or events must be limited to those employees that are directly involved in the matter or event.
- Claims for meals must be prohibited if the hotel rate already includes dinner and/or breakfast or if the conference fee includes lunch and/or dinner.
- Supplier and early settlement discounts must be negotiated to secure lower prices.



- Savings on the amount of paper used must be considered by printing documents 'back to back' and using colour printing prudently. The use of electronic mail must be encouraged.
- Staff should be encouraged / educated on the prudent use of water and electricity usage in buildings to lower utility costs.
- Stricter control of allowances to employees making private calls.
- Telephone and/or video conferencing facilities must be used, where possible, to avoid unnecessary travel and subsistence costs.
- Advertising for vacancies should be placed through bulk advertisements.
- Every effort must be made to recover debts from debtors before giving any consideration to writing off debts.
- Meetings and planning sessions must as far as practically possible be held in-house. Meetings attended by Councillors/employees may not incur catering expenses for internal meetings. Catering should be limited to functions where external government departments are attending and limited to light snacks.
- Purchasing of new furniture and equipment and office refurbishments should only be undertaken where absolutely necessary.

Revenue generated from property rates and service charges forms a significant percentage of the revenue source of the municipality.

The approved operating revenue budget amounts to R638,8 million. For the period under review the planned SDBIP target is R319,4 million and the actual revenue collected to date is R397 million. When comparing the planned against the actual revenue there is a 24,4% over performance shown. This is mainly due to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche of Equitable Share having been received as well as funding for MIG, INEP, FMG. Arts & Culture and EPWP.

**Reasons for major variances between planned and billed/actual revenue collected as at 31 December 2020:**

- revenue billed from rates is 23% above the planned projection
- revenue billed from electricity sales is 5% below the planned projection
- revenue billed from water sales is 16% above the planned projection
- revenue billed from sanitation sales is 18% above the planned projection
- revenue billed from refuse sales is 7% above the planned projection
- It must also be noted that the half year income reflects the second tranche of the equitable share which must be carried over into next quarter. This inflates the six-month Income figure as shown above.

The municipality is still expected to deliver services in an area which is growing with fewer funds to do so.

The major operating revenue variances against budget to date are:

- Property rates billed including penalties and collection charges – R 9,5 million more than budget
- Service charges billed – R1,3 more than budget
- Government Grants and subsidies – Operating – no additional equitable share allocated by National Treasury to local municipalities
- Government Grants and subsidies – Capital – an amount of R6,6 million was disallowed for MIG for 2018/2019 and a further R453,000 is being withheld in terms of the National Adjusted Gazette dated 23 February 2021
- Other Income – R 4,7 million more than budget

The Directors and Managers are playing their oversight on their budgets and monitoring their spending as advised monthly by the Finance Department, the main concern is the lack of income and this is going to result in Finance again having to block non-essential votes to try and limit spending. This will hamper service delivery in the second half of the year and result in no additional funding being made available.

The approved operating expenditure budget amounts to R637,8 million. For the period under review the planned SDBIP target is R 318,9 million and the actual expenditure to date is R 275,6 million. When comparing the planned against the actual expenditure there is a 13,5% under expenditure

### **Reasons for major expenditure variance variances against budget are:**

- Employee costs – 4% or R3 million more than budget which is due to bonuses paid in December 2020
- Repairs and Maintenance – 73% or R10 million less than budget
- Bulk purchases – 6% or R5,9 million less than budget
- General expenses – 30% or R5 million less than budget

### **Reason for major variance of year-to-date capital expenditure, compared to departmental Service Delivery Budget Implementation Plans (SDBIP) targets for the municipal vote is:**

- Capital program for MIG projects is ongoing as well as the electrification of Eskom areas, these projects are funded from grants.

Borrowings – own resources need to be accumulated before capital projects are embarked upon. Due to the impact of the growth in external funding on the operating budget the municipality currently enters into finance leases for the acquisition of new vehicles rather than rely on external funding to fund the capital budget.

As at the end of December 2020, R248,6 million was outstanding for debtors, with R206,5 million outstanding for longer than 90 days. The effect of Covid on the economy is evident and the outstanding debtors has increased by +/- R40 million when compared to the same time last year.

The municipality needs to consider appointing staff/outsource for the continuous audit and social assessments of households to identify households that apply for indigent status.

### **Other Financial Issues**

This executive report continues to highlight the performance achievement of the Finance Department during the first half of the financial year, taking into account:

- i. The targets set in the service delivery and business delivery

The main strategic goals during the 2020/2021 as set out in the business plan and reported in the performance report were for the following:

- The optimization of revenue collection by using incentives to encourage payments, increasing the number of payment methods, increasing the billing coverage and vigorously implementing the credit control policy and bylaws through effective implementation of the existing legal processes.
- Increasing the number of paying consumers by improving better communication and better relationships with consumers.
- Reduction of costs through reduction in physical and bulk losses.

- Improve service delivery to community through best practices.
- Reduction and/or control of expenditures mainly through the control of overhead costs by utilizing effective systems (blocking projects on the financial system)
- Alignment of structure with organizational strategy.
- Counteract wasteful water and electricity practices through education and awareness campaigns.
- Raising the level of awareness of consumers about hygiene and environmental health in compliance with regulatory requirements.
- Continual development of the required strategic skills from managerial levels to lower levels.
- Identify and manage operational and financial risks within the existing regulatory framework/environment.
- Manage and maintain an effective and efficient network system within the total Abaqulusi area.
- The reduction of overtime costs by implementing stricter monitoring controls and limiting the number of hours per employee to 40 hours per month.

**Feedback and responses from Provincial Treasury assessment of the Section 72 Mid-year report (attached)**

- Revenue from facilities and equipment was below the projected baseline - it was explained this is due to Covid as facilities were closed
- Interest from investments – less revenue due to no surplus cash available to invest
- Interest earned on outstanding debtors – the budget for this revenue is included under fines & penalties
- Fines & penalties – the budget includes interest on consumers owing the municipality however the revenue received is showing under interest, this has been corrected. The actual revenue on fines is lower than budget due to Covid
- Licences and permits – less revenue due to offices being closed due to Covid
- Other revenue – the budget has been adjusted
- There is currently no budget for finance charges which is interest charged to the municipality due to non payment of accounts. Provincial Treasury advised the municipality to budget for the expenditure incurred
- Other materials (repairs and maintenance) – the expenditure has been adjusted in line with the year to date spending
- Contracted services – an analysis has been done to ensure the correct amount is budgeted
- Transfers and grants – the expenditure for EPWP and free basic services and the budget has been adjusted
- Other expenditure – this has been reduced in line with current expenditure and will be closely monitored in the last 5 months of the year

- Capital from own funding has been reduced due to cashflow constraints still being experienced
- Cashflow – the figures were not extracting correctly from the Munsoft system to the schedules, this has now been corrected

Our Ref.: 9/1/1/7

Your Ref.

Enquiries: T Mhlongo

Dept.: Finance



57, VRYHEID 3100

c/o, Mark & High Street



(034) 982-2133



Fax: (034) 982-1939

E-mail: [finance@abaqulusi.gov.za](mailto:finance@abaqulusi.gov.za)

## QUALITY CERTIFICATE

I, **BE Ntanzi**, Municipal Manager of **ABAQULUSI MUNICIPALITY**, hereby certify that:  
(mark as appropriate)

- The monthly budget statements
- Quarterly report on the implementation of the budget and financial state of affairs to the municipality
- Adjustment budget

The Adjustment Budget 2020/2021 has been prepared in accordance with the Municipal Finance Management Act and regulations made under the Act.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**BE NTANZI**  
**MUNICIPAL MANAGER**  
**ABAQULUSI MUNICIPALITY**  
**KZN263**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**

Our Ref.: 9/1/1/7  
Your Ref.  
Enquiries: T Mhlongo



57, VRYHEID 3100

c/o, Mark & High Street



(034) 982-2133



Fax: (034) 982-1939

E-mail: finance@abaqulusi.gov.za

## CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATE

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the Acting Chief Financial Officer of (**ABAQULUSI MUNICIPALITY**,) have checked the Report and done the Review Session with my Department. The POE's are categorised according to the index. (*Marked as appropriate*)

The December Monthly Report	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quarterly Report on the implementation of the Financial State of affairs to the Municipality	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adjustment Budget	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Medium Term Report	<input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby confirm that the above is a true reflection of the Finance Section and in full compliance with Schedule 2 of the Municipal Systems Act.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**T MHLONGO**  
**ACTING CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**  
**ABAQULUSI MUNICIPALITY**  
**KZN263**

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE