# UMZIMVUBU LOCAL MUNICIPALITY INTERNAL AUDIT UNIT



# INTERNAL AUDIT UNIT STRATEGIC THREE YEAR ROLLING INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN FOR YEARS ENDING JUNE 2026

**AND** 

2023/2024 OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 2024

# Risk-based Internal Audit Operational Plan: June 2024

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#### Umzimvubu Local Municipality

#### Risk-based Internal Audit Operational Plan: June 2024

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

This document presents the Umzimvubu Local Municipality Internal Audit Unit profile and the 2023/24-2025/26 Risk Based Audit Plan (RBAP) as required by section 165 of Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA). This updated RBAP, identifies and describes the Internal Audit engagements that Internal Audit Unit will conduct over the next three fiscal years. This is designed to provide an objective and independent assurance and consulting services to Council/EXCO, and Senior Management on risk management, control and governance processes and respond to compliance requirements, ensuring efficient and effective Service Delivery.

The institute of Internal Auditors defines internal auditing as follows "an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve organizations' operations. It helps an organization accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance process."

#### 2. PURPOSE

This document sets out the Risk-based Internal Audit Operational Plan for the period 2023/2024 to 2025/2026 for consideration and approval by the Audit & Performance Committee. The Plan incorporates:

- Annual Internal Audit Plan for the financial year ending 30 June 2024
- Strategic three-year rolling Internal Audit Plan
- Risk Management Process Facilitation

The Internal Audit Operational Plan is designed to provide an independent, objective assurance and advisory service, in an efficient and effective manner, to the following key stakeholders:

- Audit & Performance Committee
- Accounting Officer
- Top Management and
- Line Management

The overall approach is to formulate a risk-based plan to align the priorities of the Internal Audit Function with the strategic objectives and goals of Umzimvubu Local Municipality and the related strategic and major business risks as identified by the management.

#### 3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES- INTERNAL AUDIT FUNCTION

In terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act no 56 of 2003 Section 62 (c); the Accounting Officer of a municipality is responsible for managing the financial administration of the municipality; and must for this purpose take all reasonable steps to ensure –

- c) that the municipality has and maintains effective, efficient, and transparent system
  - (i) of financial and risk management and internal control and
  - (ii) of internal audit operating in accordance with any prescribed norms and standards.

Furthermore, Municipal Finance Management Act no 56 of 2003 Section 165 (1) focuses on municipal internal audit functions, and stipulates that the Municipality must have an internal audit function which must: -

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## Risk-based Internal Audit Operational Plan: June 2024

- a) Prepare a risk-based audit plan and an internal audit program for each financial year.
- b) Advise the accounting officer and report to the audit committee on the implementation of the internal audit plan and matters relating to (i) Internal audit;
- (ii) Internal controls;
- (iii) Accounting procedures and practices;
- (iv) Risk and risk management;
- (V) Performance management.
- (vi) Loss control and
- (Vii) Compliance with this Act; annual Division of Revenue Act and any other applicable legislation and
- (Viii) Perform such other duties as may be assigned to it by the Accounting Officer Municipal System Act 32 of 2000 Section 45 which states that the performance measurements must be audited as part of the municipality's internal auditing process.

#### 4. RISK ASSESSMENT

The Accounting Officer is required to ensure that a risk assessment is conducted regularly to identify emerging risks for the municipality. The Risk Management Strategy, which includes a Fraud Prevention Plan, must be used to direct Internal Audit effort and priorities. Risk management should be clearly communicated to all officials to ensure that it is incorporated into the language and culture of the municipality.

#### 5. RISK BASED AUDITS

The direction of the Internal Audit Function ought to be directed by the risk exposure of the municipality. These risks are generally identified through an annual risk assessment exercise. Risk assessment has been conducted in the municipality for the 2023/2024 financial year. All the proposed audits are emanating from the Risk Assessment Process.

#### 6. AD HOC REQUESTS

Although no time has been set aside in this plan for ad-hoc engagements, such engagements would be considered should there be requests for them. Acceptance of requests would be weighed against planned audits of high-risk areas. It is also important for the audit strategy to remain risk based, as this will ensure that resources are effectively and efficiently allocated.

#### 7. DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN

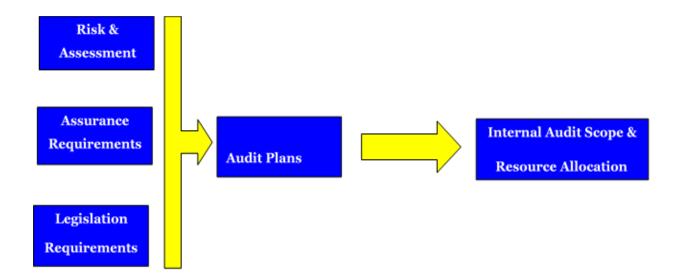
To facilitate effective communication and planning; we have prepared a draft risk-based Internal Audit Operational Plan for the financial year ending 30 June 2024.

The proposed Internal Audit Plan described below has been prepared to direct the Internal Audit effort, based on available and envisaged resources.

A risk and control identification assessment report has previously been prepared, where management participated in identifying key risks facing the Municipality and key controls to mitigate identified risks including action owners. The risk assessment constitutes an integral phase in the preparation of the audit plans.

We wish to highlight that the identification and management of risks is the primary responsibility of Council and Management.

The following is a diagrammatical overview of the process by which the proposed internal audit plans were formulated:



The Internal Audit Function will communicate its approved Internal Audit operational plan for 2023/2024 financial year to management, and report on its progress thereto to management and Audit & Performance Committee.

In the "risk and control assessment report" emanating from Annual Risk Assessment workshop that took place on the 17th April 2023, risks were identified and controls related to the risks were assessed by management. In that report, we noted the risks where their controls were asserted to be well managed, meaning that their current control effectiveness were: Satisfactory, Good or Very Good and these risks should ideally be the key focus of internal audit when applying the principal of risk-based approach.

The following is a list of risks that were asserted to be well managed; sorted by focus area/ risk category from the above mentioned "risk and control assessment report". In the list of risks below, we have also

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# Risk-based Internal Audit Operational Plan: June 2024

indicated next to each individual risk item our assessment of whether that particular risk item is auditable or not i.e. can that risk item be effectively reviewed by Internal Audit during its reviews.

For each auditable risk item, we have indicated above the area/process business cycle in which that risk items would be reviewed, as individual risk items are not normally stand – alone items, but form part of a business process / cycle.

#	Risks	Focus Area	Perceived Control Effectiveness	Auditable	Risk to be included in the Review of the following Process
1	Fraud and corruption (SR2, SR6) Fraudulent awarding of tenders (FR4)	Budget & Treasury Office	Budget & Treasury Office	Yes	Supply Chain Management
2	Misuse and theft of municipal assets (FR3)	Budget & Treasury Office	Good	Yes	Asset Management, Fleet Management
3.		Budget & Treasury Office	Satisfactory	Yes	Revenue Management
4.	1	Budget & Treasury Office	Satisfactory	Yes	Accounts Payables/ Expenditure management
5.	ICT business disruption (SR7) Increased vulnerability to evolving cyber security threats (ICT5).	CORPORATE SERVICES	Satisfactory	Yes	Cyber Security, ITGC review
6.	Inadequate institutional performance and performance management (SR8). Interference with recruitment processes (FR6.)	CORPORATE SERVICES	Good	Yes	Human Resource
7.	Inadequate project management processes (SR10)	INFRASTRUCTURE & PLANNING BTO	Good	Yes	Project Management Review
8.	Non-compliance with applicable laws,	COPORATE SERVICES BTO	Satisfactory	Yes	Human Resources Management, Expenditure Management, Supply chain management, Grants audit, Asset management, Revenue management
9.	Inability to deliver on IDP (SR 04)	OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MANAGER	Satisfactory	Yes	Audit of Predetermined objectives, SDBIP Review
10.	Payment of fraudulent /fictitious suppliers (FR2)	Budget & Treasury Office	Good	Yes	Accounts Payables Audit

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11.	Reputational damage (SR6)	Budget & Treasury Office	Good	Yes	AFS, IFS reviews
4.0					<b>-</b> " ".
12.	Employees claiming standby for hours that	Corporate Services	Satisfactory	Yes	Payroll audit
	have not been worked or inflating hours	1 -	Satisfactory	Yes	Payroll audit

However, as management and the Audit & Performance Committee can appreciate, if there is limited resources (budget) for internal audit services, internal audit may not be able to cover all the areas in year one. In the plan

below, the timing and resources required to review the internal audit auditable areas should be discussed and agreed with management and the Audit & Performance Committee.

We acknowledge that not all risks identified will be audited and/ or are auditable. Monitoring and management of risks is primarily a responsibility of management, and as such, management are responsible to ensure that risks of the Municipality are properly identified, managed, and monitored.

#### 8. CO-ORDINATION AND CO-OPERATION

It is accepted that the co-operation and availability of the Municipality's personnel plays a significant role in impacting the effectiveness and efficiency of the internal audit service. Every effort must be made to explain the purpose of internal audit to obtain the complete co-operation of departmental management and staff.

#### 9. LIAISON WITH EXTERNAL AUDIT

To obtain efficiencies wherever possible, it is advised that the Internal Audit and Management meet with external audit to allow them to consider and conclude on the level of reliance that they wish to place on our internal audit work. We will also ensure that our internal audit reports are distributed to the external auditors, so that they are timeously made aware of internal audit's work and findings.

#### 10. CLIENT EXPECTATIONS

We have taken cognisance of the need for:

- Timely issue of reports.
- Efficient and effective audits which react and report promptly.
- Reports to be discussed with management prior to being released to the Audit & Performance Committee.
- Liaison with external auditors.
- Attendance at Audit & Performance Committee meetings.

#### 11. DETAILED INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN

#	Audit Projects	Risk Ref.	Scope of Work	Anticipated Timing	Cycle	Resource	Budgeted Hours
1.	Information Technology General Controls	5	<ul> <li>IT Policies</li> <li>IT Disaster recovery review</li> <li>Security management</li> <li>Information security</li> <li>User account management</li> <li>Information privacy (POPI)</li> <li>IT Disaster Recovery Plan</li> <li>Physical Security and environmental control</li> <li>Program management control.</li> </ul>	September 2023	Cycle 1	Outsourced	120
2.	MSCOA	All	<ul> <li>MSCOA implementation stages and compliance.</li> <li>Alignment between what was budgeted and the actual transacting.</li> <li>Transactions are accounted for as per the MSCOA seven segments.</li> <li>Compliance with applicable laws, policies &amp; procedure</li> </ul>	October 2023	Cycle 1	Outsourced	80
3.	Review of Service Delivery & Budget Implementation Plan (SDBIP)	9	<ul> <li>Alignment of SDBIP to IDP</li> <li>Review of Key Performance Indicators</li> <li>(SMART principle)</li> <li>Compliance with applicable laws, rules, regulations, policies &amp; procedures</li> </ul>	December 2023  May 2024	Cycle 2 Cycle 4	In-house	160

4.	Review of Individual Performance Management		<ul> <li>Development and Alignment of Performance Plans (2023/24) to SDBIP</li> <li>Alignment of Q4 individual performance report to Individual Performance Plans (2022/23)</li> <li>Alignment of Performance report as per Performance reporting system to signed Performance Plans</li> <li>Compliance with applicable laws, rules, regulations, policies, and procedures</li> </ul>	July 2023	Cycle 1	In-house	120
5.	Accounts Payables (Expenditure)	4,8,10	<ul> <li>Existence of Expenditure Policies</li> <li>Proper segregation of duties.</li> <li>Adequacy and effectiveness of Payment processes</li> <li>Analysis of Data Analytics reports and results (i.e., duplicated invoices, payments to noncompliant vendors, payments made public holidays and weekends, payments to incorrect accounts etc. Accuracy of VAT input</li> <li>Creditors Reconciliation</li> <li>Process of recording of accruals</li> <li>Analytical review of expenditure</li> <li>Compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policies, and procedures</li> </ul>	April 2024		Outsourced	120

6.	Supply Chain Management	1,8	<ul> <li>Existence and approval of Policies and procedures</li> <li>Status of records</li> <li>Tender processes</li> <li>Requisition and ordering process</li> <li>Deviations (section 36 review)</li> <li>Unauthorized, irregular, and fruitless expenditure reporting</li> <li>Contract management</li> </ul>	March 2024	Cycle 3	Outsourced	120
7.	Cyber Security: Internal & External Vulnerability Assessment	5	<ul> <li>External, internal vulnerability assessment and penetration testing; including core firewalls.</li> <li>Identification of vulnerabilities in the</li> <li>internal host technology</li> <li>Cybersecurity Controls; and resilience.</li> <li>Wireless review</li> </ul>	January 2024	Cycle 3	Outsourced	120
8.	Interim Financial Statements	ALL	<ul> <li>To test whether the interim         Financial Statements have been         disclosed according to the         approved reporting standards,         Working papers:</li> <li>Test the accuracy of the totals and         balances of the statements (e.g.,         Statement of Financial         Performance, Trial balance, Cash         flow etc.)</li> </ul>	February 2024	Cycle 3	Outsourced	120

9.	Asset Management Audit	2,8	<ul> <li>Existence and adequacy of policies and procedures</li> <li>Existence of a system of Delegation of</li> <li>Authority</li> <li>Segregation of duties</li> <li>Maintenance of the asset register.</li> <li>Acquisition and Capitalization of assets</li> <li>Depreciation of assets</li> <li>Impairment of assets</li> <li>Disposal of assets</li> <li>Physical verification (Sample)</li> <li>Compliance with GRAP</li> </ul>	May 2024	Cycle 4	Outsourced	120
10.	Budget Management process	ALL	<ul> <li>Budget compilation process</li> <li>Budget approval</li> <li>Budget control, monitoring, and reporting.</li> <li>Management information on actual vs budget</li> <li>Budget virements</li> </ul>	April 2024	Cycle 4	In-house	120
11.	Revenue Management	3,9	<ul> <li>Review the implementation Revenue Enhancement Strategy.</li> <li>Delegations of authority.</li> <li>Management of debts: recording &amp; collection processes</li> <li>Indigent Register review</li> <li>Compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policies, and procedures</li> </ul>	February 2024	Cycle 3	Outsourced	120

12.	Fleet management	2,8	<ul> <li>Existence and implementation of Fleet management policies &amp; procedures.</li> <li>Physical verification of fleet.</li> <li>Review of fuel consumption</li> <li>Review of vehicle log sheet and Critrack systems.</li> <li>Expenditure for repairs and maintenance of fleet.</li> <li>Fleet administration processes</li> <li>Compliance with applicable laws regulations, policies, and procedures.</li> </ul>		Cycle 2	In-house	120
13.	Project Management	7,8	<ul> <li>SLA/ Project agreement compliance monitoring</li> <li>Project reporting to funder</li> <li>Project budgeting and planning</li> <li>Project procurement.</li> <li>Project expenditure control/monitoring.</li> <li>Project performance management and accountability</li> <li>Compliance with applicable laws, rules, regulations, policies, and procedures.</li> </ul>	February 2024	Cycle 3	In-house	120
14.	Human Resources Management	6,8	<ul> <li>Leave administration.</li> <li>Recruitment process</li> <li>Employee related allowances (payroll)</li> <li>Review of acting processes</li> <li>Employee verification</li> <li>Overtime management</li> </ul>	April 2024	Cycle 4	In-house	180

		Compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policies, and procedures				
15.	Payroll management	<ul> <li>Existence and implementation of Payroll management policies</li> <li>Payroll management processes</li> <li>Related allowances.</li> <li>Data analytics</li> <li>Compliance with applicable laws, rules, regulations, policies and procedures.</li> </ul>	October 2023	Cycle 2	In-house	120
Legis	slative/ Compliance Projects					
16.	Performance Management System	<ul> <li>Alignment between the IDP, SDBIP and PMS and</li> <li>SMART principles Key Performance Indicators</li> <li>Verify adequacy of performance information</li> <li>Monitoring of performance</li> <li>Performance Reporting</li> <li>Circular 88 review</li> </ul>	d Quarterly	Cycle 2 Cycle 3 Cycle 4	In-house	240
17.	2022/2023 Annual Financial Statements Review	<ul> <li>Review the Annual Financial Statements prior to submission to the Audit Committee and Auditor General</li> </ul>	August 2023	Cycle 1	Outsourced	120
18.	Annual Performance Report Review	Review the Annual Performance     Information prior to submission to the Audit     Committee and Auditor General	August 2023	Cycle 1	In-house	120
19.	Annual Report Review	Review that the annual report is factually correct and complies with all the	January 2024	Cycle 3	In-house	120

	Review of Audit Committee and Internal Audit Charters						
	Annual Internal Audit Plan	Umzimvubu Local Municipality					
	Preparing For and attending Audit Committee	Risk-based Internal Audit Operational Plan: J	une 2024				
	meetings						
		requirements of MFMA and MFMA circulars issued by National Treasury.					
20.	Division of Revenue (Conditional Grants)	Evaluation of conditional grants spending as gazetted in Division of Revenue Act (DORA).	May 2	024	Cycle 4	In-house	120
21.	Internal Audit Follow-up	<ul> <li>Follow-up on internal audit reports issued during the financial year, to review the status of implementation of agreed action plan.</li> </ul>	As req	uired	All Cycles	In-house	160
22.	AGSA Action Plan (Follow -up)	<ul> <li>Follow-up of management letter issued during the previous financial year to review the status of progress with regards to the implementation plan to address matters raised by AGSA.</li> </ul>	Quart	erly	All Cycles	In-house	160
Gene	ral Management of Internal Audit Function.						
23.	Risk Assessment Process Facilitation	General Administration	As requ	uired	All Cycles	In-house	120
	Review of Charters						
	Development of Annual Internal Audit Plan						
	Preparations for and attendance of Audit Committee meetings						

# <u>Planned Audit engagements to be conducted by Outsourced Internal Audit services:</u>

#	Project Focus Area	Proposed timing	Hours
1	Cyber Security: Internal & External Vulnerability assessment	January 2024	120
2	Review of Annual Financial Statements for 2021/2022 FY	August 2023	120
3	Information Technology General Controls Review	September 2023	120
4	Asset Management	May 2024	120
6	Review of Interim Financial Statements	February 2024	120
7.	Supply Chain Management	March 2024	120
8.	MSCOA	October 2023	80
9.	Accounts Payables (Expenditure)	April 2024	120
10.	Revenue Management Audit	February 2024	120
11.	Budget Process Audit	April 2024	80
Total	hours		1000 hours

### Planned Audit engagements to be conducted internally:

#	Project Focus Area	Proposed timing	Hours
1.	Fleet Management Audit	November 2023	120
2.	Human Resources Management	April 2024	180

3.	SDBIP Review	December 2023/ May 2024	240
4.	Review of Individual Performance Management	July 2023	120
5.	Performance Management system	Quarterly	240
6.	Annual Performance information	August 2023	80
7.	Annual Report Review	January 2024	120
8.	Division of Revenue (Grants Audit)	May 2024	120
9.	Internal audit follow-up	As required	160
10.	Project Management Review	February 2024	120
11	Auditor General Action plan	Quarterly from the date the report was issued.	160
12.	Attendance of Audit committee meetings	As and when required	60
13.	Risk & Control Identification & Assessment	As and when required	120
14.	Development of Internal Audit Plan	May 2024	40
15.	Risk Assessment workshop	April 2024	120
16.	Payroll Audit	October 2023	120
	Total		2060

#### 12. SUMMARY OF THE THREE-YEAR ROLLING AUDITPLAN

#	Project/ Details	Operational plan YE 30 June 2020	Strategic plan YE 30 June 2021	Strategic plan YE 30 June 2022	Strategic plan YE 30 June 2023	Strategic plan YE 30 June 2024	Strategic plan YE 30 June 2025	Strategic plan YE 30 June 2026
	Proposed Areas of Coverage:							
1	Risk Assessment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Performance Information	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>	✓	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>

3	Revenue Management	✓	<b>/</b>	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>
4	Charters (update)	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	Audit Committee meetings	<b>√</b>	<b>~</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	✓
6	Budget Process	<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>
7	Project Management	✓	✓	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	✓	✓
8	Supply Chain	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	✓	✓
9	Human Resources	<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	✓	✓
10	Asset Management	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>√</b>
11	Financial Reporting		<b>√</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	ITGC Audit	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>√</b>
13	Expenditure	✓	<b>√</b>		✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Municipal Resources		<b>√</b>			✓	✓	<b>√</b>
15	Grants	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16	Financial Statements	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17	Review of SDBIP	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>√</b>
18	Individual Performance			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19	Fleet Management	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
20	Waste Management		<b>√</b>		✓		✓	<b>√</b>
21	Traffic Safety			✓			✓	✓
22	Cyber Audit	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	<b>√</b>
23	Review of SDBIP			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24	Performance Bonus review	✓	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>	✓	✓
25	Local Economic Development Review		<b>~</b>		<b>✓</b>		<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>
26	Payroll Audit					<b>√</b>		

#### 13. ENGAGEMENT MANAGEMENT

We understand that the Municipality values continuity of senior level staff and we will attempt to maintain this continuity to the best of our ability.

The key contacts on this engagement are as follows:

15. APPROVAL OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN

Audit & Performance Committee Chairperson

NAME	DESIGNATION	CONTACT NUMBER
Mr P. Buthelezi	Audit Committee Chairperson	082 540 3858
Mr G.P.T Nota	Municipal Manager	039 255 8510
Mr T. Fundira	Chief Financial Officer	039 255 8500
Ms. T. Novukela	Chief Audit Executive	039 255 8558
Co – Sourced Internal Auditors	Bonakude Consulting	031 201 1241

#### 14. CONCLUSION

The above plan is subject to change if there are any significant emerging risks that will need immediate attention. The Ad-hoc/ management request are not factored in the plan, but the Internal Audit will conduct those requests through the approval of the Audit & Performance Committee. Internal Audit acknowledges that not all risks facing the municipality will be audited and/ or are auditable. Monitoring and management of risks is primarily a management matter, and as such, management is responsible to ensure that risks are properly identified, managed, and monitored. The internal audit plan should be timeously reviewed and approved, so that internal audit work can commence as scheduled. Internal audit will report on its progress thereto to management and the Audit & Performance Committee, at Audit & Performance Committee meetings.

# Prepared and submitted by: Date Ms. T. Novukela Chief Audit Executive The three-year rolling Audit Plan is acknowledged & supported by: Mr G.P.T Nota Accounting Officer Date

Annual Audit Plan has been reviewed by the audit committee and is approved by:

Mr P. Buthelezi Date