



MANTSOPA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY.

2024/2025.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Accounting Officer has committed Mantsopa local municipality to a process of risk management that is aligned to the principles of good corporate governance, as supported by the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA), Act no.56 of 2003.

2. PREAMBLE

The aim of this policy is to ensure that Mantsopa local municipality makes informed decisions with regard to the activities that it undertakes by appropriately considering both risks and opportunities.

The municipality recognizes that risk management is a systematic and formalized process to identify, assess, manage and monitor risks and therefore adopts a comprehensive approach to the management of risk.

3. DEFINITION OF RISK AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk refers to an unwanted outcome, actual or potential, to the municipality's service delivery and other performance objectives, caused by the presence of risk factor(s). Some risk factor(s) also present upside potential, which Management must be aware of and be prepared to exploit. The definition of "risk" thus also encompasses such opportunities.

Risk management is a systematic and formalised process instituted by the municipality to identify, assess, manage and monitor risks.

4. POLICY STATEMENTS

Mantsopa Local Municipality is committed to the effective risk management and treatment of risk in order to achieve the municipality's objectives.



Management of risk is the responsibility of all Executive authority, Senior Management and operational employees. In order to ensure adherence to section 62 (1) (c) (i) of the MFMA which states that:

“The Accounting Officer of the Municipality must ensure that the municipality/entity has and maintains: Effective, efficient and transparent systems of financial and risk management and internal control.”

It is important that employees become aware of the risks associated with their area of work and must manage these risks to be within tolerance level by using risk management response strategies outlined in the Municipality's Risk Management Strategy.

5. POLICY OBJECTIVES

- To explain Mantsopa local municipality approach to risk management and ensure that it has a consistent and effective approach to risk management;
 - To ensure that Mantsopa local municipality culture and processes encourage the identification, assessment and treatment of risks that may affect its ability to achieve its objectives;
 - To explain key aspects of risk management;
 - To clearly indicate the risk management reporting procedures;
 - To hold executive, management and officials accountable for the implementation of risk management on their area of responsibility;
 - To create an environment where all Mantsopa local municipality employees take responsibility for managing risk;
 - To create more risk aware and risk averse organisational culture through enhanced communication and reporting of risk;
 - To improve corporate governance and compliance with relevant legislation;
 - The implementation of this policy will provide Mantsopa local municipality with a basis and a framework for:
 - more confident and rigorous decision-making and planning;
 - better identification of opportunities and threats;
 - pro-active rather than re-active management;
 - more effective allocation and use of resources;
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- improved management and reduction in loss and cost of risk;
- improved stakeholder confidence and trust;
- a clear understanding by all staff of their roles, responsibilities and authorities for managing risk.

6. PHILOSOPHY

- Risk management is recognised as an integral part of responsible management and therefore, Mantsopa local municipality adopts a comprehensive approach to the management of risk. The features of this process are outlined in the municipality's Risk Management Strategy. It is expected that all Components' operations and processes will be subjected to the risk management strategy. It is the intention that these components work together in a consistent and integrated manner, with the overall objective of reducing risk, as far as reasonably practicable.
 - The realisation of our strategic plan depends on us being able to take calculated risks in a way that does not jeopardise the direct interests of stakeholders. Sound management of risk will enable us to anticipate and respond to changes in our service delivery environment, as well as make informed decisions under conditions of uncertainty.
 - We subscribe to the fundamental principles that all resources will be applied economically to ensure:
 - The highest standards of service delivery;
 - A management system containing the appropriate elements aimed at minimising risks and costs in the interest of all stakeholders;
 - Education and training of all our staff to ensure continuous improvement in knowledge, skills and capabilities which facilitate consistent conformance to the stakeholders expectations; and
 - Maintaining an environment, this promotes the right attitude and sensitivity towards internal and external stakeholder satisfaction.
 - An entity-wide approach to risk management is adopted by the municipality, which means that every key risk in each part of the municipality will be included in a structured and systematic process of risk management. It is expected that the risk management processes will become embedded into the municipality's systems and processes, ensuring that our responses to risks remain current and dynamic. All risk management efforts will be focused on supporting the municipality objectives. Equally, they must ensure compliance with relevant legislation, and fulfil the expectations of employees, communities and other stakeholders in terms of corporate governance.
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- Risk management must be embedded in the strategic planning of Mantsopa local municipality.
- As risk management is necessary for planning and decision making, it must be embedded in all the decision-making processes. Before decision is taken, the risks it poses must be identified.
- Mantsopa local municipality risk tolerance level must be determined by top management and needs to be outlined in the Risk Management Strategy.
- The associated risks of proposed actions and decisions must be properly identified, evaluated and managed to ensure that exposures are acceptable.
- Mantsopa local municipality will conduct a risk assessment on an annual basis with a review or re-assessment of the risks conducted on quarterly basis to ensure maximum mitigation thereof.
- Risks will be owned and managed by the Units where the risk resides.
- This policy is subject to an annual review in line with risk management framework.

7. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- National Treasury Public Sector Risk Management Framework of 2010
- Municipal Finance Management Act, Act 56 of 2003

8. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The Risk Officer and staff of Risk Management Unit are authorized to:

- Have unrestricted access to all municipal functions, records, property and personnel.
- Have access to the Accounting Officer, the Chairperson of the Risk Management Committee and management as thus will be part of all management meetings.
- Allocate resources, set frequencies, select subjects, determine scopes of work, and apply the techniques required to accomplish Risk Management objectives.
- Obtain the necessary assistance of personnel in units of the Municipality where risk assessments are performed, as well as other specialized services from within or outside the Municipality.
- Risk Management must be a standing item on all management meetings.

9. ROLE PLAYERS

Every employee is responsible for executing risk management processes and adhering to risk management procedures laid down by the municipality management in their areas of responsibilities.

9.1 RISK MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT

9.1.1 EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY

The Executive authority takes an interest in risk management to the extent necessary to obtain comfort that properly established and functioning systems of risk management are in place to protect the municipality against significant risks.

9.1.2 RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Risk Management Committee is appointed by the Accounting Officer / Authority to assist him to discharge his responsibilities for risk management.

The Committee's role is to review the risk management progress and maturity of the municipality, the effectiveness of risk management activities, the key risks facing the municipality, and the responses to address these key risks. The responsibilities of the Risk Management Committee are formally defined in the Risk Management Committee charter.

The Risk Management Committee must submit quarterly reports to the Accounting Officer. These reports will outline the work performed by the committee in each specific quarter and must consider the responsibilities outlined in the risk management committee charter.

9.1.3 AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee is an independent committee responsible for oversight of the municipality's control, governance and risk management. The responsibilities of the Audit Committee with regard to risk management are formally defined in its charter.

The Audit Committee provides an independent and objective view of the municipality's risk management effectiveness.

9.2 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTERS

9.2.1 ACCOUNTING OFFICER

The Accounting Officer is the ultimate Risk Owner of the municipality and is accountable for the municipality's overall governance of risk. By setting the tone at the top, the Accounting Officer promotes accountability, integrity and other factors that will create a positive controlled environment.

9.2.2 MANAGEMENT

Management is responsible for executing their responsibilities outlined in the risk management strategy and for integrating risk management into the operational routines.

9.2.3 OTHER OFFICIALS

Other officials are responsible for integrating risk management into their day-to-day activities. They must ensure that their delegated risk management responsibilities are executed and continuously report progress.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT SUPPORT AND REPORTING PROCESS

10.1 1 REPORTING BY THE CHIEF RISK OFFICER

The Risk Officer is the custodian of the Risk Management Strategy, and coordinator of risk management activities throughout the municipality. The primary responsibility of the Risk Officer is to bring to bear his/her specialised expertise to assist the municipality to embed risk management and leverage its benefits to enhance performance.

The Risk Officer will submit a quarterly report to the Risk Management Committee which will subsequently be submitted to the Accounting Officer. Risk Committee Chairperson will then submit the report to the Audit Committee, on risk management activities not limited to the following:

- What has been done to date to implement the control measures in different units,
- The effectiveness of the control measure in addressing / eliminating / managing the identified risks.
- Any new potential risks that may arise in different units.
- To what extent a culture of risk management has been implemented in the Municipality/Entity.

10.2 RISK OWNERS

As part of enforcing accountability Risk Owners must submit monthly reports on risk management activities in their departments to risk management unit.

10.3 RISK CHAMPIONS

The Risk Champion's responsibility involves intervening in instances where risk management efforts are being hampered, for example, by the lack of co-operation by Management and other officials and the lack of municipality's skills and expertise. Also assist with coordination of departmental risks however they do not assume the role of risk owners.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT ASSURANCE PROVIDERS

11.1 INTERNAL AUDIT

The role of the Internal Audit in risk management is to provide an independent, objective assurance on the effectiveness of the municipality's system of risk management. Internal Audit must evaluate the effectiveness of the entire system of risk management and provide recommendations for improvement where necessary.

11.2 EXTERNAL AUDIT

The external auditor (Auditor-General) provides an independent opinion on the effectiveness of risk management.

An entity-wide approach to risk management will be adopted by the Institution, which means that every key risk in each part of the Institution will be included in a structured and systematic process of risk management. It is expected that the risk management processes will become embedded into the Institution's systems and processes, ensuring that our responses to risk remain current and dynamic. All risk management efforts will be focused on supporting the Institution's objectives. Equally, they must ensure compliance with relevant legislation, and fulfil the expectations of employees, communities and other stakeholders in terms of corporate governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All members of Risk Management Committee will have to declare their interest in every sitting (meeting). Declaration of interest will be a standing item on the agenda of every risk management committee meeting.

13. MONITORING & EVALUATION

The Risk Officer must monitor the effectiveness of risk mitigating strategies on quarterly basis;

The Risk Management Committee must monitor implementation and effectiveness of the risk management function quarterly.

The internal audit unit must provide independent assurance on the effectiveness of risk management activities in line with their internal audit coverage plan.

The Risk Management Committee must evaluate, at least annually, its performance in line with the responsibilities outlined in the approved Risk Management Charter. The Provincial Treasury through Key Performance Indicators also makes its own bi-annual evaluations.

14. POLICY ADMINISTRATION

This Policy shall be reviewed annually to reflect the current stance on risk management, In order to comply with any changes that might have happen whenever there are changes adopted by National or Provincial Treasury or whatever relevant stakeholder in order to comply, furthermore, changes may be made by Council itself if it deems it necessary to do so.

The amendments will be sent to the Risk Management Committee for recommendations and to the Accounting Officer and Council for approval.



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