

**BOJANALA PLATINUM DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
ACCOUNTING POLICIES TO THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006**

1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The annual financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis of accounting and are in accordance with historical cost convention.

In accordance with section 122(3) of the Municipal Finance Management Act (Act No. 56 of 2003), the Municipality has adopted Standards of GAMAP and GRAP issued by the Accounting Standards Board during the financial year, GAMAP and GRAP standards are fundamentally different to the fund accounting policies adopted in previous financial years. Comparative amounts have been restated retrospectively to the extent possible. The effect of the change in accounting policy arising from the implementation of GAMAP and GRAP is set out in Note 29068 vol. 493 dated 25 July 2006.07.27.

The Municipality may have transactions, events or balances that are outside the ambit of GAMAP and GRAP but which are included in Standards of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) issued by the International Federation of Accountants – Public Sector Committee, International Accounting Standards (IAS) issued by the International Accounting Standards Board or Generally Accepted Accounting Practice issued by the South African Accounting Practices Board and the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants. The Municipality has not complied with the measurement, recognition and disclosure requirements of those accounting standards.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these annual financial statements are set out below.

Assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses have not been offset except when offsetting is required or permitted by a Standard of GAMAP or GRAP.

2. PRESENTATION CURRENCY

These annual financial statements are presented in South African Rand.

3. GOING CONCERN ASSUMPTION

These annual financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

4. RESERVES

4.1 Government Grant Reserve

When items of property, plant and equipment are financed from government grants, a transfer is made from the accumulated surplus/(deficit) to the Government Grants Reserve equal to the Government Grant recorded as revenue in the Statement of Financial Performance in accordance with a directive (budget circular) issued by National Treasury. When such items of property, plant and equipment are depreciated, a transfer is made from the Government Grant Reserve to the accumulated surplus/(deficit). The purpose of this policy is to promote community equity and facilitate budgetary control by ensuring that sufficient funds are set aside to offset the depreciation charges that will be incurred over the estimated useful life of the item of property, plant and equipment financed from Government Grants

When an item of property, plant and equipment financed from government grants is disposed, the balance in the Government Grant Reserve relating to such item is transferred to the accumulated surplus/(deficit).

4.2 Public Contributions and Donations Reserve

When items of property, plant and equipment are financed from public contributions and donations, a transfer is made from the accumulated surplus/(deficit) to the Public Contributions and Donations Reserve equal to the Public Contributions and Donations Reserve recorded as revenue in the Statement of Financial Performance in accordance with a directive (budget circular) issued by National Treasury. When such items of property, plant and equipment are depreciated, a transfer is made from the Public Contributions and Donations Reserve to the accumulated surplus/(deficit). The purpose of this policy is to promote community equity and facilitate budgetary control by ensuring that sufficient funds are set aside to offset the depreciation charges that will be incurred over the estimated useful life of the item of property, plant and equipment financed from Public Contributions and Donations

When an item of property, plant and equipment financed from government grants is disposed, the balance in the Public Contributions and Donations Reserve relating to such item is transferred to the accumulated surplus/(deficit)

5. PROPERTY PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Property, plant and equipment, is stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation. Land is not depreciated as it is deemed to have an indefinite life.

Subsequent expenditure is capitalised when the recognition and measurement criteria of an asset are met.

Depreciation is calculated on cost, using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. The annual depreciation rates are based on the following estimated asset lives:-

	Years
Buildings	30
Motor vehicles	5
Office equipment/computers	3-7
Furniture and fittings	7-10

The gain or loss arising on the disposal or retirement of an item of property, plant and equipment is determined as the difference between the sales proceeds and the carrying value and is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

Where the carrying amount of an item of property, plant and equipment is greater than the estimated recoverable amount, it is written down immediately to its recoverable amount and an impairment loss is charged to the Statement

6. INVESTMENTS

Financial instruments, which include listed government bonds, unlisted municipal bonds, fixed deposits and short-term deposits invested in registered commercial banks, are stated at cost.

Where investments have been impaired, the carrying value is adjusted by the impairment loss, which is recognised as an expense in the period that the impairment is identified.

On disposal of an investment, the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount is charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Performance.

7. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Accounts receivable are carried at anticipated realisable value. An estimate is made for doubtful receivables based on a review of all outstanding amounts at year-end. Bad debts are written off during the year in which they are identified. Amounts that are receivable within 12 months from the reporting date are classified as current

8. TRADE CREDITORS

Trade creditors are stated at their nominal value

9. REVENUE RECOGNITION

Interest and rentals are recognised on a time proportion basis.

Revenue from Regional Levies, both those based on turnover as well as those based on remuneration, is recognised on receipt basis.

Revenue from the recovery of unauthorised, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure is based on legislated procedures, including those set out in the Municipal Finance Management Act (Act No.56 of 2003) and is recognised when the recovery thereof from the responsible councillors or officials is virtually certain.

Donations are recognised on a cash receipt basis or where the donation is in the form of property, plant and equipment, when such items of property, plant and equipment are brought into use.

10. CONDITIONAL GRANTS AND RECEIPTS

Revenue received from conditional grants, donations and funding are recognised as revenue to the extent that the Municipality has complied with any of the criteria, conditions or obligations embodied in the agreement. To the extent that the criteria, conditions or obligations have not been met a liability is recognised

11. PROVISIONS

Provisions are recognised when the Municipality has a present or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate of the provision can be made. Provisions are reviewed at reporting sheet date and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate. Non-current provisions are discounted to the present value using a discount rate based on the average cost of borrowing to the Municipality

12. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash includes cash on hand and cash with banks. Cash equivalents are short-term highly liquid investments that are held with registered banking institutions with maturities of three months or less and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value

For the purposes of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand, deposits held on call with banks and investments in financial instruments, net of bank overdrafts.

13. UNAUTHORISED EXPENDITURE

Unauthorised expenditure is expenditure that has not been budgeted, expenditure that is not in terms of the conditions of an allocation received from another sphere of government, municipality or organ of state and expenditure in the form of a grant that is not permitted in terms of the Municipal Finance Management Act (Act No.56 of 2003). Unauthorised expenditure is accounted for as an expense in the Statement of Financial Performance and where recovered, it is subsequently accounted for as revenue in the Statement of Financial Performance.

14. IRREGULAR EXPENDITURE

Irregular expenditure is expenditure that is contrary to the Municipal Finance Management Act (Act No.56 of 2003), the Municipal Systems Act (Act No.32 of 2000), the Public Office Bearers Act (Act No. 20 of 1998) or is in contravention of the Municipality's supply chain management policy. Irregular expenditure excludes unauthorised expenditure. Irregular expenditure is accounted for as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Performance and where recovered, it is subsequently accounted for as revenue in the Statement of Financial Performance.

15. FRUITLESS AND WASTEFUL EXPENDITURE

Fruitless and wasteful expenditure is expenditure that was made in vain and would have been avoided had reasonable care been exercised. Fruitless and wasteful expenditure is accounted for as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Performance and where recovered, it is subsequently accounted for as revenue in the Statement of Financial Performance.

16. COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

16.1 Current year comparatives

Budgeted amounts have been included in the annual financial statements for the current financial year only.

16.2 Prior year comparatives

When the presentation or classification of items in the annual financial statements is amended, prior period comparative amounts are reclassified. The nature and reason for the reclassification is disclosed.

14. RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The municipality provides retirement benefits for its employees and councillors. The contributions to fund obligations for the payment of retirement benefits are charged against revenue in the year they become payable. The defined benefit funds, which are administered on a provincial basis, are actuarially valued triennially on the projected unit credit method basis. Deficits identified are recovered through lump sum payments or increased future contributions on a proportional basis to all participating municipalities.