

BA-PHALABORWA MUNICIPALITY



RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

2024/25

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Accounting Officer has committed Ba-Phalaborwa 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 no 56 of 2003.

2. 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. Such opportunities are encompassed in this definition of risk.

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

2.1. BENEFITS OF RISK MANAGEMENT

Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality implements and maintains effective, efficient and transparent systems of risk management and internal control. The risk management system will assist the institution to achieve, among other things, the following outcomes needed to underpin and enhance performance:

- more sustainable and reliable delivery of services;
- informed decisions underpinned by appropriate rigour and analysis;
- innovation;
- reduced waste;
- prevention of fraud and corruption;
- better value for money through more efficient use of resources; and
- Better outputs and outcomes through improved project and programme management.

3. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

The purpose of this Policy is to outline a high level plan on Ba-Phalaborwa's Municipality risk management philosophy. Ba-Phalaborwa 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.

4. SCOPE OF THE POLICY

This policy applies throughout the municipality in as far as risk management is concerned.

5. THE POLICY

The Accounting Officer has committed Ba-Phalaborwa 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**.

Risk management is recognised as an integral part of responsible management and the Institution therefore adopts a comprehensive approach to the management of risk. The features of this process are outlined in the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality's Risk Management Strategy. It is expected that all departments / sections, operations and processes will be subject to the risk management strategy. It is the intention that these departments / sections will work together in a consistent and integrated manner, with the overall objective of reducing risk, as far as reasonably practicable.

Effective risk management is imperative to Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality to fulfill its mandate, the service delivery expectations of the public and the performance expectations within the Institution.

The realization of our strategic plan depends on us being able to take calculated risks in a way that does not jeopardize 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 take 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 minimizing 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 will be adopted by Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, which means that every

key risk Ba-Phalaborwa 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 Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality's systems and processes, ensuring that our responses to risk remain current and dynamic. All risk management efforts will be focused on supporting Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality's objectives. Equally, they must ensure compliance with relevant legislation, and fulfill the expectations of employees, communities and other stakeholders in terms of corporate governance.

6. ROLE PLAYERS

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

7. RISK MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT

7.1. 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.

7.2. Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is an independent committee responsible for oversight of the institution'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 institution's risk management effectiveness.

7.3 Risk Management Committee

The Risk Management Committee is appointed by the Accounting Officer / Authority to assist them to discharge their 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 its charter.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTERS

8.1 Accounting Officer

The Accounting Officer is the ultimate Chief Risk Officer of the institution 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 control environment.

8.2 Management

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

8.3 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 on progress.

9. Risk Management Support

9.1 Chief Risk Officer

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

9.2 Risk Champion

The Risk Champion's responsibility involves intervening in instances where the risk management efforts are being hampered, for example, by the lack of co-operation by Management and other officials and the lack of departmental skills and expertise.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT ASSURANCE PROVIDERS

10.1 Internal Audit

The role of the Internal Auditing in risk management is to provide an independent, objective assurance on the effectiveness of the institution's system of risk management.

Internal Auditing must evaluate the effectiveness of the entire system of risk management and provide recommendations for improvement where necessary.

10.2 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.

11. POLICY REVIEW

This Policy shall be reviewed annually to reflect the current stance on risk management.

12. APPROVAL

Date: 09 May 2024

Council Resolution Number: 825/24