Name of the researcher: Michelle R. Maziwisa

Name of the municipality: EThekwini Metropolitan Municipality

Province: KwaZulu Natal

National Treasury classification: A

Population size: 3 661 911

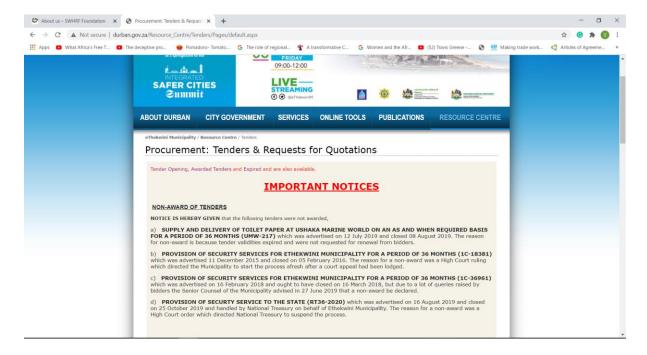
Budget: R 52.3 billion

- 1. Does the municipality have a functional website? Does the website have a dedicated page for procurement information, which can be accessed without registration?
 - a. Yes, the municipality has a functional website with a dedicated page for procurement information, and this information can be accessed without registration.
 - b. Yes, the municipality has a functional website but the website has no procurement information or the municipality has a functional website with a dedicated page for procurement information, but registration is required to access this information.
 - c. No, the municipality does not have a functional website.

Answer: A

Source: http://www.durban.gov.za/Resource Centre/Tenders/Pages/default.aspx (accessed 08 November 2020)

Comments: The municipality has a dedicated and functional website with procurement information. The dedicated page is titled *Procurement: Tenders and Request for Quotations*, and it provides a list of tender notices, amendments to tenders and tenders withdrawn. To access the page, one must first open the city's website, and then click on 'Resource Centre'. Alternatively, one can run a Google search of the phrases- eThekwini procurement/ Durban procurement/ eThekwini tenders/ Durban tenders. It is quite easy to access.



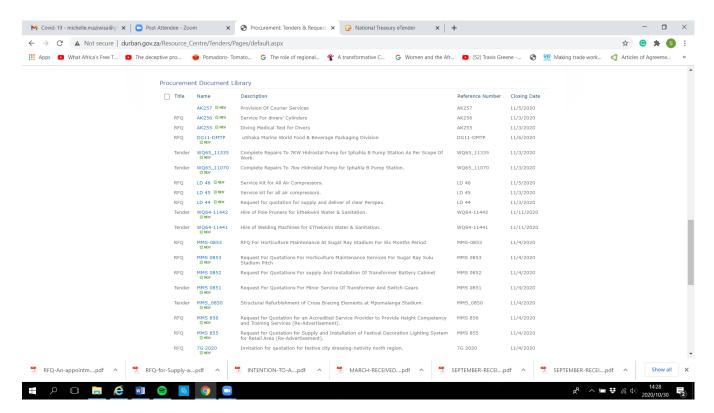
2. Does the municipality publish tender notices?

- a. Yes, the municipality publishes tender notices and the list of tender notices seems complete.
- b. Yes, the municipality publishes tender notices but the list of tender notices has obvious gaps or the list seems incomplete.
- c. No, there are no tender notices on the municipality's website.

Answer: A

Source: http://www.durban.gov.za/Resource Centre/Tenders/Pages/default.aspx (accessed 30 October 2020)

Comments: The municipality publishes tender notices in a list that appears to be complete. Based on the number of tender notices, it looks quite comprehensive. The page also has links to webpages on 'Tender Opening', 'Awarded Tenders' and 'Expired Tenders'.



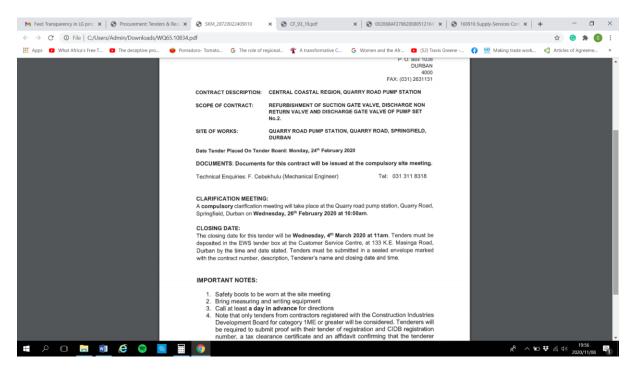
- 3. Does the municipality publish tender specifications for tender notices on its website, can they be downloaded free of charge?
 - a. Yes, the municipality publishes tender specifications on its website, which are downloadable free of charge.
 - b. Yes, the municipality publishes tender specifications, which are downloadable free of charge but only for some tender notices or the municipality publishes tender specifications but it imposes a cost to access the specifications.
 - c. No, the municipality does not publish tender specifications.

Answer: B

Source: http://www.durban.gov.za/Resource_Centre/Tenders/Pages/Tender-Opening-2020.aspx (accessed 28 October 2020)

Comment: I selected B because the municipality publishes specifications for some tenders, but not for all tenders. For example, Tender No: CFQ/26/20 (Closing Date: Wednesday, 26 August 2020) provides a scope of work from pages 35-37 and Tender 7N.1673 (Closing Date: 29 July 2020) provides a scope of work from pages 44-49. [One can use the 'Closing Date' as a filter on the link above to access these

specifications.] However, Tender No: WQ65.10834 (Closing Date: 26 February 2020) does not provide specifications, but states that tender documents will be provided at the site meeting. It does not say whether they will be given for free or at a charge.



- 4. Does the municipality publish the name of companies or individuals who win tenders on its website? Does it do so on time (i.e. within five working days after the award)?
 - a. Yes, the municipality publishes information about who wins tenders within five working days.
 - b. Yes, the municipality publishes information about who wins tenders but after five working days or the list of names of companies or individuals who won the tender has obvious gaps or seems incomplete.
 - c. No, the municipality does not publish information about who wins tenders.

Answer: B

Source: http://www.durban.gov.za/Resource_Centre/Tenders/Pages/awarded.aspx (accessed 28 October 2020)

August 2020

http://www.durban.gov.za/Resource_Centre/Tenders/Documents/PublicTenderAwards_May202 0.pdf (accessed 28 October 2020)

May 2020

http://www.durban.gov.za/Resource_Centre/Tenders/Documents/PublicTenderAwards_May202 0.pdf (accessed 28 October 2020)

September 2019

http://www.durban.gov.za/Resource_Centre/Tenders/Documents/PublicTenderAwards_Septemb er2019.pdf (accessed 28 October 2020)

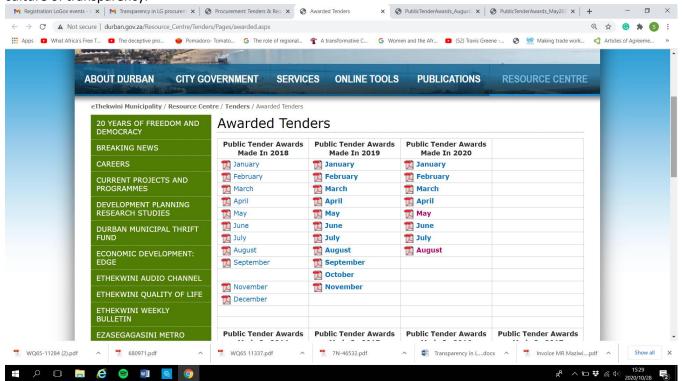
April 2019

http://www.durban.gov.za/Resource_Centre/Tenders/Documents/PublicTenderAwards_April201 9.pdf (accessed 28 October 2020)

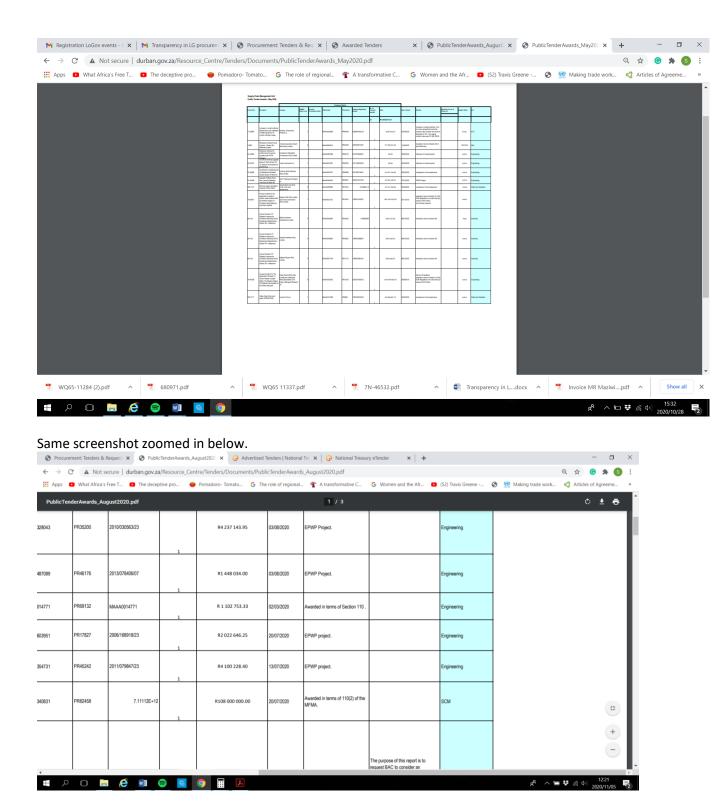
Comments:

Yes, the municipality publishes information about who wins the tender, but after more than
five days. This is illustrated by the current list which is not up to date, as it ends in August
2020. The main procurement page has the options- 'Tender Opening', 'Awarded Tenders'
and 'Expired Tenders'. The awarded tenders are available under the tab 'Awarded Tenders'.

There is currently information on awarded tenders from 2013 to August 2020. Although the previous years fall beyond the scope of this study, the fact that the information is still available indicates a culture of transparency.



- The first impression when one opens the list for August, is that the website maintains very
 detailed lists of awarded tenders. But a closer look reveals that some tenders are from other
 months, and the list is not in chronological order, which could make it difficult for an
 ordinary member of the public to look for a specific awarded tender.
- The fact that the last update of awarded tenders is for August, illustrates that the municipality publishes information about who was awarded the tender long after five working days.



5. Do tender specifications remain accessible on the website after the contract has been awarded for the duration of the contract?

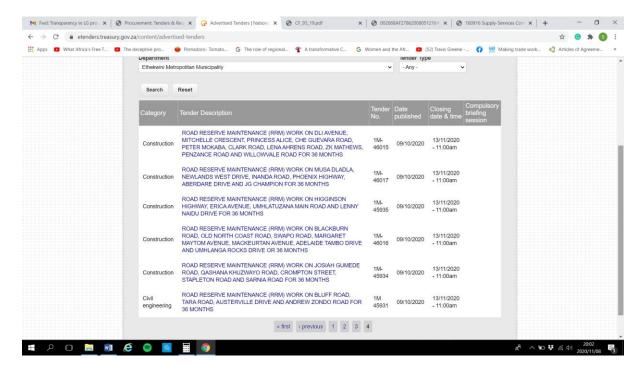
- a. Yes, the tender specifications remain accessible on the website after the contract has been awarded for the duration of the contract.
- b. Yes, the tender specifications remain accessible on the website after the contract has been awarded but not for the entire duration of the contract or not all tender

- specification information remains accessible on the website for the entire duration of the relevant contracts.
- c. No, the tender specifications are removed after the award of the contract or the municipality does not publish tender specifications.

Answer: B

Source: http://www.durban.gov.za/Resource Centre/Tenders/Pages/Tender-Opening-2020.aspx (accessed 28 October 2020)eTender Portal: https://etenders.treasury.gov.za/content/advertised-tenders (accessed 08 November 2020)

Comments: I selected B because the municipality publishes tender specifications for some tenders, and these remain available for several months after the closing date. Although one cannot tell which of the tenders were cancelled, the fact that the tender specifications remain available on the website indicates that they are not removed after the contract has been awarded. However, for those tenders that do not have specifications, their specifications can be accessed on the eTender Portal. The challenge with the eTender Portal is that it is updated regularly, which means that tender specifications are removed after the award of the tender.



I was able to find tender specifications for tenders that closed several months ago. Although it is not possible to see which tenders were cancelled, it appears that the municipality generally does not remove tender specifications. See for example

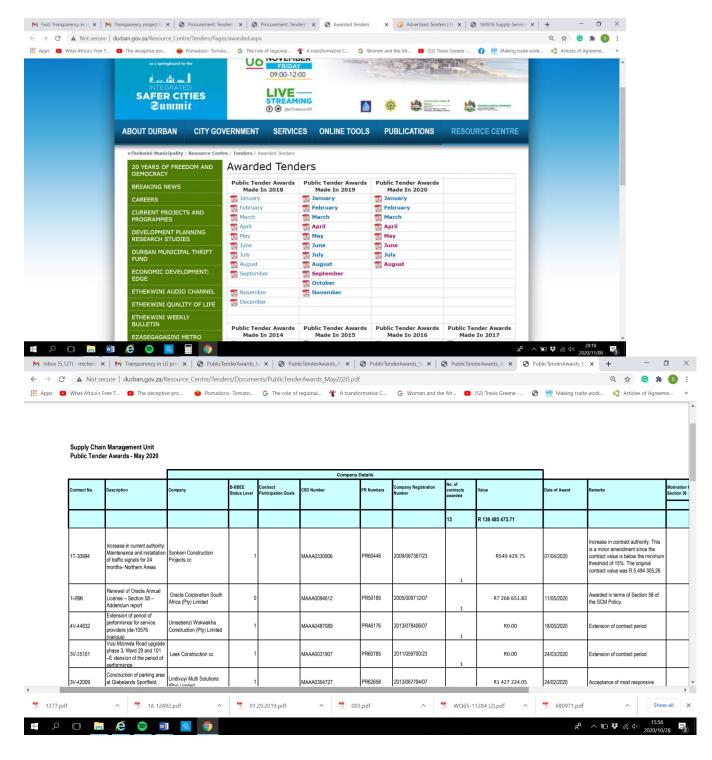
6. Does a municipality publish the price of the contract?

- a. Yes, the municipality publishes the price of the contract.
- b. Yes, the municipality publishes the price of the contract but does not seem to publish the price of contracts for all tenders
- c. No, the municipality does not publish the price of the contract.

Answer: B

Source: http://www.durban.gov.za/Resource_Centre/Tenders/Pages/awarded.aspx (accessed http://www.durban.gov.za/Resource_Centre/Tenders/Documents/PublicTenderAwards_May2020.p df (28 October 2020).

Comments: I selected B because the prices of contracts are listed under 'Awarded Tenders', but there are no entries for September, and October 2020, and some amounts are marked R0. The municipality publishes prices for awarded contracts. However, it has R0 for extensions. I am not sure whether this means that projects are extended only in terms of their performance by the contractor, without additional financial implications for the municipality. (See below).



- 7. Does the municipality publish any information on how the project will be implemented, for instance, timelines and deliverables, otherwise known as service delivery agreements or implementation plans?
 - a. Yes, the municipality publishes information on how the project will be implemented.
 - b. Yes, the municipality publishes information on how the project will be implemented, but the list of service delivery agreement or implementation plans has obvious gaps or the list seems incomplete.
 - c. No, the municipality does not publish information on how the project will be implemented.

Answer: C

Source: http://www.durban.gov.za/Resource_Centre/Tenders/Pages/default.aspx (accessed 28

October 2020)
Comments:

I did not see any information on how the project will be implemented on the website. There are no contracts available to show community members what has been agreed on regarding the implementation of the contract.

- 8. Does the municipality publish procurement information on both its website and the eTender portal?
 - a. Yes, the municipality publishes procurement information on both its website and the eTender portal.
 - b. Yes, the municipality publishes procurement information on both its website and the eTender portal but the information on these two platforms does not correspond.
 - c. No, the municipality only publishes procurement information on either its website or the eTender portal.
 - d. No, the municipality does not publish procurement information on either its website or the eTender portal.

Answer: B Source:

Municipal website:

http://www.durban.gov.za/Resource Centre/Tenders/Pages/default.aspx?&View={FDF9F978-158E-41E8-A62B-

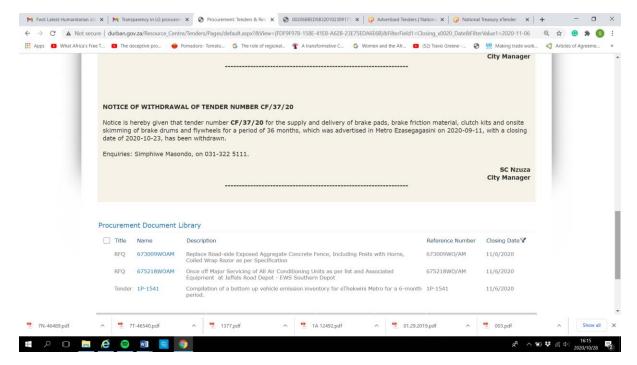
23E75EDA6E6B}&FilterField1=Closing%5fx0020%5fDate&FilterValue1=2020%2D11%2D06 (accessed 28 October 2020)

eTender Portal:

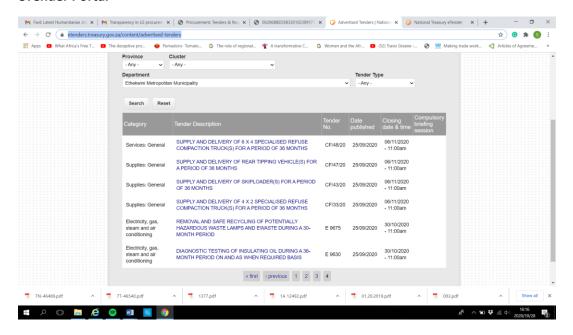
https://etenders.treasury.gov.za/content/advertised-tenders (accessed 28 October 2020)

Comments: The municipality publishes information on both its own website and on the eTender portal, but the two do not correspond. A search for tenders closing on 6 November illustrates this. The municipal website has 1 tender, while the eTender Portal has 6, none of which are the same as those on the municipal website.

Municipal website



eTender Portal



General assessment:

- a) What is your overall impression on how easy it is to navigate the municipal website to find procurement information? Rate out of 10?
 - It was fairly easy to navigate the municipal website, but it would help if the municipality
 provided a simple step by step guide of how to search for specific items related to
 procurement and what the terminology means in order to be more transparent and more
 inclusive.

- Additionally, the lists were often not in chronological order which made it difficult to search
 for information for a specific tender from start to finish, for example to see when it was
 advertised, who was awarded the contract and how much was the price.
- I struggled to find information on the implementation of the awarded tenders, which is problematic for transparency.
- I would rate it 6. The filters and scrolling function keep taking you back to the start of the page which is time consuming and not user friendly. However, the tabs are easily visible which makes the website easy to access.

b) Any tips on how the municipality could improve citizens' access to procurement information on its website?

- The municipality should consider using chronological lists for all headings (not just some of them).
- It should separate lists per month and year for example, the list of awarded tenders for August 2020 should not have tenders for June 2019.
- It should provide a page with information on the implementation of awarded contracts (eg. service delivery agreements) to improve accountability and transparency.
- The list of awarded contracts must be accompanied with the relevant tender notice and contract as a hyperlink/downloadable document.
- It could provide a search function by date, name or tender reference number.

c) Are there any best practices in the municipality which can be shared with other municipalities?

- Yes, I think keeping a permanent monthly list of awarded tenders is a good way to keep
 information available, and is a tool that communities can use to know who is responsible for
 performing a particular task.
- Since the metro keeps a list of expired tenders this gives continued access to the relevant tender notices. However, this list appears to be incomplete at a glance.

d) Are there any other issues that caught your attention when undertaking the assessment?

• The eTender Portal interface is not completely user friendly as you have to play around to find out where to search for your specific municipality, and I was not able to locate a search function to type in the specific tender reference number to search with, so this can be a deterrent for community members, in my opinion.