Name of the researcher: Michelle R. Maziwisa

Name of the municipality: Msunduzi Local Municipality

Province: KwaZulu Natal

National Treasury classification: B1¹

Population size: 618 536

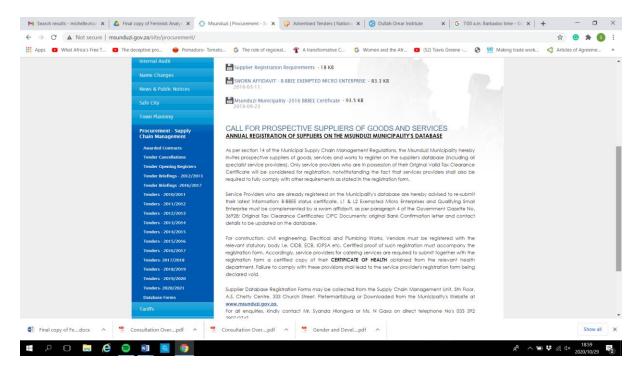
Budget: R1 661 337

- 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.msunduzi.gov.za/site/procurement/ (accessed 29 October 2020)

Comments: The municipality has a dedicated webpage under the tab 'Procurement- Supply Chain Management' with tabs for 'awarded contracts', 'tender cancellation', 'tender opening registers', 'tender briefings' and 'tenders', which does not require registration.



2. Does the municipality publish tender notices?

a. Yes, the municipality publishes tender notices and the list of tender notices seems complete.

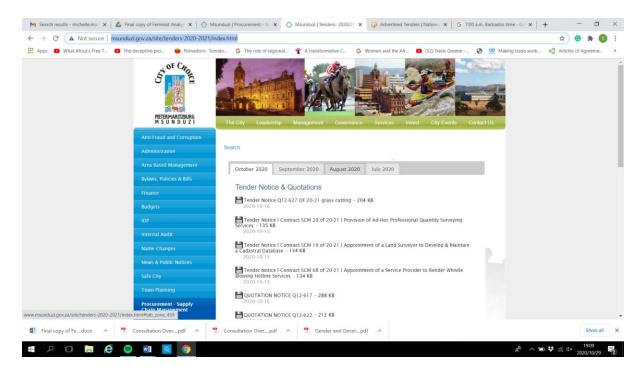
¹ Category B1 Municipalities are Secondary cities, local municipalities with the largest budgets.

- 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.msunduzi.gov.za/site/tenders-2020-2021/index.html (accessed 29 October 2020)

Comments: Yes, the municipality provides a list of tender notices, easily accessible under the tab 'Tender Notices & Quotations' (see below).



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: C

Source: http://www.msunduzi.gov.za/site/tenders-2019-2020/ (accessed 08 November 2020).

Example 1: Tender Notice Supply and Services Contract 23/2020

http://www.msunduzi.gov.za/site/search/downloadencode/Tender%20Notice%20l%20SS%20Contract%2023%20of%202020%20l%20Panel%20of%20Service%20Providers%20for%20the%20Provision%20of%20Sercurity%20Services.pdf (accessed 08 November 2020).

Example 2: Tender Notice 'Supply and Services Contract No. 30(R) of 2019 Provision of Cash-in-Transit Services for the Msunduzi Municipality'

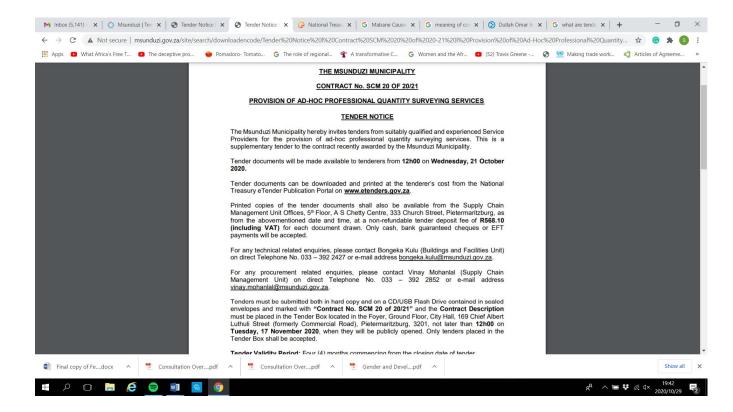
 $\frac{\text{http://www.msunduzi.gov.za/site/search/downloadencode/Tender\%20Notice\%20l\%20SS\%20Contract\%2030(R)\%20of\%202019\%20l\%20Provision\%20of\%20Cash-In-}{}$

<u>Transit%20Services%20for%20the%20Msunduzi%20Municipality.pdf</u> (accessed 08 November 2020)

eTender Portal:

https://etenders.treasury.gov.za/content/closed-tenders (accessed 08 November 2020).

Comments: The municipal website does not provide tender specifications. It seems to generally publish tender notices, and refer tenderers to access tender documents on the eTender Portal for free, or at the municipal office for a fee. For example, Tender Notice 'Supply and Services Contract 23/2020', requires bidders to pay a fee of R909.05 to obtain the tender documents (including specifications) from the municipal office. Another example is Tender Notice 'Supply And Services Contract No. 30(R) of 2019 Provision of Cash-in-Transit Services for the Msunduzi Municipality', which also has no specifications, but requires tenderers to pay a fee of R542.80 to obtain tender documents from the municipal office or download them for free on the eTender Portal. However, the eTender Portal gets updated regularly, such that once tenders are closed, they are removed from the 'tender adverts' tab and moved to the 'closed tenders' tab. The closed tenders contain a mix of all municipalities, which is difficult to search, and it only provides a list with no specifications. It is therefore difficult to verify if the tenders advertised by the municipality in September 2019, for example, had specifications or not.



- 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: C

Source: http://www.msunduzi.gov.za/site/awardedcontracts/ (accessed 29 October 2020)

Also for example:

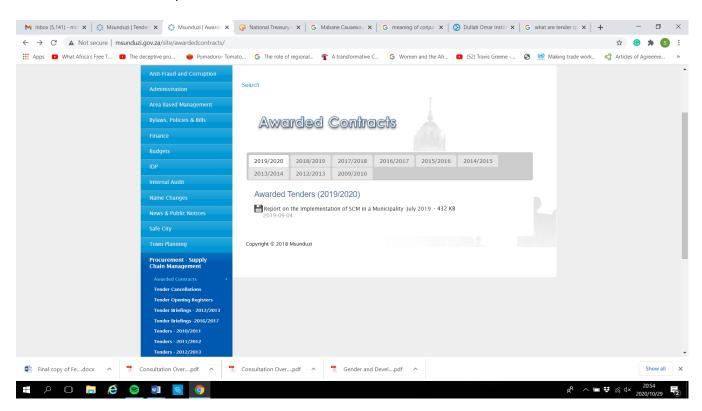
http://www.msunduzi.gov.za/site/search/downloadencode/Report%20on%20the%20Implementation%20of%20SCM%20in%20a%20Municipality%20-July%202019.pdf (accessed 29 October 2020)

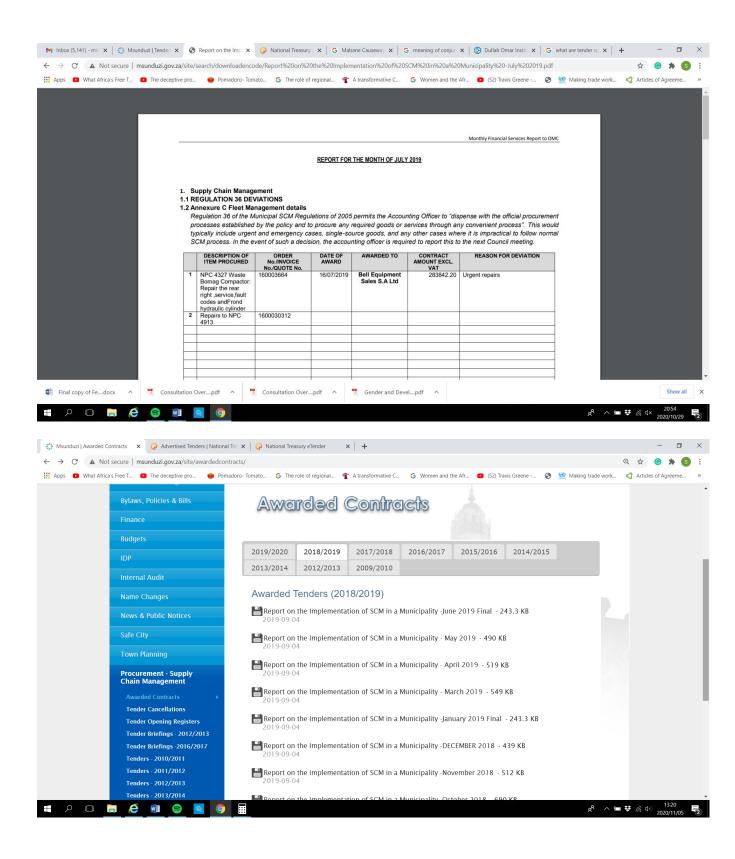
June 2019:

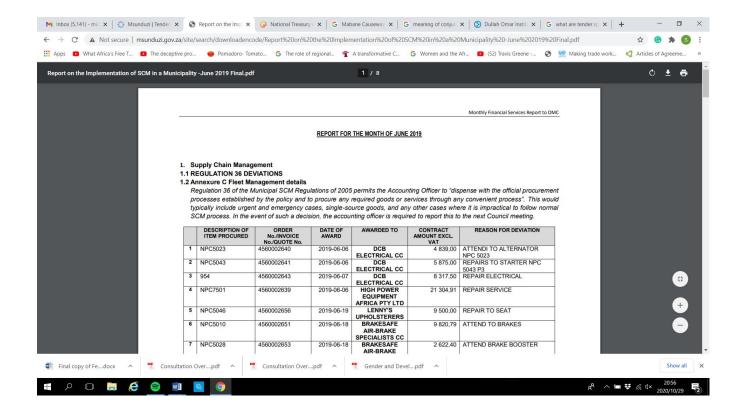
http://www.msunduzi.gov.za/site/search/downloadencode/Report%20on%20the%20Implementation%20of%20SCM%20in%20a%20Municipality%20-June%202019%20Final.pdf (accessed 29 October 2020)

Comments: The municipal website has a Tenders page, which has a tab for 'Awarded Contracts' which creates the impression that the website has information on awarded contracts.

- However, on opening this tab, I saw that it had tabs for different years, from 2009 to 2020. I opened the tab for 2019/2020, only to find one report for July 2019, which when opened reveals a table containing the details of one contract from 2019, and one other partially completed row.
- This is quite clearly an incomplete list, because the last row is partly completed, but more because none of the COVID-19 procurement is indicated.
- However, the previous years, after clicking on the 2018/2019 tab, I found completed lists
 with some information on 2019 of whom the contract was awarded to and the price (see 3
 screenshots below).







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

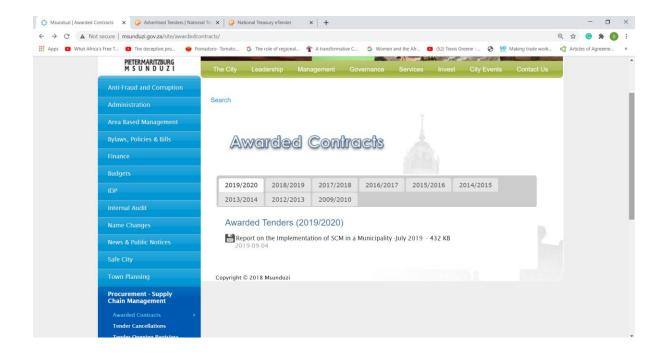
- a. Yes, the tender specifications remain accessible on the website after the contract has been awarded for the duration of the contract.
- b. Yes, the tender specifications remain accessible on the website after the contract has been awarded but not for the entire duration of the contract or not all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

Source: http://www.msunduzi.gov.za/site/awardedcontracts/

Comments: It is not possible to know if tender specifications remain available on the municipal website because there is no list of awarded contracts, in order to check this.

- Additionally, the existence of tender notices on the municipal website after a number of
 years ought to indicate that tender information remains available even after the award of
 the contract, but in Msunduzi Municipality, the original tender notices do not provide tender
 specifications.
- While tender specifications are generally available on the eTender Portal, the 'advertised tenders' on the eTender Portal are removed quickly, and consequently not available after award of the tender. Further, under 'Awarded Tenders' on the eTender Portal, there are no tender specifications.



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: C

Source: http://www.msunduzi.gov.za/site/awardedcontracts/ (accessed 29 October 2020)

Example December 2018 (outside scope, but shows a trend):

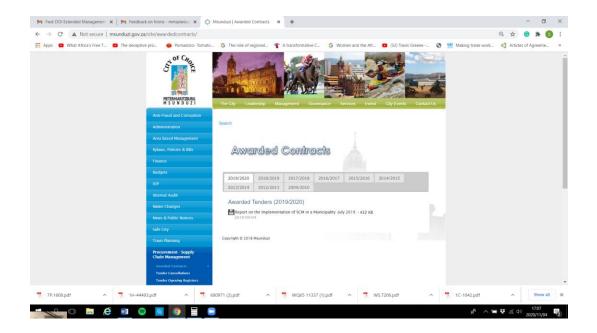
http://www.msunduzi.gov.za/site/search/downloadencode/Report%20on%20the%20Implementation%20of%20SCM%20in%20a%20Municipality%20-DECEMBER%202018.pdf (accessed 04 November 2020)

Example February 2017 (outside scope, but shows a trend):

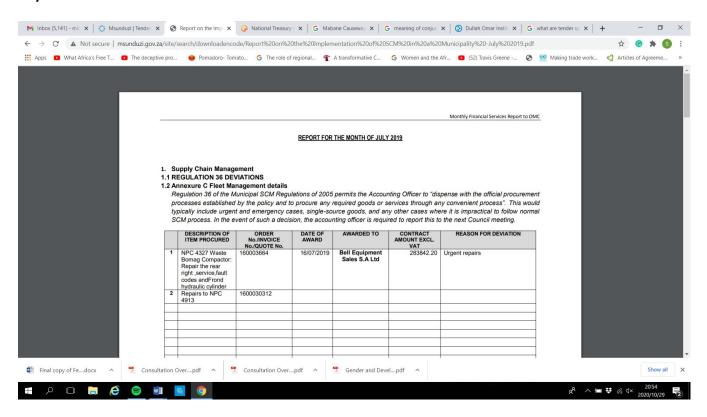
http://www.msunduzi.gov.za/site/search/downloadencode/Report%20on%20the%20Implementation%20of%20SCM%20in%20a%20Municipality%20-%20February%202017%20Final.pdf (accessed 04 November 2020)

Comments: It seems that the municipality used to provide lists of the awarded contracts and these lists had the price, but for the period 2019-2020, there is only one list which covers the period July 2019, however, this period falls outside the assessment period (see Screenshots below). Therefore, it can be concluded that the municipality does not publish the price of the contract, since there are no records for the period under assessment. However, the amounts listed under 'Awarded Contracts' in previous years seem to all be below 500 000, which makes one wonder whether awarded big tenders are actually listed. For example,

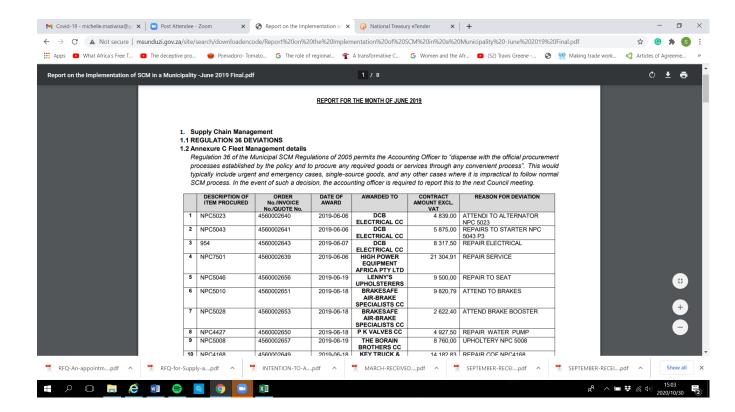
2019-2020:



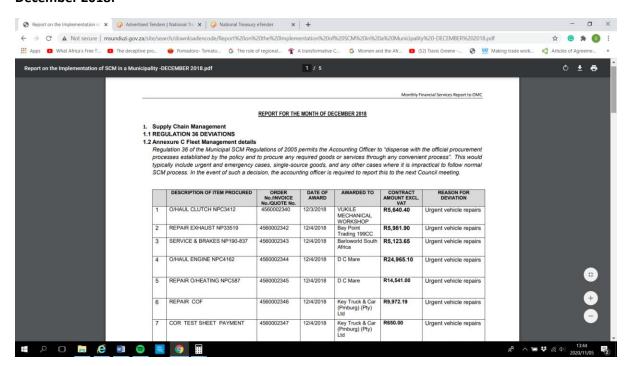
Previous periods prior to assessment period: July 2019:



June 2019:



December 2018:



- 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.msunduzi.gov.za/site/procurement/

Comments: I did not find any information on the municipal website on how the project will be implemented. I did not find the names of the individuals or companies to whom the contracts were awarded to either.

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.msunduzi.gov.za/site/tenders-2019-2020/

Municipal Website example:

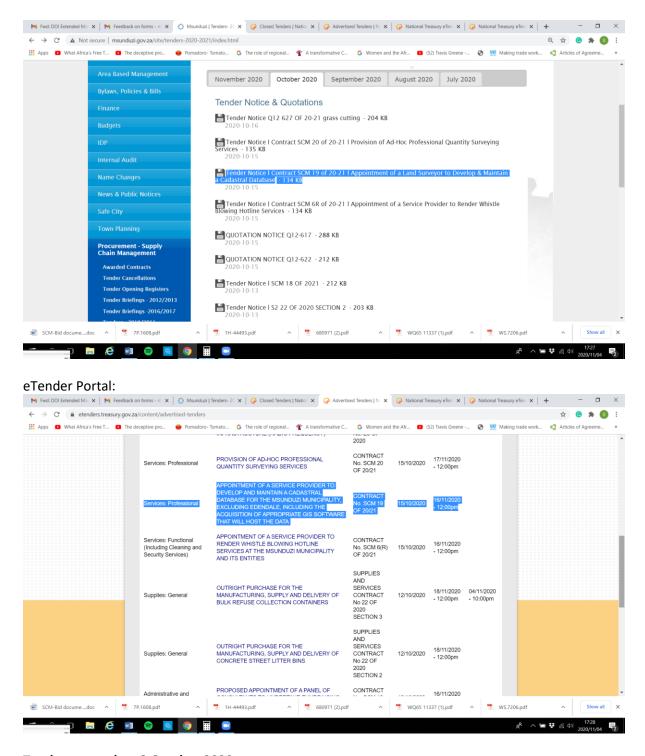
 $\frac{http://www.msunduzi.gov.za/site/search/downloadencode/Tender\%20Notice\%20l\%20Contract\%20}{SCM\%2019\%20of\%2020-}$

 $\underline{21\%20l\%20Appointment\%20of\%20a\%20Land\%20Surveyor\%20to\%20Develop\%20\&\%20Maintain\%2}\\ \underline{0a\%20Cadastral\%20Database.pdf}$

eTender Portal: https://etenders.treasury.gov.za/content/advertised-tenders **eTender Portal example:** https://etenders.treasury.gov.za/content/advertised-tenders develop-and-maintain-cadastral-database-msunduzi-municipality

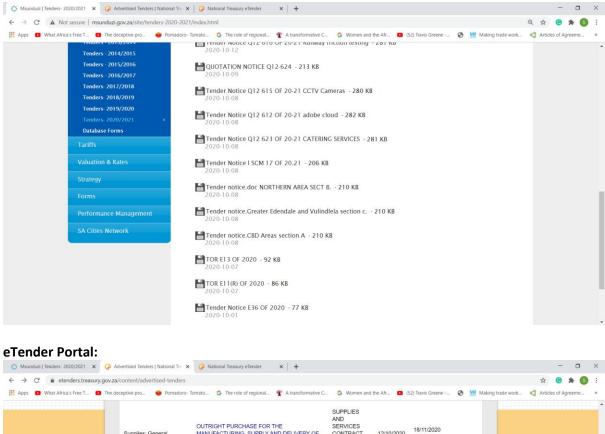
Comments: The municipality publishes information on both the municipal website and the eTender Portal, but the two do not correspond. Since notices on the eTender Portal are removed quickly, I use screenshots taken in October when this study was conducted, in order to compare the municipal website and the eTender Portal. I found some exactly corresponding entries as per screenshot below. But the municipal website listed more tenders than the eTender Portal (partly because of incorrect naming of documents as Tenders, when they are in fact TORs and Requests for Quotations). For example, tenders posted 08 October on the municipal website and on the eTender Portal.

Municipal Website



Tenders posted on 8 October 2020

Municipal website:





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?

The municipal website has a lot of information on tenders, but the information is not organised well, which makes it difficult to search. I would rate it 7/10 for ease of navigation. However, the information is not complete, as there are no reports for contracts awarded between September 2019 and September 2020.

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

The Municipality can declutter the page, organise information in folders, and keep the information and folders up to date.

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

Yes, the supply chain management policy and BEE Exempt forms are made available on the tender page, as well as preferential procurement information for specific tenders.

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

The information on the municipal website is not complete. You almost get the sense that someone was responsible for keeping tender information up to date, but at some point, the person stopped, and the information has not been updated as diligently since. I gather this from looking at earlier reports on awarded contracts prior to 2018, showing to whom contracts were awarded and the price of the contracts.