

Name of the researcher: Thabile Chonco.....

Name of the municipality: Thabazimbi Local Municipality.....

Province: Limpopo.....

National Treasury classification: B3.....

Population size: 85 233.....

Budget: R923,3 million/R 923 300 000.....

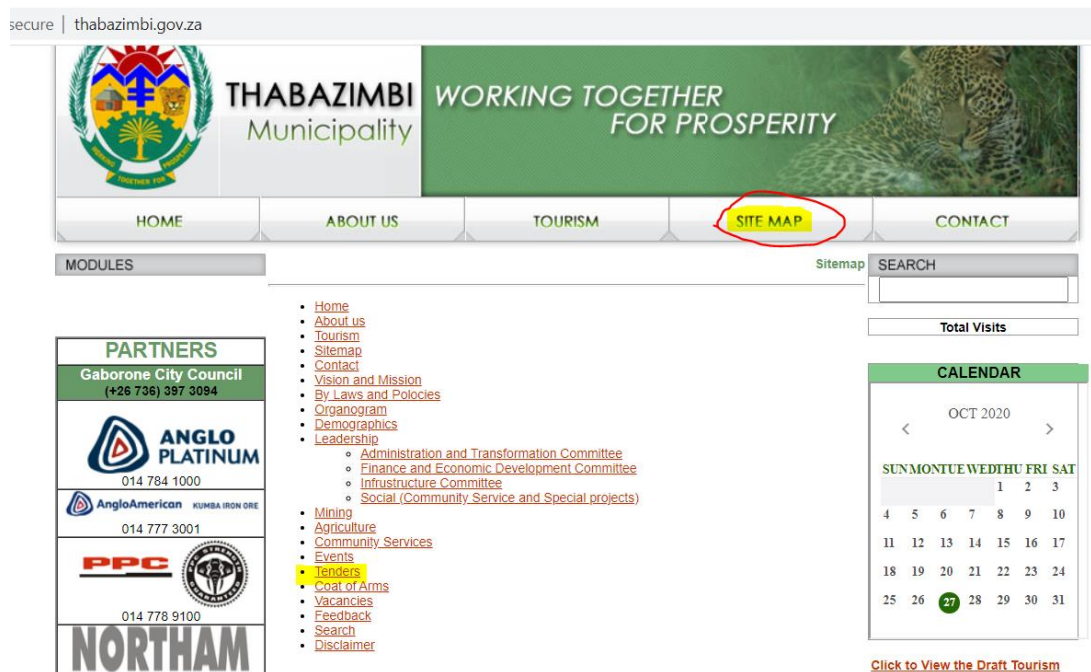
1. Does the municipality have a functional website? Does the website have a dedicated page for procurement information, which can be accessed without registration?

- 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.thabazimbi.gov.za/> (accessed 27 October 2020)

Comments: The municipality has a functional website, as well as a dedicated page for procurement information that is accessible without registration. The website is, however, a bit tricky to navigate, most of the tabs are hidden under the “site map” and nothing directs one to click that tab to access more information. Once you click the “site map” tab you find additional sub-tabs and included in that list is a tab titled “tender” with tender notices.



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: b

Source: <http://www.thabazimbi.gov.za/> and <http://www.thabazimbi.gov.za/docs/tenders/ELECTRIFICATION%20OF%20INFORMAL%20SETTLEMENT.pdf> (accessed 27 October 2020)

Comments: The municipality published four tender notices during the period of 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 which suggest that the municipality does not publish all tender notices. The tender notices have multiple tenders listed though, for example the tender notice for the electrification project (see hyperlink above under "source") lists three tenders in one notice.

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.thabazimbi.gov.za/>; [http://www.thabazimbi.gov.za/docs/tenders/Regorogile%20Upgrading%20of%20Stormwater%20Management%20-%20Tender%20Document%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.thabazimbi.gov.za/docs/tenders/Regorogile%20Upgrading%20of%20Stormwater%20Management%20-%20Tender%20Document%20(1).pdf); <http://www.thabazimbi.gov.za/docs/tenders/BID%20DOC%20TECH%2002%202020%2021%20HIGH%20MAST%20SKIERLIK.pdf> and <http://www.thabazimbi.gov.za/docs/tenders/Scanned%20from%20a%20Xerox%20Multifunction%20Printer20200612.pdf> (accessed 27 October 2020)

Comments: The municipality publishes tender specifications, which are downloadable free of charge but only for some tender notices. Some tender notices state that the bid documents containing conditions of bid and other requirements (for that tender) may be downloaded on the eTender portal for free or alternatively from the municipal website. The website, however, does not have the said documents.

Also, the municipality has what it terms "scope of work" in most of their bid documents. The scope of work set out in the documents is not in-depth and seems a bit standardised. It is a bit confusing whether these are specifications or just descriptions.

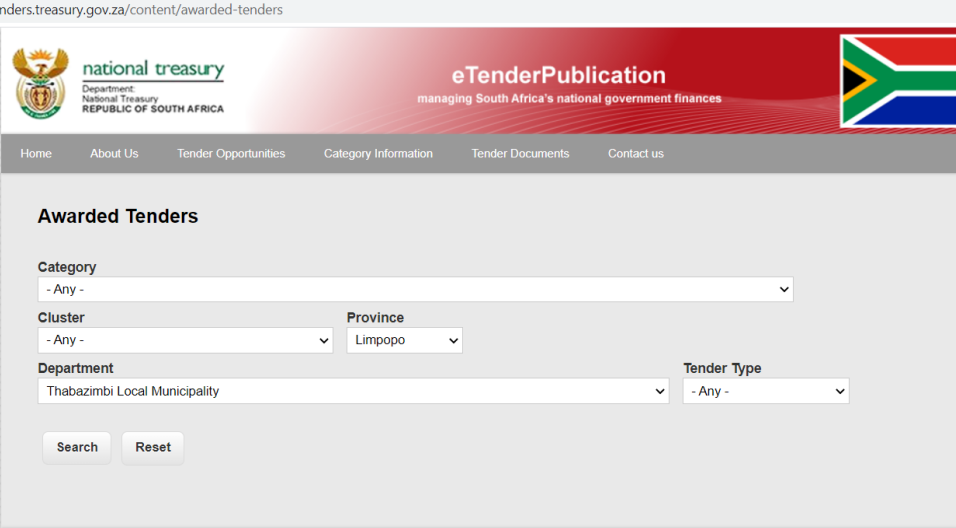
4. Does the municipality publish the name of companies or individuals who win tenders on its website? Does it do so on time (i.e. within five working days after the award)?

- 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.thabazimbi.gov.za/> and <https://etenders.treasury.gov.za/content/awarded-tenders> (accessed 27 October 2020)

Comments: The municipality does not publish information about who wins tenders. The municipality does, however, publish bid opening registers which give one an idea of the bids that were made (states amounts proposed by bidders). When contrasted with the eTender portal, there is no information on awarded tenders for the municipality. It is, therefore, unclear whether the tenders were awarded or not.



The screenshot shows the 'Awarded Tenders' search interface on the eTenderPublication website. The page header includes the National Treasury logo and the text 'eTenderPublication managing South Africa's national government finances'. The navigation menu includes Home, About Us, Tender Opportunities, Category Information, Tender Documents, and Contact us. The search filters are as follows:

- Category: - Any -
- Cluster: - Any -
- Province: Limpopo
- Department: Thabazimbi Local Municipality
- Tender Type: - Any -

Buttons for Search and Reset are located at the bottom of the filter section.

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

- Yes, the tender specifications remain accessible on the website after the contract has been awarded for the duration of the contract.
- 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.
- 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.thabazimbi.gov.za/> (accessed 27 October 2020).

Comments: There is no information on who was awarded any of the tenders that were advertised or whether the tenders were awarded at all. The tender specifications are, however, still accessible on the website and that is why I've chosen Option B. If you check the list it has both tender notices and bid documents that set out the specifications (not all of the bid documents do but some have specifications). You just have to find the notice, corresponding bid documents and corresponding opening register in the mash-up. See for example, Regorogile Ext 5 paving of internal street invitation to bid (this is the notice, closing date 28 July 2020) + BID DOC TECH 04 2020 REGOROGILE EXTENSION 5 PAVING OF INTERNAL STREET (bid document with specifications). Because there are no contracts on the website, it is difficult to tell whether the specifications are available for the entire duration of said contracts or not.

The municipality's website has one standard hyperlink, which takes you to the main page. To find the tender notices (and specifications), you then have to go to the "site map" tab.

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.thabazimbi.gov.za/> (accessed 27 October 2020).

Comments: There are no contracts on the website, neither are lists of awarded tenders that set out who the tenders were awarded to and the price of the awarded tenders.

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.thabazimbi.gov.za/> (accessed 27 October 2020).

Comments: There are no contracts on the website so this information remains inaccessible to community members.

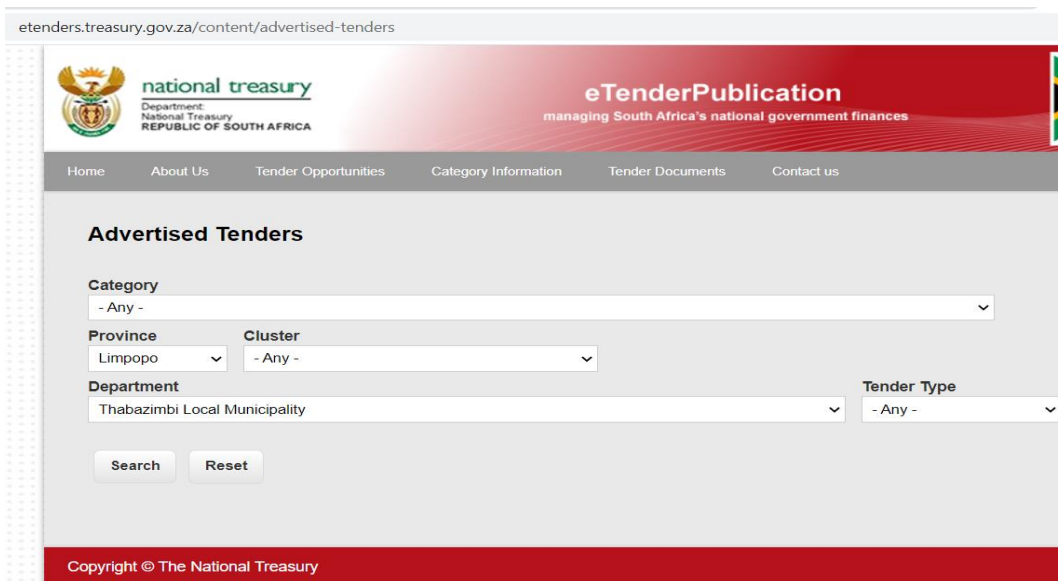
8. Does the municipality publish procurement information on both its website and the eTender portal?

- 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: c

Source: <http://www.thabazimbi.gov.za/> and <https://etenders.treasury.gov.za/content/advertised-tenders>; <https://etenders.treasury.gov.za/content/awarded-tenders> and <http://www.thabazimbi.gov.za/docs/tenders/Scanned%20from%20a%20Xerox%20Multifunction%20Printer20200612.pdf> (accessed 27 October 2020).

Comments: At the time of completing this survey, the municipality had only published procurement information on its website and not on the eTender portal as well. Perhaps the information was uploaded and then removed from the eTender portal because the municipality's tender notices mention that "bid documents containing the conditions of bid and other requirements in terms of the Supply Chain Management Policy will be downloaded from the e-tender publication 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 not easy at all. The “tender” page/tab was hidden under a tab named “site map”, which doesn’t have a drop-down effect to show all the tabs slotted under it. Also, there’s no instruction/sign/arrow or anything to show that most of the information is nestled under the “site map” tab.

But once one locates the “tender” page, it is easy to find the information and this is probably because the municipality has only published tender notices, tender documents and bid opening registers all in one place. Also, the municipality’s website has one standard hyperlink that takes you to the main page, once on the main page you have to navigate and search for the document or page you’re looking for.

I rate it 7 out of 10.

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

In the same manner that the municipality publishes bid opening registers, it should also publish a list with the names of companies or individuals who are awarded contracts. Linked to the aforementioned, the municipality should publish tender closure notices, as well as notices for cancelled tenders. They should also publish the contracts entered into with service providers.

The municipality should also organise its procurement into folders for easy, quicker access.

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

No.

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

No.

