

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS SUMMIT

Benchmarking with Municipal Finance Data

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national treasury

Department:
National Treasury
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Overview

- Establishment of a central LG database
- Type of information on LGDRS
- Content of LGDRS
- Access to LGDRS
- Benchmarking financial data
- The Role of Young Professionals
- The Future of Municipal Data

Municipal Finance is About People

- Section 216 of the Constitution mandates transparency and expenditure control across all government spheres.
- Water, electricity, sanitation → affect daily life
- Poor financial decisions = service delivery failures
- Strong decisions require credible, timely data



The Problem Before *m*SCOA Reform

- Prior to 2004: 278 different municipal charts of accounts (COAs) -No standardisation across municipalities
- Key Challenges:
 - Aggregation of financial information was almost impossible
 - Poor data quality due to inconsistent classifications (revenue & expenditure)
 - Weak year-on-year comparability
 - Multiple versions of truth across: IDP, Budget, SDBIP, IYM, AFS
- Impact on Governance:
 - Weak monitoring and oversight across all levels
 - Uninformed decision-making by councils and stakeholders

The *m*SCOA Reform

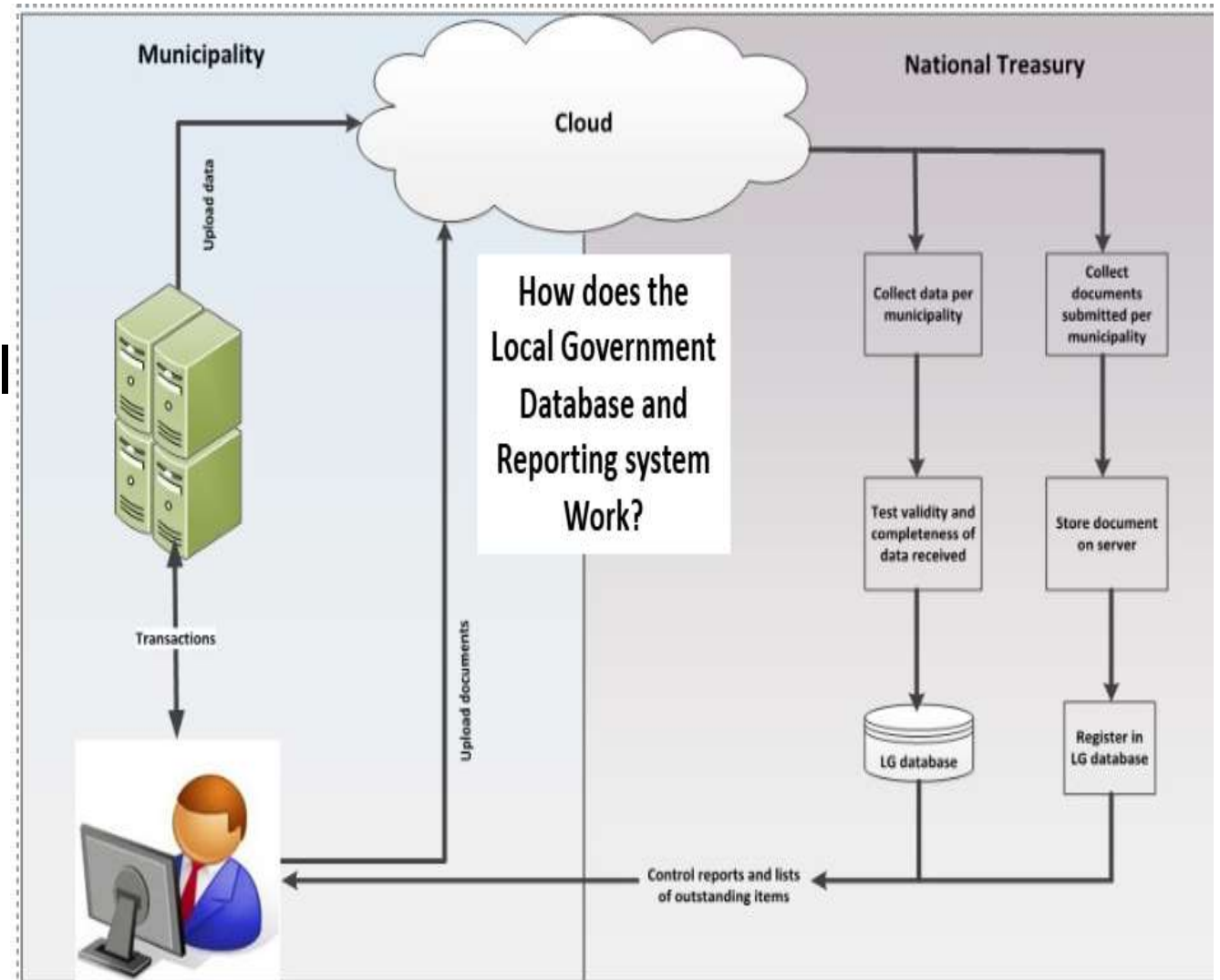
- Standardised financial classification across all municipalities
- Covers full lifecycle: planning → budgeting → reporting
- Introduced a common financial language
- Enabled consistent, structured data



The Local Government Database Reporting System (LGDRS)

Establishment of LGDRS

- Developed under MFMA reform agenda
- Central repository for municipal financial information
- Enables data collection, storage, and access
- Over 3,000 registered users



From Data to Decision-Making

- Data captured at source
- Standardised through *mSCOA*
- Stored and accessed via LGDRS
- Used for public transparency and policy

Municipality → *mSCOA* → LGDRS → Municipal Money → Policy Decisions

The Shift: From Compliance to Public Value



Compliance → standardisation



Standardisation → credible data



Credible data → insights

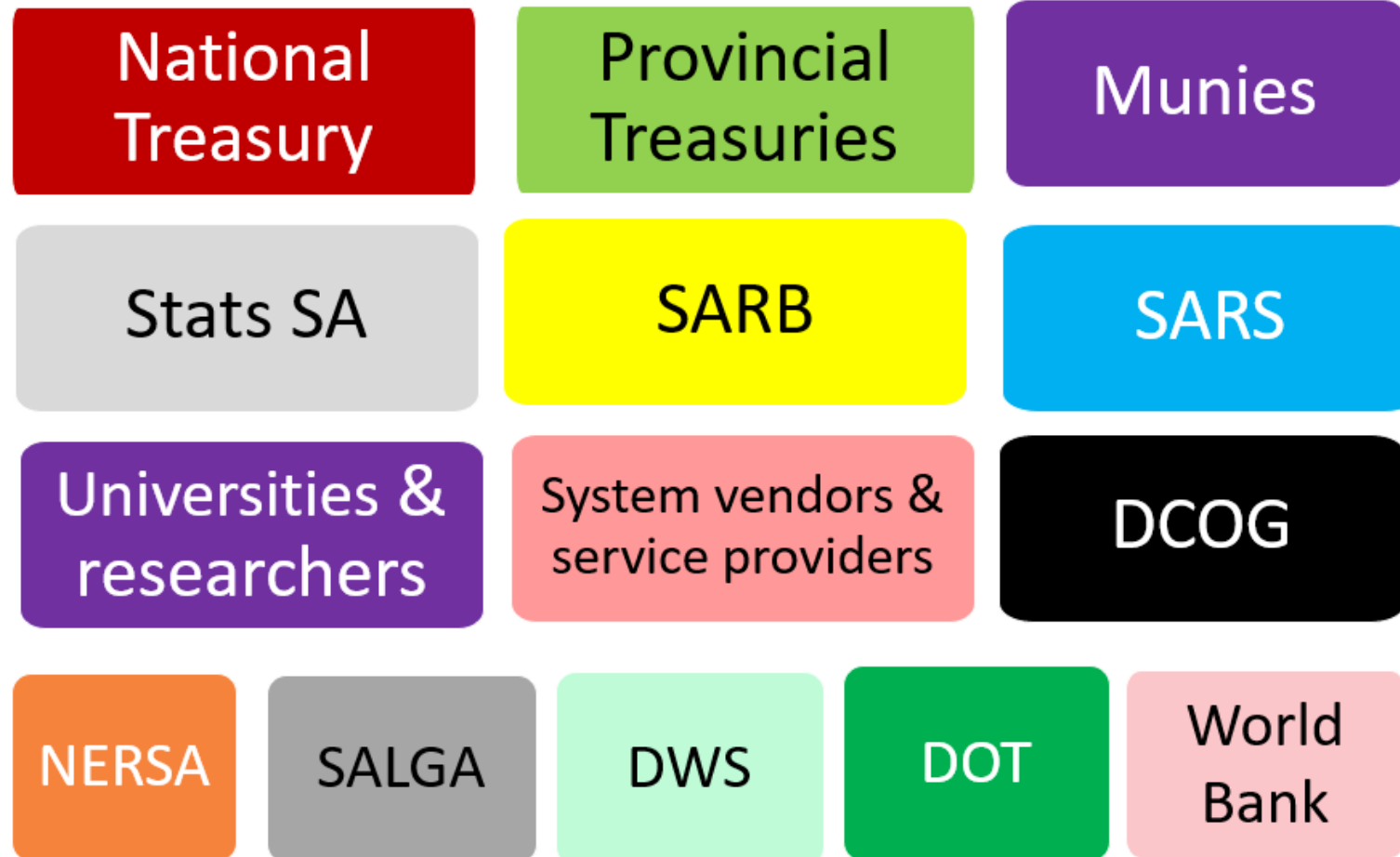


Insights → better decisions



“We already have the data — the opportunity is how we use it”

Ecosystem of Users



Types of Information on the LGDRS

- **Financial Data:** budgets, in-year reports, grants, audit outcomes
- **Non-financial information:** municipal contact details; municipal socio-economic profiles; municipal entity details; etc.
- **Legislated documents:** IDP, budgets, AFS, Annual Reports, etc.
- **Other documents** recovery plans, procurement, funding plans

Content of LGDRS



[Thina Naki](#) | [Portals](#) | [Sign Out](#)



GoUpload



GoUpload

GoDatabase



Local Government Database



mSCOA FAQ



MSEP Data Model



Master Classes

Content of LGDRS (Continued)

[Thina Nkomo](#) | [Portals](#) | [Sign Out](#)

GoPublic



Explore mSCOA



Municipal Documentation



Publications and Media Releases



Municipal Money



Provincial Links



Municipal Data API



State of Municipal Finances



Cities Support Programme



Metro Trading Services Reform



Municipal Socio-Economic Profiles



Municipal Finance Recovery Support



Section 71 Dashboard



Events



Template Library

Content of LGDRS (Continued)



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GoTraining



Internal



Access to the LGDRS (GoMuni)

- Access to the LGDRS is given to the users that have requested and access is given to published data. Users that require access to unpublished data need to get approval before access can be granted and be trained on how to use the unpublished data.
- Access to the database is granted to:
- The municipality
- Other users (NT& PT officials, Academics, Researchers, System vendors, Other departments and entities, etc.)
- To register on GoMuni, click on the link below and fill in the registration form that is on the “New user Registration tab:

https://lg.treasury.gov.za/ibi_apps/signin

- In order for a municipality to submit their financial and non-financial data and supporting documents to the GoMuni Portal, the municipal official(s) responsible for generating and submitting the information must register on the GoMuni portal.
- Access to the database is managed through contacts. Municipalities now have the authority to grant and revoke access on GoDatabase and GoUpload enforcing local access management governance
- Municipal registered users who are responsible for submitting information to the National Treasury, on behalf of the municipality can add new users, edit existing users and manage access (GoUpload and GoDatabase) of their respective municipality

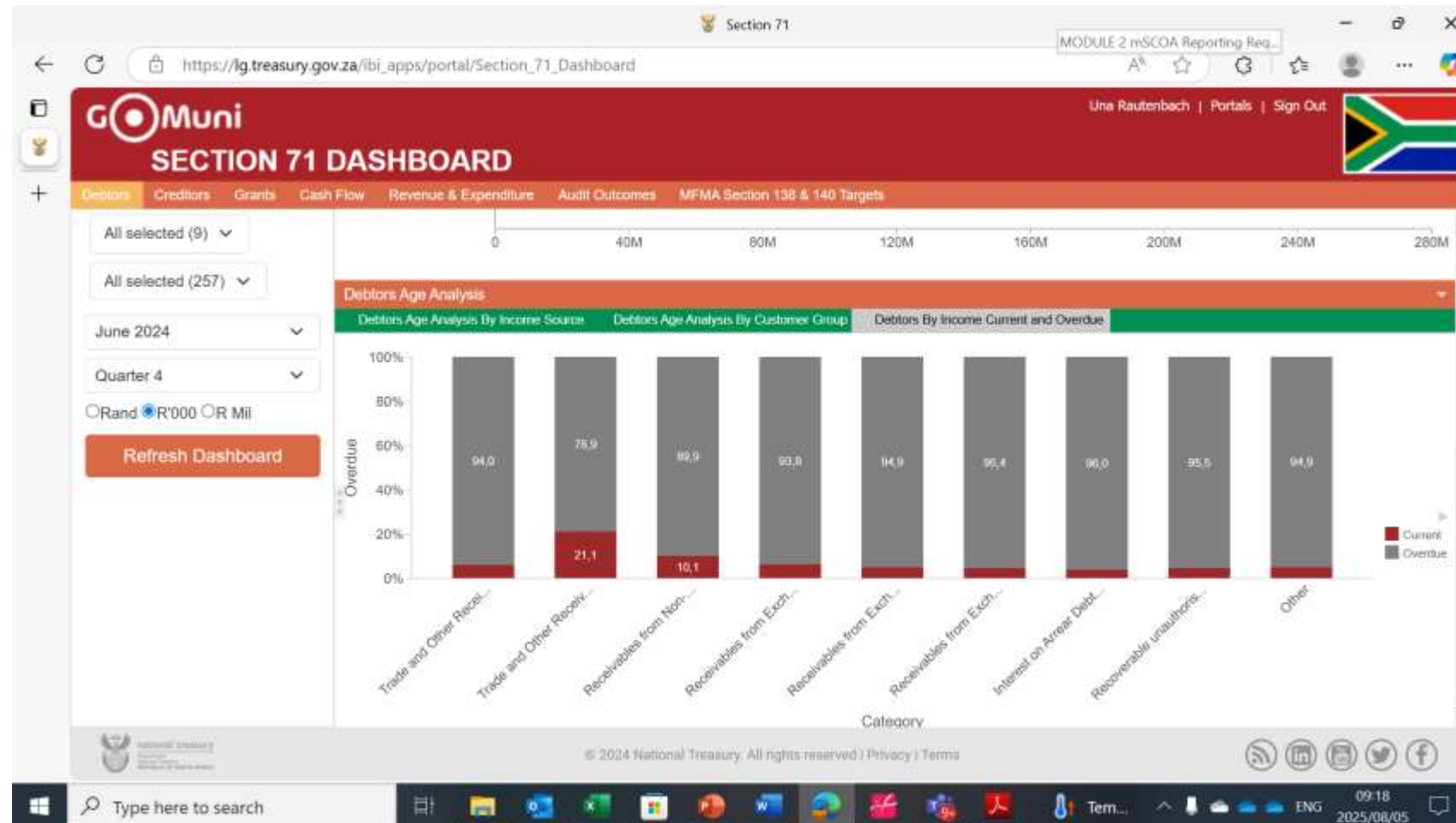
Using Data to Benchmark Performance

Why Benchmarking Matters

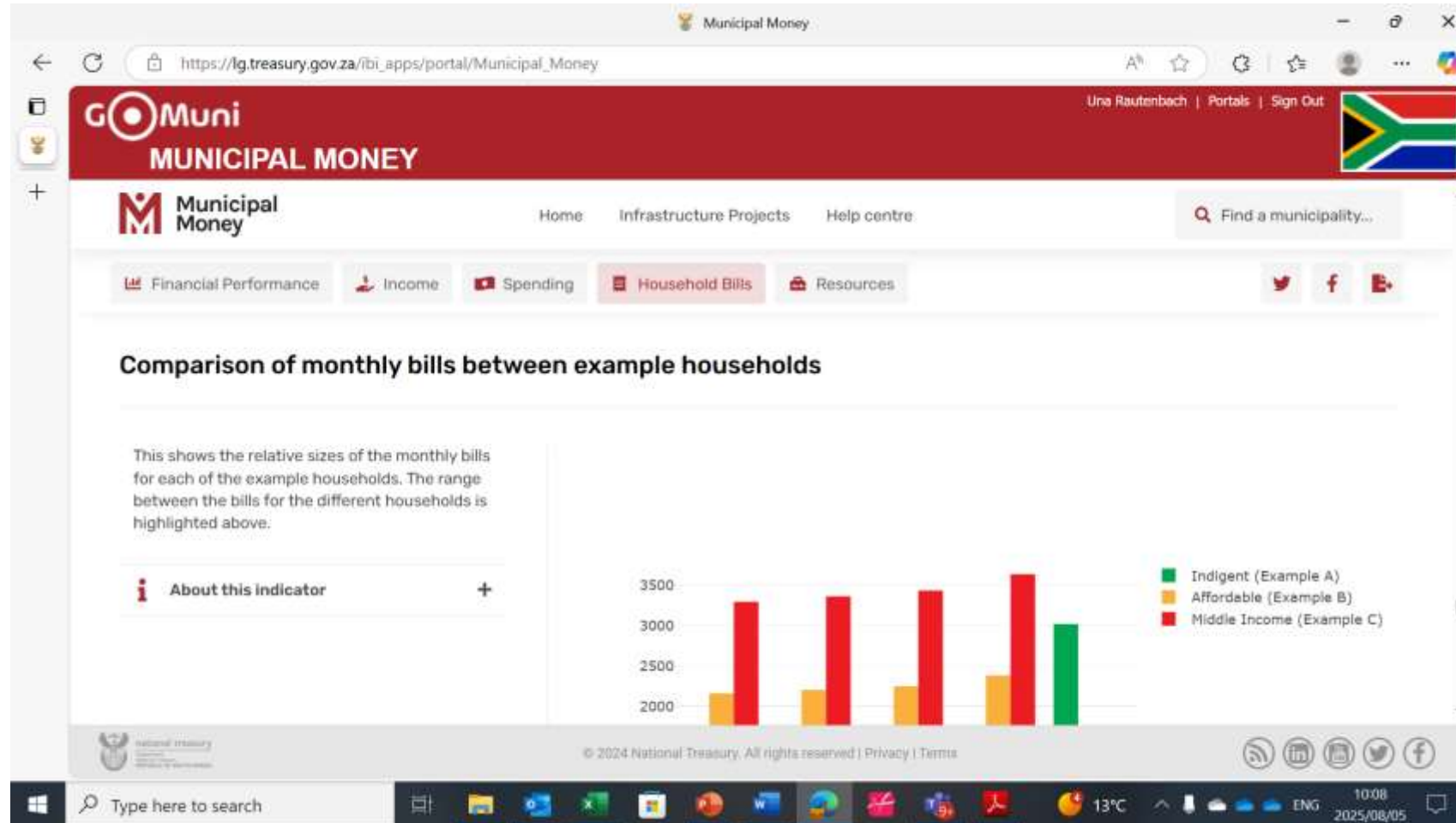
- Compare municipalities
- Identify risks and inefficiencies
- Track financial sustainability
- Support evidence-based decisions



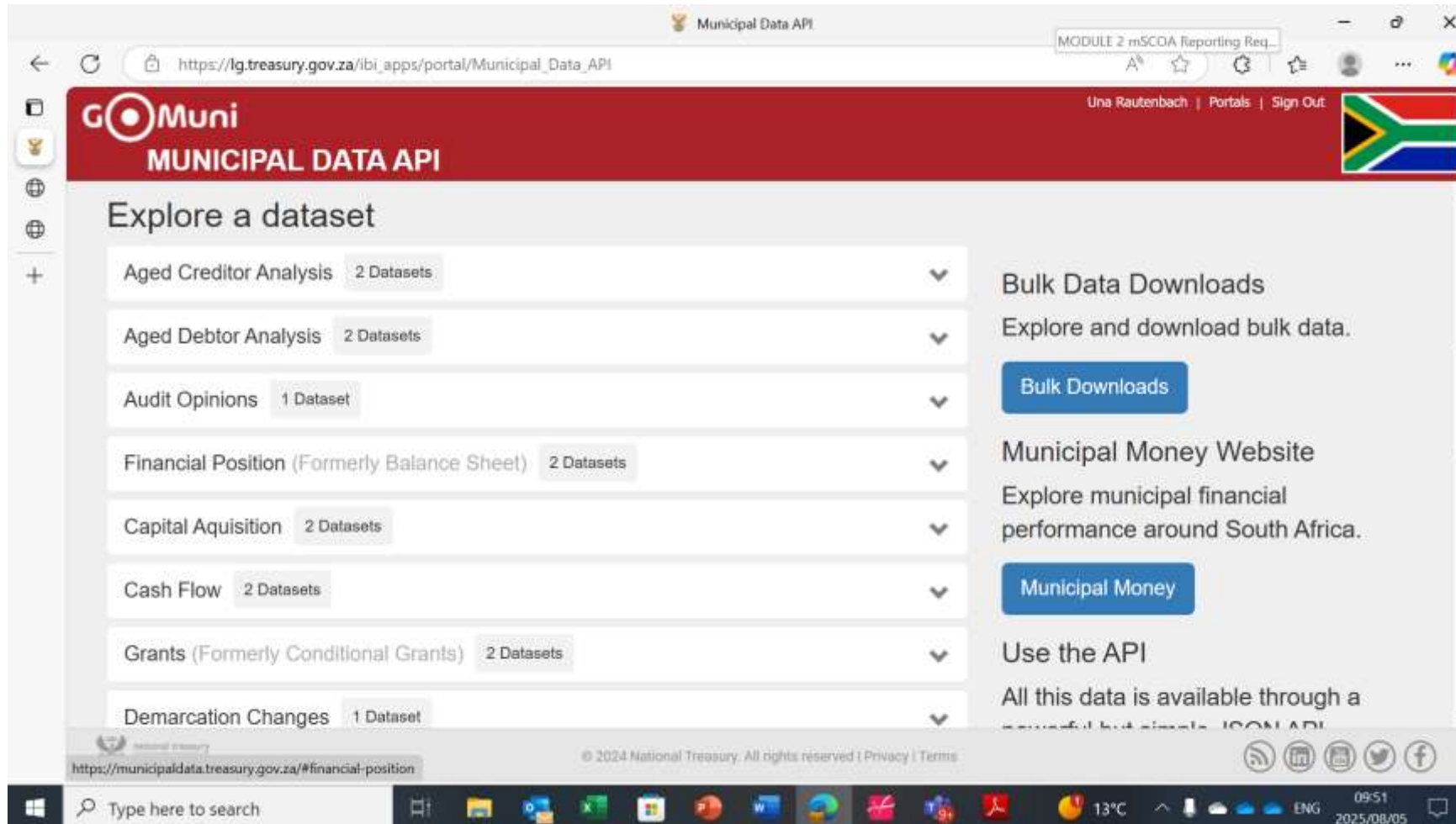
Benchmarking with Municipal Finance Data



Benchmarking with Municipal Finance Data



Benchmarking with Municipal Finance Data



The screenshot displays the 'Municipal Data API' portal. The header features the 'GO Muni MUNICIPAL DATA API' logo and the user 'Una Rautenbach' with options for 'Portals' and 'Sign Out'. A South African flag is visible in the top right corner. The main content area is titled 'Explore a dataset' and lists several categories with their respective dataset counts:

- Aged Creditor Analysis (2 Datasets)
- Aged Debtor Analysis (2 Datasets)
- Audit Opinions (1 Dataset)
- Financial Position (Formerly Balance Sheet) (2 Datasets)
- Capital Aquisition (2 Datasets)
- Cash Flow (2 Datasets)
- Grants (Formerly Conditional Grants) (2 Datasets)
- Demarcation Changes (1 Dataset)

On the right side, there are three main sections:

- Bulk Data Downloads**: Explore and download bulk data. Includes a blue button labeled 'Bulk Downloads'.
- Municipal Money Website**: Explore municipal financial performance around South Africa. Includes a blue button labeled 'Municipal Money'.
- Use the API**: All this data is available through a powerful but simple JSON API.

The footer contains the copyright notice '© 2024 National Treasury. All rights reserved (Privacy | Terms)', social media icons for RSS, LinkedIn, YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook, and the URL 'https://municipaldata.treasury.gov.za/#financial-position'. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the search bar, system tray with temperature (13°C), time (09:51), and date (2025/08/05).

Benchmarking financial data

- Make sure local government's decision-making is based on real facts and figures.
- Benchmark financial data is an essential tool for local government, allowing decision-makers to base their choices on robust evidence.
- Effective governance depends on structured and credible information, not assumptions or anecdotes. Oversight processes must be **grounded in evidence that decision-makers can trust**.
- Decisions informed by poor or inconsistent data directly affect:
 - service delivery outcomes, and
 - the financial sustainability of municipalities.
- Credible data builds confidence in decisions and strengthens accountability.
- Conversely, weak data undermines governance, delays intervention, and erodes public trust.

How to achieve credible data for benchmarking?

Before *m*SCOA



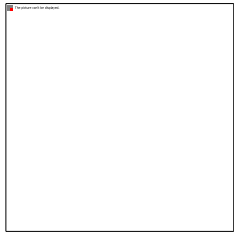
After *m*SCOA



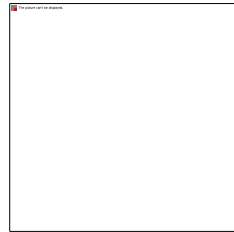
Credible data can be achieved through correct implementation of *m*SCOA

- *m*SCOA establishes a single national standard for classifying municipal financial information.
- It applies across the entire accountability cycle - planning, budgeting, transactions, and reporting.
- It uses a multi-segment structure to classify information consistently:
 - Project
 - Function
 - Item
 - Fund
 - Region
 - Costing
- *m*SCOA standardises how municipal activity is described, enabling consistency across the entire local government system.

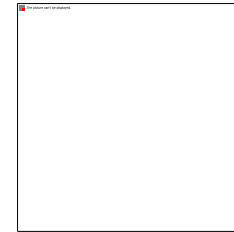
Opening Data to the Public - Transparency and Accountability



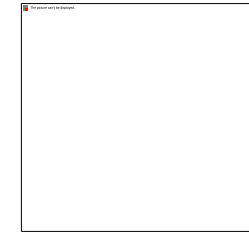
Public access to
municipal financial data



Enhances transparency
and accountability



Empowers citizens and
stakeholders



Builds trust in local
government

What the Data is Telling Us

Key Sector Insights

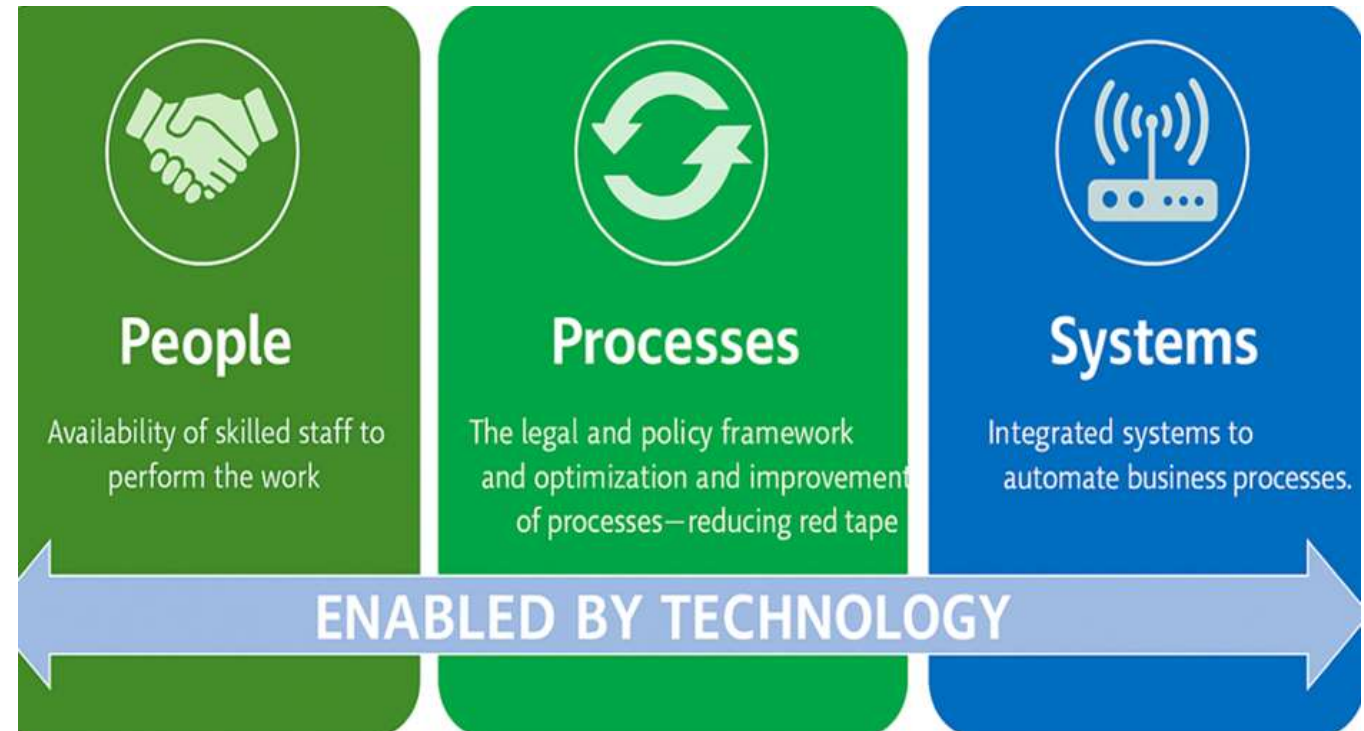
- Revenue collection challenges persist
- Electricity trading pressures increasing
- Infrastructure maintenance remains underfunded
- Growing need for data-driven interventions

Risks of Poor Data: Bad Data = Bad Decisions

- Poor data delays intervention
- Weakens policy decisions
- Undermines accountability and public trust
- Affects service delivery outcomes

The Role of Young Professionals

- Data quality starts at transaction level
 - You enable:
 - Credible reporting
 - Better analysis
 - Smarter decisions
- Opportunity to drive:
- Innovation
 - Digitisation
 - Data use



The Future of Municipal Data

- Integration of systems (real-time data)
- Advanced analytics and dashboards
- Stronger decision support systems
- Digital governance

Key Messages

- Data is a strategic asset, not just compliance
- *m*SCOA and LGDRS provide the foundation
- Data-driven governance improves outcomes
- Benchmarking enables better decisions and performance
- Young professionals are critical to this transformation

THANK YOU

For additional information on municipal matters, visit the MFMA Webpage at <http://mfma.gov.za> or



https://lg.treasury.gov.za/ibi_apps/welcome_



<https://municipalmoney.gov.za>

For additional information on national and provincial budgets, visit: <https://vulekamali.gov.za>



national treasury

Department:
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