

National School of Business Management Limited - 2019

1.1 Opinion

The audit of the financial statements of the National School of Business Management Limited (“Company”) for the year ended 31 December 2019 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2019 and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, was carried out under my direction in pursuance of provisions in Article 154 (1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka read in conjunction with provisions of the National Audit Act No.19 of 2018. My comments and observations which I consider should be report to the Parliament appear in this report.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2019 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards.

1.2 Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards (SLAuSs). My responsibilities, under those Standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

1.3 Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Sri Lanka Accounting Standards and for such internal control as management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Company’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company’s financial reporting process.

As per section 16(1) of the National Audit Act No.19 of 2018, the Company is required to maintain proper books and records of all its income, expenditure, assets and liabilities, to enable annual and periodic financial statements to be prepared of the Company.

1.4 Audit Scope

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also,

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

The scope of the audit also extended to examine as far as possible, and as far as necessary the following;

- Whether the organization, systems, procedures, books, records and other documents have been properly and adequately designed from the point of view of the presentation of information to enable a continuous evaluation of the activities of the Company, and

whether such systems, procedures, books, records and other documents are in effective operation;

- Whether the Company has complied with applicable written law, or other general or special directions issued by the governing body of the Company;
- Whether the Company has performed according to its powers, functions and duties; and
- Whether the resources of the Company had been procured and utilized economically, efficiently and effectively within the time frames and in compliance with the applicable laws.

1.5 Financial Statement

1.5.1 Internal Control over the preparation of financial statements

Entries are required to “devise and maintain” a system of internal accounting controls sufficient to provide reasonable assurance that, transactions are executed in accordance with management’s general or specific authorization, transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in conformity with the applicable reporting standards, and to maintain accountability for assets, access to assets is permitted only in accordance with management’s general or specific authorization, and the recorded accountability for assets is compared with the existing assets at reasonable intervals and appropriate action is taken with respect to any differences.

2. Financial Review

2.1 Financial Result

The operational result for the year under review had a deficit of Rs.125,789,894 as compared with the corresponding deficit of Rs.456,737,858 in the preceding year thus indicating an improvement of Rs.330,947,964 in the financial results for the year under review. Increase of income by Rs.458,817,675 was the main reason for this improvement.

3. Operational Review

3.1 Management Inefficiencies

The following observations are made.

Audit Observation	Management Comment	Recommendation
(a) Even though the scheme of recruitment should be approved by the board of directors and the appropriate Ministry with the concurrence of the Department of Public Enterprises of General Treasury as per the paragraph 9.3.1 of the Department of Public Enterprises circular No.PED/12 dated 02 June 2003. However, the Company had failed to obtain the approval for the scheme of recruitment from the Ministry.	The Board shall have all the powers necessary for managing and for directing and supervising the management of the business and affairs of the Company.	Should be adhered to the provisions in the Department of Public Enterprises circular No.PED/12 dated 02 June 2003.
(b) Approval for the payment of incentive should be obtained from the General Treasury in terms of paragraph 8.3.3 of the above circular. However, without obtaining the approval a sum of Rs.90,502,435 as incentive for the year 2018 and a sum of Rs.3,663,218 as special incentive for the marketing section had been paid during the year under review.	The Board shall have all the powers necessary for managing and for directing and supervising the management of the business and affairs of the Company.	Should be adhered to the provisions in the Department of Public Enterprises circular No.PED/12 dated 02 June 2003.