

Rambewa Pradeshiya Sabha - 2020

1. Financial Statements

1.1 Qualified Opinion

The audit of the financial statements of the Rambewa Pradeshiya Sabha for the year ended 31 December 2020 comprising the statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 December 2020 and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in net assets/equity, cash flow statement, and other explanatory information, 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 Sub-section 172 (1) of the Pradeshiya Sabhas Act, No.15 of 1987 and provisions of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018. My comments and observations which I consider should be presented in Parliament appear in this report.

In my opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in the Paragraph 1.6 of this report, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Rambewa Pradeshiya Sabha as at 31 December 2020, and of its financial performance and cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards for Local Authorities.

1.2 Basis for Qualified Opinion

My opinion is qualified based on the matters described in Paragraph 1.6 of this report.

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 qualified 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 Public Sector Accounting Standards for Local Authorities, 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.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Pradeshiya Sabha's financial reporting process.

As per Sub-section 16 (1) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, the Pradeshiya Sabha 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.

1.4 **Scope of Audit (Auditor's Responsibility in Auditing Financial Statements)**

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:

- Appropriate audit procedures were designed and performed identify and assess the risks of material misstatement in financial statements whether due to fraud or errors in providing a basis for the expressed audit 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.
- An understanding of internal control relevant to the audit was obtained 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 internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management.
- 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 Pradeshiya Sabha, and whether such systems, procedures, books, records and other documents are in effective operation;
- Whether the Pradeshiya Sabha has complied with applicable written law, or other general or special directions issued by the governing body of the Pradeshiya Sabha
- Whether the Pradeshiya Sabha has performed according to its powers, functions and duties; and

- Whether the resources of the Pradeshiya Sabha had been procured and utilized economically, efficiently and effectively within the time frames and in compliance with the applicable laws.

1.5 Report on Other Legal Requirements

National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018 includes specific provisions for following requirements.

- As the Financial Statements have been submitted in accordance with the new Accounting System in terms of Circular No. 2019/02 issued by the Commissioner of Local Government, North Central Province on 31st December 2019, this statement cannot be compared with the preceding year in accordance with Section 6 (1) (d) (iii) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018.
- The recommendations made by me during the previous year are included in the financial statements presented as required by Section 6(i)(d)(iv) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018.

1.6 Audit Observations on the Preparation of Financial Statements

1.6.1 Accounting Deficiencies

Audit Observation	Comment of the Sabha	Recommendation
(a) The unsettled mobilization advance of Rs.1,150,965 to be stated as current assets had been brought to account as fixed assets.	Accepted.	Mobilization advance should be stated as current assets.
(b) Although the balance of the Local Government Development Supporting Project Bank Account as at 31st December of the year under review was Rs.1,742,335 according to the cash book, it had been stated as Rs. 1,779,035 in the statement of assets and liabilities. As a result, cash and cash equivalent of the Sabha had increased by Rs.36,700.	Accepted.	The difference in the financial statements should be identified and the correct balance should be accounted for.
(c) Even though Rs. 393,123 had to pay to a farmers' organization for a road development project, as it had been accounted for as Rs.483,816 in its financial statements, the creditors of the Sabha had increased by Rs.90,693.	Accepted.	The correct balance should be accounted for in the financial statements.

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| (d) | According to the project progress reports, although the industrial debtors were Rs. 393,123, it had been brought to account as Rs. 460,636 in the statement of assets and liabilities and as a result, current assets had increased by Rs. 67,513. | Accepted. | The correct balance should be accounted for in the financial statements. |
| (e) | The unidentified capital grant of Rs. 3,843,623 in the surplus or deficit of the year under review as per the statement of comprehensive income had not been brought to account in the statement of assets and liabilities. | This value has been adjusted to the surplus and the net total is recorded as the total sum of the assets and liabilities statement. | This value should be shown in the statement of assets and liabilities. |
| (f) | As the court fines of Rs.887,921 receivable for the last 06 months of the year under review had not been assessed and brought to account, the profit for the year and the revenue receivable had decreased by that amount. | Accepted. | The correct value should be accounted for in the financial statements. |
| (g) | Library books worth Rs. 1,332,020 as at 31st December of the year under review had not been disclosed in the statement of assets or liabilities. | Accepted. | Action should be taken in accordance with the standards the public sector accounting standards for local authorities. |

2. Financial Review

2.1 Financial Results

According to the financial statements presented, the recurrent expenditure of the Sabha in excess of the revenue amounted to Rs. 14,817,273 for the year ended on 31 December of the year under review as against the revenue exceeding the recurrent expenditure for the preceding year amounting to Rs. 5,061,424.

2.2 Revenue Administration

2.2.1 Performance in Collecting Revenue

Audit Observation	Comment of the Sabha	Recommendation
<p>(a) Rates and Taxes</p> <p>No action had been taken to recover the outstanding Rates balance of Rs.841,704 as at 31st December of the year under review.</p>	<p>Double counting errors have been identified and rectified and red notices have been issued to pay the arrears of Rates.</p>	<p>Action should be taken to recover the outstanding Rates.</p>
<p>(b) Rent</p> <p>No action had been taken to recover Rs. 1,489,533 due for leasing shops and leasing trade rights by 31 December of the year under review.</p>	<p>Action will be taken to recover the dues expeditiously.</p>	<p>Action should be taken to recover the dues.</p>

3. Operating Review

The following matters were observed with respect to the execution of duties charged with the Council through Section 03 of the Pradeshiya Sabha Act, being the regulation, control and administration of all matters relating to public health, public utility services and public thoroughfares and generally with the protection and promotion of the comfort, convenience and welfare of the people.

3.1 Management Inefficiencies

Audit Observation	Comment of the Sabha	Recommendation
<p>No action had been taken to recover Rs. 1,583,250 due from the responsible parties for the accident caused on 16 May 2019 to the cab worth Rs. 6,390,000 belonging to the Sabha,</p>	<p>Action has been taken to recover this money expeditiously.</p>	<p>This money should be recovered expeditiously from the parties responsible for the incident.</p>

3.2 Idle or underutilized property, plant and equipment

Audit Observation

Although Rs. 2,978,302 had been spent to repair the old library building of the Sabha, no action had been taken to complete its work and make it usable effectively.

Comment of the Sabha

A sum of Rs. 2,978,302 has been paid by the Sabha for the work done and Rs. 324,148 has been released by the Local Government Department as cash in hand.

Recommendation

The money should be collected from the officers who paid the cash in hand payment without completing the remaining work.