

Vavuniya South Tamil Pradeshiya Sabha - 2020

1. Financial Statements

1.1 Qualified Opinion

The audit of the financial statements of the Vavuniya South Tamil Pradeshiya Sabha including the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 comprising the balance sheet as at 31 December 2020, Income and Expenditure Account, Cash Flow Statement for the year and significant accounting policies and other explanatory information was carried out, for the year then ended, 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 Sabha 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 report to parliament appear in this report

In my opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in paragraph 1.6 of this report, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Vavuniya South Tamil Pradeshiya Sabha as at 31 December 2020, and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Generally accepted Accounting Principles.

1.2 Basis for Qualified Opinion

My opinion is qualified 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, 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 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.

1.4 **Audit Scope (Responsibility of the Auditor for the audit of 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 exercised professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism 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 its 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 it 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

The National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 contains special provisions regarding the following requirements.

- (a) Financial Statements of the Pradeshiya Sabha as per the requirement mentioned in Section 6 (1) (d) (iii) of the National audit Act No. 19 of 2018 corresponded with the Financial Statements of the previous year.
- (b) In accordance with the requirement referred to in Section 6 (1) (d) (iv) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 recommendations made by me during the previous year are included in the submitted financial statements.

1.6 Audit Observations on the preparation of Financial Statements

1.6.1 Accounting Deficiencies

Audit Observation	Comments of the Council	Recommendation
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Interest income and deposit value were understated due to non-accounting of fixed deposit interest income of Rs.246,341 in the financial statements in the year under review.	Fixed deposit interest income of Rs.2,944,816 only had been taken into the Income and Expenditure Account.	Interest income for the year should be disclosed in the accounts.

1.6.2 Lack of Documentary Evidence for Audit

Audit Observation	Comments of the Council	Recommendation
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Physical and documentary evidence such as land title deeds, valuation certificates, extracts of assets totalling of Rs.1,794,960 in the financial statements, were not submitted for audit.	The write-off has been sent for approval and follow-up on the write-off is in progress.	There should be acceptable proof of assets.

2. Financial Review

2.1 Financial Result

According to the Financial Statements presented, excess of revenue over recurrent expenditure of the Sabha for the year ended 31 December 2020 amounted to Rs.18,328,668 as compared with excess of revenue over recurrent expenditure amounted to Rs.20,966,862 in the preceding year.

2.2 Revenue Administration

2.2.1 Performance in Revenue Collection

Audit Observation	Comments of the Council	Recommendation
(a) The outstanding debtor balance of Rs.5,555,859 between the years 2012 and 2019 was still uncollected as on 31 December 2020.	Certain revenue arrears have been recovered. The rest of the dues will be recovered.	Revenue collection should be well managed.
(b) No action was taken to collect the arrears of Rates and taxes amounting to Rs.3,562,835 which was existing between 01 year to 06 years.	The arrears are being collected and the valuation department is informed for reassessment of the Rates and tax.	
(c) A total of Rs.2,324,340 was the outstanding balance of shops and heavy vehicle rentals, ranging from 01 to 09 years. Also, penalty fees of Rs. 75,428 were not charged for outstanding shop rent and taxes.	Due to the epidemic situation, part of the arrears of rent has been sent for approval of income exemption and the rest is collected in due course. Penalties will also be collected.	

3. Operational Review

Matters revealed with regard to fulfilling regulation and control and administration of public health, public utility services and public roads, generally with the protection and promotion of the comfort, convenience and welfare of the people and amenities by the Council under Section 3 of the Pradeshiya Sabha Act are shown below

3.1 Identified Losses

Audit Observation	Comments of the Council	Recommendation
24 items worth Rs.68,075 were found missing in the Gomarasankulam Public Park during the year under review and no action was taken to recover the damage.	A complaint has been lodged with the police. Further action will be taken after reply.	Immediate steps should be taken to recover the losses.

3.2 Idle and Under Utilized Property, Plant and Equipment

Audit Observation

Even though the Gomasankulam park was built at a cost of Rs.2,002,345, due to the fact that the construction was not completed, it was not possible to use the assets for more than 5 years.

Comments of the Council

There are minor deficiencies in this park so they will be completed and put to use.

Recommendation

Assets should be used for their respective purposes.