

Seruwila Pradeshiya Sabha - 2020

1. Financial Statements

1.1 Qualified Opinion

The audit of the financial statements of the Seruwila 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 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 the provisions of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 and the Sub-Section 172 (1) of the Pradeshiya Sabha Act No. 15 of 1987. 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 Seruwila Pradeshiya Sabha as at 31 December 2020, and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Generally accepted Accounting Practices for Local Authorities.

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 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 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 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 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 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 and Regulatory Requirements

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

- (a) The financial statements of the Pradeshiya Sabha presented is consistent with the preceding year as per the requirement of section 6 (1) (d) (iii) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.
- (b) Recommendations made by me during the last year as per the requirement mentioned in Section 06 (1) d (iv) of the Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 are included in the financial statements submitted.

1.6 Audit Observations on the preparation of Financial Statements

1.6.1 Accounting Deficiencies

Audit Observation	Comments of the Sabha	Recommendation
(a) The opening balance of the accumulative fund account for the year under review was understated by Rs. 1,953,329.	I would like to inform you that necessary steps will be taken to rectify the accounting deficiencies shown.	Correction should be made in the preparation of financial statements.
(b) Assets amounting to Rs. 89,300 purchased during the year under review were credited to the accumulative fund without being credited to the Revenue Contribution Account.	I would like to inform you that necessary steps will be taken to rectify the accounting deficiencies shown.	Correction should be made in the preparation of financial statements.

2. Financial Review

2.1 Financial Result

According to the financial statements presented the operating deficit as at 31 December 2020 was Rs. 3,129,409 and the corresponding operating surplus in the preceding year amounted to Rs. 2,730,385.

2.2 Revenue Administration

2.2.1 Performance of Revenue Collection

Audit Observation	Comments of the Sabha	Recommendation
(a) The outstanding shop rent in arrears from 2011 to 2019 totalled Rs.1,162,311 had not been recovered even by the end of the year under review.	I would like to inform you that action will be taken to recover the arrears income.	Action should be taken to recover the arrears expeditiously.
(b) At the end of the year under review, the courts fines were in arrears of Rs. 8,033,849.	I would like to inform you that action will be taken in the future to recover the relevant arrears.	Action should be taken to recover the arrears expeditiously.