

Habaraduwa Pradeshiya Sabha - 2021

1. Financial Statements

1.1 Qualified Opinion

The audit of the financial statements of the Habaraduwa Pradeshiya Sabha including the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 comprising the Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2021, Statement of Financial Operations, 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 (11) 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 the 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 Habaraduwa Pradeshiya Sabha as at 31 December 2021, and of its financial performance and its cash flows 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 Generally accepted Accounting Principles , 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 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 Pradeshia 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.

- Financial Statements of the Pradeshia 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.
- 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 regarding the preparation of financial statements

1.6.1 Accounting Deficiencies

Audit Observation	Comment of the Sabha	Recommendation
(i) The amount of Rs.14,329,191 incurred for the development of 30 roads had been accounted as assets under land and buildings in the year under review.	Action will be taken to rectified.	Should be accounted correctly.
(ii) The outstanding shop rent of Rs.510,573 due from the shops on the upper floor of the new super market and the shops at the Koggala Free Beach Park had not been accounted as at 31 December of the year under review.	Action will be taken to rectified.	Should be accounted correctly.

1.6.2 Non reconciled Account or Records

Audit Observation	Comment of the Sabha	Recommendation
There was a difference sum of Rs. 12,844,003 in between the balance value of 12 accounting items in the financial statements and balance value in relevant utility registers as at 31 December of the year under review.	Action will be taken to settle the differences.	Differences should be identified and corrected.

1.6.3 Suspense Accounts

Audit Observation	Comment of the Sabha	Recommendation
The council had not taken any action to identify the debit balance of Rs. 601,430 in the suspense account which was carried forward from the year 2008.	Action will be taken to settle it in the future.	The balance should be investigated and settled.

2. Financial review

2.1 Financial result

According to the Financial Statements presented, recurrent expenditure over revenue of the Sabha for the year ended 31 December 2021 amounted to Rs.8,603,500 as compared with excess recurrent expenditure over revenue amounted to Rs.12,717,965 in the preceding year.

2.2 Revenue Administration

Audit Observation	Comment of the Sabha	Recommendation
(a) Rates and Tax ----- the balance due from 12,203 units of assessment tax was Rs.28,315,955 as at the end of the year under review. It had been planned to issue red notices to recover these balances, however it had not been done.	Action will be taken to collect the arrears in future.	The arrears should be recovered.
(b) Rent Tax ----- (i) Arrears of Rs.1,044,374 should have been collected from 31 shops located in 04 shopping complex belonging to Habaraduwa Pradeshiya Sabha up to 31 December of the year under review. The legal action had not been taken in this regard.		
(ii) The council had not taken any legal steps to recover the outstanding balance of Rs.2,642,400 as at the end of the year under review in relation to the lease of shops in Ahangama shopping complex.		