

Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha - 2021

1. Financial Statements

1.1 Qualified Opinion

The audit of the financial statements of the Elpitiya 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 (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 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 Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha as at 31 December 2021, and of its financial performance and its cash flow 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 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 regarding the preparation of financial statements

1.6.1 Accounting Deficiencies

Audit Observation	Comment of the Council	Recommendation
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(a) The fixed deposit balance was understated by Rs.39,420 as at the end of the year under review,.	Action will be taken to account in the year 2022.	Should be accounted correctly.
(b) The provision had not been made for the sum of traveling expenses and overtime allowances payable as at 31 December of the year under review amounting to Rs.271,773		
(c) The provision had not been made for audit fees for the year under review.		
(d) The value of the tractor purchased by the council in the year 2014 was Rs. 1,520,960, and it had not been accounted as Motor Vehicle and carts.		
(e) The Computers and accessories valued at Rs. 425,905 given to the council in the previous year had not been accounted.		
(f) No pay leave of Rs.54,953 had been understated in account as at 31 December of the year under review .		
(g) The retention amount of Rs.221,800 related to the repair of the crematorium had been capitalized twice.		

(h) The cost of repairing the crematorium and the cost of repairing the roof of the Ayurvedic building, totalling to Rs.53,092, had been capitalized under capital expenditure, although they should be recognized as recurring expenses. Action will be taken to account in the year 2022. Should be accounted correctly.

1.6.2 Non reconcile Control Account or Report

Audit Observation -----	Comment of the Council -----	Recommendation -----
A difference of Rs.16,451,379 was observed between the balances shown in the financial statements related to 08 accounting items and the balances shown in the related utility documents as at 31 December of the year under review.	The action will be taken to correct in the future.	The Differences should be identified and corrected.

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 2021 amounted to Rs. 32,120,728 as compared with excess of revenue over recurrent expenditure amounted to Rs. 32,263,236 in the preceding year.

2.2 Revenue Administration

Audit Observation -----	Comment of the Council -----	Recommendation -----
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(a) Assessment and Tax

The arrears of 246 assessment tax units within the sabha territory as at the end of the year under review, of the Council was Rs.4,111,833. The legal action had not been taken to recover these outstanding balances.	Actions will be taken to recover in future	Actions should be taken to recover the arrears.
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(b) Acreage Tax

A arrears of Rs.120,018 from 41 acre tax units has existed for more than 05 years as at the end of the year under review, and the council had only informed through letters.	Actions will be taken to recover in future	Actions should be taken to recover the arrears.
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(c) Rent

It was observed that Rs.3,725,960 from 27 units in outstanding shop rent balance has been in existence for more than 03 years as at the end of the year under review, and the contract period related to 40 shop rooms had also expired. The council had only informed in this regard through letters.

Arrangements should be made to recover the arrears and renew the contracts.

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