

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CONSTITUENCIES DEVELOPMENT FUND - KITUI WEST CONSTITUENCY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2022

PREAMBLE

I draw your attention to the contents of my report which is in three parts:

- A. Report on the Financial Statements that considers whether the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, accounting standards and the relevant laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the financial statements.
- B. Report on Lawfulness and Effectiveness in Use of Public Resources which considers compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policies, gazette notices, circulars, guidelines and manuals and whether public resources are applied in a prudent, efficient, economic, transparent and accountable manner to ensure Government achieves value for money and that such funds are applied for the intended purpose.
- C. Report on Effectiveness of Internal Controls, Risk Management and Governance which considers how the entity has instituted checks and balances to guide internal operations. This responds to the effectiveness of the governance structure, the risk management environment and the internal controls, developed and implemented by those charged with governance for orderly, efficient and effective operations of the entity.

An unmodified opinion does not necessarily mean that an entity has complied with all relevant laws and regulations, and that its internal controls, risk management and governance systems are properly designed and were working effectively in the financial year under review.

The three parts of the report are aimed at addressing the statutory roles and responsibilities of the Auditor-General as provided by Article 229 of the Constitution, the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 and the Public Audit Act, 2015. The three parts of the report, when read together constitute the report of the Auditor-General.

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Qualified Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of National Government Constituency Development Fund - Kitui West Constituency set out on pages 1 to 64, which comprise of the statement of assets and liabilities as at 30 June, 2022, and the statement of receipts and payments, statement of cash flows and summary statement of appropriation for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information in accordance with the provisions of Article 229 of the Constitution of Kenya and Section 35 of the Public Audit Act, 2015. I have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of my knowledge and belief, were necessary for the purpose of the audit.

In my opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of my report, the financial statements present fairly, in all material

respects, the financial position of National Government Constituencies Development Fund- Kitui West Constituency as at 30 June, 2022, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (Cash Basis) and comply with the National Constituencies Development Fund Act, 2015 and the Public Finance Management Act, 2012.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

Accuracy of Cash and Cash Equivalents

The statement of assets and liabilities and as disclosed in Note 10A to the financial statements reflects bank balance as per cashbook of Kshs.19,229,980. However, the following issues were noted;

- i. The bank reconciliation statement for the month of June revealed payments in the cashbook not yet recorded in the bank statement (unpresented cheques) amounting to Kshs.16,255,608. Audit verifications revealed that cheques worth Kshs.14,902,858 had remained unpresented for over six months. No reason was provided for failure to write back the stale cheques in the cashbook.
- ii. Bank charges amounting to Kshs.33,310 and as disclosed in Note 5 to the financial statements relating to use of goods and services were not included as reconciling items in the bank reconciliations as payments in bank statement not recorded in the cashbook.

In the circumstances, the accuracy and completeness of the cash and cash equivalents balance of Kshs.19,229,980 could not be confirmed.

The audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). I am independent of the National Government Constituencies Development Fund - Kitui West Constituency Management in accordance with ISSAI 130 on Code of Ethics. I have fulfilled other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the ISSAI and in accordance with other ethical requirements applicable to performing audits of financial statements in Kenya. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my qualified opinion.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in my professional judgment, are of most significance in the audit of the financial statements. There were no key audit matters to report in the year under review.

Other Matter

Unresolved Prior Year's Audit issues

The audit report for the previous year raised several issues in regard to the Report on Financial Statements, Report on Lawfulness and Effectiveness in Use of Public Resources and Report on Effectiveness of Internal Controls, Risk Management and Governance. The Management has not responded to these issues and no reason has been provided for failure to do the same.

REPORT ON LAWFULNESS AND EFFECTIVENESS IN USE OF PUBLIC RESOURCES

Conclusion

As required by Article 229(6) of the Constitution, based on the audit procedures performed, except for the matters described in the Basis for Conclusion on Lawfulness and Effectiveness in Use of Public Resources section of my report, I confirm that, nothing else has come to my attention to cause me to believe that public resources have not been applied lawfully and in an effective way.

Basis for Conclusion

1. Unsatisfactory Project Implementation

The statement of receipts and payments and as disclosed in Note 6 to the financial statements reflects transfers to other government units amount of Kshs.90,250,000. However, a physical verification of projects revealed some anomalies for projects worth Kshs.5,000,000 implemented by the Fund as indicated below:

Name of Project	Projects Activity	Amount (Kshs.)	Remarks
Kativo police station	Completion of police post comprising of report office, crime office, armory, 3 cells and store flooring and plastering	1,000,000	Proposed fixing of 15 steel doors and 10 steel casement windows not implemented.
Matinyani police station	Construction of police post administration block	4,000,000	Poor quality doors installed

In the circumstances, value for money for the expenditure of Kshs.5,000,000 incurred on the projects may not have been realized.

2. Irregular Procurement Process for Works

The statement of receipts and payments and as disclosed in Note 6 to the financial statements showed total transfers to other Government entities of Kshs.90,250,000. Included in the amount is Kshs.52,050,000 and Kshs.38,200,000 in respect to transfers to primary and secondary schools respectively. Scrutiny of the project files revealed that there were no professional opinions supporting the successful contracts or bids contrary to Section 84(1) of the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015 (Revised Edition 2022) which states that The head of procurement function of a procuring entity shall, alongside the report to the evaluation committee as secretariat comments, review the tender evaluation report and provide a signed professional opinion to the accounting officer on the procurement or asset disposal proceedings.

In the circumstances, the Management was in breach of the law.

3. Delay in Project Implementation

Review of the project implementation status report revealed that the Fund had ninety-eight (98) projects allocated Kshs.137,088,879. However, the project implementation status as at 30 September, 2022 indicated the only sixty-nine (69) projects worth Kshs.94,450,879 had been completed and put to use while a total of twenty-nine (29) projects amounting to Kshs.42,637,999 were still on-going and at various completion levels.

In the circumstances, value for money spent on the on-going projects of Kshs.42,637,999 could not be confirmed.

4. Idle Funds in Project Management Committee Accounts

The statement of assets and liabilities as disclosed in Note 17.4 to the financial statements reflects Project Management Committee (PMC) account balances amounting to Kshs.44,059,483. However, analysis of the transactions revealed that there were balances amounting to Kshs.1,217,445 that had remained idle since the financial year 2020/2021 in the various PMC bank accounts contrary to Section 12(8) of the National Government Constituencies Development Fund Act, 2015 which requires that all unutilized funds of the Project Management Committees be returned to the Constituency account.

In the circumstances, Management was in breach of the law.

The audit was conducted in accordance with ISSAI 4000. The standard requires that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain assurance about whether the activities, financial transactions and information reflected in the financial statements are in compliance, in all material respects, with the authorities that govern them. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my conclusion.

REPORT ON EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROLS, RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

Conclusion

As required by Section 7(1)(a) of the Public Audit Act, 2015, based on the audit procedures performed, I confirm that, nothing has come to my attention to cause me to believe that internal controls, risk management and overall governance were not effective.

Basis for Conclusion

The audit was conducted in accordance with ISSAI 2315 and ISSAI 2330. The standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain assurance about whether effective processes and systems of internal controls, risk management and overall governance were operating effectively, in all material respects. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my conclusion.

Responsibilities of Management and those Charged with Governance

Report of the Auditor-General on National Government Constituencies Development Fund - Kitui West Constituency for the year ended 30 June, 2022

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (Cash Basis) and for maintaining effective internal controls as Management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal controls, risk management and overall governance.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue to sustain services, disclosing as applicable, matters related to sustainability of services and using the applicable basis of accounting unless Management is aware of the intention to terminate the Fund or to cease operations.

Management is also responsible for the submission of the financial statements to the Auditor-General in accordance with the provisions of Section 47 of the Public Audit Act, 2015.

In addition to the responsibility for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements described above, Management is also responsible for ensuring that the activities, financial transactions and information reflected in the financial statements are in compliance with the authorities which govern them and that public resources are applied in an effective way.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Fund's financial reporting process, reviewing the effectiveness of how Management monitors compliance with relevant legislative and regulatory requirements, ensuring that effective processes and systems are in place to address key roles and responsibilities in relation to governance and risk management and ensuring the adequacy and effectiveness of the control environment.

Auditor-General's Responsibilities for the Audit

The audit objectives are 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 in accordance with the provisions of Section 48 of the Public Audit Act, 2015 and submit the audit report in compliance with Article 229(7) of the Constitution. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISSAIs will always detect a material misstatement and weakness 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.

In addition to the audit of the financial statements, a compliance audit is planned and performed to express a conclusion about whether, in all material respects, the activities, financial transactions and information reflected in the financial statements are in compliance with the authorities that govern them and that public resources are applied in an effective way, in accordance with the provisions of Article 229(6) of the Constitution and submit the audit report in compliance with Article 229(7) of the Constitution.

Further, in planning and performing the audit of the financial statements and audit of compliance, I consider internal controls in order to give an assurance on the effectiveness of internal controls, risk management and governance processes and systems in accordance with the provisions of Section 7(1)(a) of the Public Audit Act, 2015 and submit the audit report in compliance with Article 229(7) of the Constitution. My consideration of the internal controls would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal controls that might be material weaknesses under the ISSAIs. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal controls components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements caused by error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal controls may not prevent or detect misstatements and instances of non-compliance. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the Fund's policies and procedures may deteriorate.

As part of an audit conducted in accordance with ISSAIs, I exercise professional judgement 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 controls.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Management's use of the applicable basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue to sustain its services. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in the auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my audit report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fund to cease to continue to sustain its services.
- 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.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information and business activities of the Fund to express an opinion on the financial statements.
- Perform such other procedures as I consider necessary in the circumstances.

I communicate with the Management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal controls that are identified during the audit.

I also provide Management with a statement that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on my independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.



CPA Nancy Gathungu, CBS
AUDITOR-GENERAL

Nairobi

04 July, 2023