

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON ASSETS RECOVERY AGENCY FOR THE FOURTEEN (14) MONTHS' PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Assets Recovery Agency set out on pages 8 to 23 which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018, and the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets, statement of cash flows and statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts for the period 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 knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of the audit.

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, the financial position of Assets Recovery Agency as at 30 June 2018, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the fourteen (14) months' period then ended, in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (Accrual Basis) and comply with Public Finance Management Act, 2012 and the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering (Amendment) Act, 2017.

Basis for Opinion

The audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). I am independent of Assets Recovery Agency management in accordance with ISSAI 30 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 audit 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

Budget and Budgetary Control

During the period under review, the Agency's actual receipts amounted to Kshs.357,048,000 against budgeted receipts of Kshs.336,970,000 resulting in a revenue surplus of Kshs.20,078,000. The bulk of the revenue surplus was from grants and subsidies which had actual collection of Kshs.357,000,000 against budgeted receipts of Kshs.336,970,000 resulting in a surplus of 20,030,000. Further, the Agency's actual expenditure for the year amounted to Kshs.128,169,135 against budgeted expenditure of Kshs.336,970,000 resulting in an overall under absorption of Kshs.208,800,865. It is therefore clear that the Agency did not fully achieve its budget objectives which adversely affected delivery of the intended services to the public. Therefore, there is need for the Agency to review its budget making process with a view to coming up with a vibrant budget implementation follow up mechanism and feedback process with a view to ensuring that all projects and activities are implemented as planned for the Agency to meet its mission and objectives for the benefits of the Citizens of Kenya.

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 matter 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

Confidential Expenditure

Note 9 to the financial statements reflects confidential expenditure on covert operations totalling to Kshs.2,400,000 for the fourteen months' period ended 30 June 2018. However, payment certificates and declaration of the expenditure by the Cabinet Secretary responsible and the Accounting Officer were not availed for audit verification. This is contrary to Section 93(18) of the Public Finance Management Act, 2015 which require that any special imprest utilized for any expenditure on services of a confidential nature, the purpose and the particulars of which cannot be made public, shall be supported by a certificate that money has been paid, and a declaration by the Cabinet Secretary responsible for the National Government entity and the relevant Accounting Officer that they have satisfied themselves that the money has been properly expended, and has not been used to supplement the emoluments of any officer.

Management was therefore 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 SYSTEMS AND GOVERNANCE

Conclusion

As required by Section 7 (1) (a) of the Public Audit Act, 2015, based on the audit procedures performed, except for the matter discussed in the Basis for Conclusion on Internal Controls, Risk Management and Governance section of my report, I confirm that, nothing else has come to my attention to cause me to believe that internal controls, risk management and overall governance were not effective.

Basis for Conclusion

Seized and Preserved Assets

The report of the directors at page 5 of the annual report indicates that the Agency through the Multi Agency Team (MAT) initiated several investigations and successfully identified, traced, seized and preserved assets worth Kshs.1.1 billion from proceeds of crime. However, management did not avail a register of the seized and preserved assets for audit verification.

In the circumstances, the value and status of the seized and preserved assets as at 30 June 2018 could not be confirmed.

The audit was conducted in accordance with ISSAI 1315 and ISSAI 1330. The standards requires that I plan and perform the audit to obtain assurance about whether effective processes and systems of internal control, risk management and 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

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (Accrual Basis) and for maintaining effective internal control 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 control, risk management and governance.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Agency's ability to continue to sustain services, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to sustainability of services and using the applicable basis of accounting unless the management either intends to liquidate the Agency or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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 financial reporting process, reviewing the effectiveness of how the entity 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 control 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 control would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control 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 control 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 control 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 policies and procedures may deteriorate.

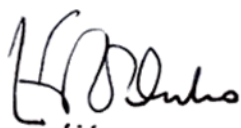
As part of an audit conducted in accordance with ISSAIs, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- 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 control.
- 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 going concern 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 Agency'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 Agency 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 Agency's 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 control 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.



FCPA Edward R. O. Ouko, CBS
AUDITOR-GENERAL

Nairobi

17 April 2019