

# **REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF KENYA - UNIVERSAL SERVICES FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018**

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## **REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Qualified Opinion**

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Communications Authority of Kenya-Universal Services Fund set out on pages 1 to 24, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018, and the statement of financial performance, statement of cash flows and statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts 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 the Communications Authority of Kenya-Universal Service Fund as at 30 June 2018, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (Accrual Basis) and comply with the Public Finance Management Act, 2012.

### **Basis for Qualified Opinion**

#### **1. Education Broadband Connectivity Project**

Information available for audit and as indicated in the Chairman's Statement on the Financial Statements the Fund was implementing the above project in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology at a total cost of Kshs.828,370,376. However the following anomalies were noted in the implementation of the project;

- i) There was no signed agreement between the Fund and the Ministry that was provided for audit examination and therefore the implementation framework was not clear. The document submitted and alleged to support the cooperation was neither signed nor dated by any of the parties.
- ii) The Fund entered into three contracts with suppliers to support the implementation of the Education Broadband Connectivity project on 21 April 2017. The contracts had an implementation timeline of nine months and subsequent support period of four years after the implementation but the implementation had not been completed as at the time of audit in May 2019 which is in excess of two years. No evidence of contract extension was provided to validate the continued implementation of the project for over one year outside the contracted implementation timelines.
- iii) Although the contract had a specific payment schedule with 50% (Kshs.196,617,702) of implementation fee being payable after six months after the signing of the contract and the other 50% (Kshs.196,217,702) being payable after nine months after the signing of the contract. No expenditure has been accrued and reflected in the financial statements.

Consequently, the accuracy of the project costs of Kshs.124,535,000 as reflected on the statement of financial performance for the year ended 30 June 2018 could not be confirmed.

## REPORT ON LAWFULNESS AND EFFECTIVE IN USE OF PUBLIC RESOURCES

As required by Article 229(6) of the Constitution, based on the audit procedures performed, except for the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion 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.

## REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROLS EFFECTIVENESS, GOVERNANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

As required by Section 7 (1) (a) of the Public Audit Act, 2015, based on the audit procedures performed, except for the matters described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of my report, 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.

### **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 (Cash 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 ability to continue as a going concern/ 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 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 judgment 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 ability to continue as a going concern or 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 to cease to continue as a going concern or 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 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**

**22 May 2019**