

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON NURSING COUNCIL OF KENYA FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Qualified Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Nursing Council of Kenya set out on pages 1 to 19, 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 statements 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 Nursing Council of Kenya 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 Nurses Act, Cap 257 of the Laws of Kenya.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

Board Expenses

Note 11 to the financial statements reflects board expenses of Kshs.15,167,537 which includes sitting allowance of Kshs.5,159,690 out of which Kshs.1,008,000 was paid to twenty three (23) individuals who were not board members contrary to Section 10 of the State Corporations Act Cap 446, which state that the chairman and members of a board other than the chief executive officer shall be paid out of the funds of the state corporation such sitting allowances or other remuneration as the board may within the scales of remuneration specified from time to time by the committee approve. Although management explained that the twenty-three individuals were co-opted to the board to enhance board's effectiveness and performance, no approval of appointment from the parent ministry was availed for audit verification. In addition, the total board expenditure of Kshs.15,167,537 exceeded the final budget figure of Kshs.14,000,000 leading to unapproved excess expenditure of Kshs.1,167,537.

Consequently, the validity of sitting allowances paid to non-board members of Kshs.1,008,000 and excess expenditure of Kshs.1,167,537 could not be confirmed for the year ended 30 June 2018.

The audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). I am Independent of Nursing Council of Kenya in accordance with ISSAIs 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 qualified opinion.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in my professional judgement, are of most significance in the audit of the financial statements. Except for the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section on my report, I have determined that there are no other key audit matters to communicate in my report.

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 and Qualified Opinion sections 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

Staff Costs

The statement of financial performance reflects staff costs of Kshs.56,912,361 for the year ended 30 June 2018, for which approved staff salary structure by the Salaries and Remuneration Commission was not availed for audit review. This is contrary to Article 230(4) of the Constitution which empowers the Salaries and Remuneration Commission to (a) set and regularly review the remuneration and benefits of all state officers and (b) advise the national and county government on the remuneration and benefits of all public officers. Consequently, the Council 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, except for the matters discussed in the Basis for Qualified Opinion and Conclusion on Lawfulness and Effectiveness in Use of Public Resources sections 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.

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 Council's 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 Council 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 Council's revenue 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 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 review 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 Council'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 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 Council'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 Council to cease to continue to sustain its services.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the revenue 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 Council 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

27 February 2019