

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY CORPORATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2019

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Qualified Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation set out on pages 44 to 73, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June, 2019, and the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets, statement of cash flows and the 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 effect 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 Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation as at 30 June, 2019, 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 and the Energy Act, 2019.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

Property Plant and Equipment - Work-In-Progress

As disclosed in Note 17 to the financial statements, the statement of financial position reflects a balance of Kshs.86,269,267,000 under property, plant and equipment. Included in the balance was work-in-progress amounting to Kshs.9,445,589,000 which, as previously reported, included a transitional account balance of Kshs.786,287,175. According to Management, the balance related to projects which were in progress at the end of the financial year and the reconciliation of the transitional account was ongoing.

Under the circumstances, it has not been possible to confirm whether the work-in-progress balance of Kshs.9,445,589,000 was fairly stated.

The audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). I am independent of the Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy Corporation 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.

Emphasis of Matter

Unrecovered Duty Paid to KRA on Behalf of Vendor

As previously reported, the Corporation in the financial year 2014/2015 paid duty amounting to Kshs.31,894,000 to the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) on behalf of one of its vendors. Available information indicated that the payment was intended to preempt a KRA agency notice on the Corporation's bank account. However, in spite of the Corporation pursuing the vendor in court for recovery of the outstanding amount, the amount was yet to be recovered. Although Management has made a full provision for the outstanding amount in the financial statements, recoverability of the amount is doubtful.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters which, in my professional judgement, are of most significance in the audit of the financial statements. I have determined that there are no 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 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. Procurement of Distribution Transformers

As previously reported, the Authority procured 200 transformers at a cost of USD503,966 (Kshs.54,428,328) from a Tanzanian Company through the direct method of procurement. Management explained that the procurement was urgent, outside its work plan and unforeseen. It was therefore, in line with Section 103(2) (b) of the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Act, 2015 which provides for direct procurement when there is an urgent need for the goods, works or services, and engaging in tendering proceedings or any other method of procurement would be impractical. However, the direct procurement of the transformers was not an emergency in nature but arose from inadequate planning on the part of Management.

In the circumstances the competitiveness of the procurement and value for money on the expenditure on the transformers was doubtful.

2. Enterprise Resource Planning Overhaul

Audit revealed that Management had initiated plans to overhaul the Corporation's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system at a budgeted cost of Kshs.200,000,000. However, the system whose overhaul was underway had not been put into optimal utilization with some of the modules yet to be activated. The system, for instance, had a comprehensive Human Resources module, yet the Corporation's payroll was processed manually. According to Management, the related mainstream vendor support for the system will lapse in December, 2025.

In the circumstances, the planned overhaul of the system at a cost of Kshs.200,000,000 and four years before the lapse of vendor support, may not be justified.

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 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 which are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or

error and for assessment of the effectiveness of the internal control, risk management and overall governance.

In preparing the financial statements, Management is responsible for assessing the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless Management is aware of intention to terminate the Corporation 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 Corporation's financial reporting process, reviewing the effectiveness of Management's systems for monitoring 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 which 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 review is planned and performed to express a conclusion on whether, in all material respects, 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, 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 which 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 which 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 Corporation'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 which 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 which may cast significant doubt on the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern. 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 Corporation to cease to continue as a going concern.

- 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 which achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information and business activities of the Corporation 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 which are identified during the audit.

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



Nancy Gathungu
AUDITOR-GENERAL

Nairobi

09 July, 2021