

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON WATER SERVICES REGULATORY BOARD FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Water Services Regulatory Board set out on pages 1 to18, 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 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, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Water Services Regulatory Board as at 30 June 2018, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (Accrual Basis) and comply with the Water Act, 2016.

Basis for Opinion

The audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). I am independent of Water Services Regulatory Board 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 audit of financial statements in Kenya. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my 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 Matters

1. Long Outstanding Receivables

The receivables balance as at 30 June 2018 reflects Kshs.158,922,384 which is net of provision for bad and doubtful debts of Kshs.69,762,460 as disclosed in note 12 in the financial statements. Included in these receivables are trade receivables of Kshs.226,579,056, owed by various firms, companies and counties. These trade receivables further include Kshs.117,617,262 (51.9%) which has been outstanding for periods of more than one year. Efforts made by management to collect these debts which increased by Kshs.54,559,987 (32 %) during the year under review, have not yielded any meaningful results. These outstanding receivables are significant relative to the Board's annual revenue,

and may negatively affect the financing of the operations of the Board, in the event that they are not recovered.

2. Un-budgeted Funds

During the year under review, the Board received donor funds amounting to Kshs.15,501,600 which were utilized during the year. However, these funds were not included in the final approved budget of the Board. In addition, there was no evidence that the Cabinet Secretary, National Treasury was informed of such budgetary changes as required under Section 47 (1) of the Public Finance Regulations 2015. In the absence of inclusion of the above funds in the Board's final approved budget, it has not been possible to confirm that the funds were utilized for approved and authorized purposes.

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, I confirm that, nothing 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

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 on whether the activities, financial transactions and information reflected in the financial statements are in compliance, in all material respects, with the authorities which govern them. I believe that the 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 governance, were not effective.

Basis for Conclusion

The audit was conducted in accordance to ISSAI 1315 and 1330. The standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain assurance on whether effective processes and systems of internal control, risk management and governance, were operating effectively, in

all material respects. I believe that the 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 governance.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Board'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 the management is either aware of any intention to cease operations of the Board, 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 Board'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 Board'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 Board'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 Board 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 Board 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.



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

Nairobi

8 September 2021