

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CONSTITUENCIES DEVELOPMENT FUND - UGENYA CONSTITUENCY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2020

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Qualified Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of National Government Constituencies Development Fund - Ugenya Constituency set out on pages 18 to 55, which comprise of the statement of assets and liabilities as at 30 June, 2020, statement of receipts and payments, statement of cashflow and the summary statement of appropriation - recurrent and development combined 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 National Government Constituencies Development Fund - Ugenya Constituency as at 30 June, 2020, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (Cash Basis) and comply with the National Government Constituencies Development Fund Act, 2015 and the Public Finance Management Act, 2012.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

1. Inaccuracies in the Statement of Receipts and Payments

The statement of receipts and payments reflects opening balances on use of goods and services amounting to Kshs.17,163,734 and on other payments, nil balance. However, the balances reflected in the audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June, 2019 were use of goods and services amounting to Kshs.19,023,012 and other payments amounting to Kshs.2,338,514 all totalling to Kshs.21,361,526 resulting to an unreconciled variance amounting to Kshs.4,197,792.

Consequently, the accuracy, completeness and validity of opening balances for use of goods and services and other payments for the year ended 30 June, 2020 could not be confirmed.

2. Inaccuracies in the Statement of Cashflow

The statement of receipts and payments reflects a deficit amount of Kshs.17,012,280 whereas the statement of cashflow reflects a net increase in cash and cash equivalent amount of Kshs.(17,695,404) resulting to an unreconciled variance amounting to Kshs.683,134.

Consequently, the accuracy, completeness and validity of balances in the statement of cashflow for the year ended 30 June, 2020 could not be confirmed.

3. Inaccuracies in Bank Balances

As disclosed in Note 10A to the financial statements, the statement of assets and liabilities and reflects bank balances totalling to Kshs.5,025,551. However, the balances exclude stale cheques amounting to Kshs.625,000 relating mainly to bursary payments to various institutions of learning with some dating back to the year 2018. However, the cheques had not been reversed in the cash book as at the time of the audit during the month of March, 2021.

Further, the balance is net of unsupported cash withdrawals amounting to Kshs.24,766,801. However, no explanation was provided for the cash withdrawals instead of making payments directly to the Project Management Committee bank accounts.

Consequently, the accuracy, completeness and validity of bank balances totalling to Kshs.5,025,551 reflected in the statement of assets and liabilities as at 30 June, 2020 could not be confirmed.

4. Unsupported Transfers to Other Government Units

As disclosed in Notes 6 of the financial statements, the statement of receipts and payments reflects transfers to other Government Entities amounting to Kshs.60,197,331. The balance includes an amount of Kshs.4,500,000 paid to Ugenya Forestry College and an amount of Kshs.2,027,000 paid to Ugenya School of Agriculture all totalling to Kshs.6,527,000. However, expenditure returns and reports from the Project Management Committee and certificates from Ministry of Public Works were not provided.

Further, the project in Ugenya School of Agriculture was being implemented by the Constituency Development Fund Committee office and not through a Project Management Committee.

Consequently, the accuracy, completeness and validity of the expenditure totalling to Kshs.6,527,000 for the year ended 30 June, 2020 could not be confirmed.

The audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). I am independent of the National Government Constituencies Development Fund - Ugenya Constituency 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.

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. Budgetary Control and Performance

The summary statement of appropriation - recurrent and development combined reflects final receipts budget and actual on comparable basis totalling to Kshs.213,992,832 and Kshs.144,625,107 respectively, resulting to an under-funding amounting to Kshs.69,367,726 or 32% of the budget. Similarly, the statement reflects final expenditure budget and actual on comparable basis totalling to Kshs.213,992,832 and Kshs.138,916,432 respectively, resulting to an under expenditure amounting to Kshs.75,076,400 or 35% of the budget. The reason given for the revenue shortfall was because of the effect of Covid-19 since the Government only released 65% of total allocation.

The underfunding and underperformance affected the planned activities and may have impacted negatively on service delivery to the public.

2. Unresolved Prior Year Matters

In the audit report of the previous year, several issues were raised. However, the Management has indicated the issues as unresolved contrary to the provisions of the Public Sector Accounting Standards Board templates and The National Treasury's Circular.

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 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 overall 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 (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 overall governance.

In preparing the financial statements, Management is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue to sustain its services, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to sustainability of services and using the applicable basis of accounting unless Management is aware of the intention to terminate the Fund 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 financial reporting process, reviewing the effectiveness of how the Fund 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 overall 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 overall 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 applicable 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 Fund'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 Fund 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 Fund 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.



Nancy Gathungu
AUDITOR-GENERAL

Nairobi

15 November, 2021