

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CONSTITUENCIES DEVELOPMENT FUND – IJARA 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 - Ijara Constituency set out on pages 12 to 43, which comprise the statement of assets and liabilities as at 30 June, 2020 and the statement of receipts and payments, statement of cash flows 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 - Ijara Constituency as at 30 June, 2020 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with 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. Unsupported Disbursements to Secondary Schools and Tertiary Institutions

The statement of receipts and payments reflects other grants and transfers of Kshs.56,293,620 which as disclosed at Note 5 to the financial statements, included Kshs.35,095,500 being bursary to needy students disbursed to various secondary schools and tertiary institutions. However, bursary disbursements amounting to Kshs.8,460,000 were not supported with official receipts or acknowledgement letters from the recipient institutions.

Consequently, the accuracy and propriety of the bursary disbursements of Kshs.8,460,000 could not be confirmed.

2. Disclosure of Project Management Committees Bank Balances

Note 11 and Annex 5 to the financial statements reflect Kshs.5,143 being the balance held in two (2) bank accounts for project management committees (PMC). However, balances held in seventeen (17) PMC bank accounts as at 30 June, 2020 were not disclosed. In addition, bank statements and certificates of bank balances for the bank accounts were not disclosed.

Consequently, the accuracy of the reported PMC bank balances could not be confirmed.

3. Lack of Authority to Incur Expenditure

The statement of receipts and payments and Note 1 to the financial statements, reflect transfers from the Board totalling Kshs.190,208,600. However, Authority to Incur Expenditure (AIEs) for receipts totalling to Kshs.83,040,875 were not provided for audit contrary to Regulation 52 (1) of Public Finance Management (Regulations, 2015 which provides that no public officers can spend or commit funds until he or she has been properly authorized by means of an AIE to do so.

4. Lack of Assets Register

Annex 4 to the financial statements reflects a balance of Kshs.22,146,874 being the historical cost of fixed assets as at 30 June, 2020. However, the fixed assets register maintained in accordance with Regulation 143 of Public Finance Management (National Government) Regulations, 2015 was not provided.

In the circumstances, the completeness and accuracy of the historical cost of Kshs.22,146,874 for assets could not be ascertained.

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

1. Budgetary Control and Performance

The summary statement of appropriation-recurrent and development reflects a final expenditure budget and actual expenditure on comparable basis of Kshs.201,032,214 and Kshs.126,644,594 respectively resulting to an under-expenditure of Kshs.74,387,620 or 37% of the budget.

Based on the approved estimates, under-expenditure affected the planned activities and may have impacted negatively on service delivery to the constituents of Ijara.

2. Unresolved Prior Year Audit Matters

As disclosed under the progress on follow up of auditor recommendations section of the financial statements, some of the prior year audit issues remained unresolved as at 30 June, 2020. Management has not provided satisfactory reasons for the delay in resolving the issues.

REPORT ON LAWFULNESS AND EFFECTIVENESS IN USE OF PUBLIC RESOURCES

Conclusion

As required by Article 229(6) of the Constitution, except for the matters described in the Basis for Conclusion on Lawfulness and Effectiveness in the Use of Public Resources section of my report, based on the audit procedures performed, 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

Delayed Implementation of Projects

The project implementation status report provided for audit indicated that the Fund had planned to implement forty (40) projects with a total budget of Kshs.125,154,629 during the year under review. However, as at the time of the audit, in March, 2021 eleven (11) projects were still on-going and three (3) projects had not started.

Failure to complete projects within the stipulated period may have negatively affected service delivery to the constituents.

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 described in the Basis for Conclusion on Effectiveness of Internal Controls, Risk Management and Governance section 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.

Basis for Conclusion

Constituency Oversight Committee

During the year under review, Management had not appointed a Constituency Oversight Committee, Contrary to Section 53(1) of the National Government Constituencies Development Fund Act, 2015 which provides for establishment of Constituency Oversight Committees for every National Government Constituencies Development Fund.

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 (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 Fund's ability to sustain services, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to the 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 Fund's 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 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 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 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 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.



CPA Nancy Gathungu, CBS
AUDITOR-GENERAL

Nairobi

15 February, 2022