REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

Enhancing Accountability

REPORT

OF

THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

ON

ANTI-COUNTERFEIT AUTHORITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2024

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

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REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON ANTI-COUNTERFEIT AUTHORITY OR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2024

PREAMBLE

I draw your attention to the contents of my report which is in three parts:

A. Report on Financial Statements that considers whether the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework, accounting standards and the relevant laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the financial statements.

B. Report on Lawfulness and Effectiveness in the Use of Public Resources which considers compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policies, gazette notices, circulars, guidelines and manuals and whether public resources are applied in a prudent, efficient, economic, transparent and accountable manner to ensure the Government achieves value for money and that such funds are applied for the intended purpose.

C. Report on Effectiveness of Internal Controls, Risk Management and Governance which considers how the entity has instituted checks and balances to guide internal operations. This responds to the effectiveness of the governance structure, risk management environment and internal controls, developed and implemented by those charged with governance for orderly, efficient and effective operations of the entity.

An Unmodified Opinion is issued when the Auditor-General concludes that the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. The Report on Financial Statements should be read together with the Report on Lawfulness and Effectiveness in the Use of Public Resources, and the Report on Effectiveness of Internal Controls, Risk Management, and Governance.

The three parts of the report aim to address the Auditor-General's statutory roles and responsibilities as provided by Article 229 of the Constitution, the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, and the Public Audit Act, 2015. The three parts of the report when read together constitute the report of the Auditor-General.

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Anti-Counterfeit Authority set out on pages 1 to 40, which comprise of the statement of financial position as at 30 June, 2024 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 Anti-Counterfeit Authority as at 30 June, 2024 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 Anti Counterfeit Act, 2008 and the Public Finance Management Act, 2012.

Basis for Opinion

The audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards for Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). I am independent of Anti-Counterfeit Authority Management in accordance with ISSAI 130 on the 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 opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

1. Contingent Liability

Note 24 to the financial statements reflects contingent liability balance of Kshs.765,150,004. As previously reported, there were pending legal proceedings against the Authority that may, if successful, have significant impact on its operations. This includes nine (9) civil cases with a contingent liability of Kshs.98,624,784 which had adverse rulings but the Authority appealed against the ruling. Further, there is a case where an accused person was charged with possession of counterfeit electric bulbs and accessories but was acquitted of the charges in a Court of Law in 2015. However, the accused person and others instituted a civil case at Milimani Law Courts in 2016 seeking for special damages of Kshs.603,500,000 against the Authority for unlawful arrest, malicious prosecution and destruction of property. Although, the Authority released part of the goods seized to the accused persons in July 2015, they complained that the remaining goods had been destroyed and they could not take destroyed or damaged goods.

In the circumstances, the financial effect of the outcomes of the pending legal proceedings against the Authority could not be determined.

2. Budgetary Control and Performance

The statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts reflects final income budget and actual on comparable basis of Kshs.485,100,000 and Kshs.594,055,338 respectively, resulting to an over-funding of Kshs.108,955,338 or 23% of the budget. However, the Agency spent Kshs.598,045,533 against actual receipts of Kshs.594,055,338 resulting to an under-utilization of Kshs.3,990,195 of actual receipts.

In the circumstances, the over-funding and under-utilization of expenditure affected the planned activities and may have impacted negatively on service delivery to the public.

My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

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. There were no key audit matters to report in the year under review.

Other Information

The Directors are responsible for the other information set out on page v to li which comprise of Key Entity Information and Management, The Board of Directors, Key Management Team, Chairman's Statement, Report of the Chief Executive Officer, Statement of Performance Against Predetermined Objectives, Corporate Governance Statement, Management Discussion and Analysis, Environmental and Sustainability Reporting, Report of the Directors and the Statement of Directors Responsibilities. The Other Information does not include the financial statements and my audit report thereon.

In connection with my audit on the Authority's financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this Other Information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

REPORT ON LAWFULNESS AND EFFECTIVENESS IN THE USE OF PUBLIC RESOURCES

Conclusion

As required by Article 229(6) of the Constitution, based on the audit procedures performed, except for the effect of the matters described in the Basis for Conclusion on Lawfulness and Effectiveness in the 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. Human Resource Management Practices

1.1 Low Staffing Levels

Review of payroll records provided for audit revealed that the Authority has a total of one hundred and eleven (111) members of staff against an approved establishment of two hundred and fifty (250), resulting in staffing shortfall of one hundred and thirty-nine (139) in various levels.

In the circumstances, the employees may be overstretched leading to poor service delivery that may negatively impact on the realization of the Authority's goals.

1.2 Under-Representation of Persons Living with Disability

Analysis of the staff bio data revealed that the Authority has one hundred and eleven (111) employees, among whom 1 is person living with disability. This group represents approximately 1% of the workforce. This was contrary to Article 54(2) of the Constitution which requires that at least 5% of members in elective and appointive bodies be persons with disabilities.

In the circumstances, the Management is in breach of the law.

The audit was conducted in accordance with ISSAI 3000 and 4000. The standards require 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 comply 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 governance were not effective.

Basis for Conclusion

The audit was conducted in accordance with ISSAI 2315 and 2330. The standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain assurance about whether effective processes and systems of internal controls, 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 the Management and the Board of Directors

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance International Public Sector Accounting Standards (Accrual Basis) and for maintaining effective internal controls 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 controls, risk management and governance.

In preparing the financial statements, Management is responsible for assessing the Authority'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 the intention 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 comply with the authorities which govern them and that public resources are applied in an effective way.

The Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing Authority's financial reporting process, reviewing the effectiveness of how Management 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

My responsibility is to conduct an audit of the financial statements in accordance with Article 229(4) of the Constitution, Section 35 of the Public Audit Act, 2015 and the International Standards for Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). The standards require that, in conducting the audit, I obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion in accordance with Section 48 of the Public Audit Act, 2015. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with IFPP will always detect a material misstatement 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 conducting the audit, Article 229(6) of the Constitution also requires that I express a conclusion on whether or not 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 addition, I consider the entity's control environment 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.

Further, I am required to submit the audit report in accordance with Article 229(7) of the Constitution.

Detailed description of my responsibilities for the audit is located at the Office of the Auditor-General's website at: https://www.oagkenya.go.ke/auditor-generals-responsibilities-for-audit/. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

FCPA Nancy Gathungu, CBS
AUDITOR-GENERAL

Nairobi

30 December, 2024