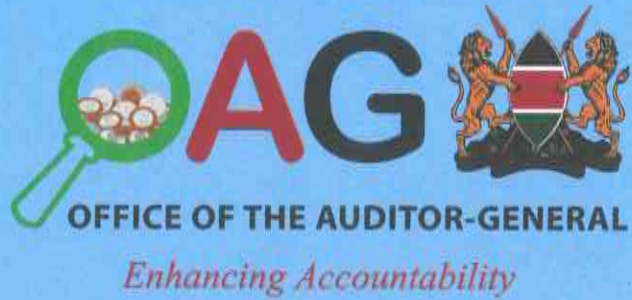


REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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REPORT

OF

THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

ON

FINANCIAL REPORTING CENTRE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE, 2024

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

Telephone: +254-(20) 3214000
Email: info@oagkenya.go.ke
Website: www.oagkenya.go.ke



HEADQUARTERS
Anniversary Towers
Monrovia Street
P.O Box 30084-00100
NAIROBI

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON FINANCIAL REPORTING CENTRE FOR 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 Financial Reporting Centre set out on pages 1 to 20 which comprise of the statement of financial position as at

30 June, 2024 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 the Financial Reporting Centre 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 Public Finance Management Act, 2012 and the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2009.

Basis for Opinion

The audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). I am independent of the Financial Reporting Centre 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

Title Deed for the Centre's Property not yet Registered

As previously reported, the statement of financial position reflects a net book value of Kshs.231,846,509 in respect of property, plant and equipment which, as disclosed in Note 12 to the financial statements, includes a balance of Kshs.121,160,000 in respect of land and building meant for the Director General's residential house. However, as at the time of audit in November, 2024, the Centre had not received the title deed for the land. Management indicated that the delay was caused by delay in registering the Centre in the Ardhisasa System which is the official online platform developed by the State Department for Lands and Physical Planning and the National Land Commission to facilitate online lodgment of applications for various services offered by the State Department and the Commission. The Centre may not be able to safeguard its assets in the absence of a title deed.

My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

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

Management is responsible for the Other Information set out on page ii to xxvii which comprise of Key Entity Information and Management, Report of the Chief Executive Officer, Corporate Governance Statement, Management Discussion and Analysis, Report of Anti-Money Laundering Advisory Board and Statement of Anti-Money Laundering Advisory Board Members Responsibilities. The Other Information does not include the financial statements and my audit report thereon.

In connection with my audit on Financial Reporting Centre'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.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the Other Information and, accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

REPORT ON LAWFULNESS AND EFFECTIVENESS IN THE USE OF PUBLIC RESOURCES

Conclusion

As required by Article 229(6) of the Constitution and based on the audit procedures performed, except for the effects of the matter described in the Basis for Conclusion, 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

Un-approved Budget Over -Expenditure

As previously reported, the statement of comparison of budget and actual amounts reflects final expenditure budget and actual expenditure of Kshs.829,310,780 and Kshs.868,214,617 respectively, resulting in an over-expenditure of Kshs.38,903,837 or 5% of the budget without approval contrary to Regulation 54(1) of the Public Finance Management (National Government) Regulations, 2015 which states that except as provided for in the Act and these Regulations, an Accounting Officer of an entity may not authorize payment to be made out of funds earmarked for specific activities other than those activities.

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

The audit was conducted in accordance with ISSAI 3000 and ISSAI 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, except for the effects of the matter 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 governance were not effective.

Basis for Conclusion

Lack of an Approved Internal Audit Charter

During the year under review, the Centre did not have in place an approved Internal Audit Charter to guide the activities and operations of the Internal Audit Unit. Management has however indicated that a draft internal audit charter has been prepared and is expected to be presented for board approval in January, 2025.

In the circumstances, effectiveness of the internal audit unit in providing assurance on the activities and operations of the Centre could not be confirmed.

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 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 Management and the Advisory Board

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 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 Centre's ability to continue to sustain its services, 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 Centre or 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 Advisory Board is responsible for overseeing the Centre'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 ISSAIs 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

24 December, 2024