REPUBLIC OF KENYA

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

Enhancing Accountability

REPORT

OF

THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

ON

KENYA HEALTH PROFESSIONS OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2024

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON KENYA HEALTH PROFESSIONS OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY 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; and,

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 Kenya Health Professions Oversight Authority set out on pages 1 to 26, 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 Kenya Health Professions Oversight 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 Part VI, Section 45(1) of the Health Act, 2017 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 the Kenya Health Professions Oversight 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

Budgetary Control and Performance

The statement of budget and actual amounts reflects actual on a comparable basis income of Kshs.67,635,292 against actual expenditure of Kshs.52,293,481 resulting to under expenditure of Kshs.15,341,811 or 23% of budget.

The under expenditure may have affected the planned activities which would impact negatively on service delivery to the public.

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

The Management is responsible for the other information set out on page iv to xxviii which comprise of Key Authority 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 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 on 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. Non-Submission of Financial Statements

During the year under review, it was noted that the Authority was operationalized in May 2019. However, Management did not prepare and submit for audit financial statements for financial years 2020/2021, 2021/2022 and 2022/2023. This was contrary to Section 81 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 which requires the Director of the Authority to prepare financial statements for each financial year in a form prescribed by the Accounting Standards Board.

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

2. Employees in Acting Capacity Beyond Stipulated Period

The statement of financial performance and as disclosed in Note 10 to the financial statements reflects employee costs of Kshs.2,575,700. Review of the human resources records revealed that seven (7) of the personnel in the management have been in acting capacity for more than two (2) years. This was contrary to Section 34(1) of Public Service Commission Act, 2017 which states that an officer may be appointed in an acting capacity for a period of at least thirty days but not exceeding a period of six months.

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 effect of 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 governance were not effective.

Basis for Conclusion

1. Inadequate Staffing Levels

During the year under review, the Authority had an approved staff establishment of eighty-nine (89) staff. However, only sixteen (16) were in post resulting to an understaffing of seventy-three (73) positions.

In the circumstances, the effectiveness of service delivery of the Authority could not be confirmed.

2. Weaknesses in Preparing Schedules and Reconciliations

The statement of financial performance and as disclosed in Note 8 to the financial statements reflects licenses and permits of Kshs.17,072,824. However, the schedules provided for audit did not reflect the dates of paying, the period, payment reference number, invoice number or receipt number. Further, the statement of financial position and as disclosed in Note 13 to the financial statements reflects cash and bank balances of Kshs.10,949,656. However, review of the bank reconciliations revealed that the names of preparers, dates and signatures of the authorizing staff were not indicated. In addition, monthly bank reconciliation statements were not submitted to the National Treasury and there was no evidence of carrying out board of survey.

In the circumstances, the internal controls on maintenance of licenses and permits schedules and preparing bank reconciliations 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 the Management and Board of Directors

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 Authority's ability to continue to sustain services disclosing, as applicable, matters related to sustainability of services and using the application 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 the 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 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