REPUBLIC OF KENYA

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

Enhancing Accountability

REPORT

OF

THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

ON

KENYA TRADE REMEDIES AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2024

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON KENYA TRADE REMEDIES AGENCY 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 the 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 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 Government achieves value for money and that such funds are applied for 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, the risk management environment, and the internal controls developed and implemented by those charged with governance for orderly, efficient and effective operations of the entity.

An unmodified opinion does not necessarily mean that an entity has complied with all relevant laws and regulations and that its internal controls, risk management and governance systems are properly designed and were working effectively in the financial year under review.

The three parts of the report are aimed at addressing the statutory roles and responsibilities of the Auditor-General 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 Trade Remedies Agency set out on pages 1 to 25, 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 period 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 Kenya Trade Remedies Agency as at 30 June, 2024, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the period then ended, in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (Accrual Basis) and comply with the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 and the Kenya Trade Remedies Act, 2017.

Basis for Opinion

The audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). I am independent of the Kenya Trade Remedies Agency 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 opinion.

Emphasis of Matter

Budgetary Control and Performance

The statement of comparison budget and actual amounts reflects actual revenue of Kshs.28,120,836 against the final budget of Kshs.28,120,836 equivalent to 100% funding. However, the Agency spent an amount of Kshs.19,032,700 against actual receipts of Kshs.28,120,836 resulting in an under-expenditure of Kshs.9,088,136 or 32% of actual receipts.

In the circumstances, the under-expenditure may have affected the planned activities of the Agency and may have impacted 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 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 Information

The Management are responsible for the other information set out on page iii to xxxiv which comprise of Key Entity Information and Management, The Board of Directors, Management Team, Chairman's Statement, Report of the Chief Executive Officer, Statement of Performance against Predetermined Objectives for FY 2023/2024,

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 Kenya Trade Remedies Agency'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. In my opinion, except for the matter described below, I confirm that the other information is not materially inconsistent with the financial statements.

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, except for the effects 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. Agency Operating without a Board of Directors

Review of records provided revealed that the term of the independent members of the Board of the Agency ended on 14 November, 2022, and the terms of the other alternate members also ended due to various reasons leaving only two (2) alternate members of the Board. Therefore, the two (2) members could not form a quorum to transact business for the Agency.

In the circumstances, the Agency was in breach of the Law.

2. Understaffing of the Agency

Review of the Agency's personnel records revealed that it has an approved establishment of fifty (50) members of staff. The Agency has only nine (9) staff members seconded from State Department for Trade who are inadequate for discharge the Agency's mandate. The service delivery to the public may not be effective.

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

The audit was conducted in accordance with ISSAI 3000 and ISSAI 4000. The standards 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 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 the 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 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 Agency's ability to sustain its services, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to sustainability of its services and using the applicable basis of accounting unless Management is aware of the intention to terminate the Agency 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.

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

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

23 December, 2024