REPUBLIC OF KENYA

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

Enhancing Accountability

REPORT

OF

THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

ON

MOMBASA INVESTMENT CORPORATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE, 2024

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL
Enhancing Accountability

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

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON MOMBASA INVESTMENT CORPORATION 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.

A Qualified Opinion is issued when the Auditor-General concludes that, except for material misstatements noted, 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 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

Qualified Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Mombasa Investment Corporation set out on pages 1 to 65, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June, 2024 and the statement of financial performance, statements of changes in net assets, statement of cashflows and the statements 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, 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 Mombasa Investment Corporation 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 Mombasa County Investment Corporation Act, 2019 and Public Finance Management Act, 2012.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

Unexplained Variance on Transfers from the County Executive

The statement of financial performance and Note 5 to the financial statements reflects transfers from the County Executive of Kshs.22,000,000. However, the financial statements of the County Government of Mombasa under other grants and transfers reflect transfers to the Corporation of Kshs.25,000,000. The variance of Kshs.3,000,000 was not explained or reconciled.

In the circumstances, the accuracy and completeness of the transfers from the County Executive of Kshs.22,000,000 could not be confirmed.

The audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards for Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). I am independent of the Mombasa Investment Corporation 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 qualified opinion.

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 iii to xxxiv which comprise of Key Entity Information and Management, Board of Directors, Key Management Team, Chairman's Statement, Report of the Managing Director, 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 Mombasa Investment Corporation 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 and 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, based on the audit procedures performed, except for the effects of the matter 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. Late Submission of Financial Statements

The Management submitted the financial statement for the year under review to the Auditor-General on 7 October, 2024, one (1) week after the due date. This is contrary to Section 47(1) of the Public Audit Act, 2015 which requires that financial statements be

submitted to the Auditor-General within three months after the end of the fiscal year to which the accounts relate.

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

2. Failure to Develop Regulations to Operationalize the Corporation

Review of legal documents revealed that Management had not developed regulations to operationalise the Mombasa Investment Corporation Act, 2019 and submitted to the County Assembly for adoption and approval. This is contrary to Section 116 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 which provides that a County Executive Committee Member for Finance may establish other public funds with the approval of the County Executive Committee and the County Assembly and Regulations may provide for the establishment, management, operation or winding-up of County Public Funds under this section.

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

3. Failure to Maintain Memorandum Cashbook

Review of financial records shows that Management did not maintain a memorandum cashbook for the office standing imprest issued during the year of Kshs.1,700,000, contrary to Regulation 93(14) of the Public Finance Management (County Governments) Regulations, 2015 which provides that a holder of a standing imprest shall keep a memorandum cash book to record all receipts and payments and the balance on hand shall agree with the cash balance recorded in the memorandum cash book.

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

Weak Internal Controls on Payments Processing

Review of payment records presented for audit reflets internal control weaknesses in payment processing cycle as payment vouchers were not; serialized for control purposes; stamped/labelled as paid to avoid incidents of double payments and supported with budget expenditure controls for items being paid.

In the circumstances, the effectiveness of internal controls and risk management 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 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 overall governance.

In preparing the financial statements, Management is responsible for assessing the Corporation'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 the corporation'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

24 December, 2024