Thalawa Pradeshiya Sabha Anuradhapura District

1. Financial Statements

- _____
- 1.1 Presentation of Financial Statements

The financial statements for the year 2019 had been presented to the Audit on 24 April 2020. The summary report of the Auditor General relating to those financial statements, and the detailed management audit report had been submitted to the Chairman on 10 September 2020 and 29 September 2020 respectively.

1.2 Adverse Opinion

In my opinion, because of the significance of the matters described in paragraph "Basis for adverse Opinion" of this report, the financial statements do not give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Thalawa Pradeshiya Sabha as at 31 December 2019 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

- 1.3 Basis for Qualified Opinion
- -----

(a) Accounting Deficiencies Audit Observation

had been overstated.

	Audit Observation	Recommendation	Comment of the Accounting Officer
(i)	Although rates and tax billing for the year under review amounted to Rs. 6,248,352, it had been stated as Rs.6,074,761 in the financial statements. Accordingly, a sum of Rs. 173,591 had been understated.	Accounts should be properly kept.	Agree.
(ii)	Although new water connection revenue billing for the year under review was Rs. 608,063, it had been stated as Rs.749,812 in the financial statements. Accordingly, a sum of Rs. 141,749 had been overstated.	Accounts should be properly kept.	Agree.
(iii)	Although the billboard revenue billing for the year under review was Rs. 4,335,441, it had been stated as Rs.4,535,441 in the financial statements. Accordingly, a sum of Rs.200,000	Accounts should be properly kept.	Agree.

(iv)	The court fine due on 31 December of the year under review amounting to Rs.14,913,461 had been stated as Rs.16,539,796 in financial statements. Accordingly, a sum of Rs. 1,626,335 had been overstated.	Accounts should be properly kept.	Agree.
(v)	Pensions and gratuities payable as at 31 December of the year under review amounting to Rs.1,970,971 had not been accounted for.	Accounts should be properly kept.	Agree.
(vi)	The value of Rs. 105,900 further remained recoverable for renting the backloader had not been identified and accounted for.	Accounts should be properly kept.	Agree.
(vii)	The amount due from the parties responsible for committing financial irregularity by non- crediting of Rs. 371,946 to the Sabha Fund relating to 65 receipts issued in 2018 had not been accounted for.	Accounts should be properly kept.	Agree.
(viii)	The Thambuththegama Multipurpose Building, which was constructed at a cost of Rs.73,000,000 by the Ministry of Megapolice and Western Development and handed over to the Sabha on 27 June 2019, had not been stated in the financial statements.	Accounts should be properly kept.	Agree.
(ix)	Expenditure of Rs. 3,758,195 incurred on 05 projects carried out during the year under review had not been identified and capitalized.	Accounts should be properly kept.	Agree.
(x)	The value of 02 buildings constructed during the year under review amounting to Rs. 2,818,000 had been stated as Rs. 2,246,205 in the financial statements and as such, the fixed assets had been understated by Rs. 571,795.	Accounts should be properly kept.	Agree.
(xi)	The amount of Rs. 2,984,588 payable by the Sabha due to its non-compliance with the agreement reached with the Central Environmental Authority for the construction of the Karagahawewa Waste Management Center had not been shown in the financial statements as	Accounts should be properly kept.	Agree.

liabilities.

(xii)	The construction value of the Orugalayaya Waste Management Center has not been identified and stated in the financial statements.		Agree.
(xiii)	The amount of Rs. 2,771,381 due from the Local Government Department in respect of 36 projects implemented during the year under review had not been stated in the financial statements.		Agree.
(xiv)	The value of 1,895,163 further remained payable to the contractors in relation to 12 contracts carried out under the Gamperaliya Project had not been stated in the financial statements.	Accounts should be properly kept.	Agree.
(xv)	Although the total cost of capital projects carried out during the year under review was Rs.31,271,403, it had been stated as Rs. 25,943,822 in the financial statements. Accordingly, the capital expenditure had understated by Rs. 5,327,581.	Accounts should be properly kept.	Agree.
(xvi)	The salary reimbursement receipts pertaining to the month of December 2018 amounting to Rs. 2,796,937 had been accounted for as capital grants for the year under review.	Accounts should be properly kept.	Agree.
(xvii)	The sum of Rs. 603,573 received as insurance claim in respect of a vehicle accident caused in 2019 had been stated as warrant fees and fines.	Accounts should be properly kept.	Agree.
(b)	Unreconciled Accounts		
	Audit Observation	Recommendation	Comment of the Accounting Officer
(i)	The value of 06 items of accounts as at 31 December of the year under review was Rs. 2,107,069 according to the financial statements and it was Rs. 2,142,890 as per the documents, thus resulting in a total difference of Rs. 368,905.	Accounts should be prepared correctly by reconciling the differences in the balances.	Action will be taken to maintain separate records according to income from the year 2020.

(ii)	There was a difference of Rs.127,832 between the value of fixed assets and the value of revenue contribution to capital input account as at 31 December of the year under review.	prepared correctly by reconciling the	Action will be taken to rectify errors in the preparation of the accounts for the year 2020.
(c)	Accounts Receivable and Payable		
	Audit Observation	Recommendation	Comment of the Accounting Officer
(i)	Three receivable account balances amounting to Rs. 1,490,783, which had continued to exist in the financial statements for the past several years, had not been settled.	Action should be taken to settle the accounts balances receivable.	Action will be taken to make correction in the future.
(ii)	Two payable account balances of 630,774 that had continued to exist over a past several years had not been settled.	Action should be taken to settle the balances payable.	Action will be taken to settle this amount before the year 2020.
(d)	Lack of Necessary Documentary Evidence for		
	Audit Observation		
		Recommendation	Comment of the Accounting Officer
(i)	No acceptable evidence had been furnished in respect of 08 items of accounts valued at Rs. 367,504,800.	Recommendation Evidence to substantiate the account balance shown in the financial statements should be submitted.	
(i) (ii)	No acceptable evidence had been furnished in respect of 08 items of	Evidence to substantiate the account balance shown in the financial statements should be	Accounting Officer

	(iv)	A sum of Rs. 26 deposit account income during th no detailed in provided in this re	had been e year under nformation	taken into	Relevant should be f audit	information urnished to	from the recomment committee	appointed by man and with oval of the
	(v)	Relevant evidence the audit to prov had received Rs. 1,308,999 wh by three memb Provincial Counc	that the bound of the second s	eneficiaries ns worth taken away on to the	Relevant and evidence furnished to a		the document that 15817 Rs. 1,308,9 from the second members over to beneficiari found, relevant	les containing ments proving 7 items worth 209 taken away stores by three were handed the relevant es could not be evant evidence be furnished to
	1.4	Non-compliance						
		Non-compliance	with Laws, R	ules, Regulatio	ns and Manage	ement Decisions		
	Rule	rence to Laws, s, Regulations Management sions	Value	Non-con	npliance	Recommenda	ation	Comment of the Accounting Officer
(a)	Auth Traff	ority of Motor ic Act No. 14 of Chapter 203.		A TAFE tra by the Sabl been register	na had not	Action shoul taken accordance the Act.	d be in with	Agree.
(b)	of the Socia Sri L							
	 F.R.	571	207,029	Sixteen depo Sabha that re more than 02 not been deal	emained for 2 years had	Action should taken in acco with Financia Regulations.	rdance	Agree.

(c) Gazette Notifications of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

(d)

(i)	Extraordinary Gazette Notification No. 1534/18 dated 01 February 2008 Schedule (c)	288,000		Seventy two industries which had not been licensed in the year 2019 had been identified and the revenue lost to the Sabha had exceeded Rs. 288,000.	Environmental license survey should be conducted and action should be taken to issue licenses.	Agree
(ii)	Paragraph 5 of the Gazette Notification No. 2086/15 dated 29 August 2018 of the Governor of the North Central Province	53,000		Although allowances at Rs.500 should be paid for one meeting attended by the members with effect from 01 July 2018, the Sabha had paid the allowances from April 2018 and as such, the allowances overpaid to 37 members totalled Rs.53,000.	Action should be taken to recover unauthorized payments.	8
Guide Demo Repu	arement elines of the ocratic Socialist blic of Sri Lanka graph 2.9.1	174,200	i.	Although the amount of decisions taken at one procurement committee should be considered as one committee for the payment of allowances, the payment of allowances had	Action should be taken to pay allowances and recover the overpayments in terms of the Procurement Guidelines.	Since a committee report is written for each decision after discussing the amount of the decisions separately in each procurement committee and reaching a decision on the

			been made based on the number of procurement decisions made by two committees held on 20 December 2018 and 31 December 2019 and accordingly, Rs. 174,200 had been overpaid.		bidders, the procurement allowances have been obtained based on the number of decisions made by the committee
		910,832 ii.	The examination fee for field inspections for recommending building applications, street line certificates and non-acquisition certificates, and issuing certificates of conformity had been recovered without a Sabha decision.	The examination fee to be charged in accordance with the Circular shall be determined by the Sabha .	
(e)	Circular No. 09/2009 dated 16 April 2009 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs	-	During the year under review, 24 employees had not used the fingerprint machine to record daily arrivals and departures.	In accordance with the circular, action should be taken to use the fingerprint machines.	l
(f)	Public Administration Circular No. 30/2016 dated 29 December 2016		Fuel consumption testing of 10 vehicles belonging to the council had not been carried out.	Circular should be complied with.	Agree.

02. Financial Review

2.1 Financial Results

According to the financial statements presented, the revenue of the Sabha in excess of the recurrent expenditure amounted to Rs. 22,570,537 for the year ended 31 December 2019 as compared with the corresponding revenue in excess of the recurrent expenditure amounting to Rs. 12,224,306 for the preceding year.

2.2 Financial Control

Audit Observation	Recommendation	Comment of the Accounting Officer	
Out of the Rs. 3,446,848 provided by the Central Environmental Authority for the construction of the Karagahawewa Garbage Yard, a sum of Rs. 1,121,026 had been spent on the project and the balance Rs. 2,325,822 had been spent on the affairs of the Sabha.	Funds externally granted should be used for the relevant purposes.	Although Rs. 2,609,601 out of the Rs. 3,446,848 provided by the Central Environmental Authority for the construction of the project has been spent for the construction, there is no written evidence with details in full.	

2.3 Revenue Administration

2.3.1 Estimated Revenue, Billed Revenue, Collected Revenue, and Outstanding Revenue

Details on the Estimated Revenue, Billed Revenue, Collected Revenue, and Outstanding Revenue presented for the year under review and the preceding year are as follows.

	2019					2018			
	Source of Revenue	Estimated Revenue	Billed Revenue	Collected Revenue	Total arrears at at 31 December	Estimated Revenue	Billed Revenue	Collected Revenue	Total arrears at at 31 December
		 Rs.	 Rs.	 Rs.	 Rs.	 Rs.	 Rs.	 Rs.	 Rs.
(i) (ii)	Rates and Taxes Lease Rent	14,388,929 18,306,305	14,136,456 12,275,059	13,640,296 12,174,008	16,011,924 853,619	13,186,113 22,669,866	13,697,894 12,322,425	14,871,741 12,636,255	15,515,764 752,568
(iii)	Licence Fees	4,963,000	5,460,218	5,460,218	-	2,678,000	4,149,953	4,149,953	-
(iv)	Warrant Charges and Court Fines	6,967,000	14,324,423	10,396,339	16,539,796	6,930,000	12,319,650	9,500,000	12,611,712
	Total	44,625,234	46,196,156	41,670,861	33,405,339	45,463,979	42,489,922	41,157,949 ========	28,880,044

2.3.2	Performance in the Collection of Revenue					
	Audit Observation	Recommendation	Comment of the Accounting Officer			
	The arrears of water tax on 04 water projects had been Rs. 1,431,280 as at 31 December of the year under review and it was 64 per cent of the billed revenue for the year.	Action should be taken to recover the arrears of revenue.	Action will be taken to recover the arrears.			
2.3.3	Rates and Taxes					
	Audit Observation	Recommendation	Comment of the Accounting Officer			
(a)	Taxes had been levied on 3408 assessment units based on the assessment made in2009.	Action should be taken to charge rates on a new assessment.	It is informed that information is being prepared on the instructions of the Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Local Government to conduct a new assessment.			
(b)	No action has been taken to obtain provisional assessments and levy of rates on new constructions and alterations done in the assessment area after 2009.	A new assessment should be made and action should be taken to recover the rates accordingly.	As the provisional assessment has been obtained, it will be forwarded with the decisions of the General Assembly to the Minister in charge of the subject for approval through the Department of Local Government in the future.			
2.3.4	Lease Rent					
	Audit Observation	Recommendation	Comment of the Accounting Officer			
(a)	shops as at 31 December of the year	Action should be taken to recover the outstanding rent	The matter with regard to th amount to be recovered will b referred to the Sabha in th future and action will be take against it.			

(b) Out of the 15 cases of leasing of trade rights in the previous year and the year under review, the outstanding amount was Rs.359,964.

Action should be taken to recover the outstanding rent It is a trade item leased before 2018. It is not possible to confirm the matter as there are no relevant legal documents thereon.

2.3.5 Licencse Fees

2.3.6

Audit Observation	Recommendation	Comment of the Accounting Officer
The total amount due from 84 billboards displayed in the area and 97 billboards in the Thambuththegama office area as at 31 December of the year under review amounted to Rs. 1,491,175.	Action should be taken to recover the relevant charges.	Agree
Audit Observation	Recommendation	Comment of the Accounting Officer
The court fine and the stamp duty due from the Chief Secretary of the Provincial Council and other authorities as at 31 December of the year under review amounted to Rs.14,913,461 and Rs.17,231,141 respectively.	Action should be taken to charge fees from the relevant officers.	Agree.

3. Operating Review

3.1 Performance

Matters revealed in the regulation, control and administration of all matters relating to public health, public utility services and public thoroughfares and generally with the protection and promotion of the comfort, convenience and welfare of the people in terms of Section 3 of the Pradeshiya Sabhas Act, are as follows.

(a) **By-laws**

Audit Observation

Recommendation

Comment of the Accounting Officer

Although by-laws should be enacted under Section 126 of the Pradeshiya Sabha Act to fulfill 28 main functions, by-laws had not been enacted with respect to the relevant matters by 31 December 2019.

Action should be taken to enact by-laws with respect to the relevant matters

It is informed that action will be taken to enact bylaws under Section 126 of the Pradeshiya Sabha Act for 28 key functions in the future.

(b) Failure to achieve the expected output level _____

Audit Observation

Although Rs. 1,121,027 had been spent for the performance various 03 of functions mentioned in the action plan, expected output level (Out Put) had not been achieved.

A feasibility study should be conducted on the implementation of projects and action should be taken to carry out those projects effectively.

Recommendation

Comment of the Accounting Officer

As there is not enough money to make project usable, it has not been completed.

- (c) Delays in the Performance of Functions _____ Audit Observation
- i. Although Rs. 3,500,000 had been allocated to repair the water pipe system of Thambuththegama Central College under special local government projects, the project had not been initiated until 31 December of the year under review.

ii. Although Rs. 500,000 each and Rs. 1.000.000 had been allocated to pave blocks and rehabilitated Approved projects should be completed within the same year.

Recommendation

Comment of the Accounting Officer

As it had to be tendered by the Local Government Department, it could not be completed due to insufficient time.

Approved projects should be implemented effectively within the same year.

The contract for this project had been signed on 10 December 2019 and the the road in front of Palugaswewa Mr.Piyadasa's house and the Nallamudawa village by road under the Special Needs Village Development Program, the project had not been completed even by 31 December of the year under review.

(d) Sustainable Development Goals Audit Observation

Audit Observation

The Sabha was unaware of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

3.2 Management Inefficiencies Audit Observation

- (a) Two projects proposed by the Sabha when court fines were remitted by Provincial Treasury in the year 2018 had not been started by 31 December 2019 and Rs. 7,420,864 received thereon retained idle in the People's Bank Industries Current Account No. 315-1001-10000041.
- (b) Financial Regulations 103,104 and 105 had not been followed on the financial losses of Rs. 4,334,020 incurred due to accidents of 02 vehicles worth Rs.7,590,000 caused during the year under review.

Action should be taken to implement the Sustainable Development Agenda.

Recommendation

Recommendation

Necessary steps should be taken to start the proposed projects expeditiously and vest them in the public.

Action should be taken in accordance with Financial Regulations in order to recover losses from the responsible parties. project was cancelled due to non-fulfilment of project work within the relevant period.

Comment of the Accounting Officer

Action will be taken to prepare a development plan for the Thalawa area whilst giving priority towards the Sustainable Development Goals for the coming year.

Comment of the Accounting Officer

Procurement activities related to the construction of the Sabha Hall building is being done by the Local Government Authority and it has been completed.

i. The loss of the Cab PF-7345 is Rs. 3,400,520. The responsible parties have not yet been identified.

ii. The loss of the LL-6932 tipper was Rs.932,500. 80 per cent of it has been received from the insurance company.

3.3 Contract Administration

	Audit Observation	Recommendation	Comment of the Accounting Officer
(æ)	Without being recovered the delay charges to be recovered for 03 construction sub projects at Thalawa Karagahawewa Garbage Center amounting to Rs. 235,440, payments has been made to the relevant contractors.	Necessary arrangements should be made to recover the delay charges as per the agreement.	It is confirmed that delay charges have not been recovered.
(b)	Since the construction of the Waste Management Center had not been completed, an additional cost had to be incurred to transport the daily collection of waste to the Thambuththegama Orugalayaya Garbage Center.	Action should be taken to complete the project expeditiously.	Since one tractor is being used to collect garbage in Thalawa, transportation costs will be minimized if it is constructed.
(c)	Under the Katiyawa Pre-School Building Construction Project, concrete pillars had been constructed around the old building and an asbestos roof had been erected over the old roof, but due to the failure to remove the dilapidated old roof, the pre-school children and teachers were left unprotected.	Measures should be taken to ensure the safety of pre-school children and teachers.	The work could not be completed due to non-receipt of funds from the Local Government Department for the second part of this project.
3.4	Human Resource Management		
	Audit Observation	Recommendation	Comment of the Accounting Officer
	The employees loan of Rs. 980,845 due from 32 officers who had been transferred, resigned and interdicted during the last 02 to 05 years had not been recovered.	Action should be taken to recover the employee loans due.	Agree.

3.5 Transactions of Contentious Nature

3.5.1 Revaluation of Assets

Audit Observation

Non-current assets amounting to Rs.206,049,855 as at 01 January of the year under review had been revalued and accounted for to the value of Rs.286,567,906 by a committee appointed by the Sabha. Accordingly, the value of land and buildings had increased by 335 per cent and the value of three categories of assets had decreased by 23 per cent to 94 per cent. Recommendation

Revaluation should be carried out by doing assessment through a committee with experts. Comment of the Accounting Officer

Agree.

3.5.2 Non-acquisition of Assets

Audit Observation
----Action had not been taken to take Acti

over the ownership of 12 vehicles used by the Sabha and annual revenue licenses had not been obtained for 21 vehicles and insurance cover for 04 vehicles. Action should be taken to take over the ownership of the vehicles and to obtain revenue licenses and insurance.

Recommendation

Comment of the Accounting Officer

Steps will be taken to obtain a revenue license and insurance coverage in the year 2020. As there was no registration for 04 vehicles, they had not been insured.

3.5.3 Idle/Underutilized Assets

Audit Observation

(a) Eight motor vehicles valued at Rs.17,615,000 remained idle.

 (b) Eight shops on the first floor of the two-storey building worth Rs. 73,000,000 constructed by the Ministry of Megapolice and

Recommendation

The vehicles that remained idle should be made use of for the benefit of the Sabha.

The relevant shops should be used for a productive purpose or to earn income. Comment of the Accounting Officer

Action will be taken to repair vehicles that are advantageous to repair and dispose of other vehicles.

Upstairs is currently used for the sub office. Action will be taken to lease the remaining shops. Western Development and handed over to the Sabha on 27 June 2019 had not been leased out.

(c) The Thambuththegama Weekly Fair building complex constructed at a cost of Rs. 9,500,000 in the year 2017 had been left overgrown without being used.

(d) The crematorium built by the Sabha at a cost of Rs. 5,421,890 in the Eppawala area had remained idle for more than two years due to failure to install the required furnaces.

(e) The auditorium building, valued at Rs. 8,000,000, was in a state of disrepair and overgrown in the vicinity without being used.

- (f) The two-storey building with 20 shops in Thalawa town has been closed for nearly three years and the land has been overgrown and the shops have become dilapidated.
- 3.6 Identified Losses Audit Observation

(a) Newspaper advertisements had been published at a cost of Rs. 73,255 in the year 2017 relating to the procurement for the lease of 20 Pura Neguma shops and subsequently it had been cancelled. As a result, financial loss of Rs.73,255 had been incurred.

Action should be taken to use weekly fair buildings.

Action should be taken to make the relevant projects usable.

Necessary action should be taken for the use of idle assets.

Action should be taken to recover the loss by identifying the responsible parties. Although I took steps to move the Weekly Fair to that place, the General Assembly has decided to keep the Weekly Fair at its former location.

Work of the crematorium will be completed in the year 2020 by obtaining furnaces under project development activities.

As there are not enough employees, the auditorium is cleaned during the reservation and it is accepted that the electrical systems has been damaged.

Apart from the lessee of one shop on the first floor, shopkeepers have not come forward for the remaining 19 shops as per the decisions of the Sabha.

Recommendation

Action should be taken to recover the loss by identifying the responsible parties. Comment of the Accounting Officer

Agree

- (b) Although the driver had reported a malfunction in the brake system of a tipper truck, it had been driven and met with an accident on 31 January 2019, causing a loss of Rs. 933,500.
- (c) A cab worth Rs. 6,390,000 had involved in an accident on 15 April 2019 causing an estimated loss of Rs. 3,400,000. As insurance compensation had been denied based on the incorrect status of the information related to the accident and misuse of the vehicle, the vehicle had been retained at the local agent's local repair center without being repaired.

Action should be taken to recover the loss by identifying the responsible parties.

Action should be taken to recover the loss by identifying the responsible parties. Action will be taken to prevent such situations in the future.

Action will be taken to impose surcharges after the investigations are completed and the responsible parties are confirmed by the Local Government Department.

3.7 Apparent Irregularities.

Audit Observation

The inspection conducted on 14 January 2020, revealed a shortage of Rs. 152,961 of the cash in hand.

Necessary steps should be taken on the shortage.

Recommendation

Comment of the Accounting Officer

Although the payee's signature was not obtained and a cash deficit was shown, payments therefor has actually been made. A daily receipts and payments record is maintained by the Shroff at present and action will be taken to avoid this error through it.

3.8 Procurement

(a)

Supply and Services

Audit Observation

The compost vard construction project to

the estimated value Rs. 5,760,735 had

been awarded to the community based

organizations by dividing it into 04

sections without calling for any national

competitive bidding as per the Guideline

3.2 of the Procurement Guidelines.

Recommendation

Procurement guidelines should be followed in awarding projects.

Comment of the Accounting Officer

Since the construction project takes a long time to be carried out on a competitive bidding basis and the construction is being carried out in an elephant populated area, it was assumed that the bidders would not come (b) The contracts for the construction of Karagahawewa Garbage Recycling Centers had been awarded at a cost of Rs. 4,488,490 without examining the qualifications Procurement as per Guidelines 3.9.1

Procurement guidelines should be followed in awarding projects.

forward and accordingly, the entire amount was divided into shares and action was taken to carry out constructions directly through the farmer organizations.

When these projects are assigned to community based organizations, the certificates confirming the contract viability of the organizations were obtained according to the Procurement Guidelines and the contacts for the construction of Karagahawewa Garbage Recycling Center have been awarded at Rs. 4,488,490.

4. Accountability and Good Governance _____

Internal Audit

Audit Observation

Recommendation

Comment of the Accounting Officer

It is informed that an Internal Auditor will be appointed and further action will be taken by obtaining the necessary reports.

An Internal Audit Officer had not been appointed as per paragraph 06 of Circular No. 04/2015 dated 2015 of the 18 March Commissioner of Local Government. North Central Province.

_____ Action should be taken in

Circular.

accordance with the