

Kanthale Pradeshiya Sabha - 2020

1. Financial Statements

1.1 Qualified Opinion

The audit of the financial statements of the Kanthale Pradeshiya Sabha including the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 comprising the Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020, Income and Expenditure Account, Cash Flow Statement for the year and significant accounting policies and other explanatory information was carried out, for the year then ended, under my direction in pursuance of provisions in Article 154 (1) of the constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka read in conjunction with the provisions of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 and the Sub-Section 172 (1) of the Pradeshiya Sabha Act No. 15 of 1987. My comments and observations which I consider should be report to parliament appear in this report.

In my opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in paragraph 1.6 of this report, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Kanthale Pradeshiya Sabha as at 31 December 2020, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Generally accepted Accounting Practices for Local Authorities.

1.2 Basis for Qualified Opinion

My opinion is qualified on the matters described in paragraph 1.6 of this report.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards (SLAuSs). My responsibilities, under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my qualified opinion.

1.3 Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards for Local Authorities, and for such internal control as management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Pradeshiya Sabha's financial reporting process.

As per Section 16(1) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, the Pradeshiya Sabha is required to maintain proper books and records of all its income, expenditure, assets and liabilities, to enable annual and periodic financial statements.

1.4 Responsibility of the Auditor for the audit of Financial Statements

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards 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.

As part of an audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards, I exercised professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of its internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

The scope of the audit also extended to examine as far as possible and as far as necessary the following;

- Whether the organization, systems, procedures, books, records and other documents have been properly and adequately designed from the point of view of the presentation of information to enable a continuous evaluation of the activities of the Pradeshiya Sabha, and whether such systems, procedures, books, records and other documents are in effective operation;
- Whether the Pradeshiya Sabha has complied with applicable written law, or other general or special directions issued by the governing body of the Pradeshiya Sabha.
- Whether it has performed according to its powers, functions and duties; and
- Whether the resources of the Pradeshiya Sabha had been procured and utilized economically, efficiently and effectively within the time frames and in compliance with the applicable laws.

1.5 Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

The National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 contains special provisions regarding the following requirements.

- (a) The financial statements of the Pradeshiya Sabha presented is consistent with the preceding year as per the requirement of section 6 (1) (d) (iii) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.
- (b) Recommendations made by me during the last year as per the requirement mentioned in Section 06 (1) d (iv) of the Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 are included in the financial statements submitted.

1.6 Audit Observations on Preparation of Financial Statements

1.6.1 Accounting Deficiencies

Audit Observation	Comments of the Council	Recommendation
As the receipts Court fines of Rs.8,310,235 and Stamp duty of Rs.2,535,257 on behalf of prior years had been accounted as income of the year under review, the operating income of the year under review had been overstated by Rs. 10,845,492.	I will correct it with a journal entry in the 2021 financial statement.	It should be corrected in the preparation of financial statements for the coming year.

2. Financial Review

2.1 Financial Results

According to the Financial Statements presented, excess of revenue over expenditure of the Sabha for the year ended 31 December 2020 amounted to Rs.9,765,379 and the excess of revenue over expenditure in the preceding year amounted to Rs. 10,508,619.

2.2 Revenue Administration

2.2.1 Performance of Revenue Collection

Audit Observation	Comments of the council	Recommendation
Action had not been taken to collect Rs.3,950,500 and Rs. 4,641,365 for stamp duty and court fines respectively at the end of the year under review.	I hereby inform you that action will be taken in future to recover arrears of stamp duty and court fines.	Arrears court fines and stamp duty should be recovered expeditiously.

3. Accountability and Good Governance

3.1 Environmental Issues

Audit Observation

About 600 out of 1500 tons of garbage collected annually in the Pradeshiya Sabha area is non-perishable (solid waste). Also, 12 acres of open land in the Suriyapura area, is being disposed of and problems such as dumping of segregated garbage in one place, endangerment of wildlife due to elephants' habit of eating garbage in the area.

Comments of the council

A compost yard and a waste management centre are scheduled to be completed in 2021 under the LDSP project.

Recommendation

Existing problems in solid waste management need to be addressed expeditiously.