

1. Financial Statements

1.1 Qualified Opinion

The audit of the financial statements of Ella Pradeshiya Sabha including the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 comprising the Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2021, Statement of Financial Operations for the year ending on that date, Cash Flow Statement and significant accounting policies and other explanatory information was carried out, under my direction in pursuance of provisions in Article 154(1) of the constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which should be read in conjunction with Sub-Section 172 (1) of the Pradeshiya Sabha Act No. 15 of 1987 and the provisions of the Audit Act No. 19 of 2018. My comments and observations which I consider should be reported to the parliament are appeared 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 Ella Pradeshiya Sabha as at 31 December 2021, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Generally accepted Accounting Principles.

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 Generally accepted Accounting Principles, 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 Pradeshiya Sabha's financial reporting process.

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

1.4 Audit Scope (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 Requirements

Special provisions regarding following requirements are included in National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.

- (a) In terms of section 6 (1) d (iii) of National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018, the financial statements of Pradeshiya Sabha are consistent with the preceding year.
- (b) In terms of section 6 (1) d (iv) of National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018, the recommendations made by me on the financial statements of the preceding year had been implemented.

1.6 Audit Observations on the preparation of Financial Statements

1.6.1 Accounting Deficiencies

Audit Observation	Comments of the Council	Recommendation
(a) Although preparing the accounts in accrual accounting, Rs. 141,951,035, the billed value of rates & taxes, rents, license fees and other income should be stated in the statement of financial performance, collected revenue amounting to Rs. 22,078,164 on the cash basis had been stated in the accounts. As a result of that the excess of the year and receivables had been understated by Rs. 119,872,871.	It has been mentioned that error has been made preparing the accounts and it would be rectified in the future.	Accounts should be correctly prepared.
(b) As at 31 December of the year under review, as per the cash book bank, balance amounting to Rs. 1,690,892 in a current account of a government bank had not been stated in the statement of financial position, and as a result of that current assets had been understated by that amount.	It has been mentioned that action would be taken to record these funds as assets.	
(c) As a physically unavailable inventory amounting to Rs. 1,008,000 of a water project had been adjusted in the accounts, operational excess and current assets had been overstated by that amount.	It has been mentioned that correct balance would be accounted for.	

1.6.2 Unreconciled Control Accounts or Records

Audit Observation	Comments of the Council	Recommendation
As at 31 December of the year under review, a difference amounting to Rs. 49,160,412 had been observed between the 02 account balances stated in the financial statements and the corresponding reports related to those.	It has been mentioned that reconciliation had been accepted.	Accounts should be correctly prepared.

2. Financial Review Financial Result

According to the Financial Statements presented, excess of recurrent expenditure over revenue of the Sabha for the year under review had been Rs. 1,817,225 as compared with the excess of revenue over recurrent expenditure amounted to Rs. 14,932,847 in the preceding year.

3. Operational Review

Matters revealed with regard to fulfilling regulation and control and administration of public health, public utility services and public roads, generally with the protection and promotion of the comfort, convenience and welfare of the people and amenities by the sabha under Section 3 of the Pradeshiya Sabha Act are shown below.

Operational Inefficiencies

Audit Observation	Comments of the Council	Recommendation
In the year under review the council has been entered into agreements with 04 approved associations to construct 04 roads at a cost of Rs. 215,492 using the council funds, and for uncompleted works including filling the contraction joints using sand and bitumen, earth excavation had been paid Rs. 84,922 on the recommendation of the technical officer.	It has been mentioned that the relevant contract association had been informed to complete the uncompleted works.	Payments made for not completed works of the construction should be re-collected.