

1. Financial Statements

1.1 Opinion

The audit of the financial statements of the National Centre for Advance Studies in Humanities and Social Science for the year ended 31 December 2021 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2021 and the statement of income, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, 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 read in conjunction with provisions of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018. My comments and observations which I consider should be report to Parliament appear in this report.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Centre as at 31 December 2021, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards.

1.2 Basis for Opinion

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 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, 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Centre’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 either intend to liquidate the Centre or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Centre’s financial reporting process.

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

1.4 Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the 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 exercise 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 the Centre's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Centre's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Centre to cease to continue as a going concern.
- 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 Centre, and whether such systems, procedures, books, records and other documents are in effective operation;
- Whether the Centre has complied with applicable written law, or other general or special directions issued by the governing body of the Centre ;
- Whether the Centre has performed according to its powers, functions and duties; and
- Whether the resources of the Centre had been procured and utilized economically, efficiently and effectively within the time frames and in compliance with the applicable laws.

2. Financial Review

2.1 Financial Result

The operating result of the year under review amounted to a surplus of Rs. 5,618,000 and the corresponding surplus of the preceding year amounted to Rs. 16,943,435. Therefore, a deterioration amount of Rs.11,325,435 of the financial result was observed. The increase in expenditure of the Centre was the main reason for this deterioration.

3. Operational Review

3.1 Uneconomic Transactions

Audit Observation

Although the centre did not own a vehicle, a driver was recruited for driving positions in the approved staff and paid Rs.1,335,270 as wages and allowances during the period from May 2020 to 31 December 2021.

Management Comment

NCAS does not have a separate permanent vehicle and as this driver is a permanent employee of the company, he works by assisting the work of the company's work assistants.

Recommendation

In order to fulfil the duties related to the post of driver, arrangements should be made to assign him to another related institution.

3.2 Management Inefficiencies

Audit Observation

During the period from 2005 to 2015, 25 grantees who had been given Rs.42,708,453 to study postgraduate courses had stopped studying those courses, but the management had not taken steps to recover the money. Also, in the year 2016, Rs.34,424,000 was paid to 09 grantees for pursuing postgraduate courses, but they had not completed their studies and the performance reports to be given during the course had not been submitted by 15 May 2022.

Management Comment

The amount to be recovered from 25 grantees who had stopped their course activities due to various reasons was Rs.42,708,453. The grantees have been asked to submit the relevant reports.

Recommendation

From the year of grant, follow-up activities on the progress of the courses should be carried out and related reports should be brought.