

Vavuniya Urban Council - 2022

1. Financial Statements

1.1 Qualified Opinion

The audit of the financial statements of the Vavuniya Urban Council including the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 comprising the balance sheet as at 31 December 2022, income and expenditure account for the year then ended 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 sub-section 181(1) of the Urban Councils Ordinance (Chapter 255) and 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, except for the effects of the matters described in paragraph 1.6 of this report, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Vavuniya Urban Council as at 31 December 2022, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Generally accepted Accounting Practices.

1.2 Basis for Qualified Opinion

I expressed qualified opinion 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 Practices 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 Urban Council's financial reporting process.

As per Sub Section 16(1) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, the Urban Council 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 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 Urban Council and whether such systems, procedures, books, records and other documents are in effective operation;
- Whether the Urban Council has complied with applicable written law, or other general or special directions issued by the governing body of the Urban Council;
- Whether it has performed according to its powers, functions and duties; and
- Whether the resources of the Urban Council 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

National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018 include specific provisions for following requirements.

- (a) The financial statements of the Urban Council 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) The financial statements presented includes all the recommendations made by me in the previous year as per the requirement of section 6(1)(d)(iv) of the National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018.

1.6 Audit Observations on the preparation of Financial Statements

Accounting Deficiencies

Audit Observation	Comment of the Council	Recommendation
Value of machineries and equipments had been understated as Rs. 1,765,000 in the financial statements when compare with those balance shown in the fixed assets register as at 31 December 2022.	It will be rectified in the financial statements of the year 2023.	It should be properly accounted for.

2. Financial Review

2.1 Financial Result

According to the Financial Statements presented, excess of revenue over recurrent expenditure of the Council for the year ended 31 December 2022 amounted to Rs. 54,883,911 as against the excess of revenue over recurrent expenditure amounted to Rs. 60,260,795 in the preceding year.

2.2 Revenue Administration

2.2.1 Estimated Revenue, Revenue Billed, Revenue Collected and Arrears of Revenue

According to the information presented by the Council, information relating to Estimated Revenue, Revenue Billed, Revenue Collected and Arrears of Revenue relevant to the year under review and the preceding year are shown below.

Source of Revenue	2022				2021			
	Estimated Revenue	Revenue billed	Revenue Collected	Arrears as at December 31	Estimated Revenue	Revenue billed	Revenue Collected	Arrears as at 31 December
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Rates and Taxes	223,62,047	22,362,047	11,203,173	38,336,515	23,262,046	23,262,046	11,357,887	39,499,024
Rent	38,240,740	38,240,740	32,711,167	6,988,918	38,990,740	38,990,740	29,027,069	8,679,886
License Fees	2,715,000	2,715,000	1,736,070	-	2,698,000	2,698,000	1,776,240	-
Other revenue	<u>14,365,000</u>	<u>14,365,000</u>	<u>20,924,201</u>	<u>319,800</u>	<u>14,245,000</u>	<u>14,245,000</u>	<u>12,230,398</u>	<u>45,605,281</u>
	<u>77,682,787</u>	<u>77,682,787</u>	<u>66,574,611</u>	<u>45,645,233</u>	<u>79,195,786</u>	<u>79,195,786</u>	<u>54,391,594</u>	<u>93,784,191</u>

2.2.2 Performance in Revenue Collection

Audit Observation	Comment of the Council	Recommendation
Arrears of Rates and Taxes and Rentals aggregating Rs. 30,137,756 had been allowed to be outstanding over one year.	Actions are being taken to recover.	Actions should be taken to recover the revenue arrears without being delayed.

3. Operating Review

3.1 Assets Management

Audit Observation

09 vehicles had been kept in the vehicle park without being utilized over 05 years.

Comment of the Council

It had been decided to repair and utilize these vehicles.

Recommendation

Assets should not be allowed to be under utilized.

3.2 Human Resources Management

Audit Observation

Staff loan balance aggregating Rs.463,632 recoverable from 03 officers who had been vacated their post, 06 retired officers and a deceased officer had not been recovered and allowed to be outstanding during last 02 years.

Comment of the Council

Followup actions are being taken to recover.

Recommendation

Followup actions should be taken in terms of provisions of Establishment Code.