

Vavuniya North Pradeshiya Sabha - 2022

1. Financial Statements

1.1 Qualified Opinion

The audit of the financial statements of the Vavuniya North Pradeshiya Sabha including the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2022, statement of financial performance, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement 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 172 (1) of the Pradeshiya Sabha Act No. 15 of 1987 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 North Pradeshiya Sabha 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 Pradeshiya Sabha's financial reporting process.

As per Sub 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 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

National Audit Act, No. 19 of 2018 include specific provisions for 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) 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 Sabha	Recommendation
Value of 02 vehicles aggregating Rs.361,800 had been understated in the financial statements.	Action had been taken to rectify.	Accounts should be prepared properly.

1.7 Non-compliances

Non-compliance with Laws, Rules, Regulations and Management Decisions etc.

Non-compliance with Laws, Rules and Regulations	Non-compliances	Comment of the Sabha	Recommendation
Pradeshiya Sabha Act No. 15 of 1987			
(a) Section 134	Action had not been taken to recover the rates and taxes by identifying developed areas.	Documets had been forwarded to publish the Gazettee notification.	Action should be taken to collect the revenue without being delayed.
(b) Section 150 (i)	Action had not been taken to recover the business taxes by assessing the detail of businesses.	Action had been taken to recover the business taxes in the year 2023.	-do-

2. Financial Review

2.1 Financial Result

According to the Financial Statements presented, excess of revenue over recurrent expenditure of the Sabha for the year ended 31 December 2022 amounted to Rs. 7,900,100 as against the excess of revenue over recurrent expenditure amounted to Rs. 22,615,505 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 Sabha, 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 31 December	Estimated Revenue	Revenue billed	Revenue Collected	Arrears as at 31 December	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Rent	7,192,395	6,396,319	6,389,699	2,378,486	7,084,960	6,618,012	6,062,855	2,790,569	
License Fees	377,000	399,643	399,643	-	4,804,210	10,889,394	10,695,398	-	
Other revenue	<u>5,591,500</u>	<u>6,823,688</u>	<u>5,410,855</u>	<u>16,107,094</u>	<u>56,512,400</u>	<u>13,829,332</u>	<u>3,713,909</u>	<u>11,529,465</u>	
	<u>13,160,895</u>	<u>13,619,650</u>	<u>12,200,197</u>	<u>18,485,580</u>	<u>68,401,570</u>	<u>31,336,738</u>	<u>20,472,162</u>	<u>14,320,034</u>	

2.2.2 Performance in Revenue Collection

Audit Observation

Action had not been taken to recover the arrears of rent and lease rentals aggregating Rs. 2,378,486 during the period ranging from 04 to 06 years. Further, 02 markets had not been leased tendered, thus indicating the revenue loss of aggregating Rs. 1,044,000 during last 04 years.

Comment of the Sabha

Actions are being taken to recover the arrears properly and beef shops were unable to tender due to restriction in this sale of business.

Recommendation

Meaningful action should be taken to recover the arrears and assets should not be underutilized.

3. Operating Review

Assets Management

Audit Observation

- (a) A Government Quarters belonging to the Sabha and a water purification centre constructed at Periyakulam aggregating Rs.2,500,000 had been under utilized during the period ranging from 02 to 07 years.

Comment of the Sabha

It had been decided to hand over a sub-post office on rental basis.

Recommendation

Assets should not be underutilized.

- (b) 31 Properties and 04 vehicles had been utilized by the Sabha without being ownership since 10 years.

Actions are being taken to vest.

Actions should be taken to make them as belonging to the Sabha.