

1. Financial Statements

1.1 Qualified Opinion

The audit of the financial statements of the Velanai Pradeshiya Sabha for the year ended 31 December 2023 comprising the balance sheet as at 31 December 2023 and income and expenditure account and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy 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 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 Velanai Pradeshiya Sabha as at 31 December 2023, 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

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 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 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.

- 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.
- 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

1.6.1 Accounting Deficiencies

Audit Observations	Comment of the Sabhas	Recommendations
(a) Eleven building renovation works totalling Rs. 19,565,984 under a capital nature had not been recognized as fixed assets.	Action has been taken to rectify.	Accounts should be properly prepared.
(b) The value of the pre-school building amounting to Rs.14,297,193 completed in the year under review had been shown as Rs.17,389,404 in the financial statements.	That corrective measures will be taken in the final financial report of the year 2024.	Financial statements should be prepared accurately.

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 2023 amounted to Rs. 16,444,791 as compared with the excess of revenue over recurrent expenditure amounted to Rs. 10,277,263 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	2023				2022			
	Estimated Revenue	Revenue billed	Revenue Collected	Total arrears as at 31 December	Estimated Revenue	Revenue billed	Revenue Collected	Total arrears as at 31 December
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Rates and Taxes	3,871,000	3,945,460	3,945,460	-	2,671,500	4,168,778	4,168,778	-
Rent	584,500	850,790	854,600	39,900	754,600	957,555	902,385	43,710
License Fees	501,800	1,293,389	1,293,389	-	816,600	567,566	567,566	-
Other revenue	16,899,700	24,328,171	24,643,171	1,935,925	13,100,800	17,880,601	17,880,601	2,250,925
Total	21,857,000	30,417,810	30,736,620	1,975,825	17,343,500	23,574,500	23,519,330	2,294,635

3. Operating Review

3.1 Operating Inefficiency

Audit Observation	Comment of the Sabha	Recommendation
As 07 markets and 17 stalls remained idle, revenue lost of Rs. 2,028,426 had incurred.	No one showed interest even though bids were invited.	Actions should be taken to fully utilize the income sources of the Sabha.

3.2 Assets Management

Audit Observation	Comment of the Sabha	Recommendation
The ownership of 21 vehicles which were being used by the Sabha had not been transferred to the Sabha.	Actions will be taken in this regard in the future.	The ownership of assets should be settled.

4. Accountability and Good Governance

4.1 Budgetary Control

Audit Observation

Due to the fact that there were variations from 11 per cent to 128 per cent in 04 revenue items, from 11 per cent to 23 per cent in 05 expenditure items and 54 per cent in one capital expenditure items when comparing the estimated revenue and expenditure with the actual revenue and expenditure according to the budget prepared for the year under review, the budget had not been used as an effective management control tool.

Comment of the Sabha

The actual revenue was higher than the estimated revenue due to additional income from license fees, advertising fees, capture of stray cattle, unexpected revenue from stamp duty. That the actual expenditure was higher than the budgeted expenditure due to increase in prices of goods, fuel etc.

Recommendation

Needs should be identified and the budget should be prepared carefully.