

Habaraduwa Pradeshiya Sabha - 2020

1. Financial Statements

1.1 Qualified Opinion

The audit of the financial statements of the Habaraduwa Pradeshiya Sabha including the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 comprising the Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020, Statement of Financial Operations, Cash Flow Statement for the year 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 the 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, 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 the Habaraduwa Pradeshiya Sabha as at 31 December 2020, and of its financial performance 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 the Pradeshiya Sabha's financial reporting process.

As per 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 skepticism 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

The National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 contains special provisions regarding the following requirements.

- Financial Statements of the Pradeshiya Sabha as per the requirement mentioned in Section 6 (1) (d) (iii) of the National audit Act No. 19 of 2018 corresponded with the Financial Statements of the previous year.
- In accordance with the requirement referred to in Section 6 (1) (d) (iv) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, recommendations made by me during the previous year are included in the submitted financial statements.

1.6 Audit observations regarding the preparation of financial statements

1.6.1 Accounting Deficiencies

| Audit Observation | Comment of the Sabha | Recommendation |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| ----- | ----- | ----- |
| (i) According to the security deposit register Rs. 1,562,000 which should have been accounted had not been included to the financial statements. | Action will be taken to correct in future | Should be accounted correctly. |
| (ii) Rs. 103,343 had been included in 10 per cent withholding deposit register at the last day of the year under review and that deposits had not been accounted. | | |

1.6.2 Non reconciled Account or Records

| Audit Observation | Comment of the Sabha | Recommendation |
|--|--|---|
| ----- | ----- | ----- |
| There was a difference sum of Rs. 11,810,679 in between the balance value of 13 accounting items in the financial statements and balance value in relevant utility registers and sub registers as at 31 December of the year under review. | Actions will be taken to check and correct these errors in the future. | Differences should be identified and corrected. |

1.6.3 Suspense Accounts

Audit Observation

The action had been taken to reconcile the debit balance of the suspense account of Rs. 601,430 which is coming from the year 2008.

Comment of the Sabha

Action will be taken to identify and correct the balances in the future.

Recommendation

Action should be taken to reconcile the balance.

1.6.4 Lack of documentary evidences for audit

Audit Observation

Information required for the audit had not been submitted for 07 accounting items amounting to Rs. 133,268,527.

Comment of the Sabha

The actions will be taken to continue by updating and maintain in the future.

Recommendation

Should be keep updated records and schedules and regular.

2. Financial review

2.1 Financial result

According to the Financial Statements presented, the recurrent expenditure over the revenue of the Sabha for the year ended 31 December 2020 amounted to Rs.12,717,964 as compared with against the recurrent expenditure over the revenue amounted to Rs. 11,841,892 in the preceding year.

2.2 Revenue Administration

2.2.1 Performance of revenue collections

Audit Observation

(a) Rates and Tax

Action had not been taken to recover the arrears of Rs. 21,480,443 in Rates and taxes.

Comment of the Sabha

Actions will be taken to maintain mobile services and collect arrears of taxes through the distribution of red notices in the year 2021.

Recommendation

Actions should be taken to recover the arrears of income

(b) Court fines and Stamp Fees

Rs. 5,473,082 was due for Court fines and Rs. 170,022,244 for stamp fees as at 31 December of the year under review, The Chief Secretary had not taken action to pay the Court Fines and Stamp fees.

The Revenue of court fines and stamp duty has been receiving monthly from the year 2020.

3. Accountability and Good governors

Environment Issue

Audit Observation

The council had maintained a compost yard in the Ahangama area and the yard was closed due to protests by the residents of the area. Garbage collected daily is disposed of on a private land and closed, and the Sabha had spent Rs. 24,869,080 to collect 96 tons of garbage during the year under review. The council had not worked to find a long-term permanent solution for waste management.

Comment of the Sabha

The biodegradable waste is used for biogas production, and plans prepared to collect the non-biodegradable waste in the future and direct them for recycling.

Recommendation

A long-term plan for waste management should be formulated and implemented.