REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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To: The Minister – Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements of Nyimba Town Council

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Nyimba Town Council for the year ended 31st December, 2020 which comprise the Statement of Cash Receipts and Payments, the Statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual Amounts, Statement of Cash Receipts and Payments for Local Government Equalization Fund and the Statement of Cash Receipts and Payments for Constituency Development Fund (CDF) and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information on pages 11 to 32.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements of Nyimba Town Council present fairly, in all material respects, its cash receipts and payments and balances for the year ended 31st December, 2020 in accordance with the Cash Basis International Public Sector Accounting Standard (IPSAS) and the Local Authorities Accounting Policies (LAAPs).

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). 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 am independent of Nyimba Town Council in accordance with the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) Code of Ethics together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Zambia, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the INTOSAI Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

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Emphasis of Matter

I draw attention to Note 1.1 to the financial statements which describe the roadmap of the Council to adoption of Accrual Basis Financial Reporting Framework as result of which the Council has not produced Accrual Basis type of financial statements required by the Local Government Act No. 2 of 2019.

My opinion is not qualified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Cash Basis International Public Sector Accounting Standard, the Local Government Act No. 2 of 2019, the Public Finance Management Act No. 1 of 2018 and Local Authorities Accounting Policies (LAAPs) of 2019, and for such internal controls as management determines 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 Council'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 intends to liquidate the Council or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Council's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are 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 ISSAIs 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 ISSAIs, I exercise 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,

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as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls.

- Obtain an understanding of internal controls 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 Council's internal controls.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by 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.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of 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 Council'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 Council to cease to continue as a going concern.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Dr. Ron M. Mwambwa, FCMA, FZICA, CGMA, CFE
ACTING AUDITOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

DATE: 04/08/2023

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