



YOBE STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION ONE

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

1. Office of the Secretary to the State Government
2. Office of the Head of Service
3. Ministry of Finance & Economic Development
4. Ministry of Budget & Economic Planning
5. Yobe State Internal Revenue Service

SECTION TWO

EMERGING ISSUES RAISED DURING THE FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS/RECORDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023:

1. Ministry of Environment
2. Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education
3. Min. of Wealth Creation, Empowerment & Employment Gen.
4. Ministry of Information
5. Ministry of Transport and Energy
6. Ministry of Youths and Sports
7. Min. of Humanitarian Affairs & Disaster Mgt.
8. Yobe State Task force on Irrigation Dev.
9. Small and Medium Scale Industries
10. State Scholarship Board
11. Local Govt. Staff Pension Board
12. Arabic & Islamic Education Board
13. College of Education and Legal Studies, Nguru
14. Yobe State Agency for Mass Education
15. Primary HealthCare Management Board
16. Emergency Medical Ambulance Services Agency
17. YOSACA
18. NEAZDP

SECTION THREE

FOLLOW-UP AUDIT REPORT ON SOME ISSUES RAISED IN 2022 ANNUAL REPORT:

1. Ministry of Health and Human Services
2. State Universal Basic Education Board



YOBE STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

Website: www.osag.yb.gov.ng

E-mail: oagyobestate@yahoo.com
auditybsg@gmail.com

GSM NO: +2347088824193

P.M.B. 1051.

Phase I, Secretariat
Damaturu – Yobe State

22nd April, 2024

The Clerk of the House,
Yobe State House of Assembly,
Bukar Abba Ibrahim Way,
Damaturu – Yobe State.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON NON
COMPLIANCE/INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM WEAKNESSES IN
MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES (MDAs) OF GOVERNMENT
OF YOBE STATE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023.**

Sequel to the provision of section 125 subsection 5 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), and section 17 (3) of the Yobe State Public Sector Audit & Other Related Matters Law, 2021; and other relevant extent laws, we have completed the audit of accounts of the Government of Yobe State of Nigeria for the year ended 31st December 2023 and wish to submit our findings, observations and recommendations for your further legislative purposes.

Consequently, we shall be willing to provide any additional information and explanations that may be required in respect of the comments/observations raised herein.

Mai Aliyu Umar Gulani
FCCFI, CCrFA, CNA, FRC,
State Auditor-General (Yobe)

SECTION ONE

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Cross-cutting Issues are the same non-compliance/internal control weaknesses that were identified under some Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) covered by the audit. The attention of the Public Accounts Committee of the State House of Assembly have been drawn to each of these issues through recommendations, including sanctions, with a view to stemming the tide, in this report. These issues were treated in details under each MDA.

Furthermore, the essence of bringing these issues together is to further assist the Public Accounts Committee and other stakeholders to be able to ensure transparency and accountability of public resources entrusted to the care and disposal of the public officials through a class of issues tagged '*cross-cutting*'.

The Cross-cutting Issues are:

1. OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT

Issue 1: Audit of Budget estimates

Section 32 of the Yobe State Public Finance Management Law, 2020 states “(1) Each Accounting officer may cause any proposed budget estimates to be examined and reported on by the internal audit unit of the entity. (2) The Accounting Officer in subsection (1) of this section shall take into account any recommendations made in respect thereto before submitting estimates to the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning”.

In spite of the extant regulations:

- i. Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) established by a law of Yobe State should submit their proposed budget estimates, examined and reported by the Head of Internal Audit Unit of an entity. This should be complied by MDAs to avoid anomalies attributed to weaknesses in the budgetary processes and misclassifications.

Possible Risks

- i. Misclassification of budget
- ii. Unauthorized budget expenditure
- iii. Non-compliance to the budget preparation process

Management's Response

Circulars would be issued to all MDAs in compliance to the provisional law.

Recommendations

- i. Public Accounts Committee (PAC) may call on Executive through the Office of the Secretary to the State Government, to direct all MDAs to comply with the extant regulation.
- ii. Otherwise, any erring MDA should be sanctioned for non-compliance.

2. OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF SERVICE

Issue 2: Submission of copy of bills of quantities/ and or preliminary estimates

The House called on the Executive to direct all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to submit copy/detail of preliminary estimates, bills of quantities, etc to the Auditor-General's office before executing projects for the purpose of auditing, henceforth the Hon. House will sanctioned any MDA found wanting in that regards.

Audit findings

Up to the time of writing this report, no such copy/detail of preliminary estimates, bills of quantities, etc were received in compliance to the House directives. This made it difficult for Audit to ascertain, whether the projects/programmes being executed is in line with project's specification/agreement and value-for-money invested.

Possible Risk

- i. Execution of substandard projects
- ii. Diversion of public funds

Recommendation

Officials responsible should be requested to:

- i. Justify to the Public Accounts Committee, the reasons for non-compliance to the House directives, and
- ii. Otherwise, sanctions relating to non-compliance to the House directives specified in Section 51 (4) (a) of the Yobe State Public Sector Audit Law, 2021 and other extant rules and regulations, should apply.

3. MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Issue 3: Non publication of financial Management and Manual

Section 8 (1) of the Yobe State Public Finance Management Law, 2020 states “The Ministry of Finance shall publish financial manuals and forms which may be used by government entities to support the implementation of this Law”.

In spite of the extant regulations:

- i. The Ministry did not publish a financial manuals in the State, making difficult for Accounting Officers to prepare their books of accounts in line with the financial regulations in the State and other extant rules. The above anomalies could be attributed to the weaknesses in the public finance management.

Possible Risks:

- i. Improper book keeping
- ii. Difficulty in public finance management
- iii. Exposing public resources to unavoidable risks

Management’s Response

A Committee was established to ensure the development and publication of Yobe State Accounting Manual in line with international standards.

Recommendations

- i. PAC may invite the Hon. Commissioner in charge of Finance and Economic Development, to justify the reasons for non-implementation of the extant regulations.
- ii. Otherwise, sanctions relating to failure to provide information in his possession, or under his control, in relation to the financial management.

Issue 4: Responsibility for Assets Management

Section 125 (3) of the Yobe State Public Finance Management Law, 2020 states “Ministry of Finance shall provide guidelines on government assets management”.

In spite of the extant regulations:

- i. The Ministry did not provide guidelines to Ministries, Departments

and Agencies in respect of fixed assets register in line with the international best practice, despite huge assets based exist.

The above anomalies could be attributed to the weaknesses in proper book-keeping and assets management.

Possible Risks:

- i. Diversion of public assets.
- ii. Loss of Government assets
- iii. Exposing public assets to unavoidable risks

Management's Response

A standard Fixed Assets Register for assets control and management are being developed by the Ministry to meet up the global best practices and the extant laws.

Recommendations

- i. PAC may invite the Hon. Commissioner in charge of Finance and Economic Development, to justify the reasons for non-implementation of the extant regulations.
- ii. Otherwise, sanctions relating to failure to provide information in his possession, or under his control, in relation to the financial management.

4. MINISTRY OF BUDGET AND ECONOMIC PLANNING

Issue 5: Establishment of Budget and Economic forum

Section 182 (1) of the Yobe State Public Finance Management Law, 2020 states "There shall be established in the State, Budget and Economic Forum to be constituted by the Governor; (2) The Forum shall consist of the following: (a) the Governor who shall be the Chairman, (b) members of Executive Council (c) a number of representatives, not being State public officers, appointed by the Governor from persons nominated by, Civil Society Organizations, professional bodies, business, labour issues, women, persons with disabilities, traditional institution, and faith based groups, at the state level. Furthermore, Section 184 (5) of the PFML, 2020 also states "The Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning shall provide secretarial services to the forum for effective performance of its functions".

In spite of the extant regulations:

- i. The Hon. Commissioner in charge of Budget and Economic Planning and the Officials concerned were neither effective to this extant rules nor provide such services to the forum.

The above anomalies could be attributed to the weaknesses in the budgetary processes.

Possible Risks:

- i. Unreliable budget policies
- ii. Non effective budget implementation report

Management's Response

Consultation are being carried out with office of the SSG for smooth implementation of this law.

Recommendations

PAC may invite the Hon. Commissioner in charge of Budget and Economic Planning, to recommends the implementation of the provisional law.

1. YOBE STATE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Issue 6: Deduction at source but not remitted such deductions to the Internal Revenue Service account

Section 27 of the Yobe State Harmonized Revenue law, 2021 provides "The State Accountant-General shall have power to deduct at source, from the budgetary allocation, un-remitted taxes due from any Ministry or Government Agency and shall not later than 30 days thereafter transfer such deductions to the Service".

Audit observed that:

- i. Some deductions of taxes under some revenue subheads were deducted at source by the Accountant-General. However, no evidence of remittance to the account of Internal Revenue Service were provided to the Audit. Therefore, such actions by the Accountant-General contradict the provision of extant regulations.

The above anomalies could be attributed to weaknesses in the revenue accountability of the State.

Possible Risks

- i. Loss of Government revenue.

- ii. Diversion of public funds.
- iii. Difficulty in revenue accountability

Management's Response

Reconciliation is usually carried out on quarterly basis between the Ministry of Finance and the Service

Recommendations

The officials responsible should be required to:

- i. Justify to the Public Accounts Committee, the reasons for non-compliance to the provision of the extant rules and regulations, and
- ii. Otherwise, sanctions relating to failure to account for public funds specified in paragraphs 3106 and 3115 of the Financial Regulations 2009 respectively, should apply.

SECTION TWO**EMERGING ISSUES RAISED DURING THE FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS/RECORDS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2023:****1. MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**

The following observations were raised during the routine audit inspection at the Ministry, forwarded for further necessary actions.

Unserviceable Motor Vehicles

Paragraph 2609 of the Financial Regulations (FR) 2009 states “Unserviceable stores, buildings, plants, motor vehicles and equipment maybe written-off and disposed of under the personal authority of the Accounting Officer, provided that: ... (d) The Accounting Officer is of the opinion, after taking advice from the appropriate technical officer that the unserviceable articles are beyond economic repair. In the case of motor vehicles, plants and equipment, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) which have their own engineering/technical facilities shall undertake the inspection and valuation...”

Paragraph 2001 of the Financial Regulations (FR) 2009, states “The Accounting Officer shall be responsible for ensuring that there are effective controls in the use of government vehicles...”

Audit observed that:

- i. The Ministry had seven (7) Motor Vehicles that were grounded and not functional, shown in the table below in a state of disrepair.

S/N	VEHICLE	CHASSIS No.	REGD. NO.	PURPOSE	CONDITION
1	Toyota Hilux	AHTFG00810558	17A 05YB	Supervision	Grounded
2	Toyota Hilux	AHTEX22G108011461	17A 02YB	Supervision	Grounded
3	Gazelle Pick-Up	TBEXG3027021876848	17A 16YB	Utility	Grounded
4	Tractor	HHJ08122600646	17A 30YB	Harrowing	Grounded
5	Mercedes Tanker	DGHTX3718518555	17A 09YB	Watering	Grounded
6	Mercedes Mack Tipper	CMIO4400277	17A 35YB	Evacuation	Grounded
7	Mercedes Compacter	WDTBX65203415925695	17A 37YB	Evacuation	Grounded

- ii. These vehicles are expected to be written-off in accordance with the provisions of extant regulations.

The above anomalies could be attributed to weaknesses in the internal

control system.

Possible Risks

- i. Waste of public funds.
- ii. Loss of revenue.

Management's Response

Lists of the vehicles were sent for approval.

Recommendations

Officials responsible should be requested to:

- i. Provide to the Public Accounts Committee, evidence of communication seeking for approval to dispose the unserviceable vehicles.
- ii. Ensure the disposal of the unserviceable vehicles and remit proceeds to the Treasury.
- iii. Forward the evidence of remittance to the Public Accounts Committee, and
- iv. Otherwise, sanctions relating to gross misconduct specified in paragraph 3129 of the Financial Regulations 2009, should apply.

2. MINISTRY OF BASIC AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

During the year under review, the following observations were raised, forwarded for further necessary actions.

Payment vouchers without relevant supporting particulars/evidences (N18,695,680.45)

Section 97 (1) of the Yobe State Public Finance Management Law, 2020 provides "All receipts and payments vouchers of public funds shall be properly supported by pre-numbered receipt and payment vouchers shall be supported by the appropriate authority and documentation".

Also, Paragraph 603(1) of the Financial Regulations (FR) 2009 states "All vouchers shall contain full particulars of each service such as dates, numbers, quantities, distances and rates, so as to enable them to be checked without reference to any other documents and will invariably be supported by relevant documents such as local purchase orders, invoices, special letters of authority, time sheets, etc".

Audit observed that:

- i. Five (5) payment vouchers in the sums of N18,695,680.45 paid to

different Officials/service providers were not supported with relevant supporting particulars/documents, and made it impossible to attest if the payments were legitimate charges against public funds.

Therefore, the above anomalies could be attributed to weaknesses in the internal control system.

Possible Risks

- i. Payments for job not executed.
- ii. Diversion of public funds.

Management's Response

All necessary supporting particulars would be requested from the relevant officials/service providers for attachment.

Recommendations

Officials responsible should be required to:

- i. Account for the sum of N18,695,680.45 paid without attaching relevant supporting documents to the paid vouchers.
- ii. Recover the sum of N18,695,680.45 from the beneficiaries and pay same to government treasury.
- iii. Forward evidence of remittance to the Public Accounts Committee, and
- iv. Otherwise, sanctions relating to irregular payment and gross misconduct specified in Section 185 (1) (h) of the Yobe State PFML, 2020, should apply.

3. MINISTRY OF WEALTH CREATION, EMPOWERMENT & EMPLOYMENT GENERATION

During the year under review, the following observations were raised, forwarded for further necessary actions.

Non-Maintenance of Fixed Assets and Contract Registers

Section 129 (1) of the Yobe State Public Finance Management Law, 2020 states "The Accounting Officer shall be responsible for maintaining a register of assets under his control or possession as prescribed by the relevant laws".

Audit observed that:

- i. The Ministry did not maintain fixed assets register showing date of

acquisition of the assets, cost, depreciation of the assets, registration number, engine number and chassis number in the case of motor vehicle, annual depreciation, addition, net book value, etc., and

- ii. No evidence was provided to justify the maintenance of standard fixed assets and Contract registers in spite of huge assets exist in an organization.

The above anomalies could be attributed to weaknesses in the internal control system at the Ministry.

Possible Risks:

- i. Diversion of public assets.
- ii. Loss of Government assets
- iii. Exposing public assets to unavoidable risks

Management's Response

A standard fixed assets and contract registers are being developed at the Ministry's level.

Recommendations

Officials responsible should be requested to:

- i. Provide to the Public Accounts Committee, a comprehensive fixed assets and contract registers of an organization , and
- ii. Otherwise, sanctions relating to mismanagement of public assets and financial misconduct specified in Section 185 (1) (k) of the Yobe State Public Finance Management Law, 2020 should apply.

4. MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, INFORMATION & CULTURE

During the year under review, the following observations were raised, forwarded for further necessary actions.

a. Paid vouchers without pre-payment audit (N8,905,000)

Section 146 (a) – (c) of the Yobe State Public Finance Management Law, 2020 provides “Internal Auditors shall: (a) review and evaluate budgetary performance, financial management, transparency and accountability mechanisms and processes in an entity; (b) have a duty to give reasonable assurance on the state of risk management, control and governance within the organization, and (c) review the effectiveness of the financial and non-financial performance management systems of the entity”.

Audit observed that:

- i. The sum of N8,905,000 paid for various services during the period under review were not subjected to pre-payment audit as required by extant regulations.

The above anomalies could be attributed to weaknesses in the internal control system.

Possible Risks

- i. Payments for unapproved expenses.
- ii. Diversion of public funds.
- iii. Loss of government funds

Management's Response

No response

Recommendations

Official responsible should be requested to:

- i. Account to the Public Accounts Committee of the YBHA, the sum of N8,905,000 paid without prepayment audit.
- ii. Recover and remit to the Treasury, the sum of N8,905,000.
- iii. Forward evidence of remittance to the Public Accounts Committee, and
- iv. Otherwise, sanctions relating to irregular payment and financial misconduct under Section 185 (1) (o) of the Yobe State PFML, 2020 should apply.

5. MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND ENERGY

The following observation was raised during the routine audit inspection at the Ministry.

a. Non-Maintenance of Fixed Assets and Contract Registers

Paragraph 2433 of the Financial Regulations (FR) 2009 states "Senior stores officers responsible for supervision of stores shall ensure that a "Valuable and Attractive Stores Register" is maintained for items qualifying for this description. In every case of handover, these items shall be subject to a hundred per cent check and the certificate endorsed accordingly."

Audit observed that:

- i. The Ministry did not maintain fixed assets register showing date of

acquisition of the assets, cost, depreciation of the assets, registration number, engine number and chassis number in the case of motor vehicle, annual depreciation, addition, net book value, etc., and

- ii. No evidence was provided to justify the non-maintenance of standard fixed assets and Contract registers in spite of Billions of contract sums invested in Airport Project, Electricity Transmission Network, etc.

The above anomalies could be attributed to weaknesses in the internal control system at the Ministry of Transport and Energy.

Possible Risks:

- i. Diversion of public assets.
- ii. Loss of Government assets
- iii. Exposing public assets to unavoidable risks

Management's Response

No response

Recommendations

Officials responsible should be requested to:

- i. Justify to the Public Accounts Committee, the reason for non-maintenance of standard fixed assets and contract registers despite huge assets based of an organization, and
- ii. Otherwise, sanctions relating to gross misconduct specified in paragraph 3129 of the Financial Regulations 2009 should apply.

6. MINISTRY OF YOUTHS AND SPORTS

During the year under review, the following observations were raised, forwarded for further necessary actions.

a. Non-Maintenance of Fixed Assets and Contract Registers

Section 129 (1) of the Yobe State Public Finance Management Law, 2020 states "The Accounting Officer shall be responsible for maintaining a register of assets under his control or possession as prescribed by the relevant laws".

Audit observed that:

- i. The Ministry did not maintain fixed assets register showing date of acquisition of the assets, cost, depreciation of the assets, registration number, engine number and chassis number in the case of motor

vehicle, annual depreciation, addition, net book value, etc., and

- ii. No evidence was provided to justify the maintenance of standard fixed assets and Contract registers in spite of huge assets exist in organization.

The above anomalies could be attributed to weaknesses in the internal control system at the Ministry.

Possible Risks:

- i. Diversion of public assets.
- ii. Loss of Government assets
- iii. Exposing public assets to unavoidable risks

Management's Response

A standard fixed assets and contract registers are being developed at the Ministry's level.

Recommendations

Officials responsible should be requested to:

- i. Justify to the Public Accounts Committee, the reasons for non-maintenance of standard fixed assets and contract registers despite huge assets based in an organization, and
- ii. Otherwise, sanctions relating to financial misconduct specified in Section 185 (1) (k) of the Yobe State Public Finance Management Law, 2020 should apply.

7. MINISTRY OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND DISASTER MGT.

During the year under review, the following observations were raised, forwarded for further necessary actions.

a. Paid vouchers without pre-payment audit (N1,198,000)

Section 146 (a) – (c) of the Yobe State Public Finance Management Law, 2020 provides “Internal Auditors shall: (a) review and evaluate budgetary performance, financial management, transparency and accountability mechanisms and processes in an entity; (b) have a duty to give reasonable assurance on the state of risk management, control and governance within the organization, and (c) review the effectiveness of the financial and non-financial performance management systems of the entity”.

Audit observed that:

- i. The sum of N1,198,000 paid to different beneficiaries were not subjecting to pre-payment audit as required by extant regulations. The above anomalies could be attributed to weaknesses in the internal control system.

Possible Risks

- i. Payments for unapproved expenses.
- ii. Diversion of public funds.
- iii. Loss of government funds

Management's Response

No response

Recommendations

Official responsible should be requested to:

- i. Account to the Public Accounts Committee of the YBHA, the sum of N1,198,000 paid without prepayment audit.
- ii. Recover and remit to the Treasury, the sum of N1,198,000.
- iii. Forward evidence of remittance to the Public Accounts Committee, and
- iv. Otherwise, sanctions relating to irregular payment and financial misconduct under Section 185 (1) (o) of the Yobe State PFML, 2020 should apply.

8. YOBE STATE TASK FORCE ON IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT

The following observations were raised during the routine audit inspection and forwarded for further necessary actions.

Paid vouchers not presented for audit (N11,100,000)

Section 125(2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) states "the public accounts of a State and of all offices and courts of the State shall be audited by the Auditor-General for the State who shall submit his reports to the House of Assembly of the State concerned, and for that purpose the Auditor-General or any person authorised by him in that behalf shall have access to all the books, records, returns and other documents relating to those accounts". Also, paragraph 601 of the FR 2009 states "All payment entries in the cash book/accounts shall be vouched for on one of the

prescribed treasury forms. Vouchers shall be made out in favour of the person or persons to whom the money is actually due. Under no circumstances shall a cheque be raised or cash paid for services for which a voucher has not been raised.” Furthermore, paragraph 110 of the Financial Regulations (2009) states “By virtue of their responsibilities and functions, the Accountant General and the Auditor-General or their representatives shall, at all reasonable times, have free access to books of accounts, files, safes, security documents and other records and information relating to the accounts of all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). They shall also be entitled to require and receive from members of the Public Service such information, reports and explanations as they may deem necessary for the proper performance of their functions.”

Audit observed that:

- i. Monthly Allowance and Standing Imprest for the months of January to June amounting to N11,100,000 paid were not presented for audit examination, and there was no justification provided for the expenditure.

The above anomalies could be attributed to weaknesses in the internal control system.

Possible Risks

- i. Payments for unbudgeted expenditures.
- ii. Loss of government funds.
- iii. Payments for jobs not executed.

Management’s Response

No response.

Recommendations

Officials responsible should be requested to:

- i. Account for the sum of N11,100,000 paid without raising paid vouchers.
- ii. Recover and remit to Treasury, the sum of N11,100,000.
- iii. Forward evidence of remittance to the Public Accounts Committee, and
- iv. Otherwise, sanctions relating to irregular payment and failure to

manage public funds effectively prescribed in paragraphs 3106 and 3115 of the Financial Regulations (FR) 2009, respectively, should apply.

9. SMALL AND MEDIUM SCALE INDUSTRIES

During the year under review, the following observations were raised, forwarded for further necessary actions.

Non remittance of Account Balance (N16,847,467.49)

Section 77 (1) of the Yobe State Public Finance Management Law, 2020 provides that “Not later than 15th January each year, Chief Executives shall surrender to the State treasury unexpended voted money or excess Appropriations-in-Aid”.

Audit observed that:

- i. The projects account of an organization have a surplus cash balance amounting to N16,847,467.49. However, no authoritative documents were made available justifying carried forward-in liability of the account balance for audit purpose.
- ii. Therefore, non-surrender of end-of-year surplus cash balance to the treasury could amount to the fact that the sums involved remained unaccounted.

The above anomalies could be attributed to weaknesses in the internal control system.

Possible Risks

- i. Loss of public funds.
- ii. Difficulty in funding budget.

Management's Response

No response

Recommendations

Officials responsible should be required to:

- i. Provide the reasons to the Public Accounts Committee, for non-remittance of N16,847,467.49.
- ii. Recover the sum of N16,847,467.49 and remit same to the Treasury.
- iii. Forward evidence of remittance to the PAC, and
- iv. Otherwise, sanctions relating to failure to account for public funds as contained under section 185 (2) of the PFML, 2020 be applied.

10.STATE SCHOLARSHIP BOARD

During the year under review, the following observations were raised, forwarded for further necessary actions.

Non remittance of Account Balance (N5,435,355.87)

Section 77 (1) of the Yobe State Public Finance Management Law, 2020 provides that “Not later than 15th January each year, Chief Executives shall surrender to the State treasury unexpended voted money or excess Appropriations-in-Aid”.

Audit observed that:

- i. The operational accounts of an organization have a surplus cash balance amounting to N5,435,355.87. However, no authoritative documents were made available justifying carried forward-in liability of the account balance for audit purpose.
- ii. Therefore, non-surrender of end-of-year surplus cash balance to the treasury could amount to the fact that the sums involved remained unaccounted.

The above anomalies could be attributed to weaknesses in the internal control system.

Possible Risks

- i. Loss of public funds.
- ii. Difficulty in funding budget.

Management's Response

No response

Recommendations

Officials responsible should be required to:

- i. Provide the reasons to the Public Accounts Committee, for non-remittance of N5,435,355.87.
- ii. Recover the sum of N5,435,355.87 and remit same to the Treasury.
- iii. Forward evidence of remittance to the Public Accounts Committee, and
- iv. Otherwise, sanctions relating to failure to account for public funds as contained under section 185 (2) of the PFML, 2020 be applied.

11. LOCAL GOVT. STAFF PENSION BOARD

During the year under review, the following observations were raised, forwarded for further necessary actions.

Non remittance of Account Balance (N115,562.62)

Section 77 (1) of the Yobe State Public Finance Management Law, 2020 provides that “Not later than 15th January each year, Chief Executives shall surrender to the State treasury unexpended voted money or excess Appropriations-in-Aid”.

Audit observed that:

- i. The operational account of an organization have a surplus cash balance amounting to N115,562.62. However, no authoritative documents were made available justifying carried forward-in liability of the account balance for audit purpose.
- ii. Therefore, non-surrender of end-of-year surplus cash balance to the treasury could amount to the fact that the sums involved remained unaccounted.

The above anomalies could be attributed to weaknesses in the internal control system.

Possible Risks

- i. Loss of public funds.
- ii. Difficulty in funding budget.

Management's Response

No response

Recommendations

Officials responsible should be required to:

- i. Provide the reasons to the Public Accounts Committee, for non-remittance of N115,562.62.
- ii. Recover the sum of N115,562.62 and remit same to the Treasury.
- iii. Forward evidence of remittance to the Public Accounts Committee, and
- iv. Otherwise, sanctions relating to failure to account for public funds as contained under section 185 (2) of the PFML, 2020 be applied.

12. ARABIC AND ISLAMIC EDUCATION BOARD

During the year under review, the following observations were raised,

forwarded for your necessary actions.

Non-Submission of Annual Financial Statements for the year 2023

Section 181 of the Yobe State Public Finance Management Law, 2020 provides that “The Chief Executive of a corporation shall prepare and submit annual financial and non-financial statements in the format prescribed by the commissioner within three months after the end of the financial year to the Auditor-General with copies to the responsible Commissioner and Ministry of Finance”.

In spite of the extant regulations:

- i. The Arabic and Islamic Education Board failed to submit its audited financial statements for the year 2023 to the Office of the Auditor-General for the State as at the time of this report in April, 2024, and the above practice by the Board contravened extant regulations on submission of audited financial statements.

The above anomalies could be attributed to weaknesses in the internal control system.

Possible Risks

- i. Impediments to Public Accounts Committees oversight
- ii. Sub-optimal decisions by those charged with governance.

Management’s Response

No response

Recommendations

Officials responsible should be requested to:

- i. Justify to the Public Accounts Committee, the reasons for not submitting the annual financial statements for transparency and accountability of the public resources entrusted to their care and disposal, and
- ii. Otherwise, sanctions relating to gross misconduct specified in paragraph 3129 of the Financial Regulations 2009 should apply.

13. COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND LEGAL STUDIES, NGURU

During the year under review, the following observations were made, forwarded for further necessary actions.

Non-Submission of 2023 Annual Financial Statements

Section 181 of the Yobe State Public Finance Management Law, 2020

provides that “The Chief Executive of a corporation shall prepare and submit annual financial and non-financial statements in the format prescribed by the commissioner within three months after the end of the financial year to the Auditor-General with copies to the responsible Commissioner and Ministry of Finance”.

In spite of the extant regulations:

- i. The College failed to submit its audited financial statements for the year 2023 to the Office of the Auditor-General for the State, and
- ii. The above practice by the College contravened extant regulations on submission of audited financial statements.

The above anomalies could be attributed to weaknesses in the internal control system.

Possible Risks

- i. Impediments to Public Accounts Committees oversight
- ii. Sub-optimal decisions by those charged with governance.

Management’s Response

No response

Recommendations

Officials responsible should be requested to:

- i. Justify to the Public Accounts Committee, the reasons for not submitting the annual financial statements within the statutory time limit as specify by the extant regulations, and
- ii. Otherwise, sanctions relating to financial misconduct under Section 185 (1) (k) of the Yobe State PFML, 2020 should apply.

14. YOBE STATE AGENCY FOR MASS EDUCATION

During the year under review, the following observations were made.

Non-Submission of 2023 Annual Financial Statements

Section 181 of the Yobe State Public Finance Management Law, 2020 provides that “The Chief Executive of a corporation shall prepare and submit annual financial and non-financial statements in the format prescribed by the commissioner within three months after the end of the financial year to the Auditor-General with copies to the responsible Commissioner and Ministry of Finance”.

In spite of the extant regulations:

- i. The Agency failed to submit its audited financial statements for the year 2023 to the Office of the Auditor-General for the State, and
- ii. The above practice by the Agency contravened extant regulations on submission of audited financial statements.

The above anomalies could be attributed to weaknesses in the internal control system.

Possible Risks

- i. Impediments to Public Accounts Committees oversight
- ii. Sub-optimal decisions by those charged with governance.

Management's Response

No response

Recommendations

Officials responsible should be requested to:

- i. Justify to the Public Accounts Committee, the reasons for not submitting the annual financial statements within the statutory time limit as specify by the extant regulations, and
- ii. Otherwise, sanctions relating to financial misconduct under Section 185 (1) (k) of the PFML, 2020 should apply.

15. PRIMARY HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT BOARD

During the year under review, the following observations were made, forwarded for further necessary actions.

Non-Submission of 2023 Annual Financial Statements

Section 181 of the Yobe State Public Finance Management Law, 2020 provides that “The Chief Executive of a corporation shall prepare and submit annual financial and non-financial statements in the format prescribed by the commissioner within three months after the end of the financial year to the Auditor-General with copies to the responsible Commissioner and Ministry of Finance”.

In spite of the extant regulations:

- i. The Board failed to submit its audited financial statements for the year 2023 to the Office of the Auditor-General for the State, and
- ii. The above practice by the Board contravened extant regulations on submission of audited financial statements.

The above anomalies could be attributed to weaknesses in the internal control system.

Possible Risks

- i. Impediments to Public Accounts Committees oversight
- ii. Sub-optimal decisions by those charged with governance.

Management's Response

No response

Recommendations

Officials responsible should be requested to:

- i. Justify to the Public Accounts Committee, the reasons for not submitting the annual financial statements within the statutory time limit as specify by the extant regulations, and
- ii. Otherwise, sanctions relating to financial misconduct under Section 185 (1) (k) of the PFML, 2020 should apply.

16. EMERGENCY MEDICAL AMBULANCE SERVICES AGENCY

During the year under review, the following observations were made, forwarded for further necessary actions.

Non-Submission of 2023 Annual Financial Statements

Section 181 of the Yobe State Public Finance Management Law, 2020 provides that "The Chief Executive of a corporation shall prepare and submit annual financial and non-financial statements in the format prescribed by the commissioner within three months after the end of the financial year to the Auditor-General with copies to the responsible Commissioner and Ministry of Finance".

In spite of the extant regulations:

- i. The Agency failed to submit its audited financial statements for the year 2023 to the Office of the Auditor-General for the State, and
- ii. The above practice by the Agency contravened extant regulations on submission of audited financial statements.

The above anomalies could be attributed to weaknesses in the internal control system.

Possible Risks

- i. Impediments to Public Accounts Committees oversight
- ii. Sub-optimal decisions by those charged with governance.

Management's Response

No response

Recommendations

Officials responsible should be requested to:

- iii. Justify to the Public Accounts Committee, the reasons for not submitting the annual financial statements within the statutory time limit as specify by the extant regulations, and
- iv. Otherwise, sanctions relating to financial misconduct under Section 185 (1) (k) of the PFML, 2020 should apply.

**17. YOBE STATE AGENCY FOR THE CONTROL HIV/AIDS
(WORLD BANK ASSISTED)**

During the year under review, the following observations were made, forwarded for further necessary actions.

Non-Submission of 2023 Annual Financial Statements

Section 181 of the Yobe State Public Finance Management Law, 2020 provides that “The Chief Executive of a corporation shall prepare and submit annual financial and non-financial statements in the format prescribed by the commissioner within three months after the end of the financial year to the Auditor-General with copies to the responsible Commissioner and Ministry of Finance”.

In spite of the extant regulations:

- i. The Agency failed to submit its audited financial statements for the year 2023 to the Office of the Auditor-General for the State, and
- ii. The above practice by the Agency contravened extant regulations on submission of audited financial statements.

The above anomalies could be attributed to weaknesses in the internal control system.

Possible Risks

- i. Impediments to Public Accounts Committees oversight
- ii. Sub-optimal decisions by those charged with governance.

Management's Response

No response

Recommendations

Officials responsible should be requested to:

- i. Justify to the Public Accounts Committee, the reasons for not submitting the annual financial statements within the statutory time limit as specify by the extant regulations, and
- ii. Otherwise, sanctions relating to financial misconduct under Section 185 (1) (k) of the PFML, 2020 should apply.

18. NORTH-EAST ARID ZONE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (NEAZDP)

During the year under review, the following observations were made.

Non-Submission of 2023 Annual Financial Statements

Section 181 of the Yobe State Public Finance Management Law, 2020 provides that “The Chief Executive of a corporation shall prepare and submit annual financial and non-financial statements in the format prescribed by the commissioner within three months after the end of the financial year to the Auditor-General with copies to the responsible Commissioner and Ministry of Finance”.

In spite of the extant regulations:

- i. The NEAZDP failed to submit its audited financial statements for the year 2023 to the Office of the Auditor-General for the State, and
- ii. The above practice by the NEAZDP contravened extant regulations on submission of audited financial statements.

The above anomalies could be attributed to weaknesses in the internal control system.

Possible Risks

- i. Impediments to Public Accounts Committees oversight
- ii. Sub-optimal decisions by those charged with governance.

Management’s Response

No response

Recommendations

Officials responsible should be requested to:

- i. Justify to the Public Accounts Committee, the reasons for not submitting the annual financial statements within the statutory time limit as specify by the extant regulations, and
- ii. Otherwise, sanctions relating to financial misconduct under Section 185 (1) (k) of the PFML, 2020 should apply.

SECTION THREE

FOLLOW-UP AUDIT REPORT ON SOME ISSUES RAISED IN 2022 ANNUAL REPORT, CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED BY THE STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY :

Section 18 (4) of the Yobe State Public Sector Audit Law, 2021 states *“Report of non-compliance to the directives of the State House of Assembly in respect of the Queries of previous Audit will be forwarded to the State House of Assembly”*. In compliance to the extant laws and regulations, we have conducted a follow-up audit on the findings and recommendations arising from the 2022 Auditor-General’s Annual Report, as considered and adopted by the Hon. House at its sitting on 12th March, 2024. Therefore, the results of our findings are hereby presented as follows: -

1. MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

House Resolution

The House called on the State Executive to recover the sum of N54,000,000 from the official(s) concerned, and remit same to the Treasury Single Account, being paid for the procurement of materials, without adherence to the extant laws and regulations.

Audit follow-up

Up to the time of writing this report, no evidence of remittance were presented to this office for ease of reference.

Possible Risks

- i. Difficulty in funding budget
- ii. Diversion of public funds.
- iii. Loss of government funds

Recommendation

Officials responsible should be requested to:

- i. Justify to the Public Accounts Committee, the reasons for non-compliance to the House directives, and
- ii. Otherwise, sanctions relating to non-compliance to the House directives specified in Section 51 (4) (a) of the Yobe State Public

Sector Audit Law, 2021 and other extant rules and regulations, should apply.

2. STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD (SUBEB)

House Resolution

The Hon. House direct the State Executive to recover the sum of N2,500,156.19 from the official(s) concerned, and remit same to the State Treasury Single Account, for non-adherence to the extant laws and regulations related to surrendering of surplus cash after the closing of financial year.

Audit follow-up

Up to the time of writing this report, no evidence of remittance were presented to this office for ease of reference.

Possible Risks

- i. Difficulty in funding budget
- ii. Diversion of public funds.
- iii. Loss of government funds

Recommendation

Officials responsible should be requested to:

- i. Justify to the Public Accounts Committee, the reasons for non-compliance to the House directives, and
- ii. Otherwise, sanctions relating to non-compliance to the House directives specified in Section 51 (4) (a) of the Yobe State Public Sector Audit Law, 2021 and other extant rules and regulations, should apply.