

1.0 AUTHORITY

The Accounts of the Government of Anambra State of Nigeria for the year ended 31st December, 2022 have been examined under my direction pursuant to Section 125 (2 & 5) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended).

2.0 SUBMISSION OF 2022 ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The draft copies of the Financial Statements of the Government of Anambra State with the detailed supporting schedules for the fiscal year ended 31st December, 2022 were received from the State Accountant-General on 4th April 2023. The final copies of the Accounts were re-submitted on 22nd June 2023 having reflected issues raised in my preliminary examination.

3.0 THE MANNER IN WHICH THE 2022 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS WERE PREPARED

Submitted by the State Accountant-General for my examination and certification were these Financial Statements accompanied by their supporting schedules.

- i. Consolidated Financial Summary
- ii. Cash Flow Statement
- iii. Statement of Assets and Liabilities
- iv. Statement of Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF)
- v. Statement of Capital Development Fund (CDF)
- vi. Notes to the Financial Statements

- vii. Schedules of Detailed Recurrent Revenue and Expenditures
- viii. Schedules of Detailed Capital Receipts and Expenditures

The above financial documents are attached to this report as an appendix.

4.0 SUBMISSION OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT ON THE 2021 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Report of the State Auditor-General on the Accounts of the Government of Anambra State for the year ended 31st December, 2021 was submitted to the State House of Assembly on 28th February 2022 for information and necessary legislative attention. This accorded with Section 125 (5) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended).

5.0 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Financial Statements were examined on test basis of evidence relevant to the figures disclosed.

6.0 LEGAL AUTHORITIES FOR GOVERNMENT FINANCES IN 2022

i. Appropriation Law:

The State Appropriation Bill 2022 was passed into Law by the State House of Assembly. The processes of preparing the Estimates and appropriation conformed to the

provisions of the 1999 constitution (as amended) and other extant rules and regulations.

ii. Release of Warrants:

Warrants were regularly issued for monies released from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and Capital Development Fund during the period under review.

7.0 AUDIT PROGRAMME

The programme of work was designed to pursue a continuous audit of all Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in accordance with Public Sector Auditing Standard.

8.0 RENDERING OF EXPENDITURE RETURNS

Most of the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) rendered returns on both recurrent and capital expenditures. However, they were not rendered timeously.

9.0 POOR CIRCULATION OF 2022 APPROVED ESTIMATES

The Audit field officers had serious challenges reconciling expenditures/approvals with budget provisions because the Approved Estimates were not widely and timely circulated to the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) by the Budget Office.

10.0 AUDIT QUERIES

Queries raised in the audit of Ministries, Departments and Agencies did not receive timely responses. All the unresolved issues arising from the queries within the accounting year are highlighted herein.

11.0 INTERNAL AUDIT UNITS OF MDAs

In general, the Internal Audit Unit of the MDAs remained largely a rubberstamp and ineffective.

12.0 REVIEW OF 2020 PUBLIC FINANCE LAW

The efforts at updating the Public Finance Management framework (Public Finance Law 2020) to meet the peculiarities of the State by the Ministry of Finance did not meet the desired expectations of the various stakeholders. A further review is desirably urgent.

13.0 RETIREMENT OF MONEY RELEASED FROM PUBLIC TREASURY

Poor retirement or lack of retirement of money released to sundry high level public office holders remained a major challenge. It is worthy of note that retirement of public funds is neither a matter of discretion nor status-sensitive. It is a fundamental requirement of rules and regulations guiding the use of public money.

14.0 PAYMENT OF HOUSING ALLOWANCE AND PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION TO POLITICAL APPOINTEES

Public servants inclusive of political appointees are entitled to either accommodation (housing) allowance or accommodation, not both. The attention of the Secretary to the State Government, Head of Service and Accountant-General is drawn to political appointees occupying Government quarters and still receive accommodation (housing) allowance as part of their monthly emolument.

15.0 DOUBLE CHARGE TO PUBLIC FUND

The out of station allowance is an all-inclusive payment to any traveling officer on official assignment. It is wrong for public office holders to claim out of station allowance and hotel accommodation simultaneously. It constitutes double charge to the public treasury. The Accountant General should not honour such approval.

16.0 ACCOUNTING OFFICER

By the provisions of the Financial Regulations and other treasury circulars, the Permanent Secretary is the Chief Accounting Officer in the Ministry. The conflict as to whose responsibility it is to authorize between the Permanent Secretary and political office holder is therefore needless.

17.0 SUBVENTION TO GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENTS

Heads of Government establishments need to be educated on the proper application of subventions to them. For emphasis, subvention is meant to take care of the recurrent expenditures and should not be applied to the procurement of new assets to avoid the distortion of recurrent expenditures.

18.0 INTEGRATING ANSIPPA AND MOFI

It would appear that the mandate of the Anambra State Investment Promotion and Protection Agency (ANSIPPA) conflicts with the basic functions of the Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI). Streamlining the functions of both bodies is imperative.

19.0 ANALYSES OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In the year under review, the revenue projection (revised) was N128,910,621,494.00 (one hundred and twenty-eight billion, nine hundred and ten million, six hundred and twenty-one thousand, four hundred and ninety-four Naira and twenty-six Kobo) against the (revised) projected expenditure of N169,621,744,131.00 (one hundred and sixty-nine billion, six hundred and twenty-one million, seven hundred and forty-four thousand, one hundred and thirty-one Naira). The revenue components were from the Federation Account and Internal Generated Revenue as well as capital receipts. Against the projected revenue, the

actual revenue was N117,820,063,893.26 (one hundred and seventeen billion, eight hundred and twenty billion, sixty-three thousand, eight hundred and ninety-three Naira and twenty-six Kobo). Thus, the projection was underachieved by N11,090,557,600.74 (eleven billion, ninety million, five hundred and fifty-seven thousand, six hundred Naira and seventy-four Kobo) representing 8.60%. On the other hand, the sum of N121,410,777,383.95 was expended against the projection of N169,621,744,131.00 (one hundred and sixty-nine billion, six hundred and twenty-one million, seven hundred and forty-four thousand, one hundred and thirty-one Naira). The projected was underachieved by N48,210,966,747.05 (forty-eight billion, two hundred and ten million, nine hundred and sixty-six thousand, seven hundred and forty-seven Naira and five Kobo) representing 28.42%.

20.0 REVENUE

20.1 Recurrent Revenue

The Account reported a confirmed recurrent revenue of N113,504,561,799.33 (one hundred and thirteen billion, five hundred and four billion, five hundred and sixty-one thousand, seven hundred and ninety-nine Naira and thirty-three Kobo) for the Financial Year 2022. Out of this, revenue from the Federation Account (Statutory Allocation inclusive of VAT) was N84,378,789,255.13

(eighty-four billion, three hundred and seventy-eight million, seven hundred and eighty-nine, two hundred and fifty-five Naira and thirteen Kobo), representing 74.34% of the total revenue. Importantly, the revenue from the Federation Account exceeded the projection by N23,029,264,294.13 (twenty billion, twenty-nine million, two hundred and sixty-four thousand two hundred and ninety-four Naira and thirteen Kobo). On the other hand, the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) was N29,125,772,544.20 (twenty-nine, one hundred twenty-five, seven hundred and seventy-two thousand, five hundred and forty-four Naira and twenty Kobo), representing 25.66% of the total revenue. The details of the contributions of the various revenue windows are shown in the table below,

| Revenue Subhead | Budget | Actual | % Variance | Remark |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|
| Fed. Account | 61,349,524,961.00 | 84,378,789,255.13 | 137.54 | Over achieved |
| Taxes | 25,570,854,097.00 | 20,129,374,728.09 | 54.32 | Under achieved |
| Fees | 11,229,425,696.00 | 5,287,661,546.26 | 47.09 | Under achieved |
| Fines | 27,311,416.00 | 85,746,190.00 | 313.96 | Over achieved |
| Sales | 1,554,006,814.00 | 271,050,643.36 | 17.44 | Under achieved |
| Earnings | 265,162,091.00 | 1,424,265,813.39 | 537.13 | Over achieved |
| Licenses | 1,578,344,735.00 | 857,316,029.55 | 52.32 | Under achieved |
| Rent On G/Bding | 3,760,910.00 | 1,476,220.00 | 39.25 | Under achieved |

| | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| Rent on G/Land | 91,776,455.00 | 115,690,016.24 | 126.06 | Over achieved |
| Repayments | 21,513,584.00 | 16,455,020.24 | 76.49 | Under achieved |
| Investment | 0 | 29,374,666.72 | - | - |
| Interest | 838,444.00 | 7,400,630.82 | 882.66 | Over achieved |
| Reimburse | 2,140,000.00 | 457,500.00 | 21.38 | Under achieved |
| Misc. | 1,762,291.00 | 899,503,539.19 | 51,041.71 | Over achieved |

20.2 Capital Receipt

The Account reported a total capital receipts of N70,183,528,820.13 (seventy billion, one hundred and eighty-three million, five hundred and twenty-eight thousand, eight hundred and twenty Naira and thirteen Kobo). The components were transferred from the Consolidated revenue Fund, Aids/Grants, Internal loans and other capital receipts. The budget projection was N115,728,880,601.00 (one and fifteen billion, seven hundred and twenty-eight million, eight hundred and eighty thousand Naira). Thus, the budget projection was under achieved by N45,545,351,780.87 representing 39.36%

21.0 Budget Performance – Capital Expenditure

With particular reference to the execution of capital projects in the year under review, the budget was generally under achieved across the Ministries, Departments and

Agencies (MDAs). The summary of the achievements of projections across the Ministries is tabulated below.

| MDA | Budget | Actual Spent | % Variance | Remark |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|----------------|
| Ex. Gov. Office | 5,070,000,000 | 4,490,196,803.06 | 11.44 | Under achieved |
| Dep. Gov. Office | 219,500,000 | 6,591,600.00 | 97 | Under achieved |
| SSG Office | 1,241,750,000 | 1,045,288,005.78 | 15.82 | Under achieved |
| Anambra Pub. Procure Agency | 102,700,000 | 28,700,000 | 72.09 | Under achieved |
| Tourism | 1,262,955,798 | 475,781,756.33 | 62.33 | Under achieved |
| House of Assembly | 2,621,993,949.82 | 1,302,356,050.18 | 66.81 | Under achieved |
| Off of the Head of Service | 316,920,420 | 209,132,299.03 | 34.01 | Under achieved |
| Off of State Aud. General | 47,000,000 | 25,426,114.64 | 45.9 | Under achieved |
| Off of Aud. General for LG | 19,200,000 | 6,712,210.11 | 65.04 | Under achieved |
| Civil Service Commission | 58,053,025 | 2,199,820 | 96.21 | Under achieved |
| Min of Information | 260,618,076 | 211,699,816.85 | 18.77 | Under achieved |
| ANS Signage Agency | 20,000,000 | 7,410,491.03 | 52.95 | Under achieved |
| Min of Agriculture | 1,157,500,000 | 615,396,589.37 | 46.83 | Under achieved |
| Fisheries & Agric. Dev. | 151,000,000 | 2,900,000 | 98.08 | Under achieved |
| Min of Finance | 2,719,179,728 | 1,596,984,160.58 | 41.27 | Under achieved |
| ANS Int. Rev. Service | 1,094,300,000 | 100,314,790 | 90.83 | Under achieved |
| Off of Accountant Gen | 650,097,089 | 25,763,629.74 | 96.04 | Under achieved |
| Min of Trade & Commerce | 526,354,600 | 50,447,258.94 | 90.42 | Under achieved |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------|----------------|
| ANS Ind. Dev. Agency | 163,034,635 | 0 | 100 | Under achieved |
| Min of Road, Rail/Water Tran | 1,601,270,000 | 100,966,145.55 | 93.69 | Under achieved |
| ANS Trans. Mgt. Agency | 47,750,000 | 28,509,000 | 40.30 | Under achieved |
| Min of Road Constr, Furn. | 54,319,000,000 | 28,788,760,289.83 | 15.74 | Under achieved |
| ANS Road Mtance Agency | 637,650,000 | 260,886,145.81 | 59.09 | Under achieved |
| Min of Eco. Plg. & Budget | 5,392,000,000 | 1,113,121,961.36 | 79.36 | Under achieved |
| State Bureau of Statistics | 183,000,000 | 24,109,055.93 | 86.83 | Under achieved |
| Min of Housing & Urb. Renew. | 2,819,085,891 | 2,105,138,546.06 | 25.33 | Under achieved |
| Min of Lands, Phys. Planning | 1,375,200,000 | 965,364,905.71 | 29.80 | Under achieved |
| ANS Phys. Planning Board | 226,808,039 | 57,000,000 | 74.87 | Under achieved |
| Min of Power & Dom. Water | 1,559,000,000 | 1,066,389,281.84 | 31.60 | Under achieved |
| Judicial Serv. Commission | 25,000,000 | 16,103,050 | 35.59 | Under achieved |
| Min of Justice | 674,026,000 | 554,882,227.39 | 17.68 | Under achieved |
| High Court | 1,804,358,470 | 1,204,790,664.95 | 33.23 | Under achieved |
| Min of Youth & Sports | 2,380,088,000 | 100,319,250 | 95.79 | Under achieved |
| Min of Women Affairs | 735,160,000 | 112,440,000 | 84.71 | Under achieved |
| Min of Basic Education | 1,285,202,223 | 651,999,750.10 | 49..27 | Under achieved |
| Info. Comm. Tech. Agency | 1,323,300,000 | 60,209,415 | 95.45 | Under achieved |
| ANS Polytech. Mgbakwu | 613,651,919 | 3,250,036 | 99.47 | Under achieved |
| Nwafor Orizu Coll. Of Educ. | 376,969,676 | 80,000,000 | 78.78 | Under achieved |
| Min of Health | 2,793,997,770 | 741,637,151.19 | 73.46 | Under achieved |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------------|-------|----------------|
| Pri. Health Care Agency | 446,260,096 | 154,572,133 | 65.36 | Under achieved |
| ANS Oxygen Prod. Plant | 18,000,000 | 1,435,620 | 92.02 | Under achieved |
| Min of Environment | 183,000,000 | 130,025,002.33 | 28.95 | Under achieved |
| ANS Parks & Gardens | 273,920,000 | 24,988,000 | 90.88 | Under achieved |
| ANS Clear Drainage | 724,000,000 | 10,000,000 | 98.62 | Under achieved |
| ANS Sports Dev. Comm. | 895,750,000 | 268,845,875.25 | 69.99 | Under achieved |
| Min of LG, Chieftaincy | 2,307,000,000 | 135,542,745.33 | 94.12 | Under achieved |

22.0 TREASURY & MINISTERIAL ACCOUNTS

Not all the issues raised against the MDAs in the year under review were fully resolved. The unresolved issues are summarized hereunder.

23.0 MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

23.1 MISAPPLICATION OF FUND

23.1.1 A particular Senior Planning Officer received the sum of N1,221,000 (one million, two hundred and twenty-one thousand Naira) from the public treasury. She purportedly used the same in procuring high-tech phones for the retired Permanent Secretary and 14 (fourteen) departmental heads. The sum was disbursed through 3 (three) different Payment Vouchers as follows;

- i. PV No. 7 of Feb. 2019 - N283,000
- ii. PV No. 8 of February 2019 - N469,000
- iii. PV No. 9 of February 2019 - N469,000

The details are contained in the schedule (table) below.

| S/N | PAYEE | AMOUNT | DETAILS | REMARK |
|-----|---------------------|---------|---------------------------|---|
| 1 | Permanent Secretary | 280,000 | IPAD APPLE 6 | Not recorded by the Store unit. Not returned on retirement. |
| 2 | Permanent Secretary | 3,000 | 1 month data subscription | - |
| 3 | 7 HODs | 455,000 | INFINIX Note 4 model | Not recorded by the Store unit. Names of HODs not |

| | | | | |
|---|--------|---------|---------------------------|--|
| | | | | indicated. |
| 4 | 7 HODs | 14,000 | 1 month data subscription | Data subscribed at N2,000 each. |
| 5 | 7 HODs | 455,000 | INFINIX Note 4 model | Not recorded by the Store unit. Names of HODs not indicated. |
| 6 | 7 HODs | 14,000 | 1 month data subscription | Data subscribed at N2,000 each. |

The expenditures were sourced from the UNICEF-supported Programmes and Projects Fund. A breakdown of the details showed that the unit price for INFINIX Note 4 phones given to the departmental heads was N65,000 (sixty-five thousand Naira) and IPAD APPLE 6 was N280,000 (two hundred and eighty thousand Naira). It was observed that the approval was made by the retired Permanent Secretary who was one of the beneficiaries. There was no evidence to suggest the involvement of the former Honourable Commissioner or Governor. It was not established through the audit the nexus between the expenditures and the source of funding as well as the relevance of the phones to all the departmental heads in realizing the UNICEF objectives. The only justification was that money was available and there was no strict control on how it should be spent.

The expenditure was not only inappropriate, misplaced, and wrong; it constituted a misapplication of public money. Public money is not for the bazaar and should not be disbursed at the whims and caprices of the authorizing officers. To underscore the recklessness with which public resources were treated these phones were not

recorded anywhere as Government property thus, allowing the beneficiaries to convert them to personal use. Against the preceding, the Permanent Secretary was requested to;

- i. obtain from Senior Planning Officer the invoices for the purchase of the phones,
- ii. retrieve the IPAD APPLE 6 phone from the retired Permanent Secretary,
- iii. retrieve the INFINIX Note 4 phone from the benefitting departmental heads that might have retired or transferred out of the Ministry, and
- iv. cause the Store unit to document all the phones (both retrieved and others in use).

The retrieved phones are to be re-issued to serving departmental heads. In the absence of any evidence that the phones were bought, the sum of N1,221,000 (one million, two hundred and twenty-one thousand Naira) should be recovered from Senior Planning Officer and paid into the Government treasury.

23.1.2 On Payment Voucher No. 19 of September 2019, the sum of N250,000 (two hundred and fifty thousand Naira) was paid to the retired Permanent Secretary for the purchase of 10.5” IPAD Air (early 2019, 64GB, Wi-Fi only space Gray). The IPAD was to be used in the office of the Permanent Secretary for routine activities and

efficiency of the Ministry. The details of the expenditure are shown below.

| S/N | DESCRIPTION OF ITEM | AMOUNT |
|-----|-------------------------|------------|
| 1 | 10.5” IPAD Air | 150,000.00 |
| 2 | Voice Recorder | 65,000.00 |
| 3 | MTN Mobile WI-FI Router | 25,000.00 |
| 4 | Subscription | 10,000.00 |

Inquiries made in the audit including fact-finding visits to the office of the Permanent Secretary revealed that the said items for which the sum of N250,000 (two hundred and fifty thousand Naira) was taken from the public treasury were not procured. The IPAD was nowhere to be found and the router for internet service was not in existence. In any case, why would the retired Permanent Secretary need another IPAD and router when he had earlier approved to himself the sum of N283,000 (two hundred and eighty-three thousand Naira) for an IPAD APPLE 6 and one-month internet subscription?

Against the preceding, the Permanent Secretary was requested to obtain from the former Permanent Secretary the IPAD, Voice Recorder and Router or in the alternative, recover the sum of N250,000 (two hundred and fifty thousand Naira) he took from the public treasury which he failed to apply to the purpose(s) earmarked. In the case of recovery, the recovered amount should be paid back into the public treasury.

23.1.3 On Payment Voucher No. 16 of October 2019, the Head of Accounts Department received the sum of N65,000 (sixty-five thousand Naira) to purchase an unspecified model of Android phone to enable her to do her official work effectively.

It is recalled that earlier in 2019 Head of Accounts Department was one of the departmental heads that benefitted from an INFINIX Note 4 phone. In a space of 10 (ten) months, Head of Accounts Department purportedly bought another phone from the public treasury. This is unacceptable as it flies in the face of all government regulations which emphasize prudence in the management of public resources.

Against the preceding, the Permanent Secretary was requested to recover the sum of N65,000 (sixty-five thousand Naira) from Head of Accounts Department and remit the same to the public treasury. The particulars of the recovery and remittance are to be forwarded to me for follow-up action.

23.2 NON REMITTANCE OF TAXES DEDUCTED FROM TRANSACTIONS

23.2.1 On Payment Voucher No. 41 of March 2019, the sum of N72,500 (seventy-two thousand and five hundred Naira) representing 12.5% taxes was deducted from the sum of N580,000 (five hundred and eighty thousand Naira) paid to UBAJAMENSON GLOBAL RESOURCES

LIMITED of No. 216 Lagos Rd, Obiroko-Ihima, Kogi State, Nigeria for re-fumigation of the interior and exterior premises of the Ministry of Economic Planning, Budget and Development Partners. The taxes were,

- i. 5% VAT - N29,000
- ii. 5% WHT - N29,000
- iii. 2.5% State Dev. Tax - N14,500

There was no evidence that the deducted amount was remitted to either the accounts of the Anambra State Government or any other Tax Authority and the Head of Accounts Department was unable to explain the status of the deducted sum.

Consequently, the Permanent Secretary was requested to recover the sum of N72,500 (seventy-two thousand and five hundred Naira) from the Head of Account being amount deducted from the official transaction between the Ministry and UBAJAMENSON GLOBAL RESOURCES LIMITED but was not remitted to the appropriate Government account.

23.2.2 On Payment Voucher No. 43 of April 2019, the sum of N112,500 (one hundred and twelve thousand and five hundred Naira) representing 12.5% taxes was deducted from the sum of N900,000 (nine hundred thousand Naira) paid to BRANDSOFT SYSTEMS LIMITED for the installation of Anti-Virus in all computers in the Ministry of Economic Planning, Budget and Development Partners. The taxes were,

- i. 5% VAT - N45,000
- ii. 5% WHT - N45,000
- iii. 2.5% State Dev. Tax - N22,500

There was no evidence that the deducted amount was remitted to either the accounts of the Anambra State Government or any other Tax Authority and the Head of Accounts Department was unable to explain the status of the deducted sum.

Consequently, the Permanent Secretary was requested to recover the sum of N112,500 (one hundred and twelve thousand and five hundred Naira) from the Head of Account being amount deducted from the official transaction between the Ministry and BRANDSOFT SYSTEMS LIMITED but was not remitted to the appropriate Government account.

23.3 DOUBTFUL PAYMENT

The sum of N3,500,000 (three million and five hundred thousand Naira) was purportedly spent through an unnumbered Payment Voucher dated August 2019 in favour of the Head of Accounts Department for a capacity building on ‘Accountability, Transparency and Good Governance in a Democratic Era’. The target audience was Accountants, Cashiers and Internal Auditors.

When and where this workshop was held were not indicated nor the details of the workshop including the names of participants produced in the audit. Inquiries

across the MDAs did not reveal that the said workshop was done.

Against the foregoing, the Permanent Secretary was requested to obtain from the Head of Account the retirement for the sum of N3,500,000 (three million and five hundred thousand Naira) which she took from the public treasury and did not show any evidence of how it was utilized. In the alternative, she should refund the sum of N3,500,000 (three million and five hundred thousand Naira).

23.4 DOUBLE CHARGES ON PUBLIC TREASURY

23.4.1 On Payment Voucher No. 10 of February 2019, SSA, UN Partnership was paid the sum of N235,000 (two hundred and thirty-five thousand Naira) being a refund of out-of-pocket expenses (reimbursement) for attending the wedding of the daughter of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations at Abuja. She claimed to have represented the State at the wedding. It is recalled that on Payment Voucher No. 130 December 2018, the Assistant to the former Honourable Commissioner, Mr. Ezeigbo Uche, had applied for a refund for the same purpose for which he was paid.

Why was it necessary for her and Mr. Ezigbo to attend the same function on behalf of the State Government without the approval of the State Governor? The evidence available in the audit was that the former Honourable

Commissioner should represent the State Government and who the SSA, UN Partnership represented could not be established.

It is wrong and inappropriate to make such double charges on the treasury of the Government of Anambra State. The SSA, UN Partnership had no authority to represent the State Government in the function and ought not to have made any claims on the public treasury. She was at the function, if she truly attended, on a personal capacity and the State Government should not be made to fund her private costs.

In light of the foregoing, the Permanent Secretary was requested to recover the sum of N235,000 (two hundred and thirty-five thousand Naira) from her being amount she inappropriately claimed from the public treasury. The recovered amount is to be paid back to the Consolidated Revenue Fund and particulars of remittances forwarded to me for follow-up action.

23.4.2 On Payment Voucher No. 3 of May 2019, the sum of N750,000 (seven hundred and fifty thousand Naira) was paid to the Head of PRS to conduct a training on 'Economic Planning and Budget Management on result-based monitoring and evaluation of government projects' for Planning Officers. It is recalled that on Payment Voucher No. 2 of April 2019 the Head of PRS had received N750,000 (seven hundred and fifty thousand

Naira) for the same workshop. Both Payment Vouchers were not retired.

Inquiries conducted in the audit did not establish that such training or workshop took place let alone twice in quick succession.

In the light of the above, the Permanent Secretary was requested to obtain the explanations of the Head of PRS on when, where the workshop took place and the details of the participants in the workshop. In the alternative, the sum of N1,500,000 (one million and five hundred thousand Naira) should be recovered from the Head of PRS and the same remitted to the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the State.

23.4.3 On Payment Voucher No. 10 of July 2019, the sum of N250,000 (two hundred and fifty thousand Naira) was paid to the Head of Accounts Department being sponsorship to the 2019 Mandatory Continuing Professional Development Programme (MCPD) of the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria held at Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

It was established in the audit that the Head of Accounts being a member of staff of the Office of the Accountant General had received funding for this particular purpose (training) through the Office of the Accountant General. It was thus wrong for her to have received another funding from the public treasury for the same training through the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development

Partners. It amounted to a double charge to the public treasury.

The Permanent Secretary was thus requested to recover the sum of N250,000 (two hundred and fifty thousand Naira) from the Head of Accounts and remit the same to the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the State. This was the amount she doubly claimed from the public treasury through the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development Partners. Evidence of recovery and remittance is to be forwarded to me for follow-up action.

23.5 IRREGULAR PAYMENT OF HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

On Payment Voucher No. 8 of October 2019, the former Permanent Secretary of the Ministry received the sum of N105,000 for a Conference/AGM of the Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology (NIFST). The breakdown is as follows:

- i. Conference Registration Fee – N50,000
- ii. Professional Fee – N35,000
- iii. Accommodation – N20,000

The Conference/AGM was held at the Prof. Dora Akunyili Women Development Centre, Awka, Anambra state. The official receipts of the Institute or bank-generated tellers (electronic receipts) for the Conference Registration Fee and Professional Fee were not attached to the Payment Voucher.

By the Head of Service circular with reference HOS/ED/RR/45/19 of 13th August 2008, no public officer is entitled to hotel accommodation for a function within the State. The retired Permanent Secretary lived in Awka and would not justify an accommodation in a hotel at the expense of the public fund.

The Permanent Secretary was thus requested to obtain from the retired Permanent Secretary,

- i. a refund of the sum of N20,000 (twenty thousand Naira) he wrongly claimed from the public treasury. The refund is to be paid back to the public treasury.
- ii. receipts issued by the Institute for the Conference and Professional fees. Alternatively, the retired Permanent Secretary is to refund the sum of N85,000 (eighty-five thousand Naira) he claimed for the Conference which he did not use for the earmarked purposes. The refund is to be paid back to the public treasury.

23.6 CONSULTANCY SERVICES AS CONDUIT TO SIPHON PUBLIC FUND

It was observed in the audit that consultancy services running into tens of millions of Naira were awarded by the Ministry. The former Honourable Commissioner, and retired Permanent Secretary had full knowledge of the award of the consultancy services. The UNICEF

intervention Fund was treated as a slush Fund by the past Honourable Commissioner who cared very little about engaging the Fund in activities that could add value. Consultancy services were awarded on waste management, design of market, census of industries, etc, - areas entirely outside the purview of the Fund. Interestingly, the majority of the consultancy services were awarded to one person (company) mutating with different names.

The manner the intervention Fund had been managed was wrong, inappropriate and extravagant. It was advised that the Fund should henceforth be limited to financing activities that have a direct bearing on the goals that informed its creation.

The foregoing observations and recommendations were communicated to the Honourable Commissioner in my inspection report with the reference, AS/AUD/MIN.II/REP/VOL.1/145 of 23rd August 2022. His response is being awaited.

24.0 OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL

24.1 DOUBTFUL TRANSACTIONS:

24.1.1 On Payment Voucher No. 3 of December 2016, the sum of N3,604,468.68 (three million, six hundred and four thousand, four hundred and sixty-eight Naira and sixty-eight Kobo) was purportedly paid in the name of Egbu Franklin Uchenna Re-late Egbu Roseline Amaka through the Fegge Sub-treasury. Egbu Franklin Uchenna (deceased) was designated as Principal Special Grade II. Similarly, on Payment Voucher No. 2 of December 2017 of the same Fegge Sub-treasury, another sum of N9,630,954.73 (nine million, six hundred and thirty thousand, nine hundred and fifty-four Naira and seventy-three Kobo) was paid in the name of Egbu Franklin U. Re-late Azukaego Egbu. In this latter case, Egbu Franklin Uchenna (deceased) was designated as Chief Executive Officer, Nwafor Orizu College of Education, Nsugbe. Inquiries conducted in the audit disclosed that no such name as Egbu Franklin Uchenna (deceased) with the designation of Chief Executive Officer ever worked at the Nwafor Orizu College of Education, Nsugbe. Again, the signature of the certifying officer, Ndiokwelu C. N. was forged based on the specimen of her signature obtained in the audit. By implication, the documents and certification

upon which the payments were made were seemingly forged.

Cumulatively, the sum of N13,235,423.41 (thirteen million, two hundred and thirty-five thousand, four hundred and twenty-three Naira and forty-one Kobo) was purportedly paid in the name of a deceased retiree, Egbu Franklin, using the Fegge Sub-treasury as the conduit.

It was recommended that the Sub-treasurer(s) at the time of these transactions should be further investigated to throw more light on the circumstances surrounding these transactions.

24.1.2 On an unnumbered Payment Voucher of April 2017 with Departmental NO. PEN/150/2016 ANS, the sum of N362,458.11 (three hundred and sixty-two thousand, four hundred and fifty-eight Naira and eleven Kobo) was paid in the name of Emmanuel Udochukwu Egu (Driver Mechanic II) Re-late Hycient Ndubuisi Egu.

On another unnumbered Payment Voucher of March 2018 with Departmental No. TP/325/2018 ANS, the sum of N4,034,853.00 (four million, and thirty-four thousand, eight hundred and fifty-three Naira) was paid in the name of Agatha Chinwe Okoye (Principal Special Grade II). Both payments were made through the Awka Sub-treasury. Curiously, affixed to the Retiring Benefit Authority (ANTF 4C) of both retirees was the passport photograph of the same person – a seemingly young male.

It was recommended that the Sub-treasurer(s) at the time of these transactions should be further investigated to throw more light on the rationale for using the same passport photograph in seemingly unrelated transactions.

24.1.3 On Payment Voucher No. 2 of September 2017, the sum of N4,034,853.00 (four million, and thirty-four thousand, eight hundred and fifty-three Naira) was paid in the name of Alphonsus Aduluo Re-late Abigail Aduluo. Alphonsus Aduluo is deceased and designated as Principal Special Grade II.

Similarly, on Payment Voucher No. 1 of February 2018, the sum of N5,369,922.00 (five million, three hundred and sixty-nine thousand, nine hundred and twenty-two Naira) was paid in the name of Alphonsus Ikechukwu Aduluo who was designated as Principal Special Grade I.

Both payments were made through the Ihiala Sub-treasury.

Inquiries conducted in the audit disclosed that no two persons that ever worked at the Post Primary School Service Commission (PPSSC) had such similarity in name. Again, the signature of the certifying officer, Ndiokwelu C. N. was forged based on the specimen of her signature obtained in the audit. By implication, either or both of the documents and certification upon which the payments were made were seemingly forged.

It was recommended that the Sub-treasurer(s) at the time of these transactions should be further investigated to

throw more light on the circumstances surrounding these transactions.

24.2 PAYMENTS WITHOUT APPROVAL OF STATE AUDITOR-GENERAL OR AUTHORITY OF HEAD OF SERVICE

Across the sub-treasuries payments were made which had no attachment of either the Audit Approval of the State Auditor-General or Retiring Benefit Authority of the Head of Service or both. It was also observed that in some Payment Vouchers, the signature of the certifying officer would appear to be forged. No Payment Voucher is considered valid when relevant documents that would give the history of, and support to, the transactions are not attached. The details of the transactions considered as having been irregularly made, sub-treasury by sub-treasury, were attached to the inspection report.

24.3 ABUSE OF INTERNAL CONTROL

It was observed in the audit that retirees were enrolled for payment of gratuity and other retirement benefits without observing due process. Records examined confirmed that at the topmost level of the State treasury, payments of retirees' benefits were approved and directly paid to them without recourse to the retirees' preferred sub-treasuries or schedule officer, at least, for documentation. Consequently, some retirees were scheduled for payments twice or more times. For illustration, the schedule below

contains names of retirees who were scheduled at least twice for payment of gratuity.

| S/N | NAME | SUB-TREASURY | PERIOD DUPLICATED | AMOUNT |
|-----|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Ezeani Doris N. | Neni | April 2017 & June 2017 | 1,548,733.78 |
| 2 | Chitolue Godwin Eziamaka | Nnewi | March 2017 & June 2017 | 3,712,064.76 |
| 3 | Umeanyido Simon Obi | Onitsha | March 2017 & June 2017 | 320,390.07 |
| 4 | Umeokeke Charity Nwakaego | Onitsha | April 2017 & June 2017 | 2,470,201.46 |
| 5 | Uwakwe Cecilia Onyinyechi | Abagana | June 2017 & August 2017 | 3,932,959.50 |
| 6 | Nwanne Emmanuel Mbanefo | Awka | June 2018 & July 2018 | 4,034,853.00 |
| 7 | Okafor Ifedima Chinyere | Awka | June 2018 & July 2018 | 3,819,660.00 |
| 8 | Asiegbunam Comfort Obiageli | Awka | June 2018 & July 2018 | 633,624.00 |
| 9 | Uchedu Agatha Nonye | Nteje | June 2018 & July 2018 | 2,476,627.41 |
| 10 | Ibeabuchi Mabel Ifeyinwa | Nnewi | March 2018 & July 2018 | 2,040,674.23 |
| 11 | Nriagu | Ihiala | August 2018 & | 2,993,246.04 |

| | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------------|
| | Eucharia Nkemdilim | | July 2019 | |
| 12 | Oguagbaka Humphrey Chukwuma | Ogidi | July 2018 & July 2019 | 5,293,496.37 |
| 13 | Okafor Felix Obi | Ogbaru | Sept. 2018 & Feb. 2021 | 5,369,922.00 |
| 14 | Ifeonuson Michael Nwaeze | Nteje | July 2019 & January 2021 | 4,515,962.41 |
| 15 | Ibesi James Simon | Nteje | July 2019 & July 2020 | 103,128.86 |

It was recommended that the scheduling officer in the Office of the Accountant-General and sub-treasuries should be carried along in all payments of gratuity and other retirement benefits for proper documentation and avoidance of duplication of names.

The foregoing observations and recommendations were communicated to the Accountant-General in my inspection report with the reference, AS/AG/REP/1/55 of 25th January 2023. His response is being awaited.

25.0 MINISTRY OF LANDS

25.1 IDLE FUNDS IN BANKS

25.1.1 It was observed that the sum of N31,847,997.78 (thirty-one million, eight hundred and forty-seven thousand, nine hundred and ninety-seven Naira and

seventy-eight Kobo had remained in the Zenith Bank account of the Ministry (with the number 1011529368) for as far back as 2019. No transactions had been carried out in the bank account since July 2019 and it has become dormant.

It was not established why such a huge amount of money had been laying idle for over three years and was not remitted back to State treasury for re-appropriation. Its continued placement in the Bank benefits neither the State nor citizens as it yields no interest.

The Permanent Secretary was thus requested to cause this account to be closed and the balances both in bank and cash remitted to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

25.1.2 In the First City Monument Bank account (with number 2234985019) of the Ministry was the sum of N13,915,000 (thirteen million, nine hundred and fifteen thousand Naira) which was approved before 2019 for the payment of survey and consultancy services to Surveyors that worked for the State Government. There was no records of the details of the approval as the approved memo was not sighted in the audit. The Head of Account reported not to have seen the approved memo. Neither could the Head of Accounts that handed over to her give any clue on the memo.

It was not established why the amount had remained and continued to reflect in the cashbook and other financial records of the Ministry years after it ought to have exited

the accounts of the Ministry. A cheque on the amount was issued to the former Surveyor-General of the State but for whatever reason the cheque was not presented to the Bank.

The Permanent Secretary was thus requested to initiate effective processes to pay the beneficiaries or the amount should be remitted to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

25.2 NON-DEDUCTION OF TAXES

On Payment Voucher No. 2 of June 2021, the sum of N15,086,880 (fifteen million, eighty-six thousand and eight hundred and eighty Naira) was paid to GEOBAMS and Associates of Suite FF13, 1st Floor Pacific Complex, Onitsha for the creation of 50m buffer on each side of the road leading to the Airport at Nteje. Taxes were not deducted from this transaction as it was disguised as direct labour.

The applicable taxes were 5% VAT (as at the time of transaction), 5% Withholding Tax and 2.5% State Development Tax which cumulatively amounted to N1,885,860 (one million, eight hundred and eighty-five thousand, eight hundred and sixty Naira). It is emphasized that it is not within the authority of any State officials to grant tax waiver to any Contractor. Therefore, it runs contrary to extant treasury circulars and provisions of the Financial Regulations for the tax waiver granted to GEOBAMS and Associates. If the State Government intended a direct labour execution of its jobs it has State

Ministries with competence in the core areas to engage. In the instant case, the Ministry of Works possesses the requisite manpower and skills.

The Permanent Secretary was requested to obtain the explanations of the Head of Account as to why the Accounts Department ignored to deduct taxes due in the transaction.

25.3 NON-FUNCTIONAL STORE UNIT

It was observed that the inventory of office furniture and equipment including electronics and other store items was not maintained by the Store officers in the Ministry. Records of purchases and distribution of stationeries and other goods were not kept. Every member of staff of the Ministry was a store officer, market surveys were not done prior to procurement and procured items were never sent to the store's unit for documentation. Consequently, a comprehensive audit of the stores could not be carried out. The non-maintenance of store records is wrong and unacceptable as it flies in the face of the provisions of the Financial Regulations. The absence of control over public assets, which the stores unit provides, creates loopholes for persons of doubtful character to pilfer or steal Government property. Stores records allow for the easy trace of the movement and location of Government property.

The Permanent Secretary was therefore requested to comply with the provisions of the Financial Regulations

by ensuring a functional Stores Unit in the Ministry. Furthermore, every office should have an inventory of office furniture and equipment prepared independently of or in conjunction with the officer in charge of the office. The inventory for every office is to be displayed in the same office while a control record is domiciled with the Store unit.

The foregoing observations and recommendations were communicated to the Honourable Commissioner in my inspection report with the reference, AS/MIN.9/1/179 of 23rd November 2022. The response of the Ministry was not satisfactory.

26.0 ACCOUNTS OF PARASTATALS AND STATE OWNED STATUTORY BODIES

Section 125(3) (a & b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended mandates all government parastatals, boards, commissions and all other statutory bodies to produce on yearly basis annual audited accounts of their transactions. It is pertinent to state that the essence of audit of these organizations is to ensure that they maintain transparency and accountability in carrying out their businesses. Above all, the audit serves a means through which government regularly appraise the performance of these bodies.

The response of these establishments in meeting up with this all-important constitutional requirement is unimpressive. I, therefore recommend that the State Government should come hard on the defaulting bodies and compel them to comply with extant laws. Government should also consider scrapping some these bodies which have become moribund.

It is also worthy of note that in recent years, a good number of these bodies have not been audited as a result of huge debt they owe to the External Auditors. These

auditors declined to do any other work in the organizations until their debts are settled. Government is therefore requested to see what can be done to clear these debts and ensure seamless auditing of the statutory bodies yearly.

The schedule below are graded to highlight how the establishments responded to this constitutional requirement;

SCHEDULE A: Up-to-date audited bodies

| S/N | NAME OF BODY | YEAR LAST AUDITED | REMARKS |
|-----|---|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Anambra State Community and Social Development Agency | 2022 | The programme ended in August, 2022 |
| 2 | Anambra State Small Business Agency | 2021 | 2022 in progress |
| 3 | Nwafor Orizu College of Education, Nsugbe | 2021 | 2022 in progress |
| 4 | Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Igbariam | 2020 | 2021 in progress |

| | | | |
|----|---|------|------------------|
| 5 | Anambra State Universal Basic Education | 2021 | In progress |
| 6 | Anambra State Broadcasting Service | 2020 | In progress |
| 7 | Post Primary Schools Service Commission | 2020 | In progress |
| 8 | Anambra State Housing Development Corporation | 2021 | |
| 9 | Anambra State Investment Promotion and Protection Agency | 2019 | |
| 10 | Anambra State Education Program Investment Project | 2020 | |
| 11 | Anambra State Health Insurance Agency | 2021 | 2022 in progress |
| 12 | Anambra State Physical Planning Board | 2018 | |
| 13 | Anambra State Independent Electoral Commission | 2019 | |
| 14 | Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Teaching Hospital, Amaku | 2022 | In progress |

| | | | |
|----|--|------|------------------|
| 15 | Anambra State Hospital Management Board, Enugwu-Ukwu | 2021 | |
| 16 | State Primary Health Care Development Agency | 2021 | 2022 in progress |
| 17 | State College of Health Technology | 2021 | 2022 in progress |

SCHEDULE B: Bodies in arrears

| S/N | NAME OF BODY | YEAR LAST AUDITED | REMARKS |
|-----|--|-------------------|---------|
| 1 | Anambra State Security Trust Fund | 2013 | |
| 2 | Transport Corporation of Anambra State | 2012 | |
| 3 | | | |

SCHEDULE C: Bodies in default

| S/N | NAME OF BODY | YEAR LAST AUDITED | REMARKS |
|-----|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 1 | Anambra State Polytechnic, | - | Yet to be |

| | | | |
|----|--|------|-------------------|
| | Mgbakwu | | audited |
| 2 | Anambra State Waste Management Agency | - | Yet to be audited |
| 3 | Anambra State Hotel AND Tourism Board | - | Yet to be audited |
| 4 | Anambra State Gaming Commission | - | Yet to be audited |
| 5 | Anambra State Volunteer Service Agency | - | Yet to be audited |
| 6 | Anambra State Palm Development Agency | - | Yet to be audited |
| 7 | Anambra State Rural Development Agency | - | Yet to be audited |
| 8 | Anambra State Grain Protection Agency | - | Yet to be audited |
| 9 | Anambra State Fund For Small Scale Industry | - | Yet to be audited |
| 10 | Anambra State Development Trust Fund | - | Yet to be audited |
| 11 | Anambra State Road Maintainance Agency, ARMA | - | Yet to be audited |
| 12 | Anambra State Traffic Maintainance Agency | - | Yet to be audited |
| 13 | Anambra State College of | 2021 | 2022 in |

| | | | |
|----|---|---|-------------------|
| | Health Technology | | progress |
| 14 | Anambra State Newspaper and Printing Corporation | - | Yet to be audited |
| 15 | Anambra State Signage and Advertisement Agency | - | Yet to be audited |
| 16 | Anambra state home Ownership Agency | - | moribund |
| 17 | Anambra State Water Coporation | - | moribund |
| 18 | Anambra State Christian Welfare Pilgrims Board | - | Yet to be audited |
| 19 | Anambra State Library Board | - | Yet to be audited |
| 20 | Anambra State College of Nursing Nkpor | - | Yet to be audited |
| 21 | Awka Capital Development Authority | - | Audit in Progress |
| 22 | State Boundary Commission | - | Yet to be audited |
| 23 | Operation Clean and Healthy Anambra (OCHA) Bridgade | - | Yet to be audited |
| 24 | State Clean Drainage & Forestry Preservation Agency | - | Yet to be audited |

| | | | |
|----|---|---|-------------------|
| 25 | Leisure, Parks and Street Beautification Agency | - | Yet to be audited |
| 26 | Hydrafoam Concrete Block Agency | - | moribund |
| 27 | State Fisheries & Acquculture Business Development Agency | - | Yet to be audited |
| 28 | State Non-Formal Education Agency | - | Yet to be audited |
| 29 | State Action Committee on AIDS (ANSACA) | - | “ ” |
| 30 | STATE Bureau of Public Procurement | - | “ ” |

Many of the organizations in category “C” above have become moribund. Government is therefore advised to take the necessary steps to revitalize or otherwise have them scraped.

26.1 PERIODIC CHECK ON THE OPERATIONS OF ANAMBRA STATE PHYSICAL PLANNING BOARD FOR THE PERIOD OF 1ST JANUARY 2019 TO 30TH JUNE 2022.

26.1.1 FINANCIAL RECORDS OF 2019 NOT PRODUCE FOR AUDIT

The 2019 financial records of the Board were not provided in audit upon request, and as such were not audited during the audit exercise. Information gathered from the management was that the documents are still in the possession of the External Auditor who audited their financial statements in the year, 2020. Management did little or nothing to ensure that the records and documents were returned as they could not offer any cogent reason for their inability to do so.

The management of the Board was then requested to prevail on the External auditors concerned to return all the financial records of the Board in their custody and they are to be made available to me for audit.

26.1.2. NON MAINTENANCE OF ASSETS REGISTER

Audit noted inconsistency with updating and recording of items in the fixed assets register of the Board which might result to improper account of all her assets. The so-called Assets register was a list of some inventories of the Board without the essential information such as date of purchase, costs, descriptions, identification number, location and status among others, of the items listed. It is pertinent to note that some assets like generator, vehicles purchased between 2010 and 2015 amongst others were not captured in the register and as such the Board cannot vouch for the state and safety of these assets.

The Board's Management was requested to ensure maintenance of a comprehensive asset register which would contain all the essential features of Assets Register as mentioned above and Compliance to this recommendation communicated to me for confirmation.

26.1.3. ABSENCE OF A FUNCTIONAL STORE

The following anomalies were observed in the course of audit as it relates the Board's store;

- i. No designated store keeper.
- ii. Management approves and pays money to the Heads of the various units/department in the Board to purchase items needed in their respective units and as a result there were no activities presently in the store.
- iii. Assets and other store items were procured and deployed without taking on charge in the store, thus obviating the need for store in the first place.
- iv. Store documents like SIV, SRV, bin cards and others were not in existence.

Against the foregoing, the management of the Board was requested to put in place a functional store in the Board and ensure that items purchased are first taken on charge in the store. They should also stop forthwith, the current practice which is inimical to the system as the existence of a functional store will help check unnecessary loss, wastes and further improve accountability in the Board.

26.1.4. DISPARITY BETWEEN THE INFORMATION PRODUCED BY THE REVENUE UNIT AND THAT IN THE STATES' MANIFEST

Audit observed a significant difference between the information contained in the revenue report as provided by the Revenue unit of the Board and the States manifest from the Accountant General's office in the period under review. Information relating to these is represented in the table below;

IN THE YEAR 2020

| S/N | MONTH | STATES MANIFEST REPORT N | LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY REPORT(N) | DIFFERENCE N |
|-----|-----------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | JANUARY | 53,860,400 | 55,147,000 | 1,286,600 |
| 2. | February | 67,297,555 | 63,564,555 | 3,733,000 |
| 3. | MARCH | 106,623,385 | 102,201,625 | 4,421,760 |
| 4. | APRIL | 72,810,916 | 74,150,861 | 1,339,945 |
| 5. | MAY | 69,747,310 | 72,165,950 | 2,418,640 |
| 6. | JUNE | 60,639,715 | 57,821,215 | 2,818,500 |
| 7. | JULY | 58,091,305 | 60,652,760 | 2,561,455 |
| 8. | AUGUST | 50,920,662 | 53,163,483 | 2,242,821 |
| 9. | SEPTEMBER | 40,225,350 | 39,747,390 | 477,960 |

| | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------------|
| 10. | OCTOBER | 41,232,840 | 40,064,290 | 1,169,350 |
| 11. | NOVEMBER | 34,638,420 | 35,051,970 | 413,550 |
| 12. | DECEMBER | 56,090,675 | 38,610,430 | 17,480,245 |
| TOTAL | DESCREANCY | | | N40363826 |

IN THE YEAR 2021

| S/N | MONTH | PAY DIRECT AMOUNT N | LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY REPORT(N) | DIFFERENCE N |
|-----|-----------|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. | JANUARY | 47,166,195 | 48,415,945 | 1,249,750 |
| 2. | FEBRUARY | 75,871,960 | 76,556,880 | 684,920 |
| 3. | MARCH | 65,827,130 | 64,232,930 | 1,594,200 |
| 4. | APRIL | 6,065,810 | 5,809,860 | 255,950 |
| 5. | MAY | 82,299,345 | 82,593,995 | 294,650 |
| 6. | JUNE | 80,514,760 | 78,906,430 | 1,608,330 |
| 7. | JULY | 85,055,920 | 79,564,530 | 5,491,390 |
| 8. | AUGUST | 99,417,270.31 | 80,731,530 | 18,685,740.31 |
| 9. | SEPTEMBER | 111,913,4 | 82,887,855 | 29,025,565 |

| | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|
| | | 20 | | |
| 10. | OCTOBER | 51,086,554 | 54,213,534 | 3,126,980 |
| 11. | NOVEMBER | 59,400,540 | 59,657,125 | 256,585 |
| 12. | DECEMBER | 69,688,436 | 66,695,165 | 2,993,271 |
| TOTAL | DESCREpanCY | | | N66,915,661.31 |

IN THE YEAR 2022(JANUARY- JUNE)

| S/N | MONTH | PAY-DIRECT AMOUNT N | LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY (N) | DIFFERENCE N |
|--------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | JANUARY | 40,845,382 | 36,968,582 | 3,876,582 |
| 2. | FEBRUARY | 61,089,025 | 61,634,102 | 545,082 |
| 3. | MARCH | 75,621,000 | 70,363,920 | 5,257,080 |
| 4. | APRIL | 50,214,510 | 56,728,940 | 6,514,430 |
| 5. | MAY | 41,554,025 | 41,885,325 | 331,300 |
| 6. | JUNE | 42,643,570 | 44,824,370 | 2,180,800 |
| TOTAL | DESCREpanCY | | | N18,705,274 |

The above shows that there is no adequate monitoring in the revenue units to ensure consistency and uniformity of information produced by the units with that contained in the States' manifest. This is viewed in audit as deliberate attempt to create loophole for fraudulent diversion of public fund. Management opinion that the above disparities were occasioned by non-compliance with the periodicity principle in accounting could not be established in audit.

Sequel to the above, the Management of the Board was requested to reconcile the above disparity or otherwise, they should account for them and forward the documented evidence of such to me confirmation.

In addition to the above, the Management should proceed to streamline the revenue unit of the various Local Planning Authorities to discharge its duties adequately and ensure that all revenue due and accruing to the government is fully collected, accurately recorded within the period in which they were earned and properly accounted for.

26.1.5. NON-DEDUCTION AND RENDITION OF TAX (WHT, VAT)

The sum of N9, 022,950 was purportedly paid to people to carry out capital projects and professional services in the Board during the period under consideration.

The details are represented in the schedule below;

| S / N | DATE | PV . NO . | PAYEE | PARTICULARS | GROSS AMOUNT N | VAT (7.5%) |
|-------|----------|-----------|---------------|---|----------------|------------|
| 1 . | 13/11/20 | 19 | Nnatu Chinedu | First payment to Crestage for the civil works and infrastructure in ANSPPB | 2,600,000 | |
| 2 . | 17/11/20 | 22 | Nnatu Chinedu | 2 nd payment to Crestage for the civil works and infrastructure in ANSPPB in | 1,409,000 | |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|----------|----|---------------------|--|-----------|--|
| | | | | G.M's office | | |
| 3 . | 18/12/20 | 28 | Nnatu Chinedu | Final payment to Crestage | 2,139,350 | |
| 4 . | 23/3/21 | 32 | Green Field law | Payment for right of way, support and advisory services | 300,000 | |
| 5 . | 23/3/21 | 30 | Bar. Chike Maduekwe | Part payment to the consultant and media for the right of way conference | 1,200,000 | |
| 6 . | 23/3/21 | 31 | Fred Agbata | Payment for right of way(financial consulting | 500,000 | |
| 7 . | 20/5/21 | 12 | Mike Obiajulu Meze | Brande Aristotle winning concepts | 700,000 | |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|---------|----|------------------|--|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 7 | 20/5/21 | 14 | Bernard Nwabueze | Payment for the provision of internet access at ANSPPA | 174,600 | 13,095 was deducted but not remitted |
| TOTAL | | | | | 9,022,950 | |

The only document attached to these payment vouchers were quotations from three different firms and receipts of the payment. Aside these, other due procedures were not complied with and as a result, the appropriate tax deductibles from these jobs were also not accounted for as there were no official receipts of FIRS and Anambra State Internal Revenue service to prove the remittance of the deducted taxes to the relevant authorities. It bears emphasis that tax deductions are to be promptly accounted for by remitting same to the appropriately Tax authority as soon as they were deducted or at a date not later than 21 days after deductions.

Against the foregoing, the management was requested to recover and remit (in accordance to their respective

percentages) without further delay, the above sums to the FIRS and the State Internal Revenue Service as failure to do so will attract severe sanctions. Evidence of such remittance should be forwarded to me for further verification.

**26.1.6. ABUSE OF HONOUR CERTIFICATE (N10, 729,000)
APPENDIX 1**

Audit observed with dismay, abuse and fragrant disregards of government extant regulations on the use of honor certificate in the period under consideration. Some transactions which ought to have been retired with receipts, acknowledgement or any other means of retirement were flagrantly retired with honor certificate to the tune **N10,729,000** as detailed in the appendix 1 attached to my report to the Board.

It is pertinent to note that these transactions which usually contain security/ logistics, fueling, labourers, low-bed excavators/bulldozer and others were not properly accounted for and there was nothing to show how the figures were arrived at in the first place. Furthermore, there was no other supporting documents whatsoever

attached to the payment vouchers except the typed or written statement by the staff that usually made the requests stating that no receipt was issued to her for the above transaction. This is smacks of laxity and irresponsibility in handling of public money. Against the foregoing, the officer concerned was requested to account for the above sums, attaching full documented details of the accounts and forward same to my office for confirmation. In the meantime, no further money is to be advanced to her until she fully accounted for the above sum.

26.1.7. EXPENDITURE BEFORE APPROVAL (N1, 243,000)

It was discovered in audit that a retired staff of the Board during the period under consideration incurred a total expenditure of N1,243,000 before approvals and even authorization of the said amounts were obtained. The details of the transactions are represented in a schedule to my report to the Board

These constitute serious breach of internal control in the system which could expose the Board to potential loss of fund through fraudulent manipulations.

Consequently, the executive chairman of Anambra state Physical Planning Board was requested to discontinue forthwith this practice which negates the very objective of internal control in the system and ensure that approvals are obtained appropriately before expenditures are incurred and inform my office accordingly.

26.1.8. ILLICIT COLLECTION OF HONORARIUM

It was observed that the Board's Public Relations Officer collected honorarium which amounted to N295,000 usually paid to the press men for covering intensive marking exercise and demolition carried out at various sites on different occasions by the Board. The payment which are made at no particular interval were previously paid, only to the press crew until in the year 2021 when the Public Relations Officer decided to include his name in the requisitions made for the payments. The series of amount collected by the PRO in the period under review were detailed in the included report to the Board. However, in pv no. 7 of 7th October, 2020, request was made for the sum of N60, 000 to be paid to Channels and the N20,000 that was added to the payment voucher to make it up to a total of N80,000 was not indicated for any

other media house even though N80,000 was the total amount purportedly paid to the press.

No cogent explanation was proffered on why these monies were being collected by the PRO in the first place since he is a staff of the Board. The General Manager of the Board was by this warned to desist from approving this amount which is inappropriate. He is to proceed to recover the sum of N315, 000 from the Board's PRO. Evidence of such recovery made should be forwarded to me for confirmation.

26.1.9. UNRETIRED EXPENDITURE (N645,250)

The sum of N645, 250 only was discovered to be expenses made by sundry staff in the period under consideration yet to be retired. This is as detailed below;

| S/N | DATE | PV. NO. | PAYEE | PARTICULARS | AMOUNT | REMARK |
|-----|---------|---------|------------------|--|--------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | 22/1/20 | 2 | Modebelu Fidelia | Payment for the office stationaries in the Board | 15,000 | To provide receipt for the fan |
| 2. | 14/2 | 30 | Ezike | Payment for | 78,000 | Not |

| | | | | | | |
|----|---------|----|------------------|---|---------|-------------------------------------|
| | /20 | | Ifeoma | the repair of official vehicle | | retired |
| 3. | 21/9/20 | 12 | Ikeokafor Chinwe | Purchase of battery vehicle | 20,000 | No receipt attached |
| 4. | 28/1/21 | 82 | Ngozi Isaac | Payment for demolition exercise | 100,000 | Pv. Amount is 430,000 |
| 5. | 10/2/21 | 11 | Ngozi Isaac | Payment for installation of fencing wire and repair of office light | 198,000 | Pv. amount is 218,900 |
| 6. | 20/8/21 | 17 | Ngozi Isaac | Servicing of official vehicle | 123,250 | Not retired |
| 7. | 4/2/22 | 7 | Jane Obiekwe | Payment for maintenance of official vehicle | 111,000 | Retired with receipt of 45,000 only |
| | | | TOTAL | | 645,250 | |

Management was requested to prevail on the staff members concerned to retire the various sums of money against their names without further delay. Otherwise,

management should commence immediate recovery of the money from the respective staff and furnish me with the documentary evidence of such retirement and/or recovery.

26.1.10. RETAINING OF STAFF AFTER RETIREMENT

It was discovered in audit that two retired staff of the Board were retained as contract staff despite being retired. According to the information contained in the nominal roll of the Board presented to us in audit, one of the staff involved Ngozi Isaac, was due for retirement on the 27th November, 2021. She is currently the Head of works department, which was a post she held before retirement. Despite being retired, the Board approves and authorizes expenditures she made before approval, as could be seen in s/no.8, schedule for "Payments before approvals".

Management opined that her being retained was as a result of no capable hand to carry out her duty diligently as supposed. It is inconceivable that none of the (8) eight staff under her could assume her duty in the Board; audit wonders what the term and conditions would be and the

possibility of achieving a task she could not do in all her years of service within a short time. This shows her level of incompetence and failure as a leader in the first place.

Another incident is the case of a driver, Nwafor Joseph who was retired on 27th September, 2014 but is still working with the Board till date.

Against the foregoing, the Chairman was required to state why retired staff were still retained even when there are other staff in the Drivers Unit and Works Department who could have taken over from them. These two staff were requested to vacate their positions and proceed on retirement with immediate effect.

26.1.11. DISPARITY IN THE TOTAL STAFF SALARY PAID IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2021

It was discovered that the October and November salary paid in 2021 by the Board to her staff were inconsistent with the amount for salary recorded in the cash book. The October and November salary as stated in the cashbook of the Board are N9,464,855.75 and N9,673,328.38 as against the amount in the bank statement

amount of N9,480,553.25 and N9, 688,868.38 respectively.

The reason for the above disparity could not be explained by the accountant upon enquiry. The Accountant is by this requested to reconcile the above figures and forward to me supporting document for such reconciliation for confirmation.

26.1.12. INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT

The report of your internal auditor was focused only on reporting the revenue of the Board rather than producing lapses in the Boards internal control systems generally. Some of the payment vouchers used in the period under consideration did not have the stamp of the internal auditor contrary to payment procedure. According to the internal auditor, she only carries out prepayment audit in the Board. These and many more depict the reason why her reports did not reveal any anomaly in the system during the period under review.

Internal audit is an integral part of any organization and should be supported to function optimally. The internal auditor is expected produce report on regular interval on

the effectiveness of the internal control system and other activities of the Board to the Management. This is because if the internal audit unit is not efficient the Board is consequently exposed to various kinds of fraud practices and manipulations.

Consequent upon the above, the Executive Chairman should mandate the internal auditor to carry out both pre and post payment audit in the general activities of the Board and evidence of compliance to this recommendation should be forwarded to me for confirmation.

The foregoing observations and recommendations were communicated to the Executive Chairman of Anambra State Physical Planning Board in my letter referenced, AS/OUT.25/VOL2/08 of 15th December, 2022 but no response have been received from him as at the time of preparing this report.

26.2 PERIODIC CHECK ON THE ACTIVITIES OF CHUKWUEMEKA ODUMEGWU OJUKWU UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL (COOUTH), AMAKU, AWKA FROM

**1ST JANUARY 2017 TO 31ST DECEMBER, 2019 AND FROM
1ST JANUARY, 2021 TO 31ST DECEMBER, 2021**

26.2.1 NON PAYMENT OF TAXES

It was observed in audit that the Institution has a long history of non-payment of taxes deducted from the salaries of staff and fully paid contracts awarded to companies by the establishment.

26.2.1.1 Pay As You Earn (PAYE) ₦364,583,857

The scheduled as attached in my report to the Hospital reveals that the Hospital has not paid a dime of PAYE tax for the four- year period under review. A whopping sum of three hundred and sixty-four million, five hundred and eighty-three thousand, eight hundred and fifty-seven naira (₦364,583,857.00) only is being owed to the State Government as personal income tax of COOUTH staff. Deduction of taxes and refusal to remit same to the appropriate authorities constitute serious breach of extant laws and regulations which can attracts grievous consequences on the part of the defaulter. The Chief Medical Director, and the Director of Accounts should as a matter of urgency, commence the immediate

remittance of this huge sum and documented evidence of such remittances forward to me for further verification.

From the attached schedule, PAYE for December, 2019 is nil because it was not deducted for reasons best known to the Hospital Management. The Hospital should therefore, calculate the staff PAYE for the month of December, 2019 and add the amount to the total unremitted PAYE of ₦364,583,857 for onward remittance to the appropriate tax authority, otherwise evidence of non-payment of staff salary for the month in question (December, 2019) should be forwarded to me for verification.

26.2.1.2 Withholding Tax (WHT) ₦8,726,167

The total sum of eight million, seven hundred and twenty-six thousand, one hundred and twenty six-seven naira (₦8,726,167) only was deducted by the Hospital as withholding tax within the period covered by the audit exercise but was not remitted to the relevant tax authority as detailed in the attached schedule.

The Management of the Hospital was therefore requested to remit forthwith, a total sum of ₦8,726,167 being withholding tax deducted during the period of

covered by the audit exercise and forward documented evidence to that effect to me for confirmation

26.2.1.3 Withholding Tax (WHT) And Value Added Tax (VAT) ₦21,374,825

The Hospital deducted together, Withholding Tax (WHT) and Value Added Tax (VAT) amounting to the sum ₦21,374,825 during the period under review at the rate of five percent (5%) each which all together have not been remitted. This implies that 50% of the total sum, N21,374,825 is WHT while the remaining 50% is VAT. In other words, the sum of N10,687,412 each was deducted for WHT and VAT respectively. The details of the deductions are as shown in the schedules attached to my report to the Hospital.

The Chief Medical Director (CMD) and the Director of Accounts were required to immediately commence the remittance of the sum of ₦10,687,412 for WHT and the remaining balance of ₦10,687,412 for VAT to the relevant tax authorities without further delay. Otherwise it would be viewed as a deliberate attempt to undermine Government's revenue efforts. Evidence of remittance of above named taxes as detailed in the schedule should be forwarded to me for further scrutiny.

26.2.2 UNACCOUNTED STAFF ADVANCES FOR 2017, 2019 AND 2021 – ₦303,761,758. (APPENDIX – 1)

The sum of ₦303,761,758 (Three hundred and three million, seven hundred and sixty-one thousand, seven hundred and fifty eight naira only) was the aggregate advances to sundry staff of the Hospital for various purposes. The documented evidence of how the money was utilized was neither attached to the payment voucher nor provided for audit. The details of the advances are attached as Appendix – 1 in my report to the Hospital.

It bears emphasis that retirement of public funds (that is, producing documented evidence of fund utilization) is not a matter of choice or discretion. It is a fundamental requirement of the Financial Regulations as it shows accountability and transparency in management of public trust.

Against the foregoing, the officers or persons whose names appear in the attached schedule (Appendix – 1) were required to produce, for my examination, the details of utilization of the various amounts stated against them. In the alternative, the Chief Medical Director is required to ensure the recovery of the amounts from the individual officers concerned and pay same into the relevant

Hospital's bank account. In either case, documented evidence of action taken should be forwarded to me for confirmation and/or further verification.

26.2.3. UNACCOUNTED THIRD PARTY PAYMENTS ₦34,518,670 (APPENDIX – 2)

It was observed in audit that some payment vouchers were raised in names other than that of the Hospital's staff and yet these third party individuals are not contractors. This is against extant rules, and unacceptable in audit. These are presented in the attached appendix 2. The Chief Medical Director and the Director Accounts who approved and authorised the payments respectively are required to get those their names appeared in appendix -2 to show evidence of utilization of the funds. Alternatively, they should make the appropriate refund of the sum ₦34,518,670 (Thirty-four million, five hundred and eighteen thousand, six hundred and seventy naira) only. Evidence of either retirement and/or refund should be forwarded to me for verification.

26.2.4. PRINTING DONE IN PLACES OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT PRESS – ₦1.5M (APPENDIX – 3)

It was observed that the Hospital does printing work elsewhere, other than Government Press in breach of the Head of Service Circular, *HOS/ADM/179/III/522 of 30th October 2013*. Though the Management of the Hospital claimed ignorant of the above circular, they were consequently required to ensure that henceforth, all printing works are done in the Government Press in order to avoid unnecessary loss of revenue accruable to Government.

Meanwhile, the Management of the Hospital was also required to produce supporting evidence of utilization of the sum of ₦1.5M allegedly used for printing during the period covered by the audit exercise, as shown in appendix -3. Such evidence of utilization should be forwarded to me for confirmation.

26.2.5 DISPOSAL OF EXPIRED DRUGS

| S/N | DATE | PV. NO. | PAYEE | PURPOSE | AMT. (₦) | REMARK (S) |
|-----|---------|---------|----------------|---------------------|----------|------------|
| 1. | 19/1/21 | 11861 | Nwankwo Stella | Disposal of expired | 100,000 | |

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|-------|--|--|
| | | | | drugs | | |
|--|--|--|--|-------|--|--|

The above schedule shows the details of a payment voucher used to dispose expired drugs. Even though the Management claimed that the disposing of certain drugs needs expertise, audit sees it as a negligence on the side of the Management to allow the drugs to expire in the first place. Funds were spent to purchase the drugs and they were not used, eventually expired, only for the Management to spend such amount of money for disposal of expired drugs. This amounts to unnecessary wastage and/or multiple loss to the Hospital occasioned by Management lack of due diligence. Also it is the opinion of audit that contracting a third party to carry out the disposal of expired drugs poses a great danger to the citizenry as they can be repackaged and find their ways into the markets.

The Management therefore, should forthwith, seek for approval of the Board to use such drug(s) for free medical outreach in rural areas, before they expire, to save the resources used for the disposal and as well the lives of people. Against the foregoing, the Management (CMD & HOD, Accounts) who approved and authorizes the

payment respectively, should refund the sum of ₦100,000 allegedly used for disposing of drugs in the Hospital and evidence of such refund forwarded to me for verification.

26.2.6 VIOLATION OF STAMP DUTY ACT

The receipts and invoices attached to the Payment Vouchers as retirements documents were observed to have no state stamps in contravention of the *Stamp Duty Act, CAP 411, Volume XXII*, Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which have been reinforced by the Circulars of the Secretary to the State Government, Anambra State Internal Revenue Service and other extant State Government rules and regulations in relation to stamp duty. These Laws require among other things, that ₦50 stamp duty be affixed on all receipts and invoices for payment of goods supplied or services rendered which value is ₦1,000.00 and above.

The attention of the Chief Medical Director (CMD) was drawn to this anomaly and he was consequently required to ensure strict and immediate compliance to this legislation and other government rules as pertaining to Stamp Duty as any further delay will be viewed as deliberate attempt to undermine the State Government.

26.2.7 NO STORE/ASSETS REGISTER

It was observed in the course of audit that record of assets of the Hospital which include; furniture and equipment, motor vehicles, computers, electronic, and other items were not maintained by the Store Officer of the Hospital. Records of purchases and distribution of equipment and other goods procured by the Hospital with public fund were not kept. Most tangible assets purchased were not taken on charge in the store. The obvious implication is that the Institution has no functional Store Unit. This practice is wrong and unacceptable as it negates the provisions of Financial Regulations.

Absence of proper Store Unit records casts serious doubts on the genuineness of the various claims by Institution regarding procurement of items as it creates opportunities for persons of doubtful character to pilfer or steal Government property. Stores records allow for easy trace of the movement and location of organization's assets or property but these were not kept.

Against this background, the Chief Medical Director was therefore requested to comply with the provisions of Financial Regulations by ensuring a functional store is

maintained in the Hospital and that proper records are kept in the store. As a matter of urgency, the Head of Administration should ensure the immediate preparation of Assets Register of the Institution and inform me accordingly.

26.2.8 ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

26.2.8.1 DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION

The Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Teaching Hospital, Amaku, Awka Law, 2019 came into effect on the 10th day of December, 2019 and Section 9, Sub-Section 1 (a) states that the Board shall appoint for the Hospital a Director of Administration who shall have the minimum educational qualifications and experience not less than that of a Deputy Director in the State Civil Service. The officer who occupies the position of Director of Administration during the time of this audit exercise had FSLC, WASSC, BA (Eng.), though qualified academically but she is a Senior Administrative Officer (SGL 10) by rank and as such not qualified in terms of experience and rank as she was not up to the rank of Deputy Director in the State Civil Service as required by the Law establishing the Hospital.

Audit therefore, recommends that she be reverted immediately to her original rank of Senior Administrative Officer (SAO) grade level 10. The Board, should without further delay fill the position of Hospital's Director of Administration in accordance with the enabling Law and inform me accordingly.

26.2.8.2 STAFF NOMINAL ROLL NOT PROPERLY MAINTAINED

Some vital staff information were observed to be missing in the Staff Nominal Roll of the hospital. Information like date of birth, date of first appointment, expected date of retirement, town and local government of origin, academic qualifications among others, are not contained in the nominal roll. These are very important as they help for proper identification and meaningful decision making with respect to individual staff concerned.

Management was requested to obtain these pieces of information and incorporated them into the nominal roll of staff whose names must be written in order of seniority. It was also observed that acronyms of examination bodies were erroneously written in the nominal roll as academic qualifications. Management was also requested to correct this and inform me accordingly.

The above observations and recommendations were communicated the Chief Medical Director, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Teaching Hospital, Amaku, Awka in my letter referenced, AS/OUT.61/09 of 8th November, 2022 and his response is not yet received.

26.3 PERIODIC CHECK ON THE ACTIVITIES OF ANAMBRA STATE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FROM 1ST JANUARY 2019 TO 31ST DECEMBER, 2021

26.3.1 PAYMENTS MADE WITHOUT PAYMENT VOUCHERS, (₦131,888,800), APPENDIX 1

Some of the payments made by the Commission during the period under consideration were made without payment vouchers in flagrant disregard to extant government regulations. They were made through direct transfer or cheques and the purported transactions neither reflected in the cashbook nor in any other document of the Commission. In addition, there are no documents to show the purpose for which the disbursements were made in terms of requisitions with and relevant retirement documents, making the whole transactions to appear fraudulent. Detail information on these are contained in appendix 1.

Against the foregoing, the Commission's management is requested to account properly for the sum of N131,888,800 as well as give explanations as to why they ignored relevant provisions of Financial Regulations and other extant rules on the management of public finances by not preparing payment vouchers and consequently, not capturing the payments in the cashbooks.

Alternatively, the sum of ₦131,888,800 should be refunded to the Government of Anambra state. All relevant documented evidence(s) of the account and/or refund should be forwarded to me for further necessary actions.

26.3.2 RELEASES AND EXPENDITURES YET TO BE RETIRED, APPENDICES 2A AND 2B

The total sum of two hundred and ninety-seven million, sixty-five thousand, two hundred and fifty naira (₦297,065,250) were paid to sundry staff of the commission for various purposes and there were no evidences of how it was utilized. This information is detailed in Appendix 2a attached to my report to Commission.

It is pertinent to note that, aside the approvals of His Excellency the Governor, for the release of these funds to the Commission, there was no requisition, management's approvals and any other document attached to the payment vouchers.

Secondly, total sum of two hundred and forty three thousand, seven hundred and ninety naira (₦243,790) only was discovered to be expenses made by some staff of the Commission in the period under consideration but yet to be retired. This is also detailed in Appendix 2b as attached.

Management was requested to prevail on the staff members concerned to account and/or retire the various sums of money against their names in the above appendices 2a and 2b respectively without further delay. Otherwise, immediate recovery of the sums from the respective staff should commence and TRV's and other documented evidence of such account and/or recovery furnished to me for confirmation. Meanwhile, further advances to them should be suspended forthwith until they have satisfactorily accounted for, and/ or retire these advances.

26.3.3 ABUSE OF HONOUR CERTIFICATE, ₦3,764,200

Audit observed with dismay the flagrant disregard of Government extant regulations on the use of honour certificate in the period under consideration. Some transactions which ought to have been retired with receipts, acknowledgement or any other means of retirement were perfunctorily retired with honor certificate. For instance, in retirement for the sum of N30,000,000 in payment voucher number 1 of 20th April, 2020 in favour of Jonny Igboka during the 12 Biennial Nigeria police game. The amount on the honour certificates attached to the payment voucher as the retirement documents is as follows;

| S/N | RETIRED BY | PURPOSE | AMOUNT(₦) |
|-----|----------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1. | Tony Oli (The Chairman) | Payment to labourers at otuocha stadium | 100,000 |
| 2. | Tony Oli | Payment to labourers for general washing at otuocha stadium | 150,000 |

| | | | |
|----|----------|--|---------|
| 3. | Tony Oli | Payment to laborers for general cleaning at NYSC Mbaukwu | 750,000 |
| 4. | Tony Oli | Payment for Adanma masquerade at Otuocha Stadium | 250,000 |
| 5. | Tony Oli | Payment for the ijele masquerade at Otuoha stadium | 250,000 |
| 6. | Tony Oli | Payment for the izaga masquerade at otuocha stadium | 250,000 |
| 7. | Tony Oli | Payment to the labourers for watering the field | 250,000 |
| 8. | Tony Oli | Payment for the purchase of banana and water melon during the marathon program | 272,000 |
| 9. | Tony Oli | Payment for the ball | 250,000 |

| | | | |
|--|-------|--|-----------|
| | | jugular during the 12 th biennial Nigeria police game | |
| | TOTAL | | 2,522,000 |

Other payment vouchers in which some payments on them were retired with honor certificate are shown below;

| S/N | DATE | P.V NO | PAYEE | PARTICULARS | AMOUNT(₦) | REMARKS |
|-----|---------|--------|--------------------|---|------------|---|
| 1. | 10/4/20 | 1 | Mofunanya Precious | Training grants to high performance athletes in Anambra State | 15,000,000 | 175,000 was retired with honour certificate by Tony Oli for loading and off |

| | | | | | | |
|----|----------|---|--------------------|--|------------|--|
| | | | | | | loading |
| 2. | 30/11/20 | 8 | Obidima Emeka | Additional expenses incurred during the hosting of the Nigeria police game | 14,925,000 | 550,000 was retired with H.C. by Tony Oli as amount paid to the swimming association |
| 3. | 17/11/20 | 2 | Mofunanya Precious | Expenses incurred during the participation of Anambra | 1,000,000 | 67,200 was retired with H.C. by Tony Oli |

| | | | | | | |
|----|----------|---|-----------|---|-----------|---|
| | | | | Athletes in karate, kicking, technical coaches and referee course | | |
| 4. | 30/11/20 | 7 | Aka Chika | Sports facility, calisthenics, Oma events | 8,000,000 | 450,000 for hotel accommodation was retired with H.C. by Tony Oli |
| | | | | | TOTAL | 1,242,200 |

It is important to note that all these transactions were conceded and retired with honour certificate by the chairman of the commission himself despite not being the payee.

Sequel to the above, the chairman of the Commission was by this required to account for the total sum of ₦3,764,200 against his name. Alternatively he should refund this amount to the Government of Anambra state and forward documentary evidence of such refund to me for confirmation.

26.3.4 REVENUE NOT ACCOUNTED FOR, (₦3,663,650), APPENDIX 3

The total sum of three million, six hundred and sixty three thousand, six hundred and fifty naira (₦3,663,650) only receipted and collected from sundry customers in 2019 to 2021 financial year as detailed in appendix 3 were not accounted for. This is because they were neither in the revenue register nor in the commission's cashbook and hence appeared to have been diverted. However, evidence of remittance of the sum of ₦70,000, ₦120,000, ₦30,000, ₦30,000 and ₦30,000 only paid into the government treasury for August, September, October, November and December 2019 were provided in audit.

No other remittance was made for other years in the period under consideration. This is detailed in Appendix 3.

The Head of finance was by this requested to account for the above sum or otherwise refund same to government treasury and forward evidence of such refund to me for confirmation.

26.3.5 REVENUE RECEIPT NOT CAPTURED IN THE INCOME REGISTER

The following range of receipts were neither captured in the accounts books nor recorded in any document of the Commission properly.

The receipts range from;

- i. 1101-1200 dated from 14/9/19 – 18/7/2021,
- ii. 2561-2600 dated from 2/1/21 – 16/12/2021.

Management was therefore, requested to prevail on whoever is responsible for issuing receipts to account accordingly for the amount in the above range of receipts. The documentary evidence of such account should be forwarded to me for confirmation.

26.3.6 DOUBTFUL EXPENDITURE ~~₦~~400,000

The sum of ~~₦~~400,000 was paid to an Officer for the sponsorship of Anambra State cricket players and two (2) officials to the National cricket championship held at Benin, Edo state. The purported utilization of the above money appears doubtful. This is due to the following reasons;

- i. There was no request made for the release of the above amount.
- ii. No approval and authorization.
- iii. There is no date on the payment voucher
- iv. No payment voucher number.
- v. The identities of the two other participants mentioned on the payment voucher were not disclosed.

Consequent upon the above, the management is requested to prevail on the staff concerned to account for the above sum, attaching the full documented details of the accounts and forward such evidences to my office for further verification.

The above observations and recommendations were communicated to the Chairman of Anambra State Sports Development Commission in my referenced, AS/OUT.69/02 dated 8th June, 2022 and they are still under correspondence.

27.0 SCHOOLS DEPARTMENT

27.1 COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOL, ISIAGU

27.1.1 REFUSAL TO AUDIT BY PRINCIPAL AND BURSAR

The Principal and bursar did not produce the school records for audit for the periods 1st term 2016/2017 to 3rd term 2021/2022 despite repeated requests for the records by a team of State Auditors that visited the school for audit inspection. The Post Primary Schools Service Commission was directed by audit to compel the school to submit their records for audit failing which their salaries should be stopped. Actions taken or their response has not been received as at the time of writing this report.

This observation was contained in my report AWKZ/SAG/SCH/20/37 of 26/7/22.

27.2 COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL, NSUGBE

27.2.1 RECORDS NOT PRODUCED FOR AUDIT

Schools records for 3rd term 2018/2019 and some documents and records of accounts were not produced for audit by the former bursar of the school. The former

bursar claimed that the records has been handed over to the incumbent bursar though, she did not produce any handover note for audit confirmation. During the course of audit, the incumbent bursar died thereby leading to these records and documents not being produced for audit inspection. The Post Primary Schools Service Commission was directed to compel the former bursar and present Principal and bursar to produce the records and write up other relevant books and records of account for audit inspection. Their response is yet to be received.

27.2.2 UNDERLODGE MENT AND OVER LODGE MENT OF TUITION FEES

During the course of audit, the sum of N8,730.00 was observed as under lodgment of tuition fees while the sum of N3,190.00 was observed as over lodgments. The Principal and bursar were directed to account for the observed under lodgments failing which the amount should be recovered from them and also, explain the source of the over lodgment as audit suspects that all sources of revenue were not disclosed to audit. Their response is yet to be received.

These observations are contained in my report ONZ/SAG/SCH/VOL.II/283 of 26/7/22.

27.3 STELLA MARIS COLLEGE, UMUERI

27.3.1 RECORDS NOT PRODUCED FOR AUDIT

The Principal and bursar of the school did not produce payment vouchers and cashbooks of incomes and expenditures for various accounts subheads maintained by the school and, treasury receipts for lodgment of tuition and equipment fees totaling N2,843,456.00 for 2020/2021 session which the school manager refused to lodge into government treasury despite repeated request by Audit. Their explanation that their school is a mission managed school therefore subject to directive from the catholic church education secretary is not tenable and unacceptable in audit because 1999 constitution as amended clearly states the functions of the State Auditor-General. Also, the State House of Assembly resolution on handover of schools to mission states that mission schools are subject to audit. The Post Primary Schools Service Commission was directed to compel the Principal, bursar and School manager to produce their records for audit and also pay in the tuition and fees for 2020/2021 session and produce evidence for verification. Their reaction is still being awaited.

This observation was contained in my report ONZ/SAG/SCH/VOL.II/290 of 26/7/22.

27.4 WASHINGTON MEMORIAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL, ONITSHA

27.4.1 UNDER LODGEMENT OF TUITION AND EQUIPMENT FEES.

Audit observed the under lodgment of tuition and equipment fees totaling N1,054,030.00 by the bursar of the school during the period under review. The bursar was directed to account for this observed under lodgment since the Principal produced for audit evidence of requisition for fund for payment of tuition and equipment fees by the bursar and subsequent releases to her for payments into government treasury. Her reaction is yet to be received.

27.4.2 ELECTRONIC RECEIPTS FOR TUITION LODGEMENTS NOT CONVERTED TO TREASURY RECEIPTS

The sum of N2,213,680.00 as shown in electronic printouts (manifest of A/G) was tuition fees paid by students lodged into bank but not converted into treasury receipts which is evidence that it has been received into government coffers. Audit views these collections on

electronic printouts as not received into government treasury. The bursar was directed to convert these electronic printouts at government sub treasury into treasury receipts and produce same for audit. Her response is yet to be received.

These observations were contained in my report ONZ/SAG/SCH/VOL.II/291 of 26/7/22.

27.5 COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOL, OWERRE-EZUKALA.

27.5.1 UNDER LODGEMENT OF TUITION FEES

It was observed during audit that the sum of N147,010.00 was under lodgment of tuition fees by the Principals and bursar of the school for the period under review. The Principals and bursars were directed to account for the observed under lodgment failing which the amount should be recovered from them and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. Their reaction is yet to be received.

27.5.2 PAYMENT VOUCHERS NOT PRODUCED FOR AUDIT

The Principals and bursars for the period under review did not produce payment vouchers and cash books used in the recording of incomes and expenditures for various subheads. Audit suspects that fees collected were pocketed without the required proper recording and accounting for them. The Post Primary Schools Service Commission were directed to compel the Principals and bursars to write up the books and present them for audit. Their reaction is yet to be received.

27.5.3 PTA LEVY COLLECTED NOT ACCOUNTED FOR

The total sum of N661,000.00 was PTA levy collected by the Principals and bursars within the period under review and not accounted for. Also, the approval to collect the PTA levies from students was not presented to audit for confirmation thereby making the levy illegal collections. The Principals concerned should be made to account for the PTA levy and present the approvals for collections or the amount recovered from them and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. Their reaction is yet to be received.

27.5.4 EQUIPMENT FEES COLLECTED NOT ACCOUNTED FOR.

Audit observed that equipment fees collected from Junior Secondary Students for the period under review was not accounted for by the Principals and bursars. Audit suspects that the fees collected were pocketed by them and not paid into government coffers. The Principals and bursars were directed to account for the equipment fees or the fees collected not paid into government treasury recovered from them and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. They are yet to respond.

These observations were contained in my report AGZ/SAG/SCH/20/77 of 13/1/23.

27.6 GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL, OGBUNKA

27.6.1 UNDER LODGEMENT OF TUITION FEE

It was observed during audit that the sum of N33,110.00 was tuition fees under lodged by the Principals and bursars of the school for the periods under review. The Principals and bursars were directed to account for the under lodged tuition fees failing which the amount should be recovered from them and evidence of recovery

forwarded to me for verification. Their reaction is still being awaited.

27.6.2 EQUIPMENT FEES COLLECTED NOT ACCOUNTED FOR.

Audit observed that equipment fees collected from Junior Secondary Students for the periods under review was not accounted for. The Principals and bursars for the period under review were directed to account for the equipment fees collected not lodged into government treasury or refund the fees. Their reaction is still being awaited.

The above observations were contained in my report AGZ/SAG/SCH/20/75 of 13/1/23.

27.7 PREMIER SECONDARY SCHOOL, OGBUNKA

27.7.1 EQUIPMENT FEES COLLECTED NOT ACCOUNTED FOR

Audit observed that equipment fees collected from Junior Secondary Student for the period under review was not accounted for. The Principals and bursar for the period under review were directed to account for the equipment fees collected not lodged into government treasury or refund the fees. Their reaction is still being awaited.

This observation was contained in my report AGZ/SAG/SCH/20/76 of 8/2/25.

27.8 COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL, OGBOJI.

27.8.1 UNDER LODGEMENT OF TUITION FEE

It was observed during audit that tuition fees collected by the Principals and bursars of the School for the period under review totaling N21,084.00 was under lodged. The Principals and bursars for the periods were directed to account for the under lodgments failing which the amount should be recovered from them and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. Their response is still being awaited.

27.8.2 UNACCOUNTED EQUIPMENT FEES

Audit observed that equipment fees collected from Junior Secondary Students by the Principal and bursars for the periods under review was not accounted for. Audit suspects that the fees collected was pocketed by the Principals and bursars. They were directed to account for the equipment fees failing which it should be recovered from them and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. Their response is still being awaited.

These observations were contained in my report AGZ/SAG/SCH/20/73 of 8/2/23.

27.9 COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL, NAWFIJA

27.9.1 UNDER LODGEMENT AND OVER LODGEMENT OF TUITION FEE.

Audit observed an under lodgment of N649,200.00 by the Principal and bursar of the school. Also, the sum of N167,650.00 was over lodgment observed in the course of audit by the Principal and bursar. The Principal and bursar were directed to account for the observed under lodgment failing which the amount should be recovered and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. The Principal and bursar should explain the source of the over lodgment as audit suspects that all sources of revenue were not disclosed to audit. Their response is yet to be received.

27.9.2 UNACCOUNTED EQUIPMENT FEES

Audit observed that equipment fees collected from Junior Secondary Students by the Principal and bursar for the period under review was not accounted for. Audit suspects that the fees collected was pocketed by the Principal and bursar. They were directed to account for

the amount failing which it should be recovered from them and evidence of recovery forwarded to me verifications. Their response is yet to be received.

The observations are contained in my report AGZ/SAG/SCH/20/78 of 8/2/23.

27.10 ALL SAINTS SECONDARY SCHOOL, UMUNZE

27.10.1 UNDER LODGEMENT AND OVER LODGEMENT OF TUITION FEES

During the course of audit of books and records of accounts maintained by the school, the total sum of N1,034,020.00 was observed as under lodgment for the periods 2016/2017 to 2020/2021 sessions. The Principals and bursars that managed the school for the periods under review were directed to account for the amount failing which it should be recovered. Also, the sum of N275,460.00 was observed as over lodgment by the Principals and bursars. Audit directed that they should explain the source of this observed over lodgment as it is suspected that all sources of revenue was not revealed to audit. Their response is yet to be received.

27.10.2 EQUIPMENT FEES COLLECTED NOT ACCOUNTED FOR

It was observed in audit that equipment fees collected from Junior Secondary Students for the periods 2016/2017 to 2020/2021 was not accounted for and paid into government treasury. Audit directed that the equipment fee collected should be accounted for failing which it should be recovered from the Principals and bursars and evidence forwarded to me for verification. Their response is yet to be received.

27.10.3 ILLEGAL COLLECTION AND UNACCOUNTED PTA LEVY

Audit observed that the Principal and bursar of the school collected PTA levy from students in the 2020/2021 session without approval from the State Ministry of Education and amount collected was not accounted for. Audit views this as a serious breach of fees administration and management, and directed that the Principal and bursar should show the approval for the collection of the PTA levy and the records of income and expenditure failing which the amount should be recovered from them and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. Their response is yet to be received.

These observations were contained in my reports AGZ/SAG/SCH/20/44 of 13/1/23.

27.11 UTUH HIGH SCHOOL, UTUH

27.11.1 UNDER LODGEMENT OF TUITION FEES

Audit observed that the total sum of N7,980.00 was under lodgment of tuition fees by the Principal and bursar of the school for the period under review. Audit directed that the Principal and bursar should account for the under lodgment of N7,980.00 tuition fees failing which the amount should be recovered and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. Their response is yet to be received.

27.11.2 UNRETIRED IMPRESTS

The total sum of N133,550.00 was unretired imprests by various payees of the school within the period under review. The Principal and bursar were directed to ensure that the amount is retired failing which it should be recovered and evidence forwarded to me for verification. Their response is yet to be received.

27.11.3 UNACCOUNTED EQUIPMENT FEES

It was observed during audit that equipment fees collected from Junior Secondary Students of the school was not accounted for. Audit suspects that the fees collected was not remitted into government coffers. Audit directed that the Principal and bursar for the period under review should account for the equipment fees failing which it should be recovered and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. Their response is yet to be received.

These observations were contained in my report NWZ/SAG/SCH/45 of 13/1/23.

27.12 UNION SECONDARY SCHOOL, AMICHI

27.12.1 UNDER LODGEMENT OF TUITION FEES

Audit observed that the sum of N140,970.00 was under lodgment of tuition fees by the Principals and bursars of the school for the period under review. Audit directed that the under lodged tuition fees totaling N140,970.00 should be accounted for failing which the amount should be recovered and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. They are yet to respond to the report.

27.12.2 UNACCOUNTED EQUIPMENT FEES

It was observed during audit that equipment fees collected from Junior Secondary Students of the school was not accounted for by the Principals and bursars within the period under review. Audit suspects that the equipment fees collected was not lodged into government account. The Principals and bursars should account for the fees failing which it should be recovered and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. They are yet to respond to the report.

27.12.3 UNRETIRED IMPRESTS

The total sum of N19,950.00 was unretired imprests by various payees of the school for the period under review. The Principal and bursar was directed to ensure that the imprests were retired failing which it should be recovered and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. They are yet to respond to the report.

These observations were contained in my report NWZ/SAG/SCH/44 of 12/1/23.

27.13 COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOL, ORAIFITE

27.13.1 OVER LODGEMENT OF TUITION FEES.

Audit observed an over lodgment of N63,000.00 on tuition fees for the periods under review. The Principal and bursar could not give any convincing answer on this observed over lodgment and audit suspects that all sources of revenue including actual number of fee paying students was not disclosed to audit. The Principal and bursar were directed to clearly explain the source of this over lodgment with verifiable documents which should be forwarded to me. They are yet to respond to the report.

27.13.2 UNRETIRED IMPRESTS

The total sum of N36,200.00 was unretired imprests by various payees of the school for the period under review. The Principal and bursar were directed to ensure that the imprests were retired failing which it should be recovered and evidence forwarded to me for verification. They are yet to respond to the report.

27.13.3 EQUIPMENT FEES COLLECTED NOT ACCOUNTED FOR

It was observed during audit that equipment fees collected within the periods under review was not accounted for by the Principals and bursars. Audit suspects that the fees were pocketed by the Principals and bursars and not lodged into government coffers. Audit directed that the Principals and bursars for the periods under review should account for the fees failing which it should be recovered and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. They are yet to respond to the report.

These observations were contained in my report NWZ/SAG/SCH/40 of 13/1/23.

27.14 MARIA REGINA MODEL COMPREHENSIVE COLLEGE, NNEWI.

27.14.1 UNDER LODGEMENT OF TUITION FEE

Audit observed that the sum of N12,000.00 was tuition fees under lodged by the Principal and bursar of the school for the period under review. The Principal and bursar were directed to account for the observed under lodgment failing which the amount should be recovered

and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. They are yet to respond to the report.

27.14.2 UNACCOUNTED EQUIPMENT FEES

It was observed during audit that equipment fees collected from Junior Secondary Students within the period under review was not accounted for by the Principal and bursar. Audit suspects that the fees were pocketed by the Principal and bursar and not lodged into government coffers. The Principal and bursar were directed to account for the fees failing which it should be recovered and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. They are yet to respond to the report.

27.14.3 UNRETIRED IMPRESTS

The total sum of N122,140.00 was unretired imprests by various payees of the school for the period under review. The Principal and bursar were directed to ensure that the imprests are retired failing which it should be recovered and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. They are yet to respond to the report.

These observations were contained in my report NWZ/SAG/SCH/41 of 13/1/23.

27.15 NNEWI HIGH SCHOOL, NNEWI

27.15.1 UNDER LODGEMENT OF TUITION FEE

Audit observed that the total sum of N2,280,880.00 was under lodgment of tuition fees by the Principals and bursars of the school for the period under review. Audit directed the Principals and bursars to account for the observed under lodgment failing which it should be recovered and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. The school is yet to respond to the report.

27.15.2 UNACCOUNTED EQUIPMENT FEES

It was observed during audit that equipment fees collected from Junior Secondary Students within the period under review was not accounted for by the Principals and bursars. Audit suspects that the fees were pocketed by the Principals and bursars and not lodged into government coffers. The Principals and bursars were directed to account for the fees failing which it should be recovered and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. The school is yet to respond to the report.

These observations were contained in my report NWZ/SAG/SCH/42 of 8/2/23.

27.16 NNAMDI AZIKIWE SECONDARY SCHOOL, ABAGANA.

27.16.1 DOCUMENTS NOT PRODUCED FOR AUDIT

It was observed during audit that school records for the period 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 sessions were not produced for audit. The Principal of the school explained that the school bursar died after a protracted illness and that, school documents in her custody could not be accessed. The current bursar stated that no school records nor documents were handed over to her when she assumed duty. Audit frowned at this situation of poor documents and recording custody contrary to financial instruction provisions. There was no way to ascertain if lodgments of tuition and equipment fees were done and also if other sub heads were accounted for. Audit thereby directed that the financial documents and other records for the stated period should be produced and forwarded to State Auditor-General for audit inspection. Their reaction is yet to be received.

This observation was contained in my report AWKZ/SAG/SCH/20/42 of 13/1/23.

27.17 FLORA AZIKIWE MODEL COMPREHENSIVE SECONDARY SCHOOL, NENI.

27.17.1 UNEXPLAINED PAYMENTS FROM PTA ACCOUNT.

Audit observed that the sum of N744,000.00 was spent from PTA account in 2018/2019 session for unexplained reasons. The amount was for purchases of blocks, cement and sand, and payment for labour for works not stated, what prompted purchases not stated, area work was done not stated and if work has been completed not stated. Audit requested that the Principal and bursar within the period should throw more light on what actually transpired to warrant the payments which should be forwarded to me for verification and confirmation failing which the amount should be recovered from them and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. Their response is yet to be received.

27.17.2 UNRETIRED IMPRESTS

The total sum of N45,000.00 was unretired imprests by various payees of the school within the period under review. The Principal and bursar were directed to ensure that the imprests were retired failing which the amount

should be recovered and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. Their response is yet to be received.

These observations were contained in my report AWKZ/SAG/SCH/20/41 of 13/1/23.

27.18 ANGLICAN GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL, ONITSHA.

27.18.1 OVER LODGEMENT OF TUITION AND EQUIPMENT FEES.

Audit observed that the sum of N86,610.00 was over lodgment of tuition and equipment fees by the Principal and bursar of the school for the period under review. Audit views this amount as very significant and material, and suspects that all sources of revenue to the school was not disclosed to audit. The Principal and bursar claimed the school is a mission managed school and therefore, not allowed to disclose or produce documents and records of accounts to audit except the evidence of fees collectible and lodgments of N3,000.00 per Senior Student and N650.00 per Junior Student. Audit views this explanation as lame and an attempt by Principal and bursar to refuse the State Auditor-General from performing his statutorily

duty as enshrined in 1999 constitution (as amended) and State House of Assembly resolution on return of schools to mission management. There is also suspicion of fraudulent practices in the recording of receipts and disbursements which the Principal and bursar are trying to cover up by not producing records of income and expenditure for audit inspection. The Principal and bursar were directed to clearly explain the source of this over lodgment with verifiable documents and also, show reason why severe disciplinary actions should not be taken against them for refusal to audit. Their response is yet to be received.

This observation was contained in my report ONZ/SAG/SCH/VOL.II/293 of 13/1/23.

27.19 GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE, UMUERI.

27.19.1 UNDER LODGEMENT OF EQUIPMENT FEES

Audit observed that the total sum of N27,300.00 was under lodgment of equipment fees by the Principal and bursar of the school for the period under review. Audit directed that the Principal and bursar should account for the observed under lodgment failing which the amount

should be recovered and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. Their response is yet to be received.

27.19.2 UNRETIRED IMPRESTS

The total sum of N107,920.00 was unretired imprests by various payee of the school within the period under review. Audit directed the Principal and bursar to ensure that the imprests are retired failing which the amount should be recovered and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. Their response is yet to be received.

27.19.3 DOCUMENTS NOT PRODUCED FOR AUDIT

During the course of audit some school documents were not produced for audit inspection by the Principal and bursar despite repeated request for the records by auditors which yielded no fruit. The Principal and bursar could not give any convincing answer as to why the records were not in school custody or their whereabouts. Audit directed the Post Primary Schools Service Commission to compel the Principal and bursar to produce the records and show reasons why disciplinary actions should not be taken against them for breach of

Financial Instruction on record keeping. Their response is yet to be received.

These observations were contained in my report ONZ/SAG/SCH/VOL.II/294 of 13/1/23.

27.20 ST. CHARLES COLLEGE, ONITSHA

27.20.1 UNDER LODGEMENT OF TUITION AND EQUIPMENT FEES.

Audit observed the sum of N157,220.00 as under lodgment of both tuition and equipment fees by the Principal and bursar of the school. The Principal and bursar were directed to account for the observed under lodgment failing which it should be recovered from them and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. Their response is yet to be received.

27.20.2 UNRETIRED IMPRESTS

The total sum of N141,290.00 was unretired imprests by various payees of the school within the period under review. The Principal and bursar were directed to ensure that the imprests were retired failing which the amount should be recovered and evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. Their reaction is yet to be received.

27.20.3 DOCUMENTS NOT PRODUCED FOR AUDIT

During the course of audit, it was observed that apart from the evidence of fees collection and treasury receipts for lodgments into government treasury that the Principal and bursar did not produce documents and records of accounts for some sub heads like boarding, PTA, admission etc. despite repeated request for them by the auditors. The Principal and bursar claimed that the school is a mission managed school and not subject to audit by State government. Audit views this reason as spurious and evasive with a view to cover up financial irregularities and also, to deny the State Auditor-General from performing his statutory functions as enshrined in the 1999 constitution (as amended). The Principal and bursar should be compelled to forward their documents for audit inspection and show reason why disciplinary actions should not be taken against them. Their reaction is yet to be received.

These observations are contained in my report ONZ/SAG/SCH/VOL.II/294 of 13/1/23.

27.21 WILLIE OBIANO SECONDARY SCHOOL, ENUGWU-AGULERI

27.21.1 SCHOOL ACCOUNTS NOT PROPERLY RECORDED

Audit observed that books and records of accounts maintained by the school were not properly recorded and kept. Payment vouchers were not presented for audit, cashbooks not maintained, collection registers not presented for audit and bank statements for reconciliation not kept. The Principal claimed he had no bursar for most of the period therefore could not maintain all the necessary books of accounts. Audit finds this excuse by the Principal not enough for him not to maintain the necessary records. A bursar has been posted to the school recently and, Audit demands the Principal and bursar should write up the required and necessary books of accounts and present same for audit inspection. Their response is yet to be received.

27.21.2 UNDER LODGEMENT OF TUITION AND EQUIPMENT FEES

Audit observed the sum of 203,750.00 as under lodgment of both tuition and equipment fees for the period under review by the Principal of the school. Audit directed the Principal to account for the observed under lodgment failing which the amount should be recovered and

evidence of recovery forwarded to me for verification. Their response is yet to be received.

These observations were contained in my report ONZ/SAG/SCH/VOL.II 297 of 13/1/23.

27.22 ST. KIZITO GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL, UMUDIOKA

27.22.1 NON PRESENTATION OF RECORDS OF ACCOUNTS OF OTHER FEES COLLECTED BY THE SCHOOL

Audit observed during examination of records that the school collects fees for subheads such as PTA, admission, boarding, building maintenance etc. which their records of collections and disbursement were not produced for audit despite repeated request by auditors. The Principal and bursar claimed the school is a mission managed school therefore not subject to audit. This explanation and position of the school management is unacceptable in audit as section 125 of 1999 constitution (as amended) clearly established the duties and function of the State Auditor-General, also the resolution of the State House of Assembly on return of schools to mission subjects mission schools to audit. Audit directed that the Principal and bursar should be compelled to produce the records of the

collections and disbursement for audit inspection failing which disciplinary actions should be taken against them. Their response is yet to be received.

The observation was contained in my report AWKZ/SAG/SCH/40 of 13/1/23.

28.0 PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The concept of value for Money Audit (VFMA) received topmost priority in the program of this Office. Accordingly verifications were carried out in respect of some significant items of Capital expenditure.

CHALLENGES

Regrettably some ministries frustrated our efforts towards achieving our objective of this concept (VFMA) by not forwarding to this office the relevant documents relating to projects to be executed or already executed by the State Government i.e Contract agreement, Bill of Quantity, Variation Order etc. as required by law.

The non-submission of the above mentioned documents made it difficult for this office to carry out its statutory duty of monitoring the project as there is no document to rely upon in verifying whether the job done was in line with the Contract agreement and Bill of Quantity.

This office has written to the Ministry of Housing severally requesting for the aforementioned documents but it fell on deaf ears, up to the writing of this report no reply has been received from them. Even the Contract agreement of the building of the State Auditor-General

(My office) and Bill of Quantity were not made available to the office. This was contained in my letter nos. **AS/AUD/116/178** of 4th October, 2019 and **AS/AUD/116/195** of 6th November, 2019 to the Commissioner of Housing.

It is my candid request that relevant documents relating to government contracts are made available to this office at the appropriate time as we find it difficult to carry out our verifications without these documents.

29.0 PENSIONS DEPARTMENT

29.1 PENSION AND GRATUITY

CERTIFICATION OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS

A total number of 1,092 retirement/death benefits of public servants including recalculation cases were scrutinized and certified by my office during the year under review in accordance with the 1979 Pension Acts.

In the course of audit examination of pension files, it was observed that over payment of N168,684,364.23 (One hundred and sixty-eight million, six hundred and eighty-four thousand, three hundred and sixty-four naira twenty-three kobo) was recovered from the benefits of retired/deceased officers. The over payments and surcharges of retirees came as a result of the following circumstances: -

1. Overstay in service
2. Over stepping during promotions
3. Salary payment after retirement
4. Inability to prorate salaries upon retirement
5. Non-compliance with requirement on notice of retirement

The table below shows the distribution of the recoveries indicating that the highest percentage came from primary school teachers from ASUBEB (Anambra State Universal Basic Education Board) with 62%. This is followed by civil servants with a percentage of 20 and lastly by tutorial and non-tutorial staff of Post Primary School Service Commission with 18%.

SCHEDULE OF RECOVERIES

| S/N | DESCRIPTION | AMOUNT (₦) | PERCENTAGE (%) |
|------------|--|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Primary School teacher | 104,245,494.09 | 62 |
| 2 | Civil Servants | 33,741,389.09 | 20 |
| 3 | Tutorial and Non-tutorial staff of Secondary Schools | 30,697,481.05 | 18 |
| | | 168,684,364.23 | 100 |

The Schedule of the recoveries by different sub-treasuries are shown in the table below: -

| S/n | Sub-Treasuries | NO. OF FILES TREATED | | | OVER PAYMENTS AMOUNTS (N) | | |
|-----|--------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| | | PRI-MARY | SEC-ON-DARY | CIVIL SERVANTS | PRIMARY | SECON-DARY | CIVIL SERVANTS |
| 1 | Abagana | 31 | 35 | 42 | 7,353,644.84 | 2,745,228.81 | 8,341,161.62 |
| 2 | Achalla | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 3 | Aguata | 2 | 36 | 19 | 121,453.31 | 1,741,786.40 | 2,296,039.36 |
| 4 | Ajalli | - | 11 | 4 | - | 932,608.60 | 183,144.15 |
| 5 | Anaocha | 2 | 14 | 14 | - | 1,009,704.52 | 528,172.83 |
| 6 | Awka | 1 | 43 | 58 | - | 2,576,528.14 | 6,257,052.47 |
| 7 | Ekwusigo | - | 3 | 5 | - | 10,547.57 | 984,394.98 |
| 8 | Ihiala | - | 7 | 18 | - | 1,129,901.49 | 2,651,561.70 |
| 9 | Nnewi | - | 27 | 13 | - | 4,151,524.03 | 742,060.70 |
| 10 | Ogbaru | - | 1 | 6 | - | 76,223.05 | 279,799.25 |
| 11 | Ogidi | - | 35 | 34 | - | 3,800,738.97 | 5,095,841.80 |
| 12 | Onitsha | - | 42 | 34 | - | 10,189,461.27 | 2,619,835.26 |
| 13 | Otuocha | - | 5 | 12 | - | 1,016,415.90 | 1,234,390.06 |
| 14 | Oyi | - | 5 | 11 | - | 153,631.01 | 1,234,990.75 |
| 15 | Umunze | - | 3 | 1 | - | 997,975.56 | - |
| 16 | Unknown Sub | 501 | 5 | 13 | 96,770,395.94 | 165,205.73 | 1,292,944.16 |
| | Sub-total | 537 | 271 | 284 | 104,245,494.09 | 30,697,481.05 | 33,741,389.09 |
| | GRAND TOTAL | 1,092 FILES | | | ₦168,684,364.23 | | |

Departments and Agencies for taking a proactive action on that. The issues do not occur any longer.

My candid advice is that a system whereby all the Ministries, Departments and Agencies should make available their nominal roll to the computer centre and JAAC where each civil servants' particulars are seen, including retirement date. Instead of waiting for the pin-off letter from the MDA, the desk officer can work directly from the system already installed. This will help to avert the delay in logistics which causes continued payment after retirement.

The officers in the Administration, Accounts or Finance departments in the respective MDAs are advised to stop the payment of salaries of officers after retirement.

The issue of over stepping during promotions has been adequately taken care of. We commend the Ministries,