



LOCAL COUNCIL

KUNSILL LOKALI

BORMLA Citta' Cospicua

8th June 2020

The Auditor General National Audit Office Notre Dame Revenue Floriana

Dear Sir/Madam,

Reference is made to the Auditor's letter dated 3rd April 2020 which the council received on the 1st of June 2020 from your office. In terms of Section P2.05B (d.02) of the Local Councils' (Audit) procedures of 2005, on behalf of the Bormla Local Council we are presenting herewith the following comments:

1 Previous Management Letter

The points that the Auditor reported under this this heading will be replied to in each of the respective sections below.

2 **Opening Balances**

- 2.1/2.2 As stated in the Auditor's report, the shortcoming was rectified following a proposed audit adjustment. We shall be ensuring that the same error will not occur in 2020.
 - 3 <u>Income</u>
- 3.1/3.2 As stated in the auditor's report, although the misstatement was investigated by both the Local Council and the auditors during the fieldwork, no explanation was forthcoming for the difference. During 2020 we shall be trying to liaise with Loqus to rectify the situation.
- 3.3/3.4 As stated in the Auditor's report, the shortcoming was rectified following a proposed audit adjustment. We shall be ensuring that the same error will not occur in 2020.
- 3.5/3.6/3.7 It is the Local Council's priority to deposit cash collected from general income and custodial receipts twice weekly as per Procedures. The only instances when this

ar



did not happen was when it was impossible to deposit due to administrative staff being on sick leave.

- 3.8/3.9 As stated in the Auditor's report, the shortcoming was rectified following a proposed audit adjustment. We shall be ensuring that the same error will not occur in 2020.
- 3.10/3.11 As stated in the Auditor's report, the shortcoming was rectified following a proposed audit adjustment. We shall be ensuring that the same error will not occur in 2020.
 - 4 Payroll
- 4.1/4.2 The Auditors' recommendation has been noted. Together with the Local Council's accountant we shall be carrying out more accurate monthly reconciliations to ensure that any differences is immediately taken care of.
- 4.3/4.4 The Auditors' recommendation has been noted. Together with the Local Council's accountant we shall be carrying out more accurate monthly reconciliations to ensure that any differences is immediately taken care of.
- 4.5.4.6 Following a recommendation an adjustment made and was included in the final set of financial statements. We shall be ensuring that issue shall not occur again in 2020.

5 <u>Expenditure</u>

- 5.1/5.2 The petty cash summary acutally includes all the mandatory details including nominal account numbers. Samples of petty cash summaries are being attached to this document (as annex 1) for ease of reference.
- 5.3/5.4/5.5/5.6 We acknowledge that during 2020 there was a single instance when a purchase order was not raised. As indicated in the auditor's report, the instance relates to an insurance policy of one of the Local Council's vehicles. With regards to quotations however, the local council normally requests quotations to more than three suppliers and specifies deadlines for the receipt of documents. Due to market restriction and/or negligence from suppliers, there might be circumstances when the local council receives less than three quotations. We however reiterate that this does not breach the local council's public procurement regulations or the local councils' financial procedures.

K ON

Page 2



- 5.7/5.8 The Local Council acknowledges that the contract for street lighting maintenance is expired. However we would like to point out that legally street lighting is devoluted (in our case) to the South Eastern Region and not local councils. Nevertheless, we are in constant communication with the same region. We are informed that the region was stopped from issuing a call for tenders by the Department for local Government back in 2019 and is working on a new call for tenders which shall be published shortly.
- 5.9/5.10/5.11 The Auditors' recommendation has been noted. During 2020 we shall be reviewing the insurance policy and assuring that all the assets are correctly insured.
- 5.12/5.13 As stated in the Auditor's report, the shortcoming was rectified following a proposed audit adjustment.
- 5.14/5.15 The Local Council approved and signed the contract which was sent to Green MT to sign and send back. Unfortunately, although a number of calls were made and more than twelve e-mails sent, to date we have not received the signed contract. In this regard, the local council has no options but to wait and keep chasing Green MT for the signed contract, since there are only two schemed who operate the collection of recyclable waste, namely Green MT and GreenPAK with the latter not being interested in operating in Bormla.

6 <u>Fixed assets</u>

- 6.1/6.2/6.3/6.4 The Auditors' recommendation has been noted. Together with the Local Council's accountant we shall be carrying out a verification exercise and correct any discrepancies.
- 6.5/6.6/6.7 During 2020 the Local Council shall carry out an exercise which shall enable us to adhere to the auditors' recommendation of having an adequate level of information pertaining to the Fixed Assets Register.
- 6.8/6.9 The issue should be resolved through the already mentioned exercise which shall be carried out in 2020.
- 6.10/6.11 As stated in the Auditor's report, the shortcoming was rectified following a proposed audit adjustment.



- 6.12/6.13 As stated in the Auditor's report, the shortcoming was rectified following a proposed audit adjustment and the asset was capitalized in the final set of financial statements.
- 6.14/6.15 As stated in the Auditor's report, the shortcoming was rectified following a proposed audit adjustment and the asset was capitalized in the final set of financial statements.

7 <u>Trade and other receivables</u>

- 7.1/7.2/7.3 The Local Council has sent a number of official letters to Mr. Darmanin. If the latter fails to settle the amount due, the Local Council shall consider taking legal action to recover the said funds.
- 7.4/7.5 While we have taken note of the Auditors' recommendation and shall be chasing WasteServ Malta Ltd. for the amount due, we have no control on which invoices WasteServ Malta Ltd. records in its systems. We shall continue to chase and reconcile our balances and amount dues in order to have this matter sorted.

8 Bank and Cash

- 8.1/8.2 The Local Council shall investigate the issue behind stale cheque numbered BOV 6821 dated 28th August 2018. We would however like to reiterate that we have no control upon third parties and when cheques issued by the local council are cashed.
- 8.3/8.4 Following a recommendation an adjustment made and was included in the final set of financial statements. We shall be ensuring that issue shall not occur again in 2020.

9 <u>Trade and other payables</u>

- 9.1/9.2 The Auditors' recommendation has been noted. On this issue however, it is in our opinion essential to state that the Bormla Local Council pays its supplier within thirty days from
- 9.3/9.4 The Auditors' recommendation has been noted. Together with the Local Council's accountant, we shall be carrying out a verification exercise with creditors and act accordingly.



- 9.5/9.6/9.7 Following a recommendation an adjustment made and was included in the final set of financial statements.
- 9.8/9.9 Following a recommendation an adjustment made and was included in the final set of financial statements. We shall be ensuring that issue shall not occur again in 2020.
- 9.10/9.11/9.12 Although the Local Council tries to be as accurate as possible when making provisions for accrued expenditure, there shall always be a minimum variance between the actual and the projected costs. Hence whilst acknowledging that there was a double posting for the performance bonus of an employee, the accrued expenditure for Waste Serv tipping fees was something which was beyond our control (due to the fact that we cannot preview the tonnage generated in waste by the residents).
- 9.13/9.14/9.15 The respective contractors were chased and repeatedly asked for the invoices. While we acknowledge that it is of utmost importance that invoices are received on time, it is needless to say that the issue is beyond our complete control.
- 9.16/9.17 Following a recommendation an adjustment made and was included in the final set of financial statements. We shall be ensuring that issue shall not occur again in 2020.

10 Other Creditors

10.1/10.2 Following a recommendation an adjustment made and was included in the final set of financial statements.

11 Financial Statements

- 11.1/11.2 The Auditors' recommendation has been noted. Together with the Local Council's accountant we shall be trying to be as accurate as possible when compiling the financial statements for the year 2020.
- 11.3/11.4 The Auditors' recommendation has been noted. Together with the Local Council's accountant we shall be trying to be as accurate as possible when compiling the financial statements for the year 2020.



12 <u>Electronic Site</u>

12.1/12.2 The Council tries to adhere to the procedures and instructions given by DLG with regards to the uploading of documents on the electronic site. We acknowledge that there might be instances where the documents were not uploaded in time. The administration shall be trying to put in an extra effort to assure that minutes of council meetings and other statutory documents are uploaded within the stipulated timeframes.

12.13/12.14/12.15 The Auditors' recommendation has been noted.

13 Administration

13.1/13.2/13.3/13.4 The Local Council did not include all the cheque numbers in the cell provided in the schedule of payments, since the expenses for payroll and salaries are grouped in order to be compliant to the General Data Protection Regulations. We shall be ensuring that an alternative solution is found. We shall also be doing our utmost to ensure that all cheques are listed in sequential orders in the schedules of payments which are approved by the local council.

14 Grand Harbour Marina Contract

14.1/14.2 The Local Council is still seeking legal advice on the issue. We have since last year held a number of meetings with Grand Harbour Marina and together with the Birgu and Isla Local Council since the problems seems to be similar for all localities. The issue might take a substantial amount of time to be rectified since it concerns tens of boat owners and a lot of legal matters.

15 Specimen chart of Accounts

15.1/15.2 The Auditors' recommendation has been noted.

Regards

Alison Zerafa Civelli Mayor

Duncan Hall Executive Secretary



S)

KUNSILL LOKALI BORMLA

Skeda ta' Ħlasijiet mill-Petty Cash

Perjodu: Dicembru 2019

	Folio / Chq	Data	Fornitur	Ammont	Deskrizzjoni	Nominal Account	Bilanc (Euro)	
	4874 4875 4876 4877 4878 4879 4880 4881 4882 4881 4882 4883 4884 4885 4886 4887 4888 4887	02/12/2019 03/12/2019 07/12/2019 09/12/2019 10/12/2019 12/12/2019 17/12/2019 17/12/2019 18/12/2019 20/12/2019 20/12/2019 21/12/2019 24/12/2019 26/12/2019	Opening Balance From BOV Current Account Nica Ltd Wefi Nica Ltd Convenience Shop Maltapost Pavia KLIKK - USB Cables & USB Coupler Antonio Piscopo Co. Ltd	$\begin{array}{c} 201.79 \\ (5.63) \\ (4.00) \\ (10.00) \\ (6.60) \\ (19.88) \\ (5.00) \\ (17.00) \\ (48.99) \\ (6.99) \\ (6.99) \\ (5.30) \\ (2.00) \\ (2.50) \\ (2.50) \\ (2.50) \\ (1.30) \\ (5.00) \end{array}$	Opening Balance Cash Fuel for Grass Cutter Flush Handle Fuel for Isuzu Elf Hospitalities for Council Meeting Postage Stamps Cable Ties USB Cables & USB Coupler refreshments Retreival of Police Report 4/G/2701/2019 receipt books Money Box Money Box Money Box 1 office key for clerk Puncture Repair (Isuzu Elf) VRT Isuzu Elf)	5010 2750 2210 2750 3340 2650 2210 3400 3400 3400 3400 3400 3400 3400 34	€31.21 233.00 227.37 223.37 213.37 206.77 186.89 181.89 164.89 115.90 108.91 103.61 101.61 99.11 96.61 95.31 90.31 59.21	
* ***				59.2				
) er +	Alison Zerafa Eivelli Sindku		Approvati f'Seduta Nru Data Duncan Hall Segretarju Ezekuttiv		5	Sekondant Isem:		



KUNSILL LOKALI BORMLA

Skeda ta' Ħlasijiet mill-Petty Cash

Perjodu: Frar 2020

Folio / Chq	Data	Fornitur	Ammont	Deskrizzjoni	Nominal Account	Bilanc (Euro)	
BOV4692 4908 4909 4910 4911 4912 4913 4914 4915 4916 4917 4918 4919 4920 4921 4922 4923 4924	01/02/2020 03/02/2020 06/02/2020 11/02/2020 11/02/2020 13/02/2020 17/02/2020 17/02/2020 18/02/2020 18/02/2020 24/02/2020 24/02/2020 24/02/2020 28/02/2020	Wefi Ironmongery Gostik Mini market Grech & Ellul St.Catherine's Bakery Tal-Milord Saliba Bros Ltd. Nica Ltd Agenda Bookshop Antonio Piscopo Co. Ltd Pavia Hardware Store Lourdes Service Station	220.00 (3.00) (4.00) (5.00) (20.00) (13.07) (10.00) (3.94) (28.32) (4.52) (20.00) (8.00) (15.40) (8.90) (20.00) (9.90) (1.00)	Opening Balance Cash 4AA Batteries raxketta Top up for council's mobile phone Sand and cement hospitalities for council meeting Diesel Isuzu Elf Sandwich Ham/Butter 12 il-xkora ramel 10 bags ramel Fuel for Isuzu Elf Book for prizeday refreshments float for flushing Diesel for Isuzu Safe Deposit Bags Newspaper Detergents	3400 2210 3400 2210 3340 2750 3340 2210 2750 3400 3340 2210 2750 3400 3340 2210 2750 3400 3220	승승 승 승 수 운 승 수 수 수 수 수 수 수 수 수 수 수 수 수 수	€11.17 231.17 228.17 224.17 219.17 199.17 186.10 176.10 172.16 143.84 139.32 119.32 111.32 95.92 87.02 67.02 57.12 56.12 51.16
an a			51.16				
OPP		Approvati f'Seduta Nru Data					>
Alison Zerafa Civell	<u> </u>	Duncan Hall Segretariu Ezekuttiv	Proponent Isem:A	to AGN?	Sekondant Isem:	ALS Ü	i de s

ANNEY Z

Subject: RE: KUNTRATT GHAT-TISWIJA TA' DAWL TAT-TOROQ

Date: Wednesday, 19 February 2020 at 17:05:53 Central European Standard Time

From: Galea Antonella at Local Councils

To: Cospicua Local Council at Local Councils

CC: PRESIDENT REGJUN XLOKK, natix666@yahoo.co.uk

Attachments: image001.jpg

Noted with thanks

Regards

Antonella

Antonella Galea Executive Secretary

SOUTH EAST REGION

97, St Mary Street Hal Tarxien. TXN 1708 T. 27040492

From: Gatt Ramona at Local Councils <ramona.gatt@gov.mt> On Behalf Of Cospicua Local Council at Local Councils Sent: 19 February 2020 09:18 To: Galea Antonella at Local Councils <antonella.galea@gov.mt> Cc: Cospicua Local Council at Local Councils <bormla.lc@gov.mt> Subject: RE: KUNTRATT GĦAT-TISWIJA TA' DAWL TAT-TOROQ

Ghażiża Antonella,

Ninfurmak li fis-seduta tal-Kunsill ta' nhar it-Tnejn 17 ta' Frar, kien hemm qbil li l-Kunsill Lokali ta' Bormla jissieheb fit-tender regionali ghat-tiswija tad-dawl tat-toroq.

Inselli għalik,

Ramona Ghal Duncan Hall Segretarju Eżekuttiv

Kunsill Lokali Bormla 2A, The Rest Pjazza Santa Margerita Bormla BML 1202 Tel: 21663030; 21665337

From: Galea Antonella at Local Councils <<u>antonella.galea@gov.mt</u>> Sent: Tuesday, 4 February 2020 19:07 To: Regjun Xlokk at Local Councils <<u>regjun-xlokk.dlg@gov.mt</u>>; Valletta Local Council at Local Councils

Page 1 of 3

Œ,

<valietta.lc@gov.mt>; Birgu Local Council at Local Councils

birgu.lc@gov.mt>; Isla Local Council at Local Councils <isla.lc@gov.mt>; Cospicua Local Council at Local Councils <bormla.lc@gov.mt>; Zabbar Local Council at Local Councils <zabbar.lc@gov.mt>; Zeitun Local Council at Local Councils <zeitun.lc@gov.mt>; Fgura Local Council at Local Councils <fgura.lc@gov.mt>; Floriana Local Council at Local Councils <filoriana.lc@gov.mt>; Kalkara Local Council at Local Councils <kalkara.lc@gov.mt>; Marsa Local Council at Local Councils < marsa.lc@gov.mt>; Marsaskala Local Council at Local Councils < marsaskala.lc@gov.mt>; Marsaxlokk Local Council at Local Councils < marsaxlokk.lc@gov.mt>; Paola Local Council at Local Councils <paola.ic@gov.mt>: Tarxien Local Council at Local Councils <tarxien.ic@gov.mt>: Xghaira Local Council at Local Councils <xghaira.lc@goy.mt>

Cc: Regiun Xlokk at Local Councils < regjun-xlokk dlg@gov.mt> Subject: KUNTRATT GHAT-TISWIJA TA' DAWL TAT-TOROQ Importance: High

Ghall-Attenzioni tas-Sinjuri Sindki, Vici Sindki u/jew Kunsillieri Rappreżentanti tal-Kunsilli Lokali fir-Regiun Xlokk

Siniuri,

Riferenza geghda ssir ghas-suggett t'hawn fug.

iekk kif geitu nfurmati mill-President fl-aññar laggña tar-Regiun Xlokk, il-kuntratt attwali li kien inhareg b'mod regionali ghat-tiswija tad-dawl tat-torog issa skada. Bhalma tafu wkoll dan lufficciu kien diga ged jandem fug it-tender il-gdid pero d-Dipartiment Gvern Lokali kien waqqafna sabiex ma jinhargux tenders mir-Regiuni fisem il-Kunsilli Lokali u dan sakemm ma tohaddi rnforma. Issa pero nistghu nippročedu b'mod reģionali u ghalhekk il-pročess reģa ģie rijattivat.

Spjegalkom ukoll il-President li ghalkemm dan it-tender ser jinhareg b'mod Regionali, dawk il-Kunsilli Lokali li jaccettaw li jissiehbu ser ikunu direttament reponsabbli ghall-hlasijiet malkuntrattur ladarba dan ikun intghazel kif ukoll fein jidhlu rapporti ta' hsarat ta' bozzoz, talbiet ghal bozzoz godda, eccetra, eccetra,

L-ghan ta' tender regionali huwa sabiex kemm jista ikun nippruyaw noibu prezzijiet aktar vantaģģjuži peress li kuntrattur prospettiv ser ikollu x'jaqsam ma' numru ta' lokalitajiet flok belt jew raħal individwalment.

Ghaldagstant ged nitolbu lill-Kunsilli Lokali membri sabiex jekk joghgobkom tikkonfermaw sa mhux aktar tard minn nhar it-Tlieta 11 ta' Frar 2020 jekk il-Kunsill Lokali taghkom huwjex interessat li jissieñeb jew le f'dan it-tender regjonal.

Sadanittant ghal dawk li ser jissiehbu u jixtiegu li fit-tender ikun hemm xi rikjesti/specifications nitlobkom tohadduhomna wkoll minnufih.

Nistenna minghandkom, sadanittant nirringrazzjakom hafna u nselimilkom

Antonella

r N age 2 of 3

Antonella Galea Executive Secretary

Hal Tarxien. TXN 1708 T. 27040492

<u>P.S.</u>

۴.

\$

۱.

II-Kunsilli Lokali KALKARA u ISLA diġa bgħatu jikkonfermaw u ttieħdet nota ta' dan għaldaqstant m'hemmx għalfejn jerġgħu jibgħatu sakemm wieħed m'għandux xi proposta u/jew speċifikazzjoni partikoli għat-tender.

Grazzi

004 ./

Page 3 of 3