on

## LOCAL COUNCIL

BORMLA
Sita' Cospicua
$8^{\text {th }}$ June 2020

## The Auditor General <br> National Audit Office <br> Note Dame Revenue <br> Floriana

Dear Sir/Madam,
Reference is made to the Auditor's letter dated $3^{\text {rd }}$ April 2020 which the council received on the $1^{\text {st }}$ 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 Income
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

[^0]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 Expenditure

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.
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.

Fixed assets
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 Trade and other receivables

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 $28^{\text {th }}$ 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 Trade and other payables

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.
10.1/10.2 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.

## Electronic Site

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.
14.1/14.2 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.


Mayor


Skeda ta' hilasijiet mill-Petty Cash
Perjodu: Dicembru 2019


## Skeda ta' nilasijiet mill-Petty Cash

Perjodu: Frar 2020


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, nađix666@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](mailto: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](mailto:antonella.galea@gov.mt)
Cc: Cospicua Local Council at Local Councils [bormla.Ic@gov.mt](mailto:bormla.Ic@gov.mt)
Subject: RE: KUNTRATT GïAT-TISWIJA TA' DAWL TAT-TOROQ
Ghaziza Antonella,

Ninfurmak II fis-seduta tal-Kunsill tam thar io-Tnein 17 ta' Far, keen hemm qbilli-Kunsill Lokall ta' Bormla jissieneb it -tender regionali ghat-tiswija tad-daw tat-toroq.
msellignalik,

## Ramona

Goal Duncan Hall
Segretarju Ezeluitiv
Kunsill Lokali Bora
2A, The Rest
Piazza Santa Margerita
Bormla B ML 1202
Tel: 21663030; 21665337

From: Galea Antonella at Local Councils [antonella.golea@govmt](mailto:antonella.golea@govmt)
Sent: Tuesday, 4 February 2020 19:07
To: Regjun Xlokk at Local Councils [regiun-xlokkdg@govmt](mailto:regiun-xlokkdg@govmt); Valletta Local Council at Local Councils
<valletta ic@scumb; Birgu Local Council at Local Councils <bingu Ic engovni>; Isla Local Council at Local Councils <isle lc@gov.m>; Cospicua Local Council at Local Councils <bomla. Lcasovm>; Zabbar Local Council at Local Councils <zabbaric@govmi; Zejtun Local Council at Local Councils <zefun icaugoump; Fgura Local Council at Local Councils <fgura Icaggoum>; Floriana Local Council at Local Councils [floriana.lc@govmi](mailto:floriana.lc@govmi); Kalkara Local Council at Local Councils <kalkara Ic@govmi>; Marsa Local Council at Local Councils [marsa.Ic@gov.mi](mailto:marsa.Ic@gov.mi); Marsaskala Local Council at Local Councils <marsaskala Ic@govme; Marsaxlokk Local Council at Local Councils [marsaxlokk.lc@goymi](mailto:marsaxlokk.lc@goymi); Paola Local Council at Local Councils <pacta Lc@zoump; Tarxien Local Council at Local Councils <Larxien lcoggoym; Xghajra Local Council at Local Councils <xghefalcergoum
Cc: Regjun Xlokk at Local Councils <regjun-xlokk dle@govm>
Subject: KUNTRATT GHAT-TISWIJA TA' DAWL TAT-TOROQ Importance: High

Ghall-Attenzjoni tas-Sinjuri Sindki, Viči Sindki u/jew Kunsillieri Rappreżentanti tal-Kunsilli Lokali fir-Regjun Xlokk

Sinjuri,

Riferenza qegñda ssir gñas-suğgett thawn fuq.

Hekk kif ġejtu nfurmati mill-President fl-añћar laqgћ̄a tar-Regjun Xlokk, il-kuntratt attwali li kien inhareg b'mod reǵjonali gnat-tiswija tad-dawl tat-toroq issa skada. Bhalma tafu wkoll dan Iufficiċju kien diġa qed jandem fuq it-tender il-ġdid pero d-Dipartiment Gvern Lokali kien waqqafna sabiex ma jiñargux tenders mir-Regjjuni fisem il-Kunsilli Lokali u dan sakemm ma tgñaddi rriforma. Issa pero nisṫgñu nipproċedu b'mod reġjonali u gñalhekk il-proċess rega gie rijattivat.

Spjegalkom ukoll il-President li ghalkemm dan it-tender ser jinhareğ b'mod Reġjonali, dawk ilKunsilli Lokali li jaćċettaw li jissieñbu ser ikunu direttament reponsabbli ghall-hiasijiet malkuntrattur ladarba dan ikun intgñażel kif ukoll fejn jidhilu rapporti ta' $\hbar$ sarat ta' bozzoz, talbiet ghal bozzoz g̀odda, ećcetra, ećċetra.

L-gñan ta' tender reg̀jonali huwa sabiex kemm jista jkun nippruvaw nğibu prezzijiet aktar vantag̀ğjuzi peress li kuntrattur prospettiv ser ikollu x'jaqsam ma' numru ta' lokalitajiet flok belt jew rahal individwalment.

Gñaldaqstant qed nitolbu lill-Kunsilli Lokali membri sabiex jekk jogñgobkom tikkonfermaw sa mhux aktar tard minn nhar it-Tlieta 11 ta' Frar 2020 jekk il-Kunsill Lokali tagñkom huwiex interessat li jissieñeb jew le fdan it-tender regionalk.

Sadanittant ghal dawk li ser jissieћbu u jixtiequ li fit-tender ikun hemm xi rikjesti/specifications nitlobkom tgnadduhomna wkoll minnufih.

Nistenna mingñandkom, sadanittant nirringrazzjakom h̄afna u nsellimilkom

Antonella

## Antonetla Gafea <br> Executive Secretary



Fal Tamien. TXN 1708
T. 27040492

## PS.

H-Kunsill Lokali KALKARA u ISLA dig̀a bghatu jikkonfermaw u ttiehdet nota ta' dan ghaldagstant m'hemmx ghalfejn jerġghu jibghatu sakemm wiehed m'ghandux xi proposta u/jew specifikazzioni parikoli ghat-tender.

Grazzi


[^0]:    2A, 'The Rest', St. Margaret Square, Cospicua BML 1202, Malta Tel: $(++356) 21663030,(++356) 21665337-$ Fax: $(++356) 21672222$

