
**AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEM AND
FINANCIAL RECORDS OF ACENTDFB, AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA
FOR THE PERIOD NOVEMBER, 2021 – JUNE, 2022**

Project ID: P126974 (IDA/Grant No: 5414 NG)

AUGUST 1, 2022

1. REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

In line with the mandate of the Committee to ensure compliance with both National and other relevant Financial Laws, Project Operational Manual (POM), implementation arrangement structure and reports on inherent risks, we are pleased to present our report for the month of NOVEMBER, 2021 – JUNE, 2022 to the Board of ACENTDFB.

2. ABRIDGED RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROJECT

The ACENTDFB is one of the Africa Centres of Excellence (ACEs) sponsored by the World Bank specifically to strengthen the capacity of 12 participating countries namely: Republic of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Republic of Cameroon, Republic of Djibouti, Republic of Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Republic of Niger, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Republic of Senegal, Republic of The Gambia, and Republic of Togo.

The objective of the Project is to improve the quality, quantity and development impact of postgraduate education in selected universities through regional collaboration and training. The Centre was established to fill the existing gap in postgraduate training and cutting-edge research that addresses regional developmental challenges, especially as it relates to neglected tropical diseases and forensic sciences.

Currently, the Centre in collaboration with the Department of Biochemistry, runs postgraduate programmes (MSc and PhD) in Biotechnology and PGD in Forensic Science. These programmes have received both national and international

accreditation. The resource verification for the Centre's planned programme for MSc in Forensic Science conducted by NUC was successful. The Centre also organized hands-on workshops (national and regional) on molecular techniques in the identification and diagnosis of some neglected tropical diseases and bioinformatics during the period under review.

3. THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The main objective of the Audit Committee is to review the financial reporting processes, the Internal and External audit reports of the Centre's system of internal controls; compliance with relevant laws and regulations thereby assisting the board to fulfil its oversight responsibilities. The Management of the Centre is accountable for the design of internal control systems that will provide reasonable assurance towards achievement of operational goals. To achieve the targeted goals, the Audit Committee and the Centre Management review and deliberate on the quality of the financial statements and clarity of disclosures in the internal Audit Report of the Centre.

The Committee was inaugurated on 2nd June, 2022 and held its first meeting immediately after inauguration and thereafter several meetings were held.

The composition of the Committee comprises non-executive members as follows:

Members	Faculty/Unit	Status
Prof. Mohammed Umaru Kawu	Faculty of Veterinary Medicine	Internal Council member) - Chairman
Prof. Abdullahi Yunusa Idris	Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences	Member
Prof. Donatus Adie	Faculty of Engineering	Member
Aliu Nuhu Onimisi	Bursary Department	Member/Secretary
Maiyaki Hamisu Musa	Internal Audit Division	Member

4. REVIEW OF THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT ON THE CENTRE'S ACTIVITIES

The Audit Committee has studied and discussed the quality and acceptability, of the accounting principles; the reasonableness of significant judgments; and the clarity of disclosures in the Financial Reports with the Management of the Centre.

The Committee was informed that the Centre has appointed an External Auditor (PKF Professional Services-Chartered Accountants and Business Advisers, Kaduna) in May, 2022 for the period of January – December, 2021 and has since commenced its activities. The report from the External Auditor is being expected and will be considered and incorporated in the second annual report of the Audit Committee for 2022.

The Audit Committee has reviewed the Internal Auditor's report and held discussions with the key management staff of the Centre to ensure the independence of the Internal Auditor in the discharge of his duties in an objective and effective manner.

We are pleased with the report of the internal auditor and concerns raised on the risks pertinent to the Centre in his audits and we are satisfied with the content of reports prepared and issued by the internal auditor for the period under review.

In the light of the above, the Committee wishes to note the following positive developments of the Project:

I. Budget

The project budget planning and drafting process had relevant inputs from relevant project stakeholders.

II. Accounting

A new flexible Accounting Software has been deployed in the Centre. The Center has maintained proper books of account and other relevant records.

III. Project implementation

The implementation of Project activities as outlined in the workplan have commenced in earnest.

IV. Physical Control

Access to and usage of equipment and other relevant assets procured by the Centre is adequately regulated and controlled.

V. Cost control procedure

The cost control procedures over the Project's assets in relation to fueling, repairs and maintenance were well within the approved work plan and budget. Furthermore, asset register and insurance cover over assets are up to date with value for money.

VI. Payment Procedure

Payment procedure for supplies and services provided were adequate. There were no complaints from any supplier or service provider.

VII. Procurement Activities

All procurements activities were carried out based on approved budget and the National Competitive Bidding (NBC) process. The opening and screening of pre-qualification Tender and analysis of financial bidding for

the Construction of Centre's Administration Block and Forensic Laboratory which has been carried out is a good example.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

I. External Auditor

The Committee notes the appointment of an External Auditor and urge the Management to work closely with the External Auditor to expedite action to produce the annual audit report.

II. Organogram

While, a Centre organogram is available, there is need to issue Appointment letters to each staff member with clearly defined responsibilities and segregation of duties.

III. Management of MoUs

All signed MOUs should be archived in the Center Management Office to ensure timely information storage and retrieval.

IV. Pre-payment Audit

The Centre Management should ensure strict implementation of prepayment audit in respect of all payments.

V. Cash Flow

The Centre management should fast-track activities with collaborators which have revenue generating potentials.

VI. Procurement Activities

The process for the award of the contract for the construction of the Centre's Administration Block and Forensic Laboratory should be expedited.



Prof. Mohammed U. Kawu
Chairman, Audit Committee



Maiyaki Hamisu Musa
For: Secretary, Audit Committee