



## **Terms of Reference for Analysis of Level of Implementation of Auditor General's Recommendations in Local Governments to Enhance Accountability**

### **Introduction**

In Uganda the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) is the Supreme Audit Institution in Uganda created by the Constitution and the National Audit Act which became a corporate body through the enactment of the National Audit Act 2008. The Constitution for the Republic of Uganda 1995 as amended in Article 163 (3)(a) mandates the office of the Auditor General to audit local government accounts among other public accounts. Relatedly, the National Audit Act 2008 states in section 16(1) that the accounts of every local government council and every administrative unit shall be audited annually by the Auditor General or by an auditor appointed by the Auditor General. A function specifically carried out by the Directorate of Local Government in the Office of the Auditor General of all local governments and administrative units. However, special audits are undertaken upon requests by Parliament, Uganda Police, IGG, Cabinet, and other interested stakeholders.

Therefore, OAG conducts audits, and investigations to assess the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of public sector agencies and their programs. Enhancing and strengthening accountability is the central objective of OAG's audit of public expenditure. Audit reports on the performance of the government provides opportunity to the legislators, public servants, investors, business leaders, citizen groups, media, development agencies, academicians and other stakeholders to know how public funds are spent and to assess the quality of public administration. This allows public scrutiny of Government operations and facilitates an accountable system of governance necessary for efficient service delivery. In incurring expenditure of public funds, the Executive is required to exercise strict commitment and expenditure control and ensure efficiency and economy of operations in accordance with the intentions of Parliament. It is also required to prepare detailed sets of accounts and financial statements. These are audited by the Auditor-General and the reports are tabled in Parliament. The accountability cycle continues to Parliament with the review of the Auditor-General's Reports, by the oversight accountability Committees of Parliament, namely the Public Account Committee (PAC), Committee on Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises (COSASE) and the Local Government Accounts Committees. The oversight committees' reports based on consideration of Auditor General's report is to be laid in the plenary, debated and adopted by Parliament with recommendation to the Executives to act and subsequently submit treasury memorandum to parliament spelling out actions the Executive has taken to address concerns raised. Despite the delays in the formal process in the audit cycle, nothing stops MDAs and LGs in implementing Auditor Generals recommendations which points out areas of improvement in service delivery.

Whereas the OAG has effectively produced and presented the annual Audit Reports to parliament over the years, audit recommendations in these reports are still poorly implemented by MDAs and LGs. Based on this background, ACODE seeks services of a Consultant to undertake a study assessing the status of implementation of audit recommendations focusing on selected MDAs and 35 LGs. This study will focus on the last three financial years (2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022).

The purpose of public audit is to assess the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of public sector agencies and their programs. Indeed, the benefit from audit is not in recommendations made but in their effective implementation as well as follow up on known findings and recommendations from previous audits to verify compliance. While the Office of Auditor General has been performing its role, it is not clear whether there has been follow up action carried out by the Accounting officers of the recommendations. It is against this background that ACODE seeks to analyse the implementation of Auditor General's recommendations in local governments for the FY 2019/2020, 2020/2021, and 2021/2022.

## **Objectives**

The overall objective of the study is to analyze the level of implementation of Auditor General's recommendations in local governments in order to enhance accountability. Specifically, the study will seek to;

1. Establish the status of implementation of Auditor General's in selected districts.
2. Establish the status on of Action on Parliament's resolutions on LG AG's recommendations
3. Examine challenges that affect the implementations Auditor General's recommendations at LG and Parliament levels.
4. Make proposals for to improve on the level of implementation and enforcement of auditor general's recommendations.

## **Scope of work**

- i. Undertake a study assessing the status of implementation of audit recommendations focusing on selected MDAs and 35 LGs.
- ii. This study will focus on the last three financial years (2019/2020, 2020/2021, 2021/2022).
- iii. Review of all the necessary Documents in the various MDAs and the selected local governments.
- iv. Present trends of compliance and/or non-compliance to the OAG findings
- v. and recommendations in the LGs and MDAs mentioned above for the last three financial years.
- vi. Conduct interviews related to this assignment with key stakeholders at district and national level.
- vii. The 35 districts to be covered include Agago, Amuria, Amuru, Apac, Arua, Bududa, Buliisa, Gulu, Hoima, Jinja, Kabarole, Kabale, Kaliro, Kamuli, Kanungu, Kisoro, Lira, Luwero, Lwengo, Masindi, Mbale, Mbarara, Moroto, Moyo, Mpigi, Mukono, Nakapiripirit, Nebbi, Ntungamo, Nwoya, Rukungiri, Sheema, Soroti, Tororo, and Wakiso.

## **Expected deliverables**

The consultant(s) will be expected to submit the following deliverables to ACODE:

- i. Inception report
- ii. A draft report
- iii. Final Report
- iv. Presentations to the ACODE and other 2 strategic meetings

**Expected Competences**

- Master's degree in Economics, Accounting, Law, and Public Administration (PhD is an added advantage)
- Related experience especially in designing and utilizing tools for accounting, audit and public administration.
- At least 10 years of related experience in research

**Duration of the Assignment**

The tasks to be undertaken will be completed within 35 working days effective from the signing of the contract.

**Reporting**

The consultant(s) will report to the Project Manager for the LGCSCI, Mr. Jonas Mbabazi.

**Mode of Application**

Qualified interested candidates should hand deliver their CVs to ACODE Plot 96 Kanjokya street- Kamwokya or email them to [jmbabazi@acode-u.org](mailto:jmbabazi@acode-u.org) , [christiana@acode-u.org](mailto:christiana@acode-u.org) and copy in [ainelydia2013@gmail.com](mailto:ainelydia2013@gmail.com).