VEGETABLE OIL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (VODP)
PHASE II
IFAD LOAN NO.806-UG

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2014
TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT AND OPINION THEREON BY THE
AUDITOR GENERAL

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL
UGANDA
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# ACRONYMS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tr>
<td>VODP</td>
<td>Vegetable Oil development Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDA</td>
<td>International Development Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>UG</td>
<td>Uganda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOU</td>
<td>Government of Uganda</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPDA</td>
<td>Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets.</td>
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<td>IFAD</td>
<td>International Fund for Agricultural Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VODP2</td>
<td>Vegetable Oil Development Project, Phase 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOPGT</td>
<td>Kalangala Oil Palm Growers Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USD</td>
<td>United States Dollar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISA</td>
<td>International Standards on Auditing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPUL</td>
<td>Oil Palm Uganda Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shs.</td>
<td>Uganda Shillings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bn</td>
<td>Billion</td>
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<tr>
<td>MTR</td>
<td>Mid Term Review MTR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOU</td>
<td>Memoranda of understanding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUL</td>
<td>BIDCO (U) Ltd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIA</td>
<td>Environmental Impact Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEMA</td>
<td>National Environment Management Authority</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THE RT. HON. SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of Vegetable Oil Development Project II (IFAD loan No.806 –UG) for the year ended 30th June, 2014. The financial statements set out on pages 17 to 29 comprise of;

- Statement of Receipts and Payments.
- Statement of comparison of Budget and Actual.
- Statements of Special Account activities.
- Status of the IFAD loan balances as at 30th June, 2014.
- Notes to the financial statements including a summary of accounting policies used.

Management’s Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the project financial statements in accordance with the loan (IFAD) guidelines and the cash basis of accounting as described under Note 1 to the financial statements and for such internal controls as management determines is necessary for the preparation and fair presentation of the project financial statements that are free from material misstatements whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor’s Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I conducted the audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). Those standards require that I comply with the ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatements.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the Auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatements of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the Auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the
circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Part “A” of this report sets out my opinion on the financial statements. Part “B” which forms an integral part of this report presents in detail all the significant audit findings made during the audit which have been brought to the attention of management.

PART “A”

Opinion
In my opinion, the project financial statements present fairly in all material respects the cash balances of the Vegetable Oil Development Project, Phase II (IFAD loan No.806 –UG) as at 30th June, 2014 and the receipts and payments for the year then ended in accordance with the IFAD guidelines and the basis of accounting described under Note 1 to the financial statements.

John F.S. Muwanga
AUDITOR GENERAL

24th December, 2014
I have audited the financial statements of the Vegetable Oil Development Project (VODP) Phase II Project for the year ended 30th June 2014 and reviewed the internal control procedures relevant to the generation of accounting information presented in the financial statements, and those relevant to control over finances and the safeguard of its assets. I obtained all the information and explanations I considered necessary for the audit.

Management Responsibility for the Internal Control System

Project management is responsible for designing, establishing and maintaining a control structure that provides management with reasonable assurance that adequate procedures are followed for generation of accounting information for reliable financial statements, and control over finances and safeguarding assets against loss and unauthorized use or disposal. Management is also responsible for ensuring that conditions provided for in the development partners’ funding agreements and other legal requirements are observed.

Auditor’s Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the internal control system based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and the donor guidelines on auditing. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the internal control mechanisms for the generation of accounting information and for the safeguard of assets are adequate. I assessed the control risk in order to confirm that my audit procedures are adequate to express an independent opinion on the control system. I believe that my audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

For the purpose of this report, I have classified the significant internal control structure policies and procedures in the following categories:-

- Control over preparation of requisitions for funds.
- Management and control of both bank and cash accounts.
- Purchases and payments.
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting.
For all the internal control structure categories listed above, I obtained an understanding of the design of the relevant policies and procedures, and whether they have been placed in operation and assessment of the related control risk.

**Reportable conditions**

No material reportable conditions were observed as management had put in place a satisfactory internal control system and measures to ensure proper accountability for all project funds.

John F. S. Muwanga

**AUDITOR GENERAL**

24\textsuperscript{th} December 2014
I have audited the Special Accounts Statements of the Vegetable Oil Development Project II (IFAD Loan No.806 –UG) for the year ended 30th June, 2013 which is set out on pages 20 - 22 of Appendix 1.

Management Responsibility for the Special Accounts Statements
Project management is responsible for preparation of the Special Accounts Statements and its fair presentation in accordance with the requirements of the Government of Uganda regulations and loan (IFAD) guidelines. Management is also responsible for designing and implementing internal controls relevant to the preparation of the Special Accounts Statements that are free from material misrepresentation, whether due to fraud or error and selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor’s Responsibility
My responsibility is to express an opinion on the special accounts statements based on my audit. I conducted the audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and the loan guidelines on auditing. Those standards and guidelines require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the special accounts statements are free from material misstatement. I believe that the audit provides a reasonable basis for my opinion.

Opinion
In my opinion, Project management complied in all material respects with loan provisions and procedures and that the Special Accounts Statements for the Vegetable Oil Development Project, Phase II (IFAD loan No.806 –UG) for the year ended 30th June, 2014 present fairly in all material respects the accounts transactions and the closing balances as at 30th June, 2014.

John F.S. Muwanga
AUDITOR GENERAL
24th December, 2014
VEGETABLE OIL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (VODP), PHASE II, IFAD LOAN NO.806-UG

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL ON THE STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2014

I have audited the statement of Expenditures supporting withdrawal applications of the Vegetable Oil Development Project (VODP), Phase II Project for the year ended 30th June 2014. Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the statements of expenditure to support withdrawal applications in accordance with the loan (IFAD) guidelines.

Auditor’s Responsibility
My responsibility is to express an opinion on the statements of expenditure based on my audit. I conducted the audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA) and the loan (IFAD) guidelines on auditing. Those standards require that I plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether statements of expenditure are adequate to support the claims for reimbursements of expenditure for the year. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion
In my opinion, adequate supporting documentation has been maintained to support the claim for reimbursement of expenditures incurred as provided in the Statement of Expenditures and the expenditures are eligible under the financing agreement.

John F.S. Muwanga
AUDITOR GENERAL

KAMPALA

24th December, 2014
REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
PART “B”

This Section outlines the detailed audit findings, management responses, and my recommendations in respect thereof.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Article 163 (3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda requires me to audit and report on the public accounts of Uganda and all public offices including the courts, the central and local government administrations, universities and public institutions of the like nature and any public corporation or other bodies or organizations established by an Act of Parliament. Accordingly, I carried out the audit of the above Project to enable me report to Parliament.

2.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Vegetable Oil Development Project Phase II (VODP2) is a project funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) under a Loan Agreement (Number 806-UG) signed on 21st October, 2010. The total project cost is USD 147.06 million; of this amount, USD 52.00 million is a loan from IFAD, USD 15.00 million is GOU contribution, USD 3.90 is farmers’ contribution, USD 4.44 million from Kalangala Oil Palm Growers Trust (KOPGT), USD 70.38 million from Oil Palm Uganda Limited (OPUL), USD 1.00 million is IFAD grant to SNV and USD 0.34 million is SNV co-financing. During the financial year under review, the project management spent Shs.16.5bn against a budget of Shs.23.9bn.

VODP 2 builds upon the work of its predecessor project, the Vegetable Oil Development Project (VODP), under which IFAD financed smallholder oil palm development and extension for smallholder oil seeds farmers.

3.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The overall goal is to contribute to sustainable poverty reduction in the project area. The development objective is to increase the domestic production of vegetable oil and its by-products, thus raising rural incomes for smallholder producers and ensuring the supply of affordable vegetable oil products to Ugandan consumers and neighboring regional markets. The project will achieve this by supporting farmers to increase their production of crushing material of both oil palm and oilseeds (sunflower, soybean, sesame and groundnuts) and establishing commercial relations by linking them to processors.
4.0 PROJECT COMPONENTS
The project consists of two components:

i) Oil Palm Development
VODP2 will continue the partnership with OPUL in Kalangala District and will consolidate the current gains in smallholder oil palm development while expanding the area covered to the neighboring outlying islands. A similar new oil palm development scheme will be established on Buvuma Island, and new areas for oil palm development will be identified. All areas where oil palm will be established will be subject to environment impact assessments under terms of reference agreed upon by NEMA.

ii) Oil Seeds Development Component
This component consists of traditional oil seeds and shall be focused around four hubs in the following districts:

(a) Lira Hub; Covering the districts of Lira, Dokolo, Apac, Oyam, Masindi, Soroti, Kageramaido, Amuria, Serere, Katakwi and Amolatar.
(b) Eastern Uganda hub; Covering the districts of Mbale, Bududa, Budaka, Bukedea, Bukwo, Kapchorwa, Kamuli, Kumi, Manafwa, Pallisa, Sironko, Bugiri, Busia, Tororo, Butaleja, Iganga, Jinja, Namutumba, and Kaliro.
(c) Gulu hub; Covering the districts of Gulu, Kitgum, Amuru, Adjumani and Pader.
(d) West Nile hub; Covering the districts of Arua, Koboko, Moyo, Nebbi, Nyadri, Yumbe and Maracha.

5.0 AUDIT OBJECTIVES
The audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and included a review of the accounting records, accounting policies used and agreed procedures as was considered necessary.

The Audit was carried out with regard to the following objectives;

a. To express an opinion as to whether the financial statements for the year ended 30th June, 2014 present fairly in all material respect the receipts and payments of the project as well as the cash position and are in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

b. To establish whether the special account has been maintained in accordance with the provisions of the loan agreement.
c. To evaluate and obtain a sufficient understanding of the internal control structure of the project, assess control risk and identify reportable conditions, including material internal control weaknesses.

d. To establish whether project managers are managing the project in compliance with the covenants contained in the financing agreements as well as Government of Uganda financial regulations.

e. To establish whether all procurements of goods and services under the project have been undertaken in accordance with GOU procurement guidelines and procedures as specified in the PPDA Act 2003.

f. To establish whether all necessary supporting documents, accounting records as well as books of accounts have been kept in respect of all programme activities.

g. Whether project activities have been implemented as stated in the work plans and budgets.

6.0 AUDIT PROCEDURES PERFORMED

a. Revenue/Receipts
Obtained a schedule of all project funds provided by IFAD and Government of Uganda and reconciled the amounts to the project’s cash books and bank statements.

b. Expenditure
Reviewed the Project funding agreement to ascertain agreed budget line activities for the IFAD and GOU funding and checked whether funds have been utilized in accordance with the approved work plan;

Vouched transactions of the project in particular; funding received and expenditures incurred during the period covered by the audit in order to establish that documentation in support of expenditure agreed with the amount and description on the payment vouchers and or applications, bank statements and was properly controlled and accounted for.

c. Internal Control System
Reviewed the internal control system and its operations to establish whether sound controls were applied throughout the period.
d. **Procurement**  
Reviewed procurement of goods and services for the project and reconciled with the approved procurement plan.

e. **Fixed Assets Management**  
Reviewed use and management of project assets during the period under review.

f. **Periodic Reports about project Activities**  
Reviewed the programme agreement provisions, and reconciled it to the project activities during the period under review.

g. **Programme Financial Statements**  
Examined on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the programme financial statements; assessed the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by programme management as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

7.0 **AUDIT FINDINGS**

7.1 **Compliance with Financing Agreement and GoU Financial Regulations**

A review was carried out on the project compliance with the loan agreement provisions and GoU financial regulations and it was noted that the project complied in all material respects with the provisions in the agreement and applied GoU regulations except in the following matters:

7.1.1 **Under absorption release of funds**

During the year under review, a total of Shs.12,477,320,546 out of Shs.35,215,199,674 budgeted for the year was not released to the Project. Shs12.3bn of the unreleased funds was meant to have been released by the IFAD. However, it was noted that out of the released funds, Shs.6,240,584,580 remained unutilised at the end of the year. The under absorption capacity of the available funds translates into underperformance for year. As a result, the following activities were not implemented as planned:

- Delayed delivery of 2 station wagons and motor cycles;
- Delayed construction of a fertilizer store in Kalangala and
- Uncompleted Environmental impact assessment that delayed trainings and workshops.
The Accounting Officer explained that the under performance of the work plan was a result of delayed procurement process and failure to conclude the MoUs with the implementing districts.

I advised management to expedite the pending processes and have the activities implemented.

7.1.2 **Review of the Operations of KOPGT**

(a) **Un-utilized recoveries from the farmers**

Article 3 (h) of the agreement signed on the 28th April 2006 between OPUL and KOPGT, provides that it is the Trustee’s obligation to refund to the Government the resources of the Scheme repaid by the smallholders and out growers within one year of receipt, or utilise such resources as may otherwise be agreed upon by the Government, the Trustee and IFAD.

I noted that loan recoveries worth Shs.3,257,536,892 had accumulated on the Loan Recovery Account and the Trustee declared the resources to Ministry of Agriculture but no action has been taken on the utilisation of the funds. I explained to management that this contravenes the agreement and denies farmers and the Trustee in general a chance to grow further and enhance achievement of the project objectives.

Management explained that GOU and IFAD agreed under Schedule 3 of the Financing Agreement for the second phase of VODP to have the repayments made by KOPGT on Bugala Island re-cycled to finance loans for new smallholder oil palm growers in Kalangala and other areas during the second phase of the project. Also during the Mid Term Review (MTR), GOU and IFAD agreed that the recoveries be utilized to finance oil palm activities on the outlying islands and Buvuma where activities are planned to start in early 2015.

Management actions on the matter are awaited.

(b) **Outstanding loans from KOPGT Small holders**

At the reporting date, a total of Shs.33,728,757,674 had been disbursed as cash and input loans to KOPGT farmers for oil palm activities. However, I noted that Shs.3,257,536,892 only has been recovered from the farmers as loan repayments to-date leaving the balance of Shs.30,491,220,782 yet to be recovered. I explained to management that the recovery rate was slow.
Management explained that the loans for oil palm cultivation by smallholder farmers are supposed to be fully recovered 15 years after planting according to the oil palm model. Since Oil palm planting in Kalangala started in 2006, the last loans are anticipated to be fully recovered in 2030. The repayment schedule was proposed to enable farmers have a reasonable take-home income and also enable the farmer invest in maintaining the oil palm garden.

I advised management to come up with a payback schedule indicating how much has been recovered and what is anticipated to be recovered over the remaining period. This will enable me assess the performance of the loan portfolio.

(c) **Untitled land**

In 2006, the registered farmers agreed to purchase a plot of land on which the KOPGT secretariat was to be constructed. The farmers contributed Shs.50,000 each collecting a total of Shs.24,000,000 that was used specifically to buy land in Kalangala Town Council in 2007. However, as at the time of reporting, I noted that management had not yet acquired the land title. I also noted that there are some capital developments currently undergoing on the land. The Secretariat had invested Shs.182,283,547 to construct an official building and Shs.1.6bn to construct fertilizer store. I explained to management that this is risky due to the uncertainty of the legal rights on the same land.

Management explained that KOPGT Management submitted forms for land transfer to Masaka Land Registry and the district is in the process of transferring the title into the name of Kalangala Oil palm Growers Trust (KOPGT).

I advised management to expedite the process of securing the land title.

### 7.2 General Standard of Accounting and Internal Control

A review of the system of accounting and internal control was carried out and in all material respects, the internal control system and measures to ensure proper accountability for the project funds put in place by management was satisfactory.
7.3 **Status of Project Implementation**

A review of the status of project implementation revealed the following;

7.3.1 **Inspection of Oil seeds component hubs**

As part of the audit, inspections of the Oil Seeds Component hubs was carried out and below are the findings:

a) **Staffing at Mbale Hub**

A review of the operations at Mbale Hub that comprises of 20 districts in Eastern Uganda indicated that it is currently managed by only one staff yet the hub is too big. I explained to management that farmers may not get the guidance they need and in time.

Management explained that the project design document did not provide for extra staff at hub level however, the concern of low levels of staffing was noted and raised with IFAD and accordingly, the September 2014 IFAD Support Mission Aide Memoire recommended recruitment of a hub driver and another staff to manage the regional office. Further, the Mid Term Review has recommended another private service provider for the hub in addition to the two that are already on ground and it is anticipated that this will enable the farmers to access extension services they need.

I advised management to expedite the recruitment process.

b) **Inspection of oil palm component - Buvuma Palm Oil Project**

The Oil Palm Component of the project covers the districts of Kalangala and Buvuma.

(i) **Acquisition and hand over of 4,000 hectares to BIDCO (U) Ltd (BUL)**

According to VODP 2 work plan and budget for the financial year under review, the project was to consolidate all the acquired land, identify more, survey, process and hand over 4,000 hectares of this land to BUL for nucleus estate out of the total planned and agreeable 6,500 hectares of land. I noted that the project has not handed over the planned hectares of land. This has made the hand over difficult since. I explained to management that this is likely to affect the progress of the project.

Management responded that there was delay in land acquisition but the required 6,500ha have now been acquired, which is the amount required by BIDCO. The
delays were a result of unclear land titles, squatters, lengthy valuation, hostile tenants and conflicts in ownership which are being resolved systematically.

I advised management to expedite the process and have the handover concluded.

(ii) **Establishment of Buvuma Oil Palm Growers Trust**

According to the VODP 2 work plan and budget for the financial year under review, the project was supposed to have started the establishment of Buvuma Oil Palm Growers Trust and the recruitment process of the skeleton staff should have taken off. However at the time of inspection, it was noted that no such Trust had been established. I explained to management that failure to establish the Trust as agreed makes it difficult for the project to set off, dragging behind all the planned activities for implementation.

The Accounting Officer explained that according to the Financing Agreement, the project can only establish Buvuma Oil Palm Growers Trust after BIDCO starts implementation of nucleus activities in Buvuma. It was indicated that currently, the project is working with the Buvuma District Local Government in handling oil palm activities on the Island with emphasis on land acquisition.

I advised management to address all the issues hindering progress of the project activities for successful implementation of planned activities.

7.4 **Status of Prior year Audit Issues**

The summary of the status is indicated below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audit Issue (fyr: 2012/2013)</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Management Response (Current Status)</th>
<th>Audit Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Project Financial Performance**  
The project planned expenditure was Shs.24,678,704,410 but only Shs.14,756,633,901 was spent translating into 60% of the annual budget performance. This affected implementation of some activities.  | Ensure that the required resources are brought on board to enable implementation of project activities.  | A 700 square meters store is under construction on Bugala Island, and the works have reached wall plate level. The store is expected to be completed by May 2015. While mapping of plantation rods, OPUL roads and UNRA roads in Kalangala was carried out. The process will guide the planning for next set of roads to be | Implementation in progress. |

8
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Recovery of Loans to KOPGT Farmers</strong></th>
<th>Accounting Officer to put in extra effort and ensure that the outstanding loan is fully recovered before the end of phase 2 (2018).</th>
<th>The loan recoveries considering all the plantings since 2006 were UGX.1.97bn against projections of UGX.1.78bn which indicates that the project is slightly performing better than expected. The project ends in 2018, oil palm harvesting will go on up to 2045, This will be handled by KOPGT, the implementing partner that will remain in place after the project closure.</th>
<th>As per the project structure, good progress has been recorded. <strong>Being Implemented</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Land for oil palm growing</strong></td>
<td>Ensure that the land related issues are handled in a timely manner so that project activities can be implemented.</td>
<td>The project has acquired a total of 4,473ha of land for oil palm growing in Buvuma. Another 1,335.01 ha has been valued and approved by the Chief Government valuer, which will increase the land for oil palm growing to 5,808ha, thereby leaving a balance of 692ha to achieve the planned 6,500ha.</td>
<td>During the review, the audit confirmed 2,830ha had been acquired. The difference of 1,643ha from the reported 4,473 ha available could not be confirmed. <strong>Not Resolved</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Inspection of Kalangala Oil Palm Growers Trust (KOPGT) operations</strong></td>
<td>The outcome from the above action is awaited.</td>
<td>KOPGT management has engaged a surveyor to pursue the land titling process with the Masaka Land Registry. The print has been made, in advance stages of securing a title.</td>
<td>The process has delayed. The title has not been secured yet. <strong>Not Resolved</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recovery of Loans to KOPGT Farmers**
Shs.29.5 bn was disbursed to KOPGT farmers under Phase I and 2. However, Shs.1.97bn only has been recovered from the farmers as loan repayment to-date. I find the recovery rate slow.

**Land for oil palm growing**
According to the agreement signed between OPUL and GoU, it was agreed that 6,500ha of land be acquired and cleared of any encumbrance and be handed over for consolidation and expansion of oil palm growing/development. However at the time of reporting, only 2,404ha had been cleared of all encumbrances.

**Inspection of Kalangala Oil Palm Growers Trust (KOPGT) operations**
Lack of a land title
In 2006, the registered farmers agreed to buy a plot of land on which the KOPGT secretariat was to be constructed. The farmers contributed Shs.50,000 each and collected a total of Shs.24,000,000 that was used to buy land in Kalangala Town Council way back in 2007.
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS