

Thimphu Thromde Faces Financial Scandals

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The Royal Audit Authority (RAA) has uncovered significant financial irregularities within the Thimphu Thromde Administration, revealing cases of fraud and mismanagement amounting to over Nu. 1.5 million. These incidents, attributed to inadequate internal controls and unethical practices, have been forwarded to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) for investigation.

One case involved the non-accountable of 33 non-revenue receipts, amounting to Nu.0.655 million. The Thromde Administration failed to record these receipts, exposing glaring deficiencies in its internal control system for managing non-revenue transactions. This case has been forwarded to the ACC for further investigation.

Another case pertains to the misappropriation of Nu. 0.440 million in government funds. According to the RAA, a dealing accountant transferred this amount as an impress advance to the Administrative Assistant of Yangchenphu Higher Secondary School. Subsequently, the amount was reimbursed and deposited into the accountant's personal savings account, a clear violation of financial norms. This case has also been referred to the ACC for necessary action.

A third instance highlighted a physical cash shortage of Nu 0.407 million in the Thromde's CD account. The shortage was linked to collections from the lease of temporary spaces and vegetable sheds. The RAA pointed out the absence of regular reconciliations, cash verifications, and effective supervision. It was also noted that a single official handled the cash without appropriate checks and balances. This case remains under investigation by the ACC.

The RAA's findings underline systemic weaknesses in the Thromde Administration, including poor record-keeping, lack of oversight, and violations of financial protocols. Notably, the unauthorized granting of e-PEMS access rights to an accountant on extraordinary leave involved an additional Nu. 1.072 million, further highlighting the lack of control.

These revelations have sparked public concern, raising questions about the administration's transparency and accountability. Citizens have called for stronger governance measures to prevent such occurrences in the future. The cases forwarded to the ACC will be closely monitored as they progress through scrutiny.

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