The Auditor's Communication With Those Charged With Governance

# **Marshall Islands Postal Service Authority**

(A Component Unit of the Republic of the Marshall Islands)

Year ended September 30, 2023





Tel: 692 625 7387 ey.com



May 16, 2025

To the Board of Directors of Marshall Islands Postal Service Authority

We have performed an audit of the financial statements of the business-type activities of Marshall Islands Postal Service Authority (MIPSA), a component unit of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and have issued our report thereon dated May 16, 2025.

This report summarizes our communications with those charged with governance as required by our professional standards to assist you in fulfilling your obligation to oversee the financial reporting and disclosure process.

## REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS

Professional standards require the auditor to provide the Board and those charged with governance with additional information regarding the scope and results of the audit that may assist the Board and those charged with governance in overseeing the financial reporting and disclosure processes which the management of MIPSA is responsible. We summarize these required communications as follows:

## Overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit

Our audit scope and timing are consistent with the plan communicated in our engagement letter dated October 29, 2024 and at our audit planning meeting with management.

Auditors' Responsibilities under Auditing Standards Generally Accepted in the United States (US GAAS) and Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS)

The financial statements required supplementary information and supplementary information are the responsibility of MIPSA's management as prepared with the oversight of those charged with governance. Our audit was designed in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

Marshall Islands Postal Service Authority

An audit of financial statements includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

Our responsibilities are included in our audit engagement letter.

## Changes to the audit strategy, timing of the audit and significant risks identified

Our audit strategy is consistent with the plan communicated during the October 2024 meeting.

#### Matters relevant to our evaluation of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern

We did not identify any events or conditions that led us to believe there was substantial doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

## Our views about the qualitative aspects of the entity's significant accounting practices, including:

- Accounting policies
- Accounting estimates

Management has not selected or changed any significant policies or changed the application of those policies in the current year. A discussion of significant accounting policies and sensitive accounting estimates have been included in Note 2 of the financial statements.

We have provided a discussion of significant accounting policies and our views regarding significant accounting estimates and financial statement disclosures and related matters in Note 2 of the basic financial statements.

We determined that those charged with governance are informed about management's process for formulating particularly sensitive estimates and about the basis to our conclusions regarding the reasonableness of those estimates.

#### Related party relationships and transactions

We noted no significant matters regarding the MIPSA's relationships and transactions with related parties other than disclosed in footnote 7 to the financial statements.

## Changes to the terms of the audit with no reasonable justification for the change

We are not aware of any matters that require communication.

## **Significant unusual transactions**

We are not aware of any significant unusual transactions executed by MIPSA.

## Difficult or contentious matters subject to consultation outside of the audit team

None.

#### Material corrected misstatements related to accounts and disclosures

Refer to "Management Representations Letter" in Appendix A.

# Uncorrected misstatements related to accounts and disclosures, considered by management to be immaterial

Refer to "Management Representations Letter" in Appendix A.

## Significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting

We have issued our Report of Independent Auditors on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* dated May16, 2025. In that report, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness.

## Fraud and noncompliance with laws and regulations (illegal acts)

We are not aware of any matters that require communication.

#### Obtain information relevant to the audit

Inquiries regarding matters relevant to the audit were performed during the October 2024 meeting during the audit.

## **Independence matters**

We are not aware of any matters that in our professional judgment would impair our independence.

## **New accounting pronouncements**

No issues have been identified with regard to management's planned application of new accounting pronouncements:

- GASB Statement No. 99
- GASB Statement No. 100
- GASB Statement No. 101
- GASB Statement No. 102

Marshall Islands Postal Service Authority

Management is still assessing the impact of adopting these GASB Statements.

# Significant issues discussed with management in connection with the auditor's initial appointment or recurring retention

We are not aware of any matters that require communication.

# Disagreements with management and significant difficulties encountered in dealing with management when performing the audit

There were no material disagreements with MIPSA's management on financial accounting and reporting matters during the audit.

## Management's consultations with other accountants

We are not aware of any consultations made by management with other accountants or specialists.

## Other material written communications with management

None.

#### Other matters

There are no other matters arising from the audit that are, in our judgment, significant and relevant to those charged with governance regarding the oversight of the financial reporting process.

## AICPA ethics ruling regarding third-party service providers

From time to time, and depending on the circumstances, (1) we may subcontract portions of the Audit Services to other EY firms, who may deal with MIPSA or its affiliates directly, although EY alone will remain responsible to you for the Audit Services and (2) personnel (including non-certified public accountants) from an affiliate of EY or another EY firm or any of their respective affiliates, or from independent third-party service providers (including independent contractors), may participate in providing the Audit Services. In addition, third-party service providers may perform services for EY in connection with the Audit Services.

## Representations from management

We have obtained from management a representations letter related to the audit and a copy of the management representations letter is included in Appendix A.

## Engagement team's involvement with preparation of the financial statements

Under GAS 2018 Revision, Chapter 3 Ethics, Independence and Professional Judgment, Paragraph 3.73-74 Provision of Non-audit Services to Audited Entities explains that the audit team should make consideration of management's ability to effectively oversee the non-audit services to be provided. The engagement team should determine that the audited entity has designated an individual who possesses suitable skill, knowledge or experience and that the individual understands the services to be performed sufficiently to oversee them.

The engagement team should document consideration of management's ability to oversee non-audit services to be performed.

The engagement team believes that this significant threat is reduced to an acceptable level upon application of the following safeguards:

- An engagement quality control review was performed by a qualified Ernst & Young Partner who was not otherwise involved in the audit.
- The preparation of the financial statements is based on MIPSA's trial balance with our understanding that MIPSA's underlying books and records are maintained by MIPSA's accounting department and that the final trial balance prepared by MIPSA is complete.
- All adjusting journal entries that Ernst & Young posted to the trial balance have been approved by management of MIPSA.
- MIPSA's Accounts Manager have the skill sets to oversee and review the completeness and accuracy of the financial statements and footnote disclosures.

Very truly yours,

Ernst + Young

# Appendix

A - Management Representations Letter

## A - Management Representations Letter



May 16th, 2025

Ernst & Young LLP Majuro, Marshall Islands P.O Box 1288, 96960

In connection with your audit of the basic financial statements of Marshall Islands Postal Service Authority (MIPSA) as of September 30, 2023 and 2022 and for the years then ended, we recognize that obtaining representations from us concerning the information contained in this letter is a significant procedure in enabling you to form opinions whether the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the business-type activities of MIPSA and the changes in financial position and cash flows in conformity with US generally accepted accounting principles (US GAAP).

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material. Items are considered material, regardless of size, if they involve an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would be changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement.

Accordingly, we make the following representations, which are true to the best of our knowledge and belief:

#### Management's responsibilities

We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set forth in the terms of the audit engagement agreement dated October 29, 2024, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements (including disclosures) in accordance with US GAAP applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding period except for the effects of adopting new accounting standards.

In preparing the financial statements, we evaluated whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about MIPSA's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are issued (or available to be issued, if applicable), and to provide appropriate financial statement disclosure, when applicable, related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless we prepared the financial statements in accordance with the liquidation basis of accounting.

We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. We have provided you with:

- Access to all information, of which we are aware, that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements such as records, data, documentation and other matters.
- Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit.
- Unrestricted access to persons within MIPSAfrom whom you determined it necessary to obtain evidence.

We have no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities.

From June 7, 2024 through the date of this letter we have disclosed to you, to the extent that we are aware, any (1) unauthorized access to our information technology systems that either occurred or is reasonably likely to have occurred, including of reports submitted to us by third parties (including regulatory agencies, law enforcement agencies and security consultants), to the extent that such unauthorized access to our information technology systems is reasonably likely to have a material effect on the financial statements, and (2) ransomware attacks when we paid or are contemplating paying a ransom, regardless of the amount.

#### Governmental entities

We recognize that we are responsible for MIPSA's compliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements that are applicable to it. We have identified and disclosed to your representatives, all laws and regulations that have direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts or other financial data significant to the audit objectives.

We have identified to your representatives all previous audits, attestation engagements, and other studies related to the audit objectives and whether the related recommendations have been implemented.

There has been no noncompliance or possible noncompliance with provisions of contracts or grant agreements in any jurisdiction whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements or as a basis for recording a loss contingency.

We have informed you of any investigations or legal proceedings that have been initiated or are in process with respect to the period under audit.

We have a process to track the status of audit findings and recommendations.

We have provided views on your reported findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as management's planned corrective actions, for the report.

We have taken timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud, and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements, that you have reported.

#### Corrected misstatements

We have reviewed and approved the adjustments, summarized in the accompanying schedule, and reflected these adjustments in the financial statements. Refer to the "Schedule of Corrected Misstatements" in Appendix B.

#### Uncorrected misstatements

We believe that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements, summarized in the accompanying schedule (Appendix), accumulated by you during the current and prior audit period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements for each opinion unit. In addition, to the extent that uncorrected misstatements have been subsequently identified in the current period that affect prior period financial statements, we have evaluated the effect of correcting prior period financial statements and believe that the effects of the uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to both the current and prior period financial statements.

#### Internal control

We have communicated to you all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting.

#### Minutes and contracts and internal audit reports

The dates of meetings of members, officers or summaries of actions of recent meetings held from October 1, 2022, to the date of this letter are as follows:

## **Date Meeting Type**

Special Board Meeting
Regular Board Meeting
Regular Board Meeting
Special Board Meeting

Certain minutes of meetings of members were not made available. There were no matters of significance discussed by the members of the Board of Directors during these meetings that required adjustment to, or disclosure in, the financial statements as of September 30, 2023.

We have made available to you all significant contracts, including amendments, and agreements and have communicated to you all significant oral agreements. We have complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance, including all covenants, conditions or other requirements of all outstanding debt.

We have also made available to you all internal audit reports (or reports from similar functions) that were issued to management during the year that address internal control over financial reporting.

#### Methods, significant assumptions, and data used in making accounting estimates

The appropriateness of the methods, the consistency in application, the accuracy and completeness of data, and the reasonableness of significant assumptions used by us in developing accounting estimates and related disclosures, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable and supportable.

#### Ownership and pledging of assets

Except for right-to-use another entity's nonfinancial assets (the underlying assets), MIPSAhas satisfactory title to all assets appearing in the statement of net position. No security agreements have been executed under the provisions of any law, and there are no liens or encumbrances on assets, nor has any asset been pledged. All assets to which MIPSAhas satisfactory title appear in the statement of net position.

#### Receivables and revenues

Receivables have been determined in accordance with all relevant GASB Statements, including GASB Statements No. 33 and 62 - as amended.

Adequate provision has been made for losses, costs and expenditures that may be incurred subsequent to the balance sheet date in respect of any sales and services rendered prior to that date and for uncollectible accounts and allowances, etc., that may be incurred in the collection of receivables at that date.

## Long-lived assets to be held and used, including amortizable intangible assets

No events or changes in circumstances have occurred that indicate the carrying amounts of long-lived assets to be held and used, including intangible assets that are subject to amortization, may not be recoverable.

#### Related party relationships and transactions

We have made available to you the names of all related parties and all relationships and transactions with related parties.

The substance of transactions with related parties as defined in GASB Statement No. 56 - as amended, has been considered and appropriate adjustments or disclosures are made in the basic financial statements, and information concerning these transactions and amounts have been made available to you.

#### Side agreements and other arrangements

There have been no side agreements or other arrangements (either written or oral) that have not been disclosed to you.

## May 16, 2025

## A - Management Representations Letter, continued

#### Arrangements with financial institutions

Arrangements with financial institutions involving compensating balances or other arrangements involving restrictions on cash balances and line-of-credit or similar arrangements have been properly recorded or disclosed in the financial statements.

#### Contingent liabilities

There are no unasserted claims or assessments, including those our lawyers have advised us of, that are probable of assertion and must be disclosed in accordance with GASB Statement No. 62 - as amended other than those disclosed in the financial statements.

There have been no violations or possible violations of laws or regulations in any jurisdiction whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements or as a basis for recording a loss contingency other than those disclosed in the financial statements.

There have been no internal investigations or communications from regulatory agencies or government representatives in any jurisdiction concerning investigations or allegations of noncompliance with laws or regulations, noncompliance with or deficiencies in financial reporting practices, or other matters that could affect the financial statements other than those disclosed or accrued in thefinancial statements.

There are no other liabilities or gain or loss contingencies considered material, individually or in the aggregate, that are required to be accrued or disclosed by GASB Statement No. 62 - as amended, *Contingencies* other than those accrued or disclosed in the financial statements, nor are there any accruals for loss contingencies included in thestatement of financial position or gain contingencies reflected in earnings that are not in conformity with the provisions of GASB Statement No. 62 - as amended.

We have not consulted with outside legal counsel concerning litigation, claims or assessments.

#### Oral or written guarantees

There are no oral or written guarantees other than those reported in the financial statements, including guarantees of the debt of others.

#### Purchase commitments

AtSeptember 30, 2023 and 2022, MIPSAhad no purchase commitments for inventories in excess of normal requirements or at prices that were in excess of market at thosedates.

There were no agreements or commitments to repurchase assets previously sold. There were no material commitments outstanding atSeptember 30, 2023 and 2022as a result of being a party to futures or forwards contracts, short sales or hedge transactions.

#### Non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud

We acknowledge that we are responsible todetermine that MIPSA's business activities are conducted in accordance with laws and regulations and that we are responsible for identifying and addressing any non-compliance with applicable laws or regulations, including fraud.

We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of a system of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.

We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.

We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud involving management or other employees who have a significant role in MIPSA's internal control over financial reporting. In addition, we have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud involving other employees where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. We have no knowledge of any allegations of financial improprieties, including fraud or suspected fraud, (regardless of the source or form and including without limitation, any allegations by "whistleblowers") which could result in a misstatement of the financial statements or otherwise affect the financial reporting of MIPSA.

We have disclosed to you all known actual or suspected noncompliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

#### Independence

We have communicated to you the names of MIPSA's affiliates, officers and directors.

We are not aware of any capital lease, material cooperative arrangement or other business relationship between MIPSA and Ernst & Young LLP or any other member firm of the global Ernst & Young organization.

We are not aware of any reason that Ernst & Young LLP would not be independent for purposes of MIPSA's audit.

#### Conflicts of interest

There are no instances where any officer or employee of MIPSAhas an interest in a company with which MIPSAdoes business that would be considered a "conflict of interest." Such an interest would be contrary to MIPSA's policy.

#### Effects of new accounting principles

As discussed in Note 2 to the financial statements, we have not completed the process of evaluating the effects that will result from adopting the amendments to the codification provided in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB):

- GASB Statement No. 99
- GASB Statement No. 100
- GASB Statement No. 101
- GASB Statement No. 102

MIPSA is therefore unable to disclose the effects that adopting the amendments in the aforementioned GASB Statements will have on its financial position and the changes in its financial position when such statement is adopted.

#### Going concern

In preparing the financial statements, we evaluated the entity's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months after the date that the financial statements are issued (or available to be issued, if applicable), and provide appropriate financial statement disclosure, as necessary under GASB requirements.

#### Required supplementary information

We acknowledge our responsibility for the required supplementary information on management's discussion and analysis, which have been measured and presented in conformity with the guidelines established by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board in its applicable GASB Statement. There have been no changes in the methods of measurement or presentation of the required supplementary information from those used in the prior period.

There are no significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the information.

#### Supplementary Information

We are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the following schedules (the "Supplementary Information"):

· Combining Schedule of Operating Income (Loss) by Station

We believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly stated in all material respects.

There have been no changes in the methods of measurement or presentation of the supplementary information from those used in the prior period.

There are no significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the information.

#### Additional representations

- We have identified and disclosed to you all provisions of laws and regulations that could
  have a direct and material effect on financial statement amounts, including legal and
  contractual provisions for reporting specific activities.
- We have identified and disclosed to you violations (and possible violations) of laws, regulations and provisions of contracts and grant agreements with effects that should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements or as a basis for recording a loss contingency.
- Our policy regarding whether to first apply restricted or unrestricted resources when an
  expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is
  available is appropriately disclosed and net position was properly recognized under the
  policy.
- Subsequent events have been evaluated and classified as recognized or nonrecognized through the date of this letter.

## Financial statements approval

We have received a draft copy of the financial statements of MIPSA as of and for the years ended September 30, 2023, and 2022. The accuracy and completeness of the financial statements, including footnote disclosures, are the responsibility of the management of MIPSA.

You have assisted in the preparation of MIPSA's financial statements based on the information in MIPSA's trial balance and accounting records. It is our understanding that:

- MIPSA's underlying books and records are maintained by MIPSA's accounting department and that the final trial balance prepared by MIPSA is complete;
- All adjusting journal entries posted to the trial balance have been approved by MIPSA;
   and
- Management of MIPSA has designated a competent representative to oversee your services and that there are MIPSA personnel with sufficient financial competence who are able to challenge and review the completeness and accuracy of the financial statements.

We have reviewed the draft financial statements for accuracy and completeness.

We acknowledge, that we have reviewed the draft financial statements for accuracy and completeness, and we take responsibility for them.

#### Subsequent events

Subsequent to September 30, 2023, no events or transactions have occurred or are pending that would have a material effect on the financial statements at that date or for the period then ended, or that are of such significance in relation to MIPSA's affairs to require mention in a note to the basic financial statements in order to make them not misleading regarding the financial position, changes in financial position and, where applicable.

\*\*\*\*

We understand that your audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America as established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States of America, and was, therefore, designed primarily for the purpose of expressing opinions on the financial statements of MIPSA and that your tests of the accounting records and other auditing procedures were limited to those that you considered necessary for that purpose.

Very truly yours,

PMG, Bobby Zed

Accounts Manager, Sharon Fitzpatrick



## Appendices

- A Schedule of Corrected Misstatements
- B Schedule of Uncorrected Misstatements



