

RESTRICTED

AGO ... auditing for the Nation



AGO Auditor-General's Office
Singapore

Welcomes
Seoul Metropolitan Government

Auditor-General's Office, Singapore


RESTRICTED

AGO ... auditing for the Nation



Time	Programme
2:00pm – 2:05pm	Welcome and Introduction
2:05pm – 2:10pm	Introductory video on AGO
2:10pm – 2:40pm	Presentation on AGO's role and work
2:40pm – 3:30pm	Presentation on Seoul Metropolitan Government by delegation
3:30pm – 3:50pm	Discussion
3:50pm – 4:00pm	Group photo / End of programme


Auditor-General's Office, Singapore



Session Outline

- Public Accountability
- About AGO
- Independence
- Audit Mandate
- Types of audit
- Audit reports

Auditor-General's Office, Singapore



PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

Auditor-General's Office, Singapore



RESTRICTED

AGO ... auditing for the Nation

ABOUT AGO

Auditor-General's Office, Singapore

RESTRICTED

AGO ... auditing for the Nation

Auditor-General's Office

- Organ of state, independent of the Government

```

graph TD
    President[President] --- Parliament[Parliament]
    Parliament --- ExecGov[Executive Govt / Ministers]
    ExecGov --- Ministries[Ministries / Organs of State]
    ExecGov --- StatBoards[Statutory Boards]
    President --- AGO[AGO]
  
```

Auditor-General's Office, Singapore

RESTRICTED

AGO ... auditing for the Nation

Role of AGO

To help Parliament in calling the Government to account, the Auditor-General will audit ministries and statutory boards to ascertain that:

- public funds are accounted for
- there is no excess, extravagance, inefficiency and waste of public resources
- all relevant laws are complied with

Auditor-General's Office, Singapore




RESTRICTED

AGO's Vision

To be a *respected* national audit institution -
Professional, Independent, Effective.

Auditor-General's Office, Singapore



RESTRICTED

AGO's Mission

To audit and report to the President and Parliament on the proper accounting and use of public resources to enhance public accountability and help strengthen the financial governance of the public service.

Auditor-General's Office, Singapore



RESTRICTED

INDEPENDENCE

Auditor-General's Office, Singapore



RESTRICTED

AG's Independence

Safeguards on AG's independence enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Singapore

- Appointment
- Remuneration
- Removal

Auditor-General's Office, Singapore

RESTRICTED

AGO ... auditing for the Nation

Appointment of Auditor-General

```
graph TD; PM[PRIME MINISTER] -- Consults --> CHAIRMAN[CHAIRMAN PSC]; PM -- Advises --> PRESIDENT[PRESIDENT]; PRESIDENT -- "Concurs & Appoints" --> AG[AUDITOR-GENERAL];
```

13
Auditor-General's Office, Singapore

RESTRICTED


AGO ... auditing for the Nation

Remuneration of Auditor-General

- Salary determined by Parliament
- Salary and other terms of service shall not be altered to his disadvantage during his term

14
Auditor-General's Office, Singapore

AGO RESTRICTED ... auditing for the Nation




Removal of Auditor-General

- **Grounds**
 - Inability to discharge functions due to infirmity of body or mind or any other cause
 - Misbehaviour
- **Procedure**
 - By President if he agrees with advice of Prime Minister (on above grounds)
 - Concurrence of a tribunal (Chief Justice & 2 Supreme Court judges nominated by Chief Justice)

15
Auditor-General's Office, Singapore

AGO RESTRICTED ... auditing for the Nation



AUDIT MANDATE

Auditor-General's Office, Singapore




RESTRICTED

Constitution of The Republic of Singapore

Duty of the AG

- Audit and report on accounts of all departments and offices of Government
- Perform audits on such accounts of public authorities and bodies administering public funds as prescribed by law; otherwise upon request and with approval of Minister
- Make recommendations and comment on all matters relating to public accounts, public moneys and public stores

Auditor-General's Office, Singapore



RESTRICTED


Audit Act

Nature of Audit

Examine if reasonable steps taken to

- Safeguard collection & custody of public moneys
- Ensure payments made with proper authority and supported by proof of payment
- Ensure that provisions of law relating to public moneys or public stores have been complied with

Auditor-General's Office, Singapore



RESTRICTED


AGO ... auditing for the Nation

Audit Act

Additional Duty

To bring to the notice of the Finance Ministry serious irregularities which have occurred in the accounting or custody of public moneys or public stores

19
Auditor-General's Office, Singapore



RESTRICTED

AGO ... auditing for the Nation

Audit Act

Powers of the AG

- Having access to all information needed for audit
- Presenting his reports to President
(President tables the reports in Parliament)

20
Auditor-General's Office, Singapore




RESTRICTED

Standing Orders of Parliament

Public Accounts Committee

- Comprises up to 8 Members of Parliament
- Examines the accounts of the Government and statutory boards
- Deliberates on the Report of the Auditor-General
- Conducts inquiries into selected issues
- Reports to Parliament its findings, conclusions and recommendations

²¹
Auditor-General's Office, Singapore




RESTRICTED

AGO'S Working Relationship with PAC

AG attends the meetings of the Public Accounts Committee and provides clarification on his Report and other audit issues raised by the Committee

²²
Auditor-General's Office, Singapore



RESTRICTED

TYPES OF AUDIT

Auditor-General's Office, Singapore



RESTRICTED

Types of Audit

- **Financial Statements Audit**
- **Selective Audit**
 - check for financial irregularities
 - check whether there has been excess, extravagance, gross inefficiency leading to waste and whether measures to prevent them are in place

Auditor-General's Office, Singapore



RESTRICTED

Whom We Audit

- Government ministries and departments
- Statutory boards
- Government companies e.g. Government of Singapore Investment Corporation Pte Ltd (GIC)
- Government Funds

Auditor-General's Office, Singapore



RESTRICTED

AUDIT REPORTS

Auditor-General's Office, Singapore

RESTRICTED

AGO ... auditing for the Nation

AUDIT REPORTS

- Audit Report on the Financial Statements
 - Government
 - Statutory Boards
- Management letters to Ministry / Statutory boards (findings and recommendations)
- Annual Report of the Auditor-General to President and Parliament (key findings)

27
Auditor-General's Office, Singapore

RESTRICTED

AGO ... auditing for the Nation

Annual Audit Report to President

Factors Considered

- Seriousness of the audit observation
- Frequency of occurrence
- Importance for purpose of giving assurance

28
Auditor-General's Office, Singapore

RESTRICTED



Annual Audit Report to President *(cont'd)*

Observations which go into AG's Report include

- Compliance issues
- Internal control
- Governance issues
- Issues relating to the independence of AGO e.g. restriction in budget

29
Auditor-General's Office, Singapore

RESTRICTED



Thank You

<http://www.ago.gov.sg>

30
Auditor-General's Office, Singapore