

පාර්ලිමේන්තු ප්‍රකාශන මාලා අංකය: 95

ආයතනයේ නම : බුද්ධශාසන, ආගමික හා සංස්කෘතික කටයුතු අමාත්‍යාංශය

පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ රජයේ ගිණුම් පිළිබඳ කාරක සභාව විසින් සහාගත කරන ලද වාර්තා සම්බන්ධයෙන් ස්ථාවර
නියෝග අංක 119(4) යටතේ

ගරු. ආයතනය භාර අමාත්‍යවරයාගේ නිරීක්ෂණ හා ගනු ලබන පියවර පාර්ලිමේන්තුව වෙත ඉදිරිපත් කිරීම.

පාරාලුමනේර වෙළුම්පිටුත් තොර් ඉලක්ක: 95

නිලවනත්තීන් පෙයාර්: පුත්තසාසනම්, මත මණ්ණුම් කලාසාර අලුවලක්කල් අමෙස්ස

පාරාලුමනේරත්තීන් අරස කණකුක් කුමවිනාල් මුන්වෙකකප්පට්ට අහිකක තොර්පාක නිලෙයියර් කට්ටනෙ
ඉලක්කම් 119(4) ඉන් කීරු නිලවනකකනිර්කුප් පොරුප්පාන කෙලරව අමෙස්සරීන් අවතානිප්පුකකනුම් මණ්ණුම්
අතු තොර්පාක ආකුකප්පටුම් ත්ටවකිකකනුම් පාරාලුමනේරත්තීර්කු සමර්ප්පිත්තල්.

Parliament Series No: 95

Name of the Institution: Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

Submission of observations of Hon. Minister in charge of the institutions and steps taken with regards
to the reports tabled by the Committee on Public Accounts in terms of Standing Order No. 119(4)

Submission of the actions and observations made by the Minister in changing the Institutions in relation to the report submitted to the Parliament by the Committee on Public Accounts

Related to the Ministries, Departments, Provincial Councils and Local Government Authorities - Parliamentary Publication Series No. – 95

Ser ial No.	Main facts discussed	Observations / Recommendations / Orders of the Committee	Progress of implementing the recommendations / orders
01.	Revision of National Archeology Policy based on timely needs.	The committee ordered the Director General of Archeology to call the institutions mentioned in the national Policy and get their opinions and suggestions regarding the facts related to the revision of National Policy of Archeology to be submitted to the President and to take action accordingly. A report has been submitted on the facts above through the letter No. MBRCA/13/26/2023 of 25.09.2023 by the Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs.	A committee of Scholars has been appointed by the Ministry of Buddhasasana regarding the revision of the National Archeology Policy. Terms of Reference (TOR) have to be provided at the Departmental level for the Committee.

02.	Getting a life insurance for Divers	The Committee ordered the Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to intervene to expedite the activities related to obtaining a life insurance for the divers. A report has been submitted on the facts above through the letter No. MBRCA/13/26/2023 of 25.09.2023 by the Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs.	The action has been taken to select a relevant Institution to obtain a life insurance discussing in this respect with the Marine Archaeology Unit of the Department of Archaeology and the Marine Archaeology Unit of the Central Cultural Fund. Accordingly, one Institution has given its consent. The procurement activities of this purpose are being carried out by the Marine Archaeology Unit of Central Cultural Fund. Accordingly, it has been decided to apply the same to the Department of Archaeology on the ability to apply the life insurance correctly. You are further informed that these activities are being carried out discussing together with the officers of two Marine Archaeology Units of these two institutions.
03.	Developing integration among coastal and ocean related institutions	The Committee directed the secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to formulate legal policies and set up necessary committees / appropriate mechanisms to bring about the coordination among the institutions dealing with coasts and ocean.	These activities shall be carried out by the institutions such as Sri Lanka Navy and Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Institution of Department of Coastal Conservation as these are the institutions which take action directly with sea and coast of Sri Lanka. You are kindly informed that this is not a business of the Department of Archaeology. You are further informed that an Inter - ministerial Committee was appointed and implemented by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources earlier as well and the Department of Archeology was also a member of the Committee.

04.	Recommendations / Order the Aquatic (Marine) Antiquities Gazette	The Committee directed the secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to take action to gazette the 113 marine artifacts which have been identified up to date, before 01st of December, 2023 and to provide to the Committee a report containing the Action Plan related to such gazetting by 28th of July 2023. A report has been submitted on the facts above through the letter No. MBRCA/13/26/2023 of 25.09.2023 by the Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs.	These antiquities have been protected under the Antiquities Ordinance and international laws and powers. Marine artifacts have been protected under a legal basis by all local and international acts and ordinances. It is practically difficult to gazette the artifacts on the ocean bed as they are constantly being displaced.
05.	Initiation of tourist diving services at marine archaeological sites	The Committee directed the Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs and the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority to nominate places where services can be provided for diving activities related to marine archeological sites around Sri Lanka, and to prepare a programme to develop the infrastructure facilities at those places, attracting tourists.	Several rounds of discussions have already been held in this regard by the officers of Marine Archaeology Units of both the Department of Archaeology and the Central Cultural Fund. In selecting the diving sites for tourists, their safety of life shall strictly be taken in to consideration. Therefore special sites shall be selected out of the Marine Archeological sites existing at present and the infrastructure facilities shall subsequently be developed thereof. The relevant basic activities have been commenced at present by the officers of these two institutions as to commence the relevant affairs since the year 2025.

06.	Attachment of Archeology Graduates in Public Service to the Department of Archaeology	The Committee directed the Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs and to the Chairman of Tourism Development Authority of Sri Lanka to submit a report related to getting approved the relevant policies from the Cabinet of Ministers and the amendment of the Scheme of Recruitment to the Committee by 28th of July, 2023. The Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs has submitted a report on the facts above to the Committee through the letter No. MBRCA/13/26/2023 dated 25.09.2023.	A letter of request dated 18.09.2024 has been forwarded to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to provide an opportunity for discussion to create the posts of Archeology Research Officers and to retain the graduates and it has been referred to the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government.
07.	Establishing a joint mechanism to collect the archaeological data, information and other relevant matters of those institutions by making proper coordination with the relevant councils / committees	The Committee ordered the Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs and to the Chairman of Tourism Development Authority of Sri Lanka to formulate a system to incorporate the Councils / Committees established at the institutions related to Archeology at present into an integrated mechanism, in consultation with the Minister in charge of the subject concerned, and to provide within one month a comprehensive report including	The Councils / Committees are functioning in institutions related to Archeology such as Department of Archaeology, Department of National Museums, and Department of National Archives at present. These are the Advisory Councils / Committees formed by the Head of the institution for the purpose of providing advices whenever the advices are sought in performing his duties. Necessary liaison activities required are being taken with the Ministry regarding the implementation of data and information of Archaeology bringing the said councils / committees into a joint mechanism.

	established in the Archaeological Advisory Council and other institutions related to Archeology and to act according to them.	• The mechanism so formulated and • The composition of those councils / committees, their role, the members elected at present and the dates of their appointments and their conveners. The Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs has submitted a report on the facts above to the Committee through the letter No. MBRCA/13/26/2023 dated 25.09.2023.	
08.	Obtaining a report on recommended World Heritage sites.	The Committee directed the Director General of Archeology to provide a report including a draft plan to the Committee before 28th of July, 2023, with the list of places that have been decided to be proposed to UNESCO to be designated as World Heritage Sites and the possible dates to provide such draft. The Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural affairs has submitted a report on the subject above to the Committee through the letter No. MBRCA/13/26/2023 dated 25.09.2023.	At present, the archaeological sites of Arankele, Nagolla, Ritigala and Manakanda have been included in the waiting list. Further actions are in progress.

09.	Mapping the archaeological sites in the country and entering them in to the website	The Committee ordered the Director General of Archeology to submit to the Committee by 25 of August, 2023 a report which includes an action plan for mapping all the archaeological sites in the country and entering them in to the website after obtaining instructions from the Minister in charge of the subject and the other relevant parties. The Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural affairs has submitted a report on the facts above to the Committee through the letter No. MBRCA/13/26/2023 dated 25.09.2023.	A programme of updating 100 new archaeological sites in one month has been commenced and a total of 2056 sites have been added to the website. A new Action Plan is being prepared for the purpose and action will be taken to submit it to you expeditiously.
10.	Managing / supervising and conservation of archaeological excavation activities.	The Committee directed the Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs and the Chairman of the Tourism Development Authority of Sri Lanka to take action to enter and save the related information in a data base for the purpose of Managing / supervising and conservation of archaeological excavation activities carried out in the country.	Documents and computer and data files related to the excavations carried out by the Department and under licenses are being updated and maintained.

		The Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural affairs has submitted a report on the facts above to the Committee through the letter No. MBRCA/13/26/2023 dated 25.09.2023.	
11.	Observation of the conservation of Attanagalu Ferry	Even though a sum of Rs. 17 Lakhs have been spent for the purpose up to date, the Committee observed that this has been damaged up to the status of not conserving it furthermore by now. The Committee has ordered the Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs and the Chairman of the Tourism Development Authority to submit a report on the steps of conservation of Attanagalla Ferry before 28th day of July 2023. The Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural affairs has submitted a report on the facts above to the Committee through the letter No. MBRCA/13/26/2023 dated 25.09.2023.	Work of ¾ of the total conservation work has been finalized. The final stage of drawing the plan of the ferry is being carried out at present. The chemical conservation activities are to be commenced after its completion.

12.	Use of modern technical equipment to verify the identity of archaeological objects	The Committee directed the Director General of Archeology to make an immediate arrangement for the use of modern technical equipment to ensure the identity of the archaeological objects. The Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural affairs has submitted a report on the facts above to the Committee through the letter No. MBRCA/13/26/2023 dated 25.09.2023.	Technical equipment is used for the activities such as carbon dating, and the cost of their supply as well as the cost required to maintain them and the trained staff are not affordable for a country like Sri Lanka. And since such needs are rarely arisen, it is more appropriate to obtain the reports from a foreign institution which bears the responsibility for the purpose. However, by developing an electronic indexing methodology (bars or QR codes) for the purpose of documenting movable artifacts in museums and laboratories, their identity may be documented and maintained. Necessary activities are being planned to obtain the technology to the Department for the purpose.
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 A.M.P.M.B. Atapattu,
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Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

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 Dr. Hinidunma Sunil Senevi

Minister of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs

ආචාර්ය හිනිදුම් සුනිල් සෙනෙවි (පා.ම.)
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