

පාර්ලිමේන්තු ප්‍රකාශන මාලා අංක: 492

ආයතනයේ නම : දිස්ත්‍රික් ලේකම් කාර්යාලය, අනුරාධපුර
පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ රජයේ ගිණුම් පිළිබඳ කාරක සභාව විසින් සභාගත
කරන ලද වාර්තා සම්බන්ධයෙන් ස්ථාවර නියෝග අංක 119(4)
යටතේ ගරු අමාත්‍යවරයාගේ නිරීක්ෂණ හා ගනු ලබන පියවර
පාර්ලිමේන්තුව වෙත ඉදිරිපත් කිරීම

பாராளுமன்ற வெளியீட்டுத் தொகுப்பு இலக்கம் : 492
 நிறுவனத்தின் பெயர் : மாவட்ட செயலகம்,
 அநுராதபுரம்

பாராளுமன்றத்தின் அரச கணக்குக் குழுவினால் முன்வைக்கப்பட்ட அறிக்கை தொடர்பாக நிலையியற் கட்டலள இலக்கம் 119(4) இன் கீழ் கௌரவ அமைச்சரின் அவதானிப்புக்களும் மற்றும் அது தொடர்பாக எடுக்கப்படும் நடவடிக்கைகளும் பாராளுமன்றத்திற்கு சமர்ப்பித்தல்

Parliament Publication Collection No: 492

Name of the institution : District Secretariat, Anuradhapura

Submission of observation of Hon. Minister and steps taken with regard to the reports tabled by the Committee on Public

Accounts in terms of Standing Order No 119(4)

**Submission to Parliament on Observations and Actions Taken Regarding
Standing Order 119(4) Presented by the Committee on Public Accounts of
the Parliament of Sri Lanka**

Parliamentary Publication Series No.: 492

District Secretariat – Anuradhapura District Secretariat

Shortcomings identified by the Committee	Actions Taken by the Institution to rectify the shortcomings/current status
The risk register had not been updated.	Accepted. Since 2024, the risk register has been updated and maintained at the District Secretariat and all Divisional Secretariats.
The annual action plan had not been prepared.	The annual action plan and annual procurement plan for 2023 had been prepared but were not submitted to audit on time.
The annual procurement plan had not been prepared.	The annual action plan for 2025 had been prepared, and the 2026 action plan has been prepared and approved.
Responses had not been provided within one month for all audit queries raised by the Auditor General.	Delays occurred in obtaining responses from Divisional Secretariats and some information received was insufficient, requiring further clarifications before preparing final reports. Arrangements have now been made to obtain responses within the stipulated period and submit final interim reports within one month.
Responses to internal audit queries had not been provided within one month.	Out of 17 audit queries, responses for 11 were submitted within the stipulated period, while responses for 6 were delayed. Report had been submitted for those audit queries.
A vehicle had not been disposed of within six months after being condemned.	Out of 13 vehicles identified for disposal, disposal activities for 6 vehicles had been completed. Approval from the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government was obtained for the remaining 7 vehicles, and steps were taken for disposal through newspaper advertisements. Out of the 13 vehicles, disposal activities relating to 12 vehicles have already been completed. Further, as the ownership of the Double Cab bearing No. 50-0305 belongs to the Women's Bureau, the Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs has informed, through Letter No. MWCA/02/05/06/50-0305 dated 2025.03.25, that the disposal activities of the said vehicle will be carried out by that institution.

Loan balances relating to interdicted officers, officers who had vacated service, retired officers, and deceased officers were included, and action was taken separately regarding each case.

Loan Balances of Interdicted Officers

Mr. R.B.P.K. Rathnaweera

Grama Niladhari – Thambuththegama Divisional Secretariat

A case filed by the Attorney General's Department under No. 00495/M/21 in the Anuradhapura District Court to recover the outstanding loan balance defaulted by this interdicted officer was called on 2025.09.09, and the next hearing date has been fixed for 2026.06.02.

Mr. R.H.K. Wanninayake

Grama Niladhari – Ipalogama Divisional Secretariat

While legal action under No. 30483/M was being carried out in the Anuradhapura District Court to recover the loan balance defaulted by this interdicted officer, the officer passed away on 2022.11.19. Since the officer is deceased, the outstanding loan balance and interest are to be recovered from the widow and orphans' pension benefits.

Mr. H.W.D. Jayasinghe

Technical Officer – Padaviya Divisional Secretariat

A letter dated 2023.11.23 under reference ANU/DIST/2/7/2/B/37 was sent requesting settlement of the outstanding loan balance before 2023.11.30. Another letter dated 2024.01.03 was sent to the officer's spouse, Railway Clerk Mrs. M.P.S. Lasanthi Thilakarathna, informing her to notify the officer to settle the outstanding balance. Since the balance has still not been settled, legal advice from the Attorney General has been sought.

Mr. D.P. Anura

Grama Niladhari – Nochchiyagama Divisional Secretariat

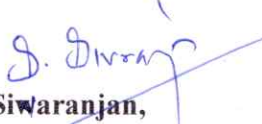
The Nochchiyagama Divisional Secretary informed the officer on several occasions to settle the outstanding balance. A letter dated 2024.04.15 under reference ANU/DIST/2/7/2/B/38 instructed

	settlement within 14 days. As the payment default continued, legal advice from the Attorney General has been sought. <u>Loan Balances of Officers Who Vacated Service</u> Mrs. K.M.K. Kangara Menike Palugaswewa Divisional Secretariat The outstanding loan balance and arrears due from this Management Services Officer who vacated service were fully settled through receipts No. 595396 dated 2023.03.23 and No. 595467 dated 2023.04.20 submitted to the Palugaswewa Divisional Secretary. <u>Loan Balances of Retired and Deceased Officers</u> Mrs. H.M.M.R.K. Herath Former Divisional Secretary This retired officer, who had served at the Galnewa Divisional Secretariat, had her outstanding loan balance recovered from her pension gratuity during April 2024.
Temporary advances issued under Financial Regulation 371 had not been settled within 10 days after completion of the task.	Training programs implemented by other ministries and departments are carried out by obtaining advance payments after the approval of estimates. Thereafter, the relevant bills are submitted to those ministries and departments, and once the related payments are received, the advance is settled. In this process, time has been taken for the submission of bills, obtaining the relevant allocations, and settling the bills. However, all payments have been duly settled in monetary terms as required. Settlements are now being carried out according to regulations
Staff had been recruited exceeding the approved cadre, excluding attached Development Officers.	As informed by the Secretary of the Ministry of Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government through letter No. PS/GT/2020 (Volume III) dated 2022.01.03, arrangements would be made in due course to inform the Director General of Management Services regarding the number of attached officers. Therefore, it was stated that no issue would arise in obtaining staff approval. Further instructions had also been given to provide all attached officers with the opportunity to assume duties and not to treat any officer as excess staff. Accordingly, actions were taken in compliance with those instructions. Furthermore, through letter No. BD/CBP/01/01/05-2022 dated 2022.09.02 issued by the Secretary to the Treasury of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies, it was

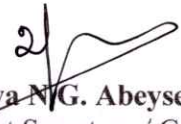
	informed that the relevant personal emoluments and other expenses of the officers who had been recruited as graduate trainees and subsequently confirmed in service should be included in the estimates of the institutions to which those officers permanently belong. As informed by the Secretary of the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government through letter No. HA/5/13/4/6 dated 2025.04.07, an online meeting was held on 2025.04.28 to identify the actual staff requirement in relation to approving positions for Development Officers who were attached to District and Divisional Secretariat Offices under the Graduate Employment Programme – 2020 for unemployed graduates. During the meeting, discussions were held regarding the approval of those excess officers to the offices where they are currently serving. Furthermore, since there are vacancies in Management Service Officer positions in the Divisional Secretariat Offices where excess Development Officers are available, the relevant duties are being carried out through those excess officers.
District Coordinating Committee meetings had not been held monthly.	Three meetings were held in 2023 and three meetings in 2024. Meetings are now conducted according to Circular 2/2021 and instructions issued by the Ministry Secretary in consultation with the Chairpersons/Co-chairpersons.
Monthly conferences of Divisional Secretaries convened by the District Secretary had not been held.	As per Circular No. 25/2019 of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Divisional Secretary conferences were conducted at a selected Divisional Secretariat Office with the participation of all Divisional Secretaries and Assistant Divisional Secretaries in the district. However, due to the fuel crisis experienced in the country during the year 2023 and the need to maintain essential services, it was necessary to limit the holding of Divisional Secretary conferences. Accordingly, only five (05) Divisional Secretary conferences were held in the year 2023. Conferences continue to be limited due to the continuing fuel crisis in 2026.
District Agricultural Committee meetings had not been held monthly as required under the Irrigation Ordinance No. 32 of 1946.	Due to the fuel crisis and essential service requirements in 2023, only 8 meetings were held. Monthly meetings are planned for 2026.

District Housing Committee meetings had not been held monthly.	Due to lack of housing allocations in 2023, the District Manager of the National Housing Development Authority informed that monthly meetings were unnecessary. Only 2 meetings were held as needed. Four meetings were held in 2025, and further meetings are planned in 2026 upon request of the District Manager.
District Fertilizer Coordination Committee meetings had not been held monthly.	Agricultural progress and issues were reviewed monthly through the District Agricultural Committee, attended by all stakeholders of the Fertilizer Committee. Fertilizer-related decisions were therefore discussed there to manage time and resources efficiently. Two official fertilizer committee meetings were held targeting the two major cultivation seasons (Maha and Yala).
District Price Committee meetings had not been held monthly.	In 2023, the committee met once every three months and reports were issued accordingly. As prices of construction materials stabilized during the second half of 2023, monthly meetings were considered unnecessary. For 2024–2026, meetings are to be held twice a year at six-month intervals and reports issued accordingly.
Indicators had not been identified to measure progress of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).	Due to the practical difficulties in setting measurable targets for small-scale rural projects implemented under various programs, such indicators had not been developed. Plans have now been made to determine targets at sector and officer levels for future programs.
The Citizen/Client Charter had not been properly prepared and implemented in accordance with Public Administration Circular No. 05/2008 as amended by Circular No. 05/2018(1).	No Citizen/Client Charter had existed by 2023. It was prepared in 2024. Activities are now being carried out according to the prepared charter.
No monitoring or evaluation mechanism had been developed for implementation of the Citizen/Client Charter.	A mechanism has now been planned for section heads to verify whether services are being provided as specified in the charter.
District and Divisional Drug Prevention Committee meetings had not been held quarterly.	Due to political, social, and economic instability in 2023, only two meetings were held. Twelve divisional committee meetings have already been held for 2026, and plans exist to hold 42 divisional meetings and one district-level meeting.

Less than 50% of planned training opportunities had been provided.	According to Circular 01/2023 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Finance, only mandatory training programs required under service minute qualifications could be conducted, limiting additional programs. We had developed sound internal control system for utilize training allocated amount with effective manner with district and divisional level. For 2026, 13 training programs valued at Rs. 1,580,965.00 have been planned, of which 3 have already been completed. An additional 3 technical/practical training programs are also planned at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,895,000.00.
---	--


S. Siwaranjan,
 Chief Accountant
 District Secretariat, Anuradhapura

S. Siwaranjan
 Chief Accountant
 For District Secretary
 Anuradhapura


Sandya N.G. Abeysekara
 District Secretary / Government Agent (Acting)
 District Secretariat, Anuradhapura

සත්‍ය ඩී.ජී. අබේසේකර
 දිස්ත්‍රික් ලේකම්/ දිසාපති (රා.අ)
 අනුරාධපුර

Recommendation of the Secretary

Measures taken by the District Secretary are recommended and instructions have been given to District Secretaries to pay personal attention on the other shortcomings pointed out and to take corrective measures regarding them.



S. Alokabandara

Secretary

Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government

S. Alokabandara

Secretary

Ministry of Public Administration,
Provincial Councils and Local Government

Recommendation of the Minister and the Action Taken

Instruction have been given by me to the Ministry Secretary to take necessary steps by paying special attention on the instructions given to the District Secretary by the Committee on Public Accounts, to ensure that such shortcomings may not occur again and it is expected that the such measures would enable the provable level to reach the optimum level within the year 2026.



Hon.(Prof.)A.H.M.H.Abayarathna (M.P.)

Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government

Prof. A.H.M.H. Abayarathna
Minister of Public Administration, Provincial
Councils and Local Government
Independence Square, Colombo 07.