පාර්ලිමේන්තු ප්‍රකාශන මාලා අංක: **492**

ආයතනයේ නම : ගොවිජන සංවර්ධන දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව

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 தொடர் இலக்கம் : 492

நிறுவனத்தின் பெயர் : கமநல அபிவிருத்தி திணைக்களம்

பாராளுமன்றத்தின் அரச கணக்குக் குழுவினால் முன்வைக்கப்பட்ட அறிக்கை தொடர்பாக நிலையியற் கட்டளை இலக்கம் 119(4) இன் கீழ் கௌரவ அமைச்சரின் அவதானிப்புக்கள் மற்றும் அது தொடர்பாக எடுக்கப்படும் நடவடிக்கைகளை பாராளுமன்றத்திற்கு சமர்ப்பித்தல்

Parliamentary Series No: 492

Name of the institution : Department of Agrarian Development

Submission of observations 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)

Parliamentary Series No : 492

Name of the institution : Department of Agrarian Development

Part 1 <u>: 66.00</u>

Audit Observations	**Current progress of the actions taken**
The Fixed Assets Module of the CIGAS programme had not been maintained in accordance with paragraphs 8.1 and 8.2 of guidelines No 05/2022 dated 13.12.2022 issued by the Department of State Accounts.	As per paragraph 8.1 of the Department of State Accounts Guideline No. 05/2022, it is no longer mandatory to maintain the Fixed Assets Register under Treasury Circular No. 842 dated 19.12.1978. Accordingly, the Fixed Assets Module introduced in the CIGAS system is being updated and maintained.
The risk register has not been Updated	The Risk Register is systematically updated and maintained by the Internal Audit Division.
The audit queries raised by the Auditor General were not provided answers within the one-month period.	Audit queries are issued by the Regional Government Audit Divisions and the Departmental Government Audit Division to the 566 Agrarian Services Centres island-wide, the 25 District Offices, and the 17 Divisions of the Head Office. Relevant explanations for all such audit queries are obtained from the Agrarian Services Centres and, following the verifications of data by the District Office, are submitted to the Head Office. After further verification and confirmation of those clarifications by the Head Office, final answers are prepared and submitted to the Auditor General. Therefore, the time period allocated is insufficient to provide answers for some of the audit queries.
There were cases reported where responses to internal audit queries	Internal audit reports are forwarded to the District Deputy / Assistant Commissioners, who then transmit them to the respective Agrarian Services Centres. After responses to the

<table>
<tr><td>were not provided within one month period</td><td>reports are obtained from the Agrarian Development Officer, and the report compiled with the District Deputy / Assistant Commissioner's observations is submitted to the Commissioner General of Agrarian Development.
This response process takes over a month to complete.
Instructions have been given to review and monitor this turnaround time during the Audit and Management Committee meetings as well as the monthly progress review meetings to ensure the delay is minimized.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Internal Audit Programme had not been prepared at the beginning of the year after consulting the Auditor General in terms of Financial Regulation R.134(2).</td><td>A copy of the draft Internal Audit Plan is submitted to the Auditor General annually, and then approval had been obtained from the Audit and Management Committee.</td></tr>
<tr><td>The meetings of the Audit and Management Committee had not been held as scheduled during the year under review.</td><td>The Audit and Management Committee meetings for the year under review were conducted as follows. Furthermore, the scheduled meetings for the years 2024 and 2025 have also been held in due course.
<table>
<tr><th>Year</th><th>1 Quarter</th><th>2 Quarter</th><th>3 Quarter</th><th>4 Quarter</th></tr>
<tr><td>2023</td><td>2023.05.09</td><td>2023.07.25</td><td>2023.10.26</td><td>2024.01.11</td></tr>
<tr><td>2024</td><td>2024.03.21</td><td>2024.07.16</td><td>2024.10.30</td><td>2024.12.17</td></tr>
<tr><td>2025</td><td>2025.03.19</td><td>2025.06.18</td><td>2025.09.16</td><td>2025.12.10</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>The recommendations regarding excesses and deficits revealed in the Annual Board of Survey, along with other general recommendations, had not been implemented within the stipulated timeframe.</td><td>Although the recommendations regarding the excesses and deficits identified in the 2024 Annual Board of Survey were implemented within the year 2024, certain delays occurred in executing these recommendations due to the process of maintaining sub-fixed asset registers across 25 District Offices and 17 Head Office Divisions. Actions will be taken within the stipulated timeframe in the future.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Daily running records and monthly summaries of the pool vehicles had</td><td>Action is being taken to submit the daily running records and monthly summary reports of the pool vehicles to the Auditor General.</td></tr>
</table>

not been submitted to the Auditor General.	
The emblem of the state had not been painted on all vehicles.	The state emblem of the state is painted on all vehicles.
The vehicle was not disposed of within a period of less than 8 months from the date of condemnation.	Vehicles classified as condemned up to January 2025 have been systematically disposed of in accordance with regulations.
Proper action had not been taken in accordance with the Financial Regulations regarding government vehicle accidents.	Proper action is currently being taken in accordance with Financial Regulation 104 regarding the vehicle accidents.
The reconciling items disclosed in the bank reconciliation statements had not been settled within one month, in accordance with the Financial Regulations	Has been settled by now
Expenditures had been incurred in excess of the approved budgetary provisions.	Actual expenditure has not exceed the allocated budgetary limits.
In accordance with Financial Regulation (F.R.) 94(1), liabilities had been entered into exceeding the balance of provisions remaining at the end of the year after utilization under the respective object code.	Furthermore, Circulars 3/2022, 8/2022 and 9/2022 of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy as well as circular instructions PS/SB/Circular/10/2022 and dated 15.08.2022 issued by the President's Secretary, Finance, Economic Stabilization And according to the circular 1/2023 issued by the Ministry of National Policy, also suspended of the implementation of projects due to the management of public expenditure, But according to the decisions of the Council of Ministers dated 22.05.2023 and the letter dated 31.05.2023 from the Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture (Reference No.

	4/6/1/Budget. Estimate/2023) approval was received to implement this expenditure subject. Accordingly, the implementation of most projects commenced during the latter part of the year. With the commencement of these projects, technical officers and other relevant officials were required to conduct relevant field supervision. As a results of an increased utilization of district vehicles, which concurrently led to higher vehicle maintenance costs. In order to ensure the successful completion and delivery of these high-value projects, incurring these additional maintenance expenses was vital. Consequently, financial commitments were entered into at the end of the year to cover the above expenditures.
There were outstanding loan balances that had been outstanding for more than a year.	The difference between the Departmental Control Account and the Individual Loan Balance Summary has persisted over a long period. In 2025, resolved portions of these balances were identified and appropriately adjusted. Accordingly, the reason for the relevant difference and how the differences are being further investigated, and necessary actions have been planned to correct this difference in the future.
Action had not been taken as per Financial Regulation (F.R.) 571 in relation to deposits which are beyond approved validity period.	The settlement of expired retentions within the General Deposit Account has been delayed due to pending audit inquiries and ongoing investigations. We will settle these amounts immediately upon the rapid completion of the inquiries and the receipt of Treasury imprests. Additionally, as a result of shortage in Technical Officers has delayed technical reports, further restricting our ability to release certain contract retentions
Ad-hoc sub-imprests issued under F.R. 371 were not settled within one month from the date the task was completed.	It is accepted that instances were observed where advances were not settled in compliance with as per the regulations, which dictate that all advances up to Rs. 100,000.00 restricted to Staff Grade Officers under Financial Regulation (F.R.) 371(b) must be settled immediately upon completion of the

	assigned task. Accordingly, all Staff Grade Officers of the department have been informed via Letter No. DAD/FIN/PAY/03 dated 19.01.2026 to ensure that all advances obtained are settled immediately upon completion of the respective task. Therefore, necessary measures have been implemented to avoid such errors in the future.
Collected revenues were not credited directly to revenue accounts, nor were they held in the deposit account and transferred to revenue within the required one-month period	As the Department of Agrarian Development is not a direct revenue generating institute, the revenues collected from various services were credited to the state revenue account.

Part 2 : 35.00

Audit Observations	Current progress of the actions taken
The website maintained by the institution had not provided the public with the opportunity to post complaints or compliments.	The restructuring of the department's website has been entrusted to a service provider, where provisions will be made to allow the public to submit complaints or commendations.
In according to Ministry of Public Administration and Management Circular No. 05/2008 dated 06.02.2008, as amended by Circular No. 05/2018(1) dated 24.01.2018, a Citizen/Client Charter had not been properly prepared and implemented.	The Citizen/Client Charter is being properly prepared and implemented in according to Public Administration and Management Circular No. 05/2008.
Methodology had not been established by the institution to monitor and evaluate the implementation of its Citizen/Client Charter.	Relevant officers have been informed to develop an appropriate framework for monitoring the execution of the Citizen/Client Charter.
A Human Resource Plan had not been prepared for the year under review based on the specimen in Annexture 02 of Public Administration Circular No. 02/2018 dated on 24.01.2018.	It has been prepared for the year 2025.
The prepared Human Resource Plan had not ensured a minimum of twelve hours of training per year for at least fifty percent of the staff.	Training programs targeting all categories of officers have been proposed and incorporated into the Human Resource Development Plan. In accordance with Treasury Circular No. BD/CBP/01/01/01-2024 dated 10.01.2024 and relevant Recruitment Procedures (SOR), instructions were issued to facilitate only the mandatory training required for officers to fulfill their service requirements. Consequently, the conduct of training programs for this Department was restricted during the year 2024. However, training

	programs are currently being conducted based on the availability of budgetary provisions.
Performance agreements had not been prepared and entered into covering all categories of staff.	Performance agreements were not prepared as Public Administration Circular No. 02/2018(I) has informed that the signing of annual performance agreements is not required.
A senior officer had not been designated within the institution to prepare human resource development plans or to implement capacity and conducting skill development programmes.	Mr. Palitha Nanayakkara, who served as the Additional Commissioner General during the relevant period, had been appointed.
The Auditor General issued a Qualified opinion / Disclaimer of opinion / Adverse opinion regarding the financial statements of the institution..	A Qualified audit opinion has been issued for the year 2025.
The Auditor General's report recommendations were not implemented.	Action have been taken to implement the recommendations of the Auditor General's report.
The recommendations and directives of the Committee on Public Accounts (COPA) had not been implemented.	Actions have been taken to implement the recommendations /directives of the Committee on Public Accounts, and progress regarding the relevant recommendations is reviewed at the Departmental Audit and Management Committee meetings.
Declarations of assets and liabilities were not submitted by all officers.	In terms of the provisions of the Anti-Corruption Act No. 09 of 2023, action was taken to obtain the declarations of assets and liabilities for the year 2025 from executive officers namely those in the Sri Lanka Administrative Service, Sri Lanka Engineering Service, Sri Lanka Accountants' Service, Deputy Commissioner (Departmental), Assistant Commissioner (Departmental), Sri Lanka Technological Service, Agrarian Development Officer, and Management

	Service Officer (Supra Grade) to the Head Office and submit them to the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption. The declarations of assets and liabilities for the year 2023 pertaining to the posts of Administrative Officer and Agrarian Development Officer, whose personal files are maintained by the District Offices, had been submitted by the respective officers to those District Offices. Other executive officers had been instructed to submit their declarations of assets and liabilities for the year 2023, and accordingly, those declarations have been submitted to the Head Office. Furthermore, starting from the year 2025, declarations of assets and liabilities have also been called forward to the Head Office from the Agrarian Development Officers.
Action had not been taken to recover losses caused to the Government by officers, in terms of Financial Regulation (F.R.) 156(1).	Instructions have been given to make the recoveries in terms of the relevant financial regulations.
Action had not been taken to be cover the surcharges due in accordance with F.R. 119	
Action had not been taken to properly transfer the officers who had completed their maximum period of service.	An annual internal transfer procedure has been implemented since the year 2023 for officers attached to the Department who have served for a long period within the same District Office, Agrarian Services Center, or ARPA (Agriculture Research and Production Assistant) division. This applies to officers holding the posts of Agrarian Development Regional Officer, Development Officer

	Service, Center Management Assistant, Agriculture Research and Production Assistant, Labour, and Watcher. Accordingly, the internal transfers for the year 2026 have been implemented with effect from 04.05.2026.