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ஆண்டறிக்கை

Annual Report

2024



ශ්‍රී ලංකා නීති ආධාර කොමිෂන් සභාව
இலங்கை சட்ட உதவி ஆணைக்குழு
Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka



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The Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka

- Even though legal aid has not been introduced as a fundamental right under Chapter 3 of the 1978 Constitution, Articles **12 (1)** and **13 (3)** of the Constitution have drawn attention towards this matter.
- Article **12(1)** of the Constitution -All persons are equal before the law and are entitled to the equal protection of the law.
- Article **13(3)** of the Constitution -Any person charged with an offence shall be entitled to be heard, in person or by an attorney-at-law, at a fair trial by a competent court.
- It has further been confirmed by the Rule No.44 of the Supreme Court Rules of Law of Sri Lanka in 1990.
- Section 260, Section 195 and Section 353 of the Criminal Procedure Code have made further provisions in this regard.
- Section 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights No. 56 of 2007 sets out the rights of a person in relation to obtaining legal aid in criminal proceedings.
- Further, Section 5 of the said Covenant has stated that in case a child is involved in a criminal case, legal aid should be provided by the government against him or on his behalf.

Message of the Chairman

The Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka, having completed forty-six years since the beginning of providing access to Justice for the public, is passing the current phase in a backdrop where the country and its people are brimming with new hopes.



At a time when socio-economic and political crises including the economic crisis and political instability are further marginalizing people, it is extremely important to protect and expand their access to justice. The present commission is working amidst many challenges with 86 legal aid centers spread across the country and a minimum staff to fulfill its responsibility.

Lack of adequate funding and infrastructure to continue legal aid services has been a major problem. Maintaining the existing legal aid centers has also been challenging due to the lack of even the requisite staff and the constraints on their recruitment. However, our responsibility remains crucial at this time when the demand for legal aid services keeps increasing.

We should appreciate the dedicated and responsible services delivered by our staff, despite all kinds of challenges that may be encountered in the society or as a nation.

The Ministry of Justice is gratefully remembered for the wide support and auspices extended to all affairs of the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka this year, similar to previous years. It was immensely beneficial to the progression of the field of legal aid. I am happy to note that the support from all parties including the staff in this regard is highly commendable.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rohan Sahabandu', written on a light-colored background.

PC Rohan Sahabandu
Chairman

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Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka incorporated by the Legal Aid Act No 27 of 1978

The most provable feature of the Legal Aid Act No 27 of 1978 was to prepare a policy framework of legal aid facilitation to be launched within the country through a formal mechanism for the implementation of legal aid programme.

The establishment and setting up the operation of the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka for the above objectives is the principal function of this Act.

Vision :-

To facilitate an easy access to equity enabling administration of justice for all Sri Lankans.

Mission :-

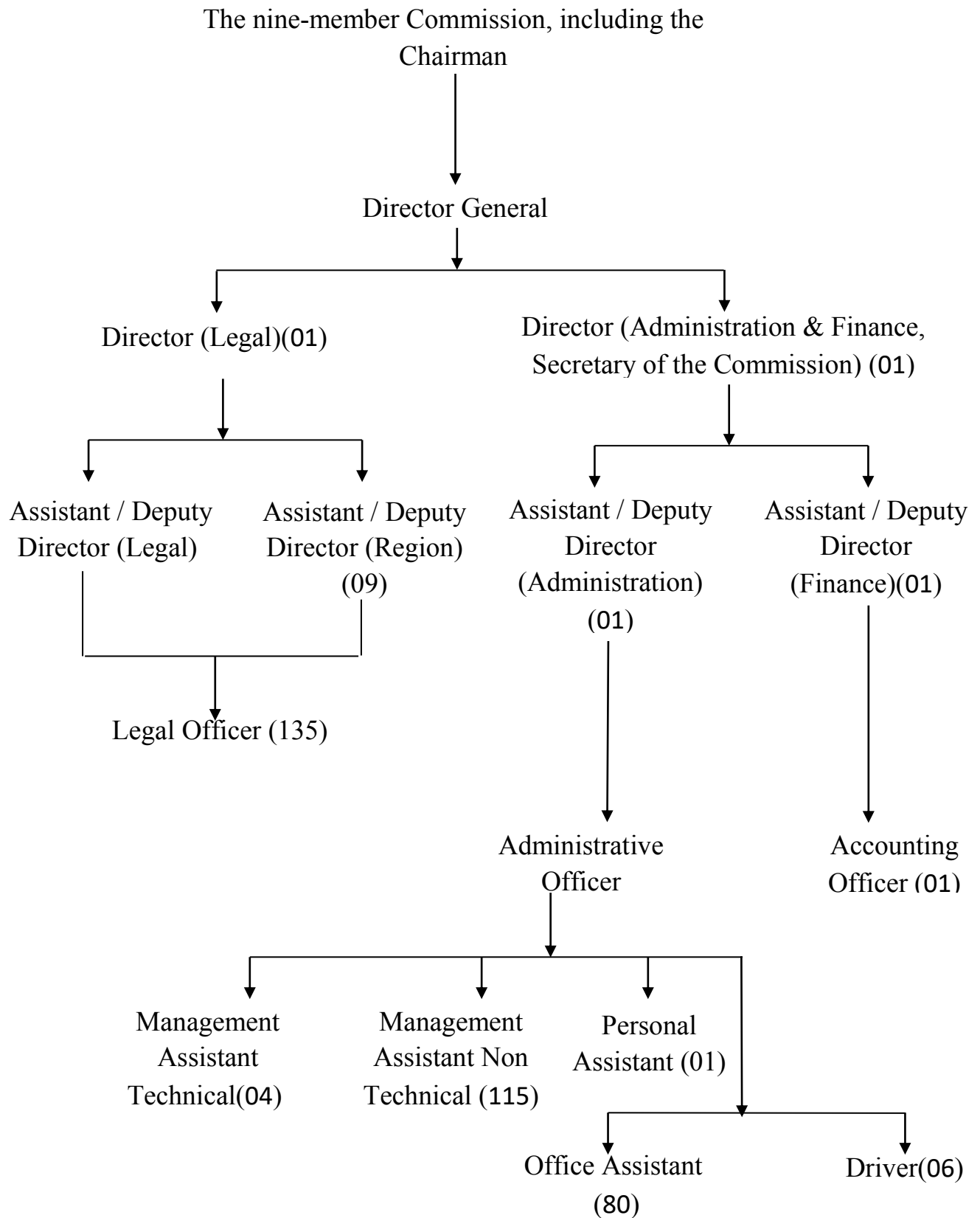
Providing legal aid for the impoverished communities in Sri Lanka who are unable to obtain justice due to poverty, providing free legal assistance to low income people, educating the entire society about the law, engaging in counselling services to the government during legislation of new laws and legal reforms, etc. in order to lead the public towards an easy access to justice.

Objectives of the Legal Aid Act No. 27 of 1978

Sections 3 and 4 of the Act No. 27 of 1978.

1. Providing legal advice to any person in need of assistance, irrespective of economic status.
2. Providing attorney services for legal proceedings in the lower income tax tribunal.
3. Establishing regional offices to an extent that the Commission considers necessary to ensure widespread access to legal aid.
4. Deciding for which matters or types of cases are eligible for legal aid and determining such matters or types of cases.
5. Determining the outline procedures to follow in relation to the payment of fees and expenses by persons assisted, by taking into account the funds available at the time of which the cases have been resolved or settled and taking all relevant recommendations into consideration.
6. Taking necessary action to expand the legal aid scheme through inquiry of the community-based professional, social and other groups that are involved in some aspect of providing government institutions and legal aid.
7. Promoting, establishing, financing and supervising research related to legal aid.
8. With the intention of raising awareness,
 - i. Educating the members of the legal profession regarding the need for a legal aid scheme and their responsibilities, duties and role in the maintenance and participation thereof.
 - ii. Commencement and implementation of educational programs for the people with special needs regarding their rights, powers, privileges and role, and entire community in general under the prevalent laws of Sri Lanka.
9. Employing the staff required for the establishment, development, implementation of research based programmes, problem solving centers and/or projects regarding a special division or divisions on legal aid provision.
10. Obtaining suggestions from the public for new programs and projects and encouraging them in that respect.
11. Cooperating with educational institutions and boards regarding the education and training of those who provide legal aid.
12. Providing information to the public on the ability to obtain legal aid.
13. Submitting information to legal reforms agencies in Sri Lanka and abroad and the government.

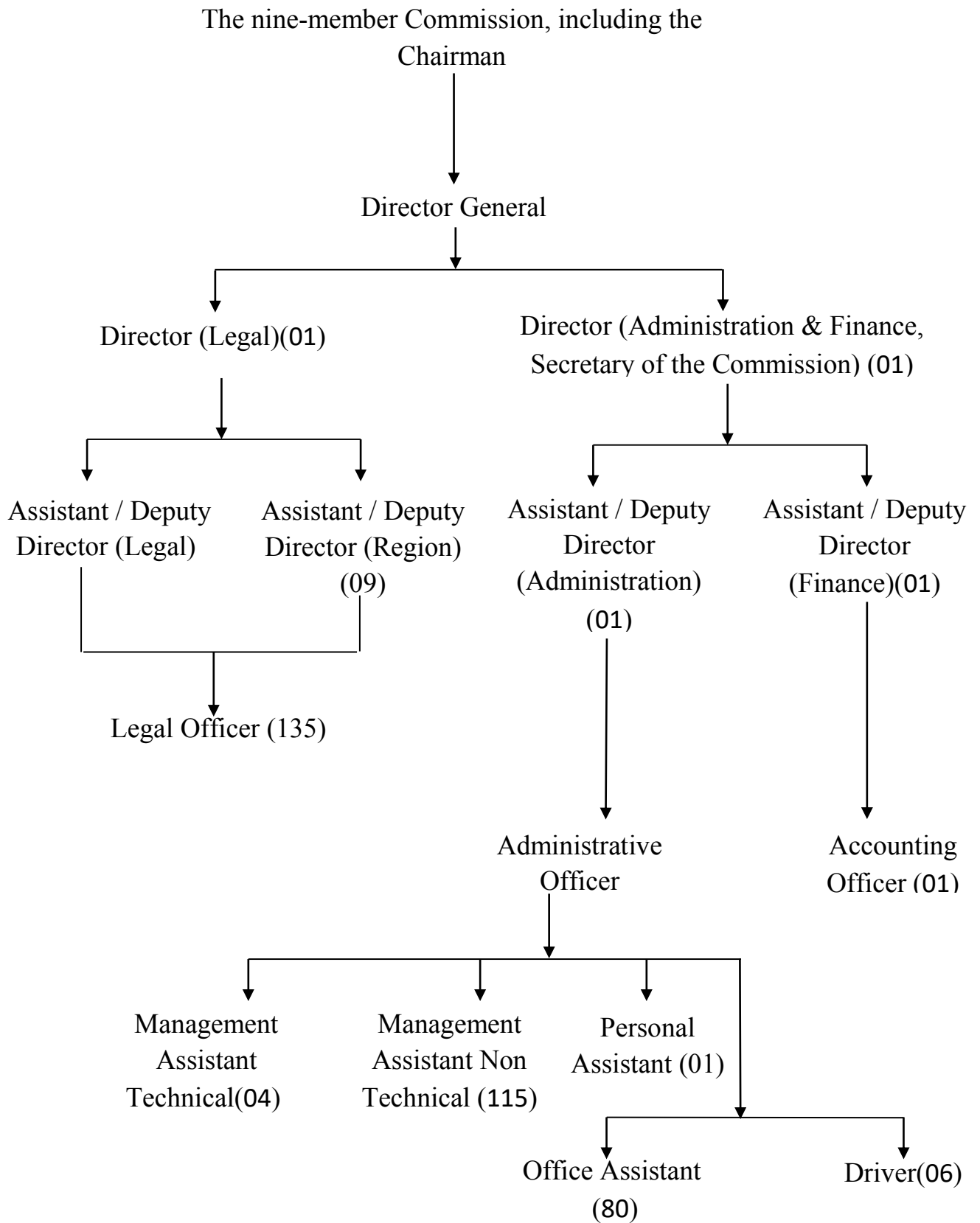
Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka – Organisation Plan



Staff of the Legal Aid Commission as at 31.12.2024

Employee Category Level	Designation	Approved Cadre	Existing Cadre
Senior Level	Director General	01	-
	Director (Legal)	01	-
	Director (Administration & Finance)	01	-
	Assistant / Deputy Director (Legal)	03	03
	Assistant / Deputy Director (Regional)	09	08
	Assistant / Deputy Director (Administration)	01	01
	Assistant / Deputy Director (Finance)	01	01
	Legal Officers	135	108
Tertiary Level	Accounting Officer	01	01
	Administrative Officer	01	01
	Personal Assistant to the Chairman	01	01
Secondary Level	Management Assistant (Technical)	04	03
	Management Assistant (Non-Technical)	115	83
Primary Level	Driver	06	02
	Office Assistant	80	58
Total		360	270

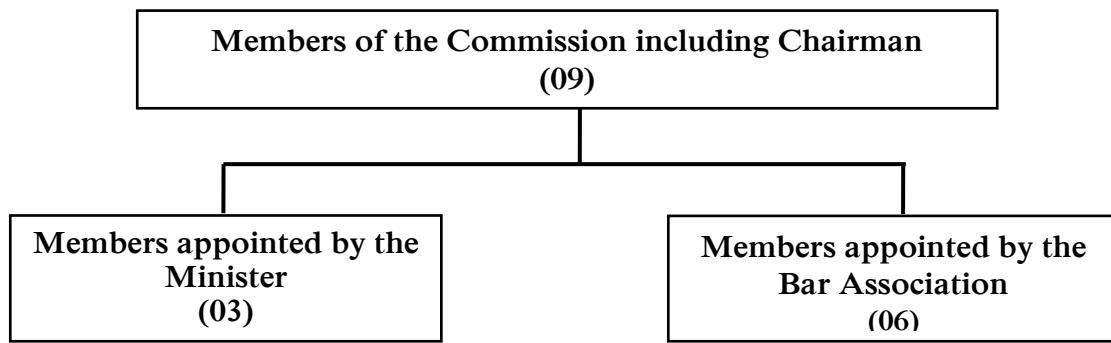
Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka – Organisation Plan



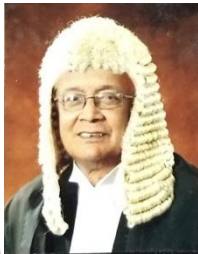
Staff of the Legal Aid Commission as at 31.12.2024

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Senior Level	Director General	01	-
	Director (Legal)	01	-
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Tertiary Level	Accounting Officer	01	01
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	Office Assistant	80	58
Total		360	270

Composition of the Members of the Legal Aid Commission



Members of Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka in year - 2024



PC, Mr. Rohan Sanabandu
(Chairman)



PC, Mr. Manohara De Silva



PC, Mr. Uditha Igalahewa



PC, Mr. Puvidaran



Mr. Binara Gunasekara
Attorney-at-Law



Mr. Sanjaya Gamage
Senior Attorney-at-Law



Mr. Sanath Wijayawardene
Attorney-at-Law



Mr. Amal Randeniya
Attorney-at-Law



Mr. Rajeeb Ahmed
Attorney-at-Law

The Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka consists of three members appointed by the Minister of Justice and six members nominated by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka and each of them will be appointed for a period of three years. A member may be re-appointed as a member after the expiration of three years' service period. Further, the work of the Commission is monitored by the Legal Aid Advisory Board, which is headed by the Chief Justice. The Advisory Board consists of 30 members constituted by 09 members of the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka, three members nominated by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, 06 members to represent the Courts nominated by the Chief Justice, and 12 members nominated by the Minister of Justice to be involved in community, neighborhood, professional, social and other groups, which have a connection to the government, provincial bodies, educational institutions and legal aid sections.

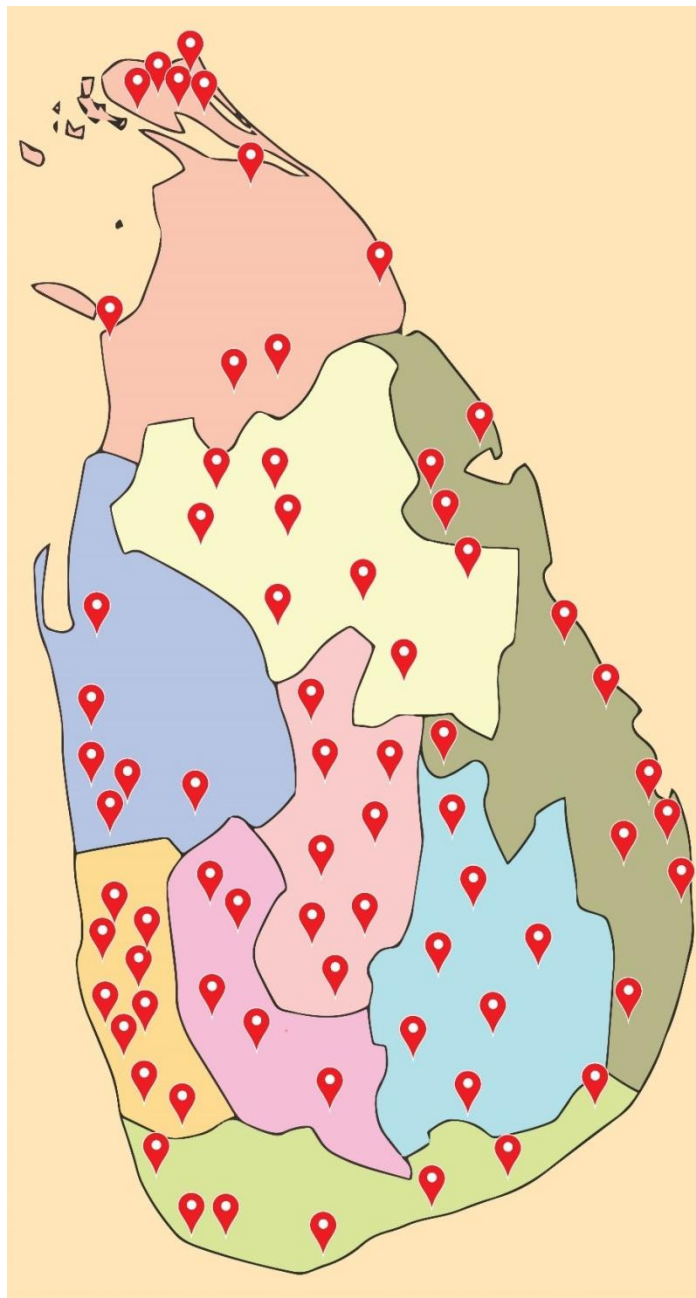
Establishment of Legal Aid Centres

Sri Lanka's Legal Aid Commission completes Forty-Five years by 2023. During this period of Forty-Five years, the work was carried out by a network of 86 Regional Offices centered upon Colombo but without being confined to Colombo to achieve the desired objectives of the Commission. The commencement of the regional offices during this entire period (1978-2024) is as follows;

Year	Regional centres established during the year	Total number of regional centres
1978	1	1
1994	3	4
1996	1	5
2003	5	10
2005	2	12
2006	19	31
2007	9	40
2008	6	46
2009	8	54
2010	6	60
2011	7	67
2012	7	74
2013	2	76
2014	0	76
2015	0	76
2016	2	78
2017	4	82
2018	1	83
2019	1	84
2020	-	84
2021	-	84
2022	1	85
2023	-	85
2024	1	86

Total number of regional offices is 86 as at 31.12.2024.

Expansion of Centers of Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka (Map & Regional Centers)



1	Head Office	44	Kurunegala
2	Akkareipattu	45	Mahiyanganaya
3	Ampara	46	Mahawa
4	Anuradhapura	47	Mannar
5	Attanagalla	48	Marawila
6	Awissawella	49	Matale
7	Baddegama	50	Matara
8	Badulla	51	Matugama
9	Balangoda	52	Mawanella
10	Balapaitiya	53	Minuwangoda
11	Bandarawela	54	Monaragala
12	Battaramulla	55	Mulathiwu
13	Borella	56	Mallakkam
14	Batticaloa	57	Muttoor
15	Chawakachcheri	58	Nawalapitiya
16	Chillaw	59	Negambo
17	Dambulla	60	Nikaweratiya
18	Deyiyandara	61	Nugegoda
19	Deniyaya	62	Nuwaraeliya
20	Dehiaththakandiya	63	Panadura
21	Ambilipitiya	64	Puttalam
22	Galgamuwa	65	Poogoda
23	Gampaha	66	Point Pedro
24	Galagedara	67	Polgahawela
25	Mount Lavinia	68	Polonnaruwa
26	Galle	69	Pottuwil
27	Hambanthota	70	Ratnapura
28	Hatton	71	Thambuththegama
29	Higurakgoda	72	Tangalle
30	Homagama	73	Tissamaharama
31	Horana	74	Trincomalee
32	Jaffna	75	Siyambalanduwa
33	Kadawatha	76	Walachchenei
34	Kaduwela	77	Vavuniya
35	Kalmunei	78	Walasmulla
36	Kalutara	79	Warakapola
37	Kandy	80	Wariyapola
38	Kantale	81	Welimada
39	Kebithigollewa	82	Wellawaya
40	Kegalle	83	Wattala
41	Kekirawa	84	Hettipola
42	Kilinochchi	84	Theldeniya
43	Kuliyapitiya	85	Udugama

Opening of Regional Offices of the Legal Aid Commission, Staff and Courts covered.

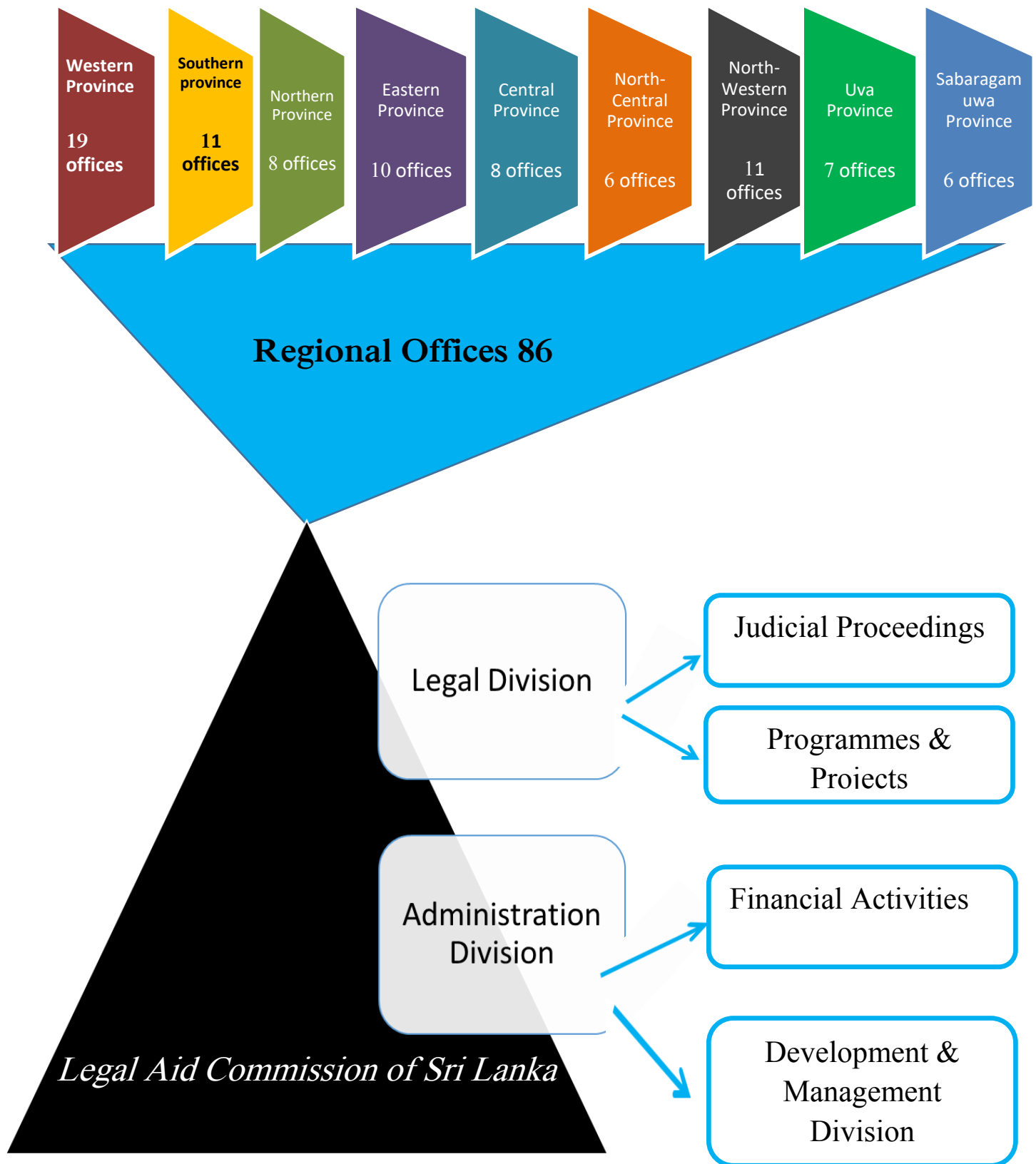
The courts that are covered by the Regional Offices established to provide the service of the commission on a regional basis are as follows.

No.	Office	Commencement	No. of Employees				Courts Covered
			Lawyers	Management Assistants	Office Assistants	Drivers	
01	Colombo	1978	07	05	02	02	Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, Colombo District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Courts, Labour Tribunal. Workmen's Compensation Commission. Fort Magistrate's court Maligakanda Magistrate's Court Loan Relief Board, Administrative Tribunal
02	Kandy	1994	03	01	-	-	Kandy District, Magistrate's Court, High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labour Tribunal. Gampola District, Magistrate's Court.
03	Anuradhapura	1994	02	02	01	-	Anuradhapura District, Magistrate's Court, High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labour Tribunal. Medawachchiya Magistrate's Court Kahatagasdigiliya Magistrate's Court
04	Galle	1994	02	01	01	-	Galle District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court Labour Tribunal..
05	Kurunegala	1996	03	02	01	-	Kurunegala District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court Labour Tribunal. Wellawa Magistrate's Court Pilessa Magistrate's Court. Rambadagalla Magistrate's Court
06	Hambantota	2003	01	01	01	-	Hambantota District Court, Magistrates Court, High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Angunakola Pelasssa Magistrate's Court
07	Monaragala	2003	02	01	01	-	Moneragala District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Bibile Magistrate's Court
08	Ampara	2003	01	01	-	-	Ampara District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labour Tribunal.
09	Nuwara Eliya	2003	01	01	-	-	Nuwara Eliya District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labour Tribunal, Walapane District, Magistrate's Court
10	Kegalle	2003	02	01	-	-	Kegalle District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labour Tribunal
11	Balapitiya	2003	02	02	01	-	Balapitiya District, Magistrate's Court, High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labour Tribunal, Elpitiya District, Magistrate's Court..
12	Matara	2005	02	01	01	-	Matara District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labour Tribunal.
13	Vavuniya	2005	01	01	01	-	Vavuniya District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labour Tribunal.
14	Akkaraipattu	2005	01	01	01	-	Akkaraipattu District, Magistrate Court The Quazi Court.
15	Trincomalee	2005	02	01	01	-	Trincomalee District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court.

16	Batticaloa	2005	02	01	01	-	Batticaloa District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court. Eravur Magistrate's Court Kaluwanchikudi Magistrate's Court
17	Chilaw	2005	02	01	01	-	Chilaw District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labour Tribunal.
18	Kalmunei	2005	01	01	01	-	Kalmunai District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Sammanthurei Magistrate's Court The Quazi Court.
19	Ratnapura	2006	02	02	-	-	Ratnapura District, Magistrate's Court High Court and Civil Appellate Court. Pelmadulla District, Magistrate's Court, Labour Tribunal. Kalawana Magistrate's Court. Kahawatta Magistrate's Court
20	Awissawella	2006	02	01	-	-	Awissawella District Court, Magistrate's Court, High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labour Tribunal. Ruwanwella District, Magistrate Court.
21	Bandarawela	2006	01	01	01	-	Bandarawela District, Magistrate's Court, Labour Tribunal.
22	Gampaha	2006	02	01	01	-	Gampaha District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labor Tribunal, Loan Relief Board.
23	Jaffna	2006	02	01	01	-	Jaffna District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labor Tribunal. Kayts District, Magistrate's Court
24	Kalutara	2006	02	01	01	-	Kalutara, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labor Tribunal
25	Matale	2006	01	01	-	-	Matale District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Labor Tribunal. Naula Magistrate's Court
26	Polonnaruwa	2006	01	01	-	-	Polonnaruwa District, Magistrate's Court. High Court.
27	Panadura	2006	02	01	01	-	Panadura District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court. Kesbewa District, Magistrate's Court.
28	Mahiyanganaya	2006	01	01	01	-	Mahiyangana District, Magistrate's Court
29	Kuliyapitiya	2006	02	01	01	-	Kuliyapitiya District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Labor Tribunal. Narammala Magistrate's Court
30	Mahawa	2006	01	01	-	-	Maho District, Magistrate's Court
31	Negombo	2006	01	01	-	-	Negombo District, Magistrate's Court High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labor Tribunal. Kanuwana Magistrate's Court.
32	Horana	2007	02	01	01	-	Horana District, Magistrate's Court.
33	Matugama	2007	02	01	-	-	Mathugama District, Magistrate's Court.
34	Marawila	2007	01	01	-	-	Marawila District, Magistrate's Court.
35	Mawanella	2007	01	02	-	-	Mawanella District, Magistrate's Court. Aranayaka Magistrate's Court.
36	Warakapola	2007	01	01	-	-	Warakapola District, Magistrate's Court.
37	Battaramulla	2007	02	01	-	-	Battaramulla Children's Magistrate's Court, Labour Tribunal
38	Dambulla	2007	01	01	01	-	Dambulla District, Magistrate's Court. Kimbissa Magistrate's Court.
39	Attanagalla	2007	01	01	01	-	Attanagalla District, Magistrate's Court.
40	Morawaka/ Deniyaya	2007	01	01	-	-	Deniyaya District, Magistrate's Court.
41	Welimada	2008	01	01	01	-	Welimada District, Magistrate's Court.
42	Nugegoda	2008	01	01	01	-	Nugegoda District, Magistrate's Court.
43	Tissamaharama	2008	01	01	01	-	Tissamaharama District, Magistrate's Court

44	Thambuththegama	2008	01	01	01	-	Thambuththegama Magistrate's Court.
45	Mt. Lavinia	2008	02	01	-	-	Mount Lavinia District, Magistrate's Court, Civil Appellate Court, Moratuwa District, Magistrate's Court
46	Kantale	2008	01	01	-	-	Kantale District, Magistrate's Court.
47	Baddegama	2009	01	01	-	-	Baddegama Magistrate's Court.
48	Badulla	2009	01	01	-	-	Badulla District, Magistrate's Court, High Court, Civil Appellate Court, Labor Tribunal.
49	Embilipitiya	2009	02	01	01	-	Embilipitiya District, Magistrate's Courts
50	Hatton	2009	01	-	01	-	Hatton District, Magistrate's Court, Labor Tribunal.
51	Hingurakgoda	2009	01	01	01	-	Hingurakgoda District, Magistrate's Court. Bakamuna Magistrate's Court.
52	Nawalapitiya	2009	01	01	-	-	Nawalapitiya District, Magistrate's Court
53	Wellawaya	2009	01	01	01	-	Wellawaya District, Magistrate's Court.
54	Kaduwela	2010	01	01	-	-	Kaduwela District, Magistrate's Court.
55	Mannar	2010	01	01	01	-	Mannar District, Magistrate's Court.
56	Muttur	2010	01	01	-	-	Muttur District, Magistrate's Court.
57	Mullaitivu	2010	01	01	01	-	Mullaitivu District, Magistrate's Court.
58	Tangalle	2010	01	01	-	-	Tangalle District, Magistrate's Court. High Court.
59	Valachchenai	2010	01	01	-	-	Valachchenai District, Magistrate's Court.
60	Walasmulla	2010	01	01	01	-	Walasmulla District, Magistrate's Court.
61	Wariyapola	2011	01	01	01	-	Wariyapola District, Magistrate's Court
62	Point Pedro	2011	01	01	01	-	Point Pedro District, Magistrate's Court
63	Pottuvil	2011	02	01	-	-	Pottuvil District, Magistrate's Court
64	Kadawatha	2011	01	01	01	-	Kadawatha District, Magistrate's Court.
65	Kekirawa	2011	01	01	-	-	Kekirawa District, Magistrate's Court
66	Kilinochchi	2011	01	01	01	-	Kilinochchi District, Magistrate's Court
67	Chavakacheri	2011	01	01	-	-	Chavakacheri District, Magistrate's Court.
68	Balangoda	2011	01	01	-	-	Balangoda District, Magistrate's Court..
69	Pugoda	2012	01	01	-	-	Pugoda District, Magistrate's Court,
70	Polgahawela	2012	02	01	-	-	Polgahawela Magistrate's Court
71	Kebithigollewa	2012	01	01	-	-	Kebithigollewa District, Magistrate's Court Padaviya Magistrate's Court
72	Galgamuwa	2012	01	01	-	-	Galgamuwa Magistrate's Court
73	Homagama	2012	01	01	01	-	Homagama District, Magistrate's Court
74	Deiyandara	2012	01	01	-	-	Deiyandara Magistrate's Court.
75	Minuwangoda	2013	02	01	-	-	Minuwangoda District, Magistrate's Court.
76	Nikaweratiya	2013	01	01	01	-	Nikaweratiya District, Magistrate's Court.
77	Mallakam	2016	01	01	01	-	Mallakkam District, Magistrate's Court
78	Puttalam	2016	01	-	-	-	Puttalam District, Magistrate's Court High Court Kalpitiya Magistrate's Court Anamaduwa Magistrate's Court
79	Siyambalanduwa	2017	01	01	01	-	Siyambalanduwa Magistrate's Court.
80	Dehiaththakandiya	2017	01	01	01	-	Dehiaththakandiya Magistrate's Court
81	Borella	2017	01	-	01	-	Labour Tribunal, Borella, Labour Tribunal, Battaramulla, Debt Conciliation Board
82	Galagedara	2017	01	02	-	-	Galagedara Magistrate's Court
83	Wattala	2018	01	01	01	-	Magistrate's Court Wattala, District Court-Wattala, Labour Tribunal, Wattala
84	Hettipola	2019	01	01	01	-	Hettipola Magistrate's Court.
85	Theldeniya	2022	01	01	-	-	Magistrate's Court Theldeniya, Magistrate's Court Panwila, Magistrate's Court Rangala, District Court Theldeniya
86	Udugama	2024	01				District/ Magistrate's Court, Udugama

Organizational Composition of the Legal Aid Commission



LEGAL DIVISION

Legal Division

1. Role

Mainly the role of the Legal Division is twofold.

1.1 Conducting legal counselling.

1.2 Providing free legal assistance for cases of those with low income and/or incapacity.

1.1 Legal Counselling

There are various methods for providing legal counseling. In order to access the counseling activities, clients do not necessarily need to physically visit our premises.

1. Clients who visit the locally established Legal Aid offices in person will have their concerns addressed, answered, and, if needed, advise will be given on further action as well.
2. In a similar vein, when we visit different villages or communities to conduct legal clinics, the legal counselling work is opportunely carried out to the public who reach us.
3. Additionally, every two weeks a page is published under the title “Know the Guideline Right and Fight” for Sinhala readers in the Lankadeepa newspaper providing answers to their legal questions.
4. Legal issues referred through mail by clients will also be replied by the post.
5. Clients who connect through the Legal Aid Commission Hot Line are responded via telephone.

When providing this service, the Legal Aid Commission will not take in to account the income or the citizenship of the clients. Our legal officers will carry out the necessary legal counselling work regardless of the status of any person who reaches us by visiting our office or mobile clinic or through telephone or postal mail. Hence, it is not an exclusive privilege reserved for just one group of individuals based on the economic disparity. It is a service that is accessible by anyone.

1.1.1 (A) Number of Clients Referred for Legal Counselling in 2024

No.	Centre	Number of clients referred for legal counselling for the first time	No. of repeat counseling	Total
1	Anuradhapura	616	3518	4134
2	Ampara	525	1984	2509
3	Avissawella	888	1627	2515
4	Attanagalla	196	891	1087
5	Akkareipattu	269	14	283
6	Bandarawela	239	1810	2049
7	Battaramulla	500	1044	1544
8	Baddegama	244	1099	1343
9	Badulla	412	2513	2925
10	Balapitiya	417	1047	1464
11	Batticaloa	1003	90	1093
12	Balangoda	366	69	435
13	Colombo	2042	1912	3954
14	Chilaw	360	623	983
15	Chavakachcheri	226	412	638
16	Dambulla	329	1017	1346
17	Deniyaya	304	1462	1766
18	Deyyandara	194	772	966
19	Embilipitiya	469	3818	4287
20	Gampaha	346	628	974
21	Galle	478	1418	1896
22	Galgamuwa	305	1326	1631
23	Horana	1108	2476	3584
24	Hatton	192	1007	1199
25	Hingurakgoda	241	1169	1410
26	Hambantota	607	1034	1641
27	Homagama	263	776	1039
28	Jaffna	205	328	533
29	Kandy	854	605	1459
30	Kurunegala	974	371	1345
31	Kegalle	366	965	1331
32	Kuliyapitiya	521	2714	3235
33	Kantale	196	919	1115
34	Kaduwela	540	581	1121
35	Kalmunei	254	38	292
36	Kalutara	1423	759	2182
37	Kekirawa	837	1119	1956
38	Kadawatha	348	1019	1367
39	Kebithigollewa	132	614	746
40	Kilinochchi	448	2633	3081
41	Matale	310	263	573
42	Mahiyanganaya	336	2313	2649
43	Matugama	488	1491	1979
44	Mahawa	291	1086	1377

45	Marawila	182	1506	1688
46	Mawanella	322	1094	1416
47	Mallakam	205	644	849
48	Mt. Lavinia	348	758	1106
49	Mannar	181	304	485
50	Monaragala	1143	1476	2619
51	Muttur	160	0	160
52	Mullaitivu	131	58	189
53	Matara	580	2032	2612
54	Minuwangoda	216	1070	1286
55	Nikaweratiya	197	1574	1771
56	Nuwara Eliya	283	859	1142
57	Negombo	377	1077	1454
58	Nugegoda	252	1331	1583
59	Nawalapitiya	288	3390	3678
60	Polonnaruwa	295	1205	1500
61	Panadura	629	1797	2426
62	Pottuwil	458	991	1449
63	Point Pedro	76	1107	1183
64	Polgahawela	185	292	477
65	Pugoda	190	558	748
66	Puttalam	303	912	1215
67	Rathnapura	567	1169	1736
68	Tissamaharama	390	551	941
69	Thambuttegama	229	457	686
70	Tangalle	301	1099	1400
71	Trincomalee	145	29	174
72	Vavuniya	272	132	404
73	Valaichchenai	513	361	874
74	Warakapola	187	968	1155
75	Welimada	376	890	1266
76	Walasmulla	363	2133	2496
77	Wariyapola	213	605	818
78	Wellawaya	250	1180	1430
79	Dehiaththakandiya	227	850	1077
80	Siyambalanduwa	302	660	962
81	Borella	448	1206	1654
82	Galagedara	101	540	641
83	Wattala	264	830	1094
84	Hettipola	253	927	1180
85	Theldeniya	232	736	968
Total Counselling		34296	92732	127028

1.1.1 (B) The number of clients who underwent legal counselling for the first time in 2024 by gender

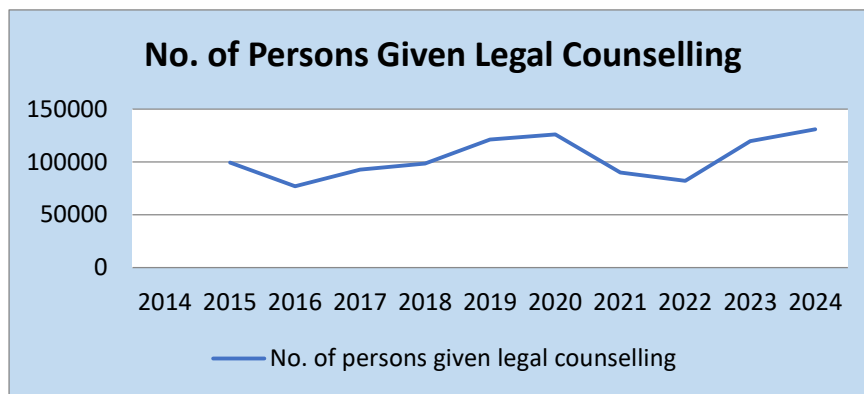
No.	Centre	Female	Male	Total
1	Anuradhapura	526	90	616
2	Ampara	425	100	525
3	Avissawella	625	263	888
4	Attanagalla	167	29	196
5	Akkareipattu	239	30	269
6	Bandarawela	195	44	239
7	Battaramulla	322	178	500
8	Baddegama	194	50	244
9	Badulla	326	86	412
10	Balapitiya	350	67	417
11	Batticaloa	935	68	1003
12	Balangoda	206	160	366
13	Colombo	1072	970	2042
14	Chilaw	208	152	360
15	Chavakachcheri	219	7	226
16	Dambulla	262	67	329
17	Deniyaya	229	75	304
18	Deyyandara	142	52	194
19	Embilipitiya	410	59	469
20	Gampaha	274	72	346
21	Galle	330	148	478
22	Galgamuwa	180	125	305
23	Horana	957	151	1108
24	Hatton	170	22	192
25	Hingurakgoda	196	45	241
26	Hambantota	350	257	607
27	Homagama	237	26	263
28	Jaffna	184	21	205
29	Kandy	533	321	854
30	Kurunegala	600	374	974
31	Kegalle	295	71	366
32	Kuliyapitiya	396	125	521
33	Kantale	159	37	196
34	Kaduwela	376	164	540
35	Kalmunei	221	33	254
36	Kalutara	957	466	1423
37	Kekirawa	650	187	837
38	Kadawatha	279	69	348
39	Kebithigollewa	112	20	132
40	Kilinochchi	70	378	448
41	Matale	187	123	310
42	Mahiyanganaya	281	55	336
43	Matugama	416	72	488
44	Mahawa	218	73	291
45	Marawila	161	21	182

46	Mawanella	236	86	322
47	Mallakam	182	23	205
48	Mt. Lavinia	276	72	348
49	Mannar	156	25	181
50	Monaragala	219	924	1143
51	Muttur	160	0	160
52	Mullaitivu	128	3	131
53	Matara	434	146	580
54	Minuwangoda	195	21	216
55	Nikaweratiya	141	56	197
56	Nuwara Eliya	223	60	283
57	Negombo	290	87	377
58	Nugegoda	176	76	252
59	Nawalapitiya	212	76	288
60	Polonnaruwa	207	88	295
61	Panadura	504	125	629
62	Pottuwil	434	24	458
63	Point Pedro	73	3	76
64	Polgahawela	149	36	185
65	Pugoda	146	44	190
66	Puttalam	261	42	303
67	Rathnapura	397	170	567
68	Tissamaharama	268	122	390
69	Thambuttegama	210	19	229
70	Tangalle	262	39	301
71	Trincomalee	126	19	145
72	Vavuniya	254	18	272
73	Valaichchenai	492	21	513
74	Warakapola	154	33	187
75	Welimada	267	109	376
76	Walasmulla	204	159	363
77	Wariyapola	169	44	213
78	Wellawaya	211	39	250
79	Dehiaththakandiya	177	50	227
80	Siyambalanduwa	248	54	302
81	Borella	105	343	448
82	Galagedara	91	10	101
83	Wattala	210	54	264
84	Hettipola	219	34	253
85	Theldeniya	182	50	232
Total		24889	9407	34296

1.1.1 (C) Legal counselling by the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka from 2014 to 2024 as a number

No.	Year	No. of persons given legal counselling
1	2014	99484
2	2015	76779
3	2016	92725
4	2017	98369
5	2018	121197
6	2019	125895
7	2020	90058
8	2021	81926
9	2022	119736
10	2023	130858
11	2024	127028

1.1.1 (D) Legal counselling by the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka from 2014 to 2024- Graph Representation

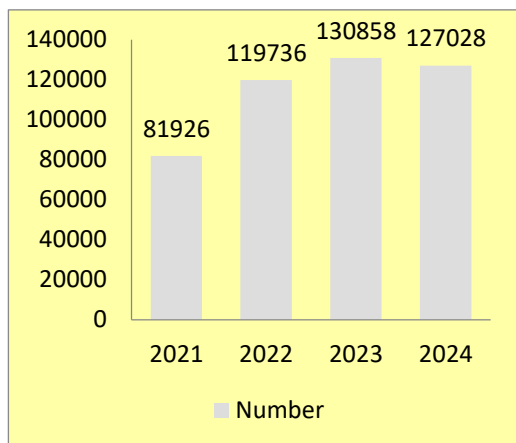


1.1.1 (E) Progress of Legal Counselling in the Year 2024 Compared to the Years 2021, 2022 and 2023

The number of clients visiting legal advice centres has shown a slight decrease in 2024. With the end of the Covid pandemic, a large number of people who were affected in various ways came to seek legal advice in 2023, and as the public gradually returned to normal, the number of clients visiting the centres has decreased to some extent.

Accordingly, although there is a visible decrease in the number of clients living outside Colombo, there has been an increase in the number of clients visiting centres close to major cities, including Colombo. Further, this was triggered by the fact that the number of awareness programmes conducted by us in 2024 was lower compared to 2023.

1.1.1. (F) Progress of Legal Counselling in the Year 2024 Compared to the Years 2021, 2022 and 2023- Graph Representation



No.	Year	Number	Percentage
01	2021	81926	18%
02	2022	119736	26%
03	2023	130858	28%
04	2024	127028	28%
Total		459548	100%

1.1.2. Public Grievance Handling

We have contributed for the implementation of the public grievance management programme carried out by the Presidential Secretariat in this regard. In addition, public grievances have been referred through the Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Justice, Attorney General's Department and the Bar Association of Sri Lanka as well, whereas, counselling work has been conducted via post regarding 368 cases of the public. Further, 5211 issues received through Mawbima Newspaper, the hotline of the Legal Aid Commission and telephone have been responded. The unit has addressed 9800 public grievances as a whole.

No.	Description	Number Of Issues Received	Number Of Issues Responded
01	Letters received from clients directly to the Legal Aid Commission	158	154
02	Letters received from clients which were forwarded through the Ministry of Justice	123	122
03	Requests of prisoners referred by the Department of Prisons	20	20
04	Public requests forwarded through the Attorney General's Department	23	23
05	Public requests forwarded through the Presidential Secretariat	50	49
06	Issues received by hotline calls	1134	1134
07	Issues received by telephone calls	4077	4077

1.2 Judicial Activities

The most important aspect of the Legal Division is offering legal aid for people's judicial actions. First, the question of whether legal aid can be given to an individual when a case involving their legal concern needs to be heard in court is investigated. Legal counseling provides access to the aforementioned goal. In the maintenance of legal aid cases, we first assess the client's financial condition to evaluate whether it is reasonable to offer free legal assistance. As a result, a Grama Niladhari report on an individual's monthly income will be requested first.

In this respect,

1. First, it will be determined whether the relevant individual is low-income based on onthly income report that the Grama Niladhari got and that the Divisional Secretary countersigned. According to legal aid laws, he will receive free legal aid for court proceedings if it is determined that he is a low-income earner based on these reports.
2. Is it feasible for someone who earns a sufficient income to receive the assistance of any lawyer? Would a party of one case influence the attorneys and prevent a lawyer representing the other party? At such juncture, the Legal Aid Commission pays constant attention to cooperate with the judiciary as necessary in assisting the administration of justice. In such case as this, the Legal Aid Commission steps in to provide legal representation irrespective of their financial situation.
3. Similarly, even if a person has been in remand for more than one year but will not be able to obtain legal assistance, legal assistance of the Legal Aid Commission will be provided on behalf of such persons.
4. For the rights of the child, in cases involving children,
5. Action will be taken to grant legal assistance free of charge irrespective of the income of the applicant, for a litigation proceeded under the Maintenance Act and Elders' Rights Act.
6. Samurdhi Beneficiaries
7. The Commission also works towards rendering free legal assistance to War heroes

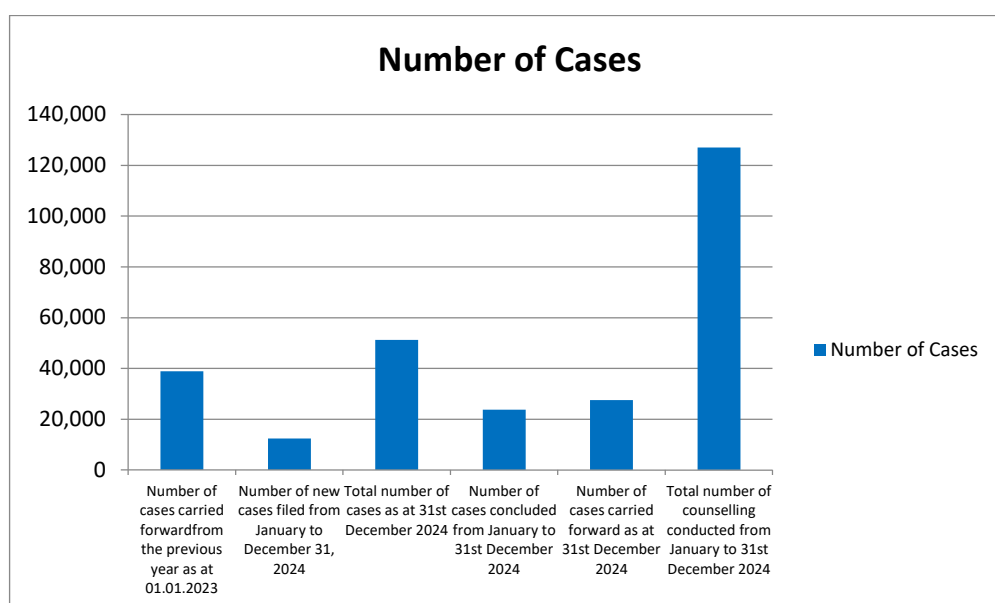
Proper functioning of both the civil and criminal divisions must be maintained for the said purpose.

In addition to maintaining the proceedings in tribunals such as the Labor Tribunal, Workmen's Compensation Tribunal, Debt Conciliation Board, Quazi Board, Chambers, Administrative Tribunal, and Human Rights Commission, we have worked on cases in every court in the island, including the Magistrate's Court, District Court, High Court, Provincial Court of Appeal, Court of Appeal, and Supreme Court. Further, although our attorneys do not appear for the legal matters in the Mediation Board, Labor Commissioner's Department, Quazi Court and other bodies with authority, the Legal Division has provided necessary guidance to them to make the necessary referrals properly.

In cooperation with National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crimes and Witnesses, Consumer Protection Authority, Samurdhi Development Department, Prison Department, State Ministry of Women's Affairs and Child Development, the necessary support is provided for the legal affairs of the clients referred from those institutions.

1.2.1. Progress of Legal Division of the Legal Aid Commission in 2024

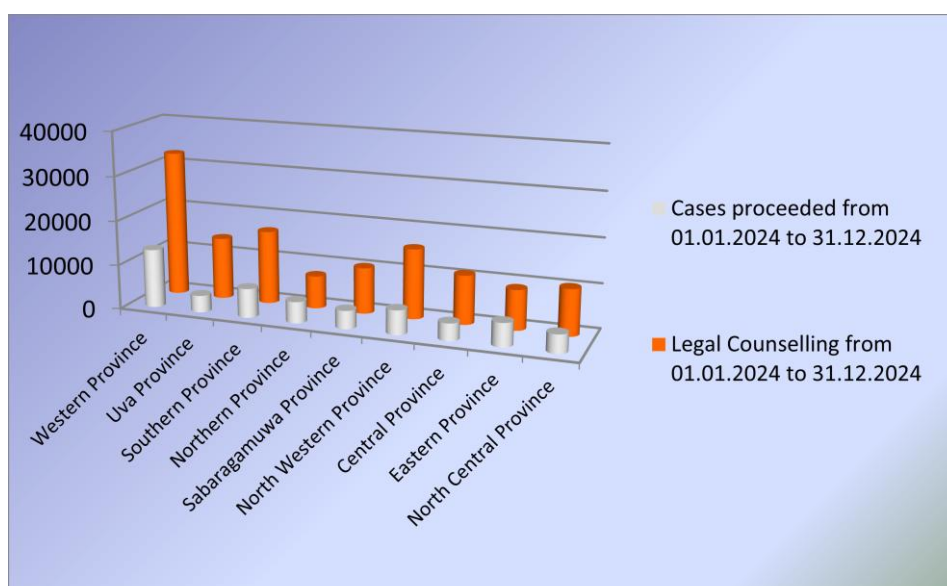
Description of Cases	Number of Cases
Number of cases carried forward from the previous year as at 01.01.2023	38,905
Number of new cases filed from January to December 31, 2024	12,362
Total number of cases as at 31 st December 2024	51,267
Number of cases concluded from January to 31 st December 2024	23,709
Number of cases carried forward as at 31 st December 2024	27,558
Total number of counselling conducted from January to 31 st December 2024	127,028
Overall service performed from January to 31 st December 2024	<u>51,267+127,028</u> <u>=178,295</u>



1.2.2. Service provided by the Legal Aid Commission at provincial level in the year 2024

Province	Cases proceeded from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024	Legal Counselling from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024	Overall Legal Service provided in the year 2024
Western Province	13161	32697	45858
Uva Province	3771	13900	17671
Southern Province	6552	16525	23077
Northern Province	4816	7362	12178
Sabaragamuwa Province	4098	10360	14458
North Western Province	5479	15720	21199
Central Province	3895	11006	14901
Eastern Province	5313	9026	14339
North Central Province	4182	10432	14614
Total	51267	127028	178295
Total service provided = Total No. of cases + Total counselling 178295 = 51267 + 127028			

Service provided at provincial level in the year 2024



1.2.3. Cases heard between 01st January 2024 and 31st December 2024

No.	Province	Centre	Staff of Legal Division			Cases prevailed as at 01.01.2022	Cases filed (Jan-Dec 2024)	Total	Cases concluded	Cases laid by	Cases carried forward (31.12.2024)	Total Counselling
			Legal Officer	Management Assistant	Office Assistant							
1	Western Province	Avissawella	2	1	1	663	151	814	448	72	294	2515
2		Attanagalla	1	1	1	522	132	654	98	243	313	1087
3		Battaramulla	2	1		621	109	730	254	2	474	1544
4		Head Office	7	7	3	2164	568	2732	1758	0	974	3954
5		Gampaha	2	1	1	265	145	410	98	53	259	974
6		Horana	2	1	1	467	369	836	297	33	506	3584
7		Homagama	1		1	323	120	443	235	43	165	1039
8		Kaduwela	1	1		407	98	505	325	0	180	1121
9		Kalutara	2	1	1	1357	148	1505	76	786	643	2182
10		Kadawatha	1	1	1	256	104	360	36	24	300	1367
11		Mathugama	2	1	1	160	124	284	59	36	189	1979
12		Mt.Lavinia	2	1		560	92	652	202	12	438	1106
13		Minuwangoda	2	1		716	118	834	197	29	608	1286
14		Negombo	2	1	1	280	111	391	101	13	277	1454
15		Nugegoda	1	1	1	504	128	632	289	43	300	1583
16		Panadura	2	1	1	349	180	529	164	80	285	2426
17		Pugoda	1	1		126	121	247	118		129	748
18		Borella	1		1	180	110	290	124	7	159	1654
19		Wattala	1	1	1	225	88	313	153	53	107	1094
20	Southern Province	Baddegama	2	1		445	131	576	90	25	461	1343
21		Balapitiya	2	2	1	1028	176	1204	927		277	1464
22		Deniyaya	1	1	1	198	149	347	71	70	206	1766
23		Deyyandara	1	1		286	127	413	203	17	193	966
24		Hambantota	1	1	1	999	142	1141	910	8	223	1641
25		Matara	3	2	1	631	197	828	442		386	2612
26		Tissamaharama	1	1	1	234	194	428	70	125	233	941
27		Tangalle	1	2		305	106	411	65	109	237	1400
28		Walasmulla	1	1	1	360	138	498	87	105	306	2496
29		Galle	1	1	1	563	143	706	74	69	563	1896
30	Central Province	Dambulla	1	1	1	265	154	419	122	114	183	1346
31		Hatton	1		1	199	93	292	127	15	150	1199
32		Kandy	3	2		1009	218	1227	706	37	484	1459
33		Matale	1	1		352	200	552	97	45	410	573
24		Nuwara Eliya	1	1		616	128	744	100		644	1142
35		Nawalapitiya	1	1		203	180	383	65	100	218	3678
36		Galagedara	1	2		67	31	98	11	17	70	641
37		Theldeniya	1	1		115	65	180	28	26	126	968
38	Province	Anuradhapura	2	2	1	1084	442	1526	346	482	698	4134
39		Hingurakgoda	1	1	1	510	122	632	215	210	207	1410

40	Sabaragamuwa Province	Kekirawa	1	1		463	176	639	213	183	243	1956
41		Kebithigollewa	1	1		589	132	721	237	291	193	746
42		Polonnaruwa	1	1		285	121	406	82	202	122	1500
43		Thambuttegama	1		1	161	97	258	8	22	228	686
44	Sabaragamuwa Province	Balangoda	1	1		209	128	337	89	54	194	435
45		Embilipitiya	2	1	1	645	263	908	102	91	715	4287
46		Kegalle	2	2		801	127	928	36	381	511	1331
47		Mawanella	1	1	1	445	101	546	32	150	364	1416
48		Rathnapura	2	2		767	221	988	119	74	795	1736
49	North Western Province	Warakapola	1	1		287	104	391	95	14	282	1155
50		Chillaw	1	1	1	695	124	819	375	40	404	983
51		Galgamuwa	1	1		167	109	276	71	14	191	1631
52		Kurunegala	3	2	1	1198	203	1401	922	80	399	1345
53		Kuliyapitiya	1	2	1	373	277	650	203	162	285	3235
54		Mahawa	1	1		175	124	299	82	64	153	1377
55		Marawila	1	1		258	133	391	158		233	1688
56		Nikaweratiya	1	1	1	238	75	313	62	143	108	1771
57		Polgahawela	1	1		76	85	161	23	45	93	477
58		Puttalam	1			489	155	644	362	9	273	1215
58	Eastern Province	Wariyapola	1	2		134	100	234	62	52	120	818
60		Hettipola	1	1	1	174	117	291	90	12	189	1180
61		Ampara	1	1		349	175	524	112	134	278	2509
62		Akkareipattu	1	1	1	523	144	667	332	11	324	283
63		Batticaloa	2	1	1	226	92	318	40	1	277	1093
64		Kalmunai	1	2	1	288	224	512	221	19	272	292
65		Muttur	1	1		620	79	699	344		355	160
66		Pottuwil	2	1		125	133	258	75	41	142	1449
67		Trincomalee	1	1	1	597	91	688	515	2	171	174
68		Walachchenai	1			429	366	795	271	153	371	874
69	Central Province	Dehiattakandiya	1	1		276	90	366	91	11	264	1077
70		Kantale	1	1		409	77	486	187	64	235	1115
71		Chavakachcheri	1	1		296	110	406	32	11	363	638
72		Jaffna	2	1	1	275	74	349	105	3	241	533
73		Kilinochchi	1	1	1	912	169	1081	100	253	728	3081
74		Mallakam	1	1	1	558	53	611	200	134	277	849
75		Mullaitivu	1	1	1	487	58	545	79	45	421	189
76		Point Pedro	1	1	1	580	70	650	402	15	233	1183
77		Vavuniya	1	1	1	484	106	590	73	65	452	404
78		Mannar	1	1	1	540	44	584	8	80	496	485
79	Uva Province	Badulla	1	1	1	373	158	531	108	26	397	2925
80		Mahiyanganaya	1	1	1	427	128	555	80	56	419	2649
81		Monaragala	2	2		552	276	828	230	107	491	2619
82		Welimada	1	1	1	357	129	486	90	18	378	1266
83		Wellawaya	1	1	1	433	143	576	92	43	441	1430
84		Siyambalinduwa	1		1	225	124	349	62	19	268	962
85		Bandarawela	1	1	1	321	125	446	67	85	294	2049
Total			117	97	52	38905	12362	51267	17127	6582	27558	127028

1.2.4. Classification of new cases filed in the year 2024

No.	Province	Centre	Divorce	Maintenance	Land	Partition	Money	High Court cases	Appeal Court cases	Accidents	Bail	Other	Child Rights	Labour	Criminal	Supreme Court cases	Victim of crimes	Special	Guardianship	Domestic Violence	Total
1	Western Province	Avissawella	26	87	1		3		1		3	1		18			4	3		4	151
2		Attanagalla	29	45	1		7			10		33					2	3		2	132
3		Battaramulla											10 2	7							109
4		Head Office	77	66	9		24	4	47	25	19 3	64		4	3	46	1	4		1	568
5		Gampaha	15	55	5		9	51	1	4		1			2		1	1			145
6		Horana	35	120			2		2	18	12 1	47						1		23	369
7		Homagama	22	34			1	3			1	5		6			11			37	120
8		Kaduwela	17	27	4		13			8		5		9	1		6	2	1	5	98
9		Kalutara	18	47	2		11	3			1	2	2	36	9		8	4		5	148
10		Kadawatha	12	65	1		4			7	3	6			1					5	104
11		Mathugama	25	44	3		6			8	18	2	1		7		6		1	3	124
12		Mt.Lavinia	27	26	3		9		8			1		10	2		3			3	92
13		Minuwangoda	18	36	3	1	8			10		1	24		8		6			3	118
14		Negombo	30	47	3		3	4	4	5	8	3		4							111
15		Nugegoda	32	62			14				1						11			8	128
16		Panadura	33	86	3		5	2		12	19	2	1	1				2		14	180
17		Pugoda	25	70	2		10			7							6			1	121
18		Borella										35	75								110
19		Wattala	16	40			1			9	4	4		4	9			1			88
20	Southern Province	Baddegama	30	63	1		4			3	1	1					25	1		2	131
21		Balapitiya	33	72	2		3	2		6		23	12	1			7	4	4	7	176
22		Deniyaya	30	104						1		1		1			6			6	149
23		Deyyandara		60								46					19			2	127
24		Hambantota	38	66									6		32						142
25		Matara	55	105	3	1				7	1	10	3	2		1	9				197
26		Tissamaharama	43	135						2		2			6			4		2	194
27		Tangalle	40	48					3	8							4	1	2		106
28		Walasmulla	49	76			5					8									138
29		Galle	25	91		1	3		2	4		2	3	9						3	143
30	Central Province	Dambulla	39	88			7								20						154
31		Hatton	15	61						2							12			3	93
32		Kandy	45	108	7		26	2				9		21							218
33		Matale	40	121	6			2		8		15		8							200
34		Nuwara Eliya	12	47			4								65						128
35		Nawalapitiya	31	99			4			1		40		2						3	180
36		Galagedara		30							1										31
37		Theldeniya	19	39	1		1								1		4				65
38	North Central Province	Anuradhapura	113	266	6		4		4	31	1	1	3	9				3		1	442
39		Hingurakgoda	42	22	1		4				29	3			15					6	122
40		Kekirawa	46	112	1		1			6		3			1			2		4	176
41		Kebithigollewa	34	67	1		6					6			10			1		7	132
42		Polonnaruwa	21	64	1		4			4	21	6									121
43		Thambuttegama		97																	97
44		Balangoda	37	80	1		8					1					1				128
45	Sabaragamuwa Province	Embilipitiya	62	187	3					6		1		1				3			263
46		Kegalle	21	48	3		16	4	1			19		3						12	127
47		Mawanella	31	46						4		8			3			1		8	101
48		Rathnapura	74	95	4		10	7	6	1	5	1		3			9	3	1	2	221
49		Warakapola	27	23			4					27						1		22	104
50		Chillaw	16	60				3		6		5		23	1		8	2			124
51	Western	Galgamuwa	74	32													2			1	109

52		Kurunegala	67	84	3	1	17		2	9	1	12		1			2	3		1	203
53		Kuliyapitiya	45	108	5		9	1		26		6		12			58			7	277
54		Mahawa	50	64	1	2	1			4					2						124
55		Marawila	33	87			2								10			1			133
56		Nikaweratiya	14	39			5			4	1	2					5			5	75
57		Polgahawela		78						2		2								3	85
58		Puttalam	45	92	4		4			1	2	5		1						1	155
59		Wariyapola	30	41					4			24		1							100
60		Hettipola		72			1			1	1	16	2		2					22	117
61		Ampara	36	116	6		5		1	2				3	1			4		1	175
62		Akkareipattu	0	141	2													1			144
63		Batticaloa	13	76	2		1														92
64		Kalmunai	13	200	1		6	1				1						1		1	224
65		Muttur	11	67	1																79
66		Pottuwil	3	123			5										1	1			133
67		Trincomalee	26	57			2					5		1							91
68		Walachchenai	17	343			6														366
69		Dehiattakandiya	18	52			3					2					7			8	90
70		Kantale	12	40			2				2			15						6	77
71		Chavakachcheri	25	72	4		2			2		4								1	110
72		Jaffna	11	39	3		3	3	1		1	2		4	4					3	74
73		Kilinochchi	14	97	5		4			7		11	6		17					8	169
74		Mallakam	17	28	2		2					4									53
75		Mullaitivu	5	51	1													1			58
76		Point Pedro	17	39			7		1			5								1	70
77		Vavuniya	16	85			1			2	1							1			106
78		Mannar	5	29			1			1		1			6					1	44
79		Badulla	26	113	1			1	2	2	3	1			6			1		2	158
80		Mahiyanganaya	28	66			4										24	2	2	2	128
81		Monaragala	109	143	2		6	1		7					2			6			276
82		Welimada	35	58	1		7					8			6		5	1	3	5	129
83		Wellawaya	39	92	1					8					1			2			143
84		Siyambalduwa		37													78			9	124
85		Bandarawela	21	82	2	1	4			2		6			2		2	2		1	125
			2400	6480	12 8	7	354	94	90	303	443	567	240	218	257	47	353	74	14	293	12362

1.2.5. Classification of new cases filed in the year 2024

No.	Province	Centre	Divorce	Maintenance	Land	Partition	Money	High Court cases	Appeal Court cases	Accidents	Bail	Other	Child Rights	Labour	Criminal	Supreme Court cases	Victim of crimes	Special	Guardianship	Domestic Violence	Total
1	Western Province	Avissawella	85	395	3	0	9		2		2	3		4			6	6	1	4	520
2		Attanagalla	26	245	4		13			20		19		1			10	1		2	341
3		Battaramulla											251	5							256
4		Head Office	338	484	103	11		1	69	16	167	382		48	22	48	57	8		4	1758
5		Gampaha	45	57	8		7	9		20		5									151
6		Horana	39	49			3		11	7	176	37								8	330
7		Homagama	45	85	2	1	12	1			1	7		26			64	1		33	278
8		Kaduwela	82	72	15	0	68			15		12		29			18	3	1	10	325
9		Kalutara	82	385	9		38	5	31	31	1	47	2	118	2		98	10		3	862
10		Kadawatha	9	42	1					2		4			1					1	60
11		Mathugama	18	51	1		9				3	8	5								95
12		Mt.Lavinia	77	70	14		8		2	5				13	6		9	8		2	214
13		Minuwangoda	67	22	1	11	15	27	0	7	1	17	8	0	19	0	27	1	0	3	226
14		Negombo	52	19	6		6			4	7	4		16							114
15		Nugegoda	56	169	5		42	1				3			3		42			11	332
16		Panadura	19	111	2		5	3		24	19	2	2	8	7		6	5		31	244
17		Pugoda	15	95			6			1								1			118
18		Borella										23		108							131
19		Wattala	21	88			2			16	2	9	1	53	12		1			1	206
20	Southern Province	Baddegama	16	59			9			1	1	2					26	1			115
21		Balapitiya	89	688	6		35	16		46		36	1				7	2		1	927
22		Deniyaya	24	99	1					2		1					5			9	141
23		Deyyandara	0	66						1		113					34			6	220
24		Hambantota	195	534				8		7			38		135			1			918
25		Matara	105	76	5		20	1		26	1	6	3	14		2	172	7		4	442
26		Tissamaharama	35	121			7					1			18			7		6	195
27		Tangalle	35	113	1			2	1	2		4			12		4				174
28		Walasmulla	72	104			9			4		3									192
29		Galle	35	81		1	3	1		8		1	4	6						3	143
30	Central Province	Dambulla	57	143			9					15			12						236
31		Hatton	16	101						2					19					4	142
32		Kandy	167	315	52		85					50		64	9					1	743
33		Matale	50	61	2		2	2		4		12		8						1	142
34		Nuwara Eliya	12	12			2								74						100
35		Nawalapitiya	27	108	2		6					18		2						2	165
36		Galagedara		27																1	28
37		Theldeniya	5	33	1		2						1		3		8			1	54
38	North Central Province	Anuradhapura	140	452	43	0	27	0	4	50	1	33	1	71	0	0	0	5	0	1	828
39		Hingurakgoda	156	56	1		22				79	4			96					11	425
40		Kekirawa	141	197	2	0	4	0	0	25	0	5	2		4		2	6	0	8	396
41		Kebithigollewa	187	186	6		1					66			68					14	528
42		Polonnaruwa	24	210	1	0	5	0	1	14	20	7								2	284
43		Thambuttegama		30																	30
44		Balangoda	30	88	4		9					10					1	1			143
45	Sabaragamuwa Province	Embilipitiya	41	130	1		5	1		12				2				1			193
46		Kegalle	182	130	11	3	13	5				73									417
47		Mawanella	55	91	1		6					12			14			1		2	182
48		Rathnapura	53	98	5		5	5	1	1	5	1		3			5	5	5	1	193
49		Warakapola	21	62			3			1		1	11							10	109
50		Chillaw	8	215			1	6		2		4		166	1		7	1	1	3	415
51		Galgamuwa	67	12	1										3		2				85
52	North Western Province	Kurunegala	115	629	10		51			32	24	43		38			48	8	1	3	1002
		Kuliyapitiya	38	160	7	1	5	1		22		7		16			95	6		7	365
54		Mahawa	59	84			1			1					1						146
55		Marawila	33	102			1			1		10			10			1			158
56		Nikaweratiya	28	154			3			4	1	3					5			7	205
57		Polgahawela		60								8									68
58		Puttalam	65	258	9		20	4		1	3	4			2			2	1	2	371
59		Wariyapola	37	40	3		1			3		25			1			4			114
60		Hettipola		83						1		5			1					12	102
61		Ampara	51	157	5		9			4				7	6			1		6	246
62		Akkareipattu	79	218	3		20				11							12			343

63		Batticaloa	21	17	3															41	
64		Kalmunai	13	204	3						3						15	2		240	
65		Muttur	2	338	2						2									344	
66		Pottuwil	3	108			4										1			116	
67		Trincomalee	96	216	18	2	79	2		2	7		60	31				4		517	
68		Walachchenai	14	393			16				1									424	
69		Dehiattakandiya	30	19			2				4	2		8		21			16	102	
70	Northern Province	Kantale	53	126			8				3			52					9	251	
71		Chavakachcheri	7	21	5	0	1	0	0	1	0	8								43	
72		Jaffna	26	44	3		10	2	1			13		8	1					108	
73		Kilinochchi	19	153	3		8			8		65			72				25	353	
74		Mallakam	52	225	16	1	21		3	2	1	8							4	1	334
75		Mullaitivu	30	70	2		7					2						9		4	124
76		Point Pedro	110	205	15	1	34			6		36							4	6	417
77		Vavuniya	36	93			4			1	1							3			138
78		Mannar	26	20	20		10					12									88
79	Uva Province	Badulla	23	96	3		1			1	3	1		4					2	134	
80		Mahiyanganaya	35	74	2		17									6	2			136	
81		Monaragala	148	155	1		2	3		9	4	1		2		1	11			337	
82		Welimada	24	51			5			1		10	1		4		3	3	1	5	108
83		Wellawaya	30	92	2		3			6								2			135
84		Siyambalduwa		32						6							32		2	9	81
85		Bandarawela	17	120			2			1		6					5	1			152
			4441	11954	455	32	878	106	126	489	534	1347	333	894	734	50	827	163	27	318	23709

1.2.6. Cases brought forward as at 31.12.2024

No.	Province	Centre	Divorce	Maintenance	Land	Partition	Money	High Court cases	Appeal Court cases	Accidents	Bail	Other	Child Rights	Labour	Criminal	Supreme Court cases	Victim of crimes	Special	Guardianship	Domestic Violence	Total
1	Western Province	Avissawella	67	104	13		49	3				4		23			17	6	2	6	294
2		Attanagalla	97	98	35		40			10		26					2	2		3	313
3		Battaramulla											464	10							474
4		Head Office	123	89	43	11	47	16	115	65	71	272		42	22	47	8	3			974
5		Gampaha	49	39	18	1	12	53	9	34	6	25		1	2		6	2		2	259
6		Horana	90	249	4		6		1	25	18	83						3		27	506
7		Homagama	53	43	6		11	3				12		4			18	3		12	165
8		Kaduwela	41	55	15	1	40			8		6		4	1		5	2	1	1	180
9		Kalutara	82	353	7		18	15		6	1	7	70	30	38		10			6	643
10		Kadawatha	14	259	2		6			2	4	7			1					5	300
11		Mathugama	33	93	6		10				17	4	3		7		12		1	3	189
12		Mt.Lavinia	61	207	19		36		9	21		2		40	16		11	3	1	12	438
13		Minuwangoda	51	280	22		47			20	1	20	44		39		75			9	608
14		Negombo	78	125	17		19	5	3	19	1	5		5							277
15		Nugegoda	64	158	3		35					3			2		18	5		12	300
16		Panadura	75	112	13		7	4		22	1	3		5	1		21	9		12	285
17		Pugoda	32	60	8		12			8							7	2			129
18		Borella										52		107							159
19		Wattala	23	49	1		2			21	2	1		1	6			1			107
20	Southern Province	Baddegama	61	314	2	1	4			17							60			2	461
21		Balapitiya	48	121	7	5	21	10		17		9	15	2			11	6		5	277
22		Deniyaya	49	143						2				1			7			4	206
23		Deyyandara		169								2					20			2	193
24		Hambantota	59	163									1								223
25		Matara	117	167	18	1	11	4		31	1	3		9			15	8		1	386
26		Tissamaharama	89	101	1		2			2		8			10			10		10	233
27		Tangalle	60	151			1	4		14		1					2	4			237
28		Walasmulla	101	163			27		10			3			2						306
29	Central Province	Galle	56	337			10	1	3	18	3	62		47			13			13	563
30		Dambulla	52	120			7								4						183
31		Hatton	40	78	2					4							26				150
32		Kandy	112	236	33		49	4				15		19	9					7	484
33		Matale	82	246	18		2	3		28		12		19							410
34		Nuwara Eliya	26	510	3		9	1						1	88			6			644
35		Nawalapitiya	21	162								33		1					1		218
36		Galagedara		69							1										70
37		Theldeniya	47	64	2		5								2		6				126
38	North Central Province	Anuradhapura	233	277	12		13		8	106		16	3	19				11			698
39		Hinguragoda	131	35	6		17				7	2			5					4	207
40		Kekirawa	92	126	3		6			9					3					2	243
41		Kebithigollewa	59	83	10		17	2				9						2		9	193
42		Polonnaruwa	22	65	7		6			10	8	4									122
43		Thambuttegama		228																	228
44	Sabaragamuwa Province	Balangoda	45	118	14		15					2									194
45		Embilipitiya	132	522	8		13	1		27		3		1	1			7			715
46		Kegalle	113	212	24	9	55	13	1			55		15						14	511
47		Mawanella	96	259	1	1	2			3									2		364
48		Rathnapura	183	412	27		16	24	8	36		2		18			43	10	3	13	795
49		Warakapola	51	106	5		35				7	53						2		23	282
50	North Western Province	Chillaw	33	248	3			1	7			5		97	1		9				404
51		Galgamuwa		135								52					4				191
52		Kurunegala	176	47	12	9	60		7	52	1	10		7			1	15	2		399
53		Kuliyapitiya	72	92	14	1	12	1		46		1		7			38	1			285
54		Mahawa	32	88	6	5	11			7					2			2			153
55		Marawila	65	134	6		2			7		6			10		2	1			233

56		Nikaweratiya	34	43	1		9		6							12	1		2	108	
57		Polgahawela		86					2		2								3	93	
58		Puttalam	123	102	13	4	10	0	0	4	1	1			14	0	0	0	1	0	273
59		Wariyapola	36	66	2					11		5									120
60		Hettipola		103			1			4	4	24	2		1		29			21	189
61	Eastern Province	Ampara	79	143	12		8		1	13		1		15	1			5			278
62		Akkareipattu	5	303	5		9											2			324
63		Batticaloa	46	187	34		10														277
64		Kalmunai	16	236	2		7	1				5							2	3	272
65		Muttur	22	280	5		10					28					7	2	1		355
66		Pottuwil	3	133			5										1				142
67		Trincomalee	15	126	12		11					4		2					1		171
68		Walachchenai	11	357			3														371
69		Dehiattakandiya	59	178	1		9										9			8	264
70	Northern Province	Kantale	25	169	2		15					1			18				1	4	235
71		Chavakachcheri	52	273	9	1	7			6		12								3	363
72		Jaffna	44	121	13		17	11	3		1	15		6	4				1	5	241
73		Kilinochchi	81	484	12		39			12		17			44			1	2	36	728
74		Mallakam	57	178	13		3	2				22							2		277
75		Mullaitivu	33	353	11		14					2						2		6	421
76		Point Pedro	30	174	6	2	10		1			7							1	2	233
77		Vavuniya	15	424	3		5			5											452
78		Mannar	34	194	32		14			21		26			156				3	16	496
79	Uva Province	Badulla	38	317	4		10		2	8		2		2	10			3		1	397
80		Mahiyanganaya	77	244	9		26										53	2	2	6	419
81		Monaragala	178	255	9		10	2		24	1	1			4			7			491
82		Welimada	79	178	5		22			6		35	2		28		12	3	3	5	378
83		Wellawaya	74	330	10		3			20					1			3			441
84		Siyambalduwa		114						4		1					136		6	7	268
85		Bandarawela	73	154	10	4	12			20		11		1	3		2	3		1	294
			4927	15179	711	56	1124	184	188	863	157	1120	604	561	556	58	719	164	39	348	27558

1.2.7. Classification of cases heard in the year 2024 by Court

No.	Center	Supreme Court	Appeal Court	Civil Appellate Court	High Court	District Court	Magistrate's Court	Labour Tribunal	Other	Total
1	Avissawella			1	2	137	131	23	0	294
2	Attanagalla					174	139			313
3	Battaramulla						464	10		474
4	Head Office	146	57	6	62	314	69	16	304	974
5	Gampaha			9	59	116	49	1	25	259
6	Horana		1			128	377			506
7	Homagama			7	3	78	73	4		165
8	Kaduwela					106	70	4		180
9	Kalutara				16	129	428	70		643
10	Kadawatha		4			18	278			300
11	Mathugama					50	139			189
12	Mt.Lavinia			9		122	267	40		438
13	Minuwangoda				1	140	447		20	608
14	Negombo			3	6	133	125	5	5	277
15	Nugegoda					110	190			300
16	Panadura				4	130	146	5		285
17	Pugoda					54	75			129
18	Borella							109	50	159
19	Wattala					48	58	1		107
20	Baddegama					81	380			461
21	Balapitiya				10	87	178	2		277
22	Deniyaya					50	155	1		206
23	Deyyandara						193			193
24	Hambantota					62	161			223
25	Matara				5	188	184	9		386
26	Tissamaharama					108	125			233
27	Tangalle				8	75	154			237
28	Walasmulla					131	175			306
29	Galle			3	1	104	408	47		563
30	Dambulla					59	124			183
31	Hatton					46	104			150
32	Kandy				2	165	286	18	13	484
33	Matale				3	130	246	19	12	410
34	Nuwara Eliya				1	44	598	1		644
35	Nawalapitiya					22	162	1	33	218
36	Galagedara						70			70
37	Theldeniya					54	72			126
38	Anuradhapura		8			378	277	19	16	698
39	Hingurakgoda					60	147			207
40	Kekirawa					109	134			243
41	Kebithigollewa					120	73			193
42	Polonnaruwa					49	73			122
43	Thambuttegama						228			228
44	Balangoda					76	118			194
45	Embilipitiya				1	190	523	1		715
46	Kegalle			1	13	201	281	15		511
47	Mawanella					44	320			364
48	Rathnapura			9	23	276	469	18		795
49	Warakapola					93	189			282
50	Chillaw				1	44	260	97	2	404
51	Galgamuwa						191			191
52	Kurunegala			7		335	50	7		399
53	Kuliyapitiya				28	147	103	7		285

54	Mahawa					61	92			153
55	Marawila					81	152			233
56	Nikaweratiya					46	62			108
57	Polgahawela						93			93
58	Puttalam					130	143			273
59	Wariyapola					50	70			120
60	Hettipola						189			189
61	Ampara			1		112	150	15		278
62	Akkareipattu					21	303			324
63	Batticaloa					90	187			277
64	Kalmunai				1	27	244			272
65	Muttur					38	289		28	355
66	Pottuwil					8	134			142
67	Trincomalee					43	126	2		171
68	Walachchenai					14	357			371
69	Dehiattakandiya					69	195			264
70	Kantale					44	191			235
71	Chavakachcheri					84	279			363
72	Jaffna			3	12	90	130	6		241
73	Kilinochchi					152	576			728
74	Mallakam			4	2	90	181			277
75	Mullaitivu					48	373			421
76	Point Pedro			1		54	178			233
77	Vavuniya					28	424			452
78	Mannar					83	413			496
79	Badulla			2		63	330	2		397
80	Mahiyanganaya					114	305			419
81	Monaragala				3	228	260			491
82	Welimada					109	269			378
83	Wellawaya					110	331			441
84	Siyambalinduwa						268			268
85	Bandarawela					122	171	1		294
	Total	147	70	66	267	7724	18201	576	508	27558

1.2.8. Classification of the cases heard in 2024 by the legal assistance provided

No.	Center	Attorneys-at-Law of the Legal Aid Commission	Attorneys-at-Law of the Board under Legal Aid Commission	Total
1	Avissawella	187	107	294
2	Attanagalla	218	95	313
3	Battaramulla	464	10	474
4	Head Office	390	584	974
5	Gampaha	242	17	259
6	Horana	440	66	506
7	Homagama	110	55	165
8	Kaduwela	60	120	180
9	Kalutara	483	160	643
10	Kadawatha	299	1	300
11	Mathugama	160	29	189
12	Mt.Lavinia	248	190	438
13	Minuwangoda	599	9	608
14	Negombo	245	32	277
15	Nugegoda	244	56	300
16	Panadura	208	77	285
17	Pugoda	70	59	129
18	Borella	116	43	159
19	Wattala	105	2	107
20	Baddegama	437	24	461
21	Balapitiya	186	91	277
22	Deniyaya	195	11	206
23	Deyyandara	193		193
24	Hambantota	117	106	223
25	Matara	307	79	386
26	Tissamaharama	233	0	233
27	Tangalle	174	63	237
28	Walasmulla	300	6	306
29	Galle	555	8	563
30	Dambulla	183	0	183
31	Hatton	150		150
32	Kandy	397	87	484
33	Matale	247	163	410
34	Nuwara Eliya	509	135	644
35	Nawalapitiya	141	77	218
36	Galagedara	68	2	70
37	Theldeniya	98	28	126
38	Anuradhapura	593	105	698
39	Hingurakgoda	185	22	207
40	Kekirawa	241	2	243
41	Kebithigollewa	193	0	193
42	Polonnaruwa	106	16	122
43	Thambuttegama	130	98	228
44	Balangoda	131	63	194
45	Embilipitiya	685	30	715
46	Kegalle	464	47	511
47	Mawanella	357	7	364
48	Rathnapura	448	347	795
49	Warakapola	233	49	282
50	Chillaw	401	3	404
51	Galgamuwa	191	0	191
52	Kurunegala	297	102	399
53	Kuliyapitiya	228	57	285

54	Mahawa	119	34	153
55	Marawila	228	5	233
56	Nikaweratiya	102	6	108
57	Polgahawela	57	36	93
58	Puttalam	273	0	273
59	Wariyapola	37	83	120
60	Hettipola	189	0	189
61	Ampara	250	28	278
62	Akkareipattu	324	0	324
63	Batticaloa	277	0	277
64	Kalmunai	210	62	272
65	Muttur	333	22	355
66	Pottuwil	142	0	142
67	Trincomalee	171	0	171
68	Walachchenai	371	0	371
69	Dehiattakandiya	261	3	264
70	Kantale	232	3	235
71	Chavakachcheri	363	0	363
72	Jaffna	232	9	241
73	Kilinochchi	728	0	728
74	Mallakam	277	0	277
75	Mullaitivu	376	45	421
76	Point Pedro	233	0	233
77	Vavuniya	443	9	452
78	Mannar	496	0	496
79	Badulla	359	38	397
80	Mahiyanganaya	397	22	419
81	Monaragala	319	172	491
82	Welimada	261	117	378
83	Wellawaya	409	32	441
84	Siyambalduwa	268	0	268
85	Bandarawela	247	47	294
	Total	23245	4313	27558

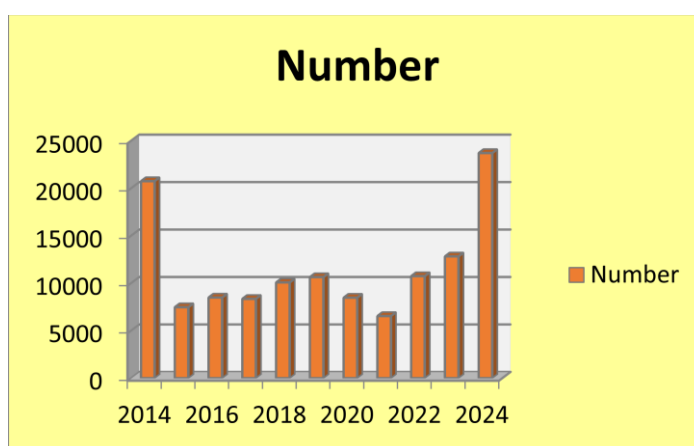
1.2.8. Number of Cases Carried Forward Annually from 2014 up to 31.12.2024

Period	No. of cases
No. of cases as at 31.12.2014	20265
No. of cases as at 31.12.2015	23609
No. of cases as at 31.12.2016	26088
No. of cases as at 31.12.2017	29783
No. of cases as at 31.12.2018	32403
No. of cases as at 31.12.2019	35332
No. of cases as at 31.12.2020	36567
No. of cases as at 31.12.2021	38099
No. of cases as at 31.12.2022	38739
No. of cases as at 31.12.2023	38905
No. of cases as at 31.12.2024	27558



1.2.8. Number of Cases Concluded Annually from 2014 up to 31.12.2024

Year	Number
2014	20746
2015	7465
2016	8485
2017	8344
2018	10073
2019	10636
2020	8466
2021	6534
2022	10740
2023	12816
2024	23709



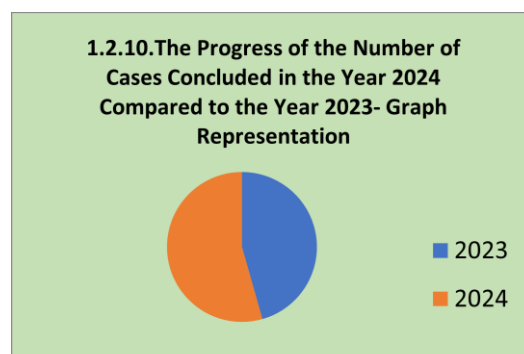
1.2.9. The Progress of the Number of Cases Concluded in the Year 2024 Compared to the Year 2023

The number of cases concluded in the year 2023 is 12816 and in 2024 the same number amounts to 23709. Compared to the year 2023, it is observed that there is an increase in the number of individuals who sought and received relief under the law in 2024.

Furthermore, since a number of case files had not been recorded in the litigation division of the Legal Aid Commission for over 10 years, steps were taken to update and conduct a census of those files. Accordingly, it is evident that a certain number of cases were observed to have been concluded during this process.

1.2.10. The Progress of the Number of Cases Concluded in the Year 2024 Compared to the Year 2023- Graph Representation

No.	Year	Number	Progress
1	2023	12816	35%
2	2024	23709	65%
		36525	100%



1.3 National Policy of Sri Lanka on Legal Aid

It became evident that a more systematic and efficient delivery of legal aid was required as the Legal Aid Act No. 27 of 1978 was enacted whereby the Sri Lanka Legal Aid Commission was established and maintained. The policy makers felt the need to formulate government policies that would be able to monitor these activities in order to lessen the difficulties faced by the government as well as other non-governmental organizations in carrying out various activities in the country and to enable the public to obtain an effective service that is more important to them.

A lot of thought was given to how legal aid should be delivered in Sri Lanka, the mechanisms for its operation, supervision, and reforming existing legal aid programs. Legal aid is a universal fundamental right for all citizens and must be provided equitably. Establishing an efficient and effective professional framework to facilitate easy access to justice for all whereby the state legal aid system is empowered in a more formal way within civil society and the introduction of a National Policy on Legal Aid that ensures equality in addressing all circumstances irrespective of the factors such as gender, disability, age, ethnicity, religion, caste, geographic location, or other social sensitivities is a revolutionary step in the field of Law. The approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been granted for the formulation of this National Policy, which will be executed in the near future.

1.4 Networking of Judicial Proceedings through Google Sheet

The Legal Aid Commission has strongly felt the need of an effective measure for the Legal Division to do the necessary monitoring in order to maintain an efficient and formal legal aid mechanism. It has been decided that coordination and methodical maintenance of monitoring affairs through networking of Judicial proceedings in regional centres is a more effective and appropriate measure and initiated and maintained the Google Sheet system this year.

A database containing a complete case register of each center was created as a preliminary step, and its upkeep was initiated. In the future, this is anticipated to be developed in a more sophisticated manner. It is expected that this system will be integrated with the Legal Aid Commission's back site, which will regulate the operations of the Legal Division.

1.5 Development Activities of the Website of the Legal Aid Commission

The website of the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka is currently inactive and its redevelopment and renovation was started this year. Financial support and technical support from UNDP has been received for this purpose.

1.7 Projects and Programme

During the period of 26 years since 1978 until 2004, the main focus of the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka has been the concept of granting legal aid to maintain litigation. But since around 2004, the Commission has taken a number of steps to experiment with new methods of granting legal aid, hoping there is a possibility to grant the public an access to legal justice by instilling legal literacy into the public, going beyond this level.

In the same way that focusing on the parties involved in issues and helping to find solutions is an extremely significant task, counselling on minimizing issues and maintaining living standards stands as a prominent part of the same. If you act carefully and safely, the adverse consequences caused by many actions can be prevented. In order to function practically and intelligently in the course of everyday life, everybody should be enlightened of the feeling of the subtle knowledge required to act with knowledge and broad understanding. Comprehending this matter carefully, the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka has taken steps to establish the Project Division under the supervision of the Legal Division, in order to safeguard the security, protection and the rights of the people. Under this, planning, implementation and organization of legal knowledge and education programs are carried out.

1. In dispute resolution, a mediation without issues is more advantageous.
2. As it is a vain effort to apologise for an act committed on ignorance of law, for the purpose of protecting yourself from the consequences of any wrongdoing occurred or committed, "ignorance of law is not an excuse". Therefore, the socialization of legal knowledge is a matter with timely importance.

3. Further, contributing to the qualitative development, and increasing social inclusion for sustainable development by developing the lawfulness of society,
 4. Examining the timely requirements and proposals that need to be made when imposing new laws
 5. Advancement of personal legal literacy
- are key objectives that are focused on, during the formulation and implementation of programmes and projects.

These programs are organized in collaboration with the Legal Division of the Legal Aid Commission, the staff of the local Legal Aid offices, various government institutions and NGOs, and the community participation. The programs were implemented with the government funds as well as the financial assistance of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), SAFE Foundation and the assistance and cooperation of various Non-Governmental Organisations. In addition, we were able to implement mass media programs without any financial costs.

1.8.1 Service Promotion Activities

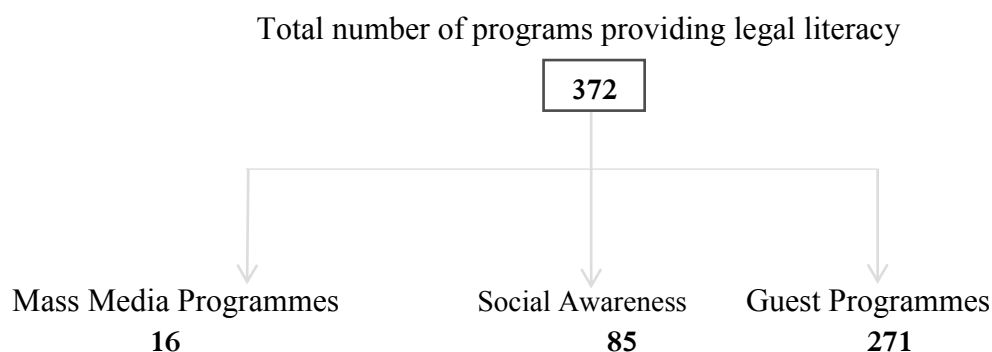
1.8.1. A. Mass media programmes

1.8.1. B. Social participation programs for awareness creation

1.8.1. C. Developmental legal aid programmes

- Units for prison detainees, indigenous people, overseas labor force, women, children and senior citizens.
- Law education programs
- Dialogues and discourse among scholars and various communities
- Preparation of leaflets, posters and publications to socialize the knowledge on law.
- Conducting research and survey required to obtain the views and suggestions necessary for the new legislation.

The total number of programs organized and resourced by the Programs and Projects Division of the Legal Aid Commission during this year, is 463. Those programs are divided as follows;



1.8.1 A Massmedia Programmes

Programmes for the socialization of legal knowledge were continued to educate the public on various TV channels, radio channels and newspapers in the year 2024 as well.

Massmedia Programmes in 2024 - 16

No.	Programme	Number of programmes
01	TV Programmes	13
02	Radio Programmes	03

1.8.1 A.1 Television & Radio Programmes

Most of the Television and Radio programmes are invitational programmes. The Commission has not made any financial expenditure for these programmes. During the period from January to December, 31st of 2024, TV programmes have been conducted through Jaya TV, Charana TV, Swarnvahini, Siyatha TV, Channel Eye, Monara TV.

No.	Mass Media Channel	No. of Programmes
01	Jaya TV	1
02	Charana TV	4
03	Swarnvahini	1
04	Siyatha TV	5
05	Channel Eye	1
06	Monara TV	1
07	Rajarata Sewaya	3

The resource contribution for the above programs have been made by the officers employed in the Legal Aid Commission Head Office as well as those in the local offices in Kaduwela, Kadawatha and Kekirawa.

1.8.1.A Through Newspapers

The project implemented by the Legal Aid Commission by means of newspapers to respond to the public concerns and to generate a readership among readers wishing to obtain legal knowledge through weekly newspapers has been continued since 2006.

It becomes clear when tracing the telephone calls and letters that are received daily by the Legal Aid Commission that, these programmes have received immense popularity among the readers across the island regardless of age.

In the year 2024, the Legal Aid Commission has provided the contribution of the media unit for publications under the title “Know the Guilt line right and fight” in the Mavibima newspaper.

A. 1.8.1.B. Social Participatory programs for raising awareness

Further, government field officers, police officers and medical health officers have been identified as target groups in order to provide legal literacy with the intention of creating a strong and efficient state mechanism.

1.8.1.B.1 Programs for Public Officers

In general, the programs offered on legal knowledge are focused on all government officials, while officers engaged in other specific fields also benefit from the legal knowledge provided by those programmes. This is carried out as a part of the Legal Aid Commission for developing the professional capacity of public officers, forming an efficient state mechanism and producing a law-abiding, honest and satisfied public servant.

These programmes have been carried out in a number of government, semi government, and provincial offices throughout the country by the project division of the Commission and the Regional Legal Aid Commission offices in collaboration with each other. The areas covered in this respect are administrative law, human rights law, land laws, bribery and corruption law, labor law and family law. Plans have been put in place to deliver programs via lectures and impart knowledge through tutorials and training courses.

Targeted groups include Samurdhi officers, Grama Niladharis, Agricultural Research and Production Assistants, Family Health Officers, and field officers from Divisional Secretariats as a whole.

1.8.1.B.2 Programs for Police Officers

The statecraft that plays a significant part in maintaining law and order is the police force. Every officer in the police service should be well-versed in the legal system and the judiciary. Although an insight on the legal field is given at the recruitment of officers to the police service, the knowledge they gain on the subsequent legal changes and the new laws and regulations after the recruitment is rudimentary. The opportunity for gathering information is also rare.

Therefore, programs that provide an understanding on law should be carried out, in order to build professional skills of the police officers. An awareness and training programme on legal knowledge is being implemented jointly by the Legal Aid Commission and the Sri Lanka Police Department for the officers serving in various police stations island wide in this regard for a long while. Just as Criminal Law, the police officers will be given knowledge in civil and administrative fields as well.

1.8.1.B.3 Programs for Medical Officers

Compared to other government officials, Medical Officers are a group of public officers who have little opportunity to gain legal knowledge despite the fact that they have to deal with it often in their line of work. Eventhough on certain occasions, medical officers have to cooperate in Court procedures, only a few doctors are able to receive a formal training on how to cooperate in such procedures. It is a morbid question that many medico-legal officers are confronted with.

Medico-legal officers face serious challenges during autopsy, when appearing before Courts to give evidence regarding the same, on occasions where they obtain expertise evidence required for Court proceedings and, in collecting, presenting and analyzing the production of cases.

Similarly, although Medical Health Officers often need to assist in judicial work in their professional field, they lack knowledge in the legal field as well. Therefore, educating medical practitioners on law means improving their professionalism as well as an immense help in strengthening the process of administering social justice, welfare and equity.

Just as awareness programmes on the subject of law for medical practitioners are conducted, a special service has been rendered to the public through legal medical clinics. Officers from the centers of the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka Island wide have joined hands with Medical Professionals in community health service on the prevention of non communicable diseases.

1.8.1.B.4 Mobile Legal Clinics

The Mobile Legal Aid Clinic is the most important project for the realization of goals and objectives of the establishment of the Legal Aid Commission. This will help to broaden the legal aid program among grassroot communities and identify problems, enabling the general public to have an easy access to justice. This program is implemented at a grassroot level through the local legal aid offices in the country. It is made easier to identify suitable persons to provide free legal assistance for low-income people.

1.8.1.B.i Programmes conducted in 2024 and their distribution is as follows;

	Programme	No. of programmes
01	Raising awareness among indigenous people	03
02	Raising awareness among public officers	23
03	Raising awareness among the public	24
04	Raising awareness among elderly people	04
05	Raising awareness among women about the law	06
06	Raising awareness among prison inmates	09
07	Raising awareness among school children	12
08	Raising awareness among fishing community	01
09	Raising awareness of Samurdhi officers and beneficiaries	03
	Grand Total	85

1.8.1.B.ii An Analytical overview of Awareness Programmes conducted in 2024- 86

N o.	Province	Centre	Date of the Programme	Loction	Expected Group	No. of Participants
1	Western	Colombo	12.06.2024	Dalukana Primary School-Polonnaruwa	Indigenous People (Children & elderly people)	150
2			24.07.2024	Dambana Primary School-Mahiyanganaya	Indigenous People (Children & elderly people)	133
3			18 & 19.12.2024	Sri Lanka Foundation Institute	LAC Management Assistants	100
4		Avisawella	20.02.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Deraniyagala	Government Officials	85
5			11.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Yatiyanthota	Public	60
6		Attanagalla	29.02.2024	Malwatte Sri Bodhi Viharaya	Community	58
7			12.03.2024	Mathalana School	School Children, Parents, Teachers	62
8		Battaramulla	28.03.2024	Samurdhi Bank, Papiliyana	Public	57
9		Borella	06.03.2024	Sebastian Tamil School	Public	60
10		Gampaha	05.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Gampaha	Samurdhi Beneficiaries	52
11		Horana	11.03.2024	Kalutara Prison	Inmates	100
12			25.06.2024	Divisional Secretariat	Gram Officers	10
13		Homagama	02.03.2024	Biththikumbura Ancient Rajamaha Viharaya, Homagama	Elderly People	60
14			05.07.2024	Meeting Hall, Court Complex, Homagama	Lawyers	50
15			27.07.2024	Meeting Hall, Court Complex, Homagama	Police officers	50
16		Kalutara	29.02.2024	Waskaduwa Sastrarama Viharaya	General Public	60
17		Kadawatha	21.03.2024	Cultural Centre-Kelaniya	General Public	61

18		Mt. Lavinia	25.09.2024	Kamkaru Sevana	Labourers	51
19		Minuwangoda	17.02.2024	Divisional Secretariat	General Public & Grama Niladhari Officers	100
20		Negombo	19.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Negombo	General Public	60
21		Nugegoda	29.03.2024	Sanasa Hall, Gangodawila	Public Officers	78
22		Panadura	04.03.2024	Fishing Community Hall	Fishermen	61
23		Pugoda	05.03.2024	Lunugama Rajamaha Vihara	General Public	60
24		Wattala	27.02.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Wattala	Grama Niladhari Officers	60
25	Southern	Galle	06.03.2024	Kannangara Vidyalaya	School Children & Parents	95
26			15.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat	General Public	103
27		Matara	19.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Welipitiya	General Public & Public Officers	68
28		Balapitiya	13.12.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Karadeniya	General Public	60
29		Hambantota	15.03.2024	Deva Sabha Hall, Hambantota	General Public	60
30		Tangalle	18.03.2024	Office of the MOH, Marakolliya	Pregnant mothers & Women	72
31		Morawaka (Deniyaya)	19.03.2024	Community Hall, Yatithoragala, Waralla	General Public	60
32		Deyyandara	07.03.2024	Sudarshanarama, Deyyandara	School Children	69
33		Tissamaharama	11.03.2024	District Secretariat, Tissamaharama	General Public	60
34		Baddegama	12.02.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Neluwa	Public Officers	116
35			21.02.2024	Vocational Training Centre	School Children	137
36			04.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Thawalama	Public Officers	92
37		Hatton	15.03.2024	Sumana Maha Vidyalaya, Thalawakele	School Children	150
38		Kandy	22.03.2024	Probation Office Auditorium, Kandy	Community Based Correction	55
39		Nuwara Eliya	28.02.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Nuwara Eliya	General Public	48
40		Nawalapitiya	14.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Pasbage Korale	Development Officers	60

41		Galagedara	21.03.2024	Pujapitiya Divisional Secretariat Auditorium	Women's Society Members	63
42	North Central	Anuradhapura				
43		Hingurakgoda	02.03.2024	Ulpath Elagama Temple	Low-income earners	60
44		Polonnaruwa	21.03.2024	Kandakadu Rehab Centre	Rehabilitation inmates	100
45			21.03.2024	Tertiary and Vocational Literacy Training Center, Nawa Senapura	Rehabilitation inmates	100
46			12.06.2024	Dalukana Primary School	Indigenous people	104
47			28.06.2024	Tertiary and Vocational Literacy Training Center, Nawa Senapura	Rehabilitation inmates	63
48			01.10.2024	Tertiary and Vocational Literacy Training Center, Nawa Senapura	Rehabilitation inmates	35
49		Thambuttegama	20.02.2024	Nalchiya Gamunu Hall	General Public	60
50	East ern	Mawanella	25.03.2024	Diyasunnath Temple, Rambukkana	General Public	110
51		Balangoda	13.02.2024	Weligepola Temple	General Public	61
52		Rathnapura	05.03.2024	Technical College, Rathnapura	School Children	60
53			12.03.2024	Rahula Vidyalaya, Lellupitiya, Rathnapura	School Children	60
54		Kegalle	02.02.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Kegalle	Grama Niladhari	100
55			02.05.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Galgamuwa	Development Officers	100
56		Warakapola	25.03.2024	MAS, Thulhiriya	Employees	58
57		Mahawa	30.05.2024	Judicial Complex- Mahawa	General Public	
58		Galgamuwa	27.02.2024	Sudassipura Meditation Centre	Elderly people	57
59		Nikaweratiya	26.02.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Rasnayakapura	Public Officers	59
60		Puttalam	13.03.2024	Medagama Pragathi Hall	School Children & Parents	100
61		Wariyapola	06.03.2024	Women's Development Service Cooperative Society	Women	79
62		Hettipola	19.03.2024	Community Hall, Koswatta	General Public	140
63		Ampara	16.03.2024	Community Hall, Damana	General Public	48

64		Mutur	28.03.2024	District Secretariat, Muthur	Public Officers	100
65		Akkareipattu	26.02.2024	Alayadiwembu Sri Ramakrishna College	School Children	90
66		Pottuwil	21.02.2024	RDS Hall Hidayat	General Public	73
67		Batticaloa	07.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Arayampathy	Officers	60
68		Trincomalee	27.02.2024	Illuppaikkulam Community Hall	General Public	55
69			09.03.2024	R.D.H.S. Munaichenai, Kinniya	General Public	65
70		Valaichchenai	06.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Koraleipattu West, Oddamavadi	Officers	53
71			11.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Koraleipattu West, Oddamavadi	General Public	55
72		Kalmunei	22.02.2024	Divisional Secretariat	Samurdhi Beneficiaries	144
73		Dehiattakandiya	09.05.2024	National Youth Services Council, Padiyathalawa	General Public	56
74		Vavuniya	18.03.2024	Punthottam	Prison Inmates	106
75			12.06.2024	Punthottam	Prison Inmates	30
76			29.10.2024	Punthottam	Prison Inmates	53
77		Mallakam	13.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Tellipillei	General Public	60
78	Uva	Badulla	29.02.2024	Bar Association Auditorium	Public Officers	60
79		Monaragala	08.09.2024	Prison, Monaragala	Prison Inmates	33
80		Bandarawela	11.03.2024	Sri Bodhirajarama Temple, Warakadanda	General Public	54
81			14.03.2024	Diyathalawa Divisional Secretariat Auditorium	General Public	78
82		Welimada	16.03.2024	Dambawinna Temple	Pensioners	61
83		Mahiyanganaya	07.03.2024	Women's Society, Weragama	General Public	63
84			24.07.2024	Dambana Junior School, Mahiyanganaya	Children & Elderly People	133
85		Wellawaya	06.03.2024	Buduruwagala National School Auditorium	Samurdhi Beneficiaries	60
86		Siyambalanduwa	18.03.2024	Gami Diriya Centre, Buddhama	General Public	60

1.8.1. C Developmental legal aid programs

In general, the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka has identified groups such as prison inmates, aborigines and migrant workers as special groups that require attention as a welfare government while focusing on empowering children, women, and the elderly people who are considered to be the weaker sections of society and securing their legal protection and security. The Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka has established separate units for them and various programs are carried out through those units.

1.8.1C.1. Program Unit for Children

The ideal age for mingling with any kind of knowledge is the schoolchildren. It is very easy to educate the adult society through the child, by motivating their interest in curiosity, the thirst for knowledge and quest for new information. The School Programs Division of the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka, which evolved through this concept, launched school programs in several forms.

These programs also addressed children's rights to education, love, and care, as well as the distribution of information that would help keep them safe from harm. These initiatives, which focused on the most challenging academic areas, were put into place throughout the island.

1.8.1.C.2 Program for Women

These programs are centered around rural women, semi-urban and urban women. The program focuses on the laws that protect women's as well as all forms of violence against her and provides legal protection as required.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, special attention has been paid to the implementation of various programs throughout Sri Lanka that raise awareness of laws that impact women's daily lives, including those pertaining to labor laws, property protection, maintenance, divorce, domestic violence, and fundamental rights. It has offered access to legal aid, a variety of discourses, and legal educational programs. There have also been programs offering legal education, various discourses, and advice on how to get legal help.

Further, the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka was able to represent the National Women's Committee this year.

Providing legal aid in courts for women who are helpless in the face of gender-based oppression against women

No.	Category	Number of Cases
01	Divorce	2400
02	Domestic Violence	293
Total		2693

1.8.1.C.3 Programs for senior citizens

Sri Lanka, one of the most developing countries in the world, is fast becoming a nation of rapidly aging populations and is experiencing a very significant demographic change. Demographers predict that the adult population, which is about 1/10 of the country's entire population, will double by 2050. Increasing the life expectancy of a country or increasing the aging population is on the one hand a sign of a developed country but on the other hand the under development of other necessary welfare facilities in comparison to the growing elderly population is a challenge.

It is practically proven that by forming a team with high manpower and armed with experience and knowledge, very tangible results can be achieved.

Since there was a 30-year long war in Sri Lanka, the number of senior citizens has increased significantly, and there should be a guarantee on the protection and security of senior citizens for enforcing the social welfare concept and administration of justice. The senior citizen community, which constitutes 11% of the total population, constitutes 20% of the voters. In that context, the Parliament of Sri Lanka has affirmed that value in the enactment of the Protection of the Rights of Elders Act No. 9 of 2000.

In this backdrop, the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka has implemented its Senior Citizen's Law Division in collaboration with the National Secretariat for Elders. The Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka is in the process of helping the members of the Elders' Associations at the local level to obtain free solutions to their legal issues and enforcing orders issued by the National Elders' Secretariat regarding maintenance for elders through the Magistrate's Court. Further, Legal Awareness Programs are also implemented for the members of local grassroot elders' societies.

1.8.1.C.4. Program for Prison Inmates

Prisoners are human beings. Since 1984, the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka has focused on this concept. Accordingly, the key objective of this program is to provide legal aid to the detainees who have been without bail or are unable to satisfy the bail conditions for a long period of time in jail. Accordingly, the Prisons Department and the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka are conducting legal aid clinics for prison inmates throughout the country and collecting necessary information. After obtaining information, the inmates chosen for legal assistance will be given free attorneys' assistance for their cases.

1.8.1.C.5 Program for Indigenous People

Aboriginal communities who inherit a history of many years live in different parts of the world. Notable among them are the Red Indians of America, the Pygmies of Africa, the Aborigines of Australia, and the Veddas of Sri Lanka.

These people, who represent the earliest part of Sri Lankan history, are in the early stages of several aspects such as education, economic, health, employment and habitat. It is imperative that they acquire legal literacy and are provided with legal aid to improve their living conditions in line

with the new world. Further, the safeguarding the indigenous community is also a part of upholding our nation's obligation to preserve its historical legacy.

The focus of the government should be on empowering the mechanism to facilitate easy and equal access to justice for the protection of indigenous peoples' heritage and the privileges granted to the public by the Constitution of Sri Lanka, and to make more flexible and effective legal reforms. The opportunity should be broadened for all communities to enjoy the rights of justice and equality. The main objective of this project is to draw the government's attention on these issues and make legal reforms.

One of the main objectives of this project is to meet the indigenous people spread across different parts of Sri Lanka and to identify the current challenges associated with their homeland, traditional customs, their lives, livelihoods, educational levels and habitats. Accordingly, bringing up a discourse on legal issues affecting the everyday life of indigenous people takes a predominant place among the objectives of this project. Further, Hon. Minister of Justice has been informed of the need for the legislation of new laws to protect the heritage rights of the indigenous people and research was carried out on the same during the year.

1.8.1.C.6 Program for Migrant Workers

It is important to ensure special security and protection for job security and safety of lives of migrant workers who contribute to the economy of Sri Lanka by bringing foreign exchange to the country. The number of Sri Lankan migrant workers is increasing day by day, and new legal provisions have been established to ensure their safety and protection so that it prevents illegal migration and thereby the protection and security of migrant workers is strengthened. Most of our migrant workers are Sri Lankan women and this is due to their poverty and low income level. Most of them in the Middle East are either unskilled workers, housemaids and semi-skilled workers. The Middle East region has an opportune market and demand for most of those who are temporarily moving abroad. The market for skilled and qualified foreign workers has expanded to East Asia and West Asia.

Many Sri Lankan migrant women work as housemaids in the Middle East region. Most of these housemaids are victims of human rights violations, such as loss of labor rights, abuse, physical and mental harassment at their workplace, due to lack of skills and efficiency. Likewise, some migrant women are embarrassed when they are faced with crimes and offenses abroad. Most people are ignorant about law enforcement in those countries.

This division provides services to migrant workers who are facing problems. Upon completion of consultancy service, they will be directed to the Consular Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment for judicial work when necessary. The unit works in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE), overseeing the Community Fund forum (Village Forum) at Divisional Secretariat level, to raise awareness of migrant workforce families. 14 awareness programmes have been conducted this year.

1.8.1.C.7 Program for Samurdhi Beneficiaries

The Legal Aid Commission in collaboration with the Department of Samurdhi has created a database by collecting details of the Samurdhi beneficiaries with legal problems through which a prompt legal consultancy for the legal issues by giving priority to litigation and thus to administer Justice has been arranged.

1.8.1.C.9 Legal Education Programme

1.8.1.C.9. i The formal legal education program

This programme is implemented in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Law College. The purpose is to train amateur lawyers who take oaths as lawyers a year. Between January and December this year, apprentice lawyers were trained in one group, and the Commission has obtained the service of external resource persons including senior veteran presidential attorneys.

1.8.1.C.9. ii Training Programme for Law Students

This program is being implemented upon the request made to the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka by the Faculty of Law, University of Peradeniya, Law Students of APIIT Institute and the second and third year students of the Faculty of Law, Kotelawala Defence University. The program, which provides practical training to these students at the head office and various regional centers in the island, was carried out in the year 2024.

1.8.3 Participation of the Legal Aid Commission for Guest Programs

The invitation extended to the Legal Aid Commission by various organizations and social organizations for the resource contribution to programs conducted by them is a great honor for us in the legal profession and at a corporate level. In addition to the judicial duties of the Legal Aid Commission, it is a tremendous service that they have made their contribution as lecturers at awareness programmes of various social organizations and institutions, as legal counselors at mobile clinics and workshop facilitators. Similarly, the honour given to the Legal Aid Commission by the institutions who made these invitations is gratefully acknowledged.

Services provided by the Legal Aid Commission, i.e. resource contribution is based on the legal conditions related to, sexual harassment, fundamental rights, child abuse, women's rights, sexual violence, laws for the elderly people, human trafficking, labor laws, land laws and civil records, legal conditions on social issues required for everyday life, family law, women affected by war, Muslim women, women working abroad.

1.8.3.i Participation of the Legal Aid Commission for Guest Programs

In 2024, upon invitation the Legal Aid Commission has provided resource contribution for **215** legal awareness programmes.

	Province	Centre	Programme Date	Location	Expected Participants	No. of participants
1	Western	Colombo	30.04.2024	UNICEF (Positive and non-violent discipline, alternatives to physical punishments)	Lawyers	
2			19.06.2024	District Secretariat, Matara	General Public	
3			19.06.2024	District Children and Women Committee Meeting (Galle District Secretariat)		
4			19 & 20.10.2024	Training Programme Organized by UNFPA and Ministry of Justice	LAC Legal Officers	
5			25.11.2024	16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (March from Independence Square to Municipal Council)		
6			01.12.2024	Wijayaba Maha Vidyalaya, Grandpass	A group of people who can speak Sinhala and Tamil	60
7			13.12.2024	Faculty of Postgraduate Studies, University of Colombo	A group of people who can speak Sinhala	200
8			15.12.2024	Zam Rifai Hajiya Maha Vidyalaya, Beruwala	A group of people who can speak Tamil	60
9			16,17 & 18.12.2024	MISP Readiness Assessment (MRA) Workshop Courtyard By Marriott, Colombo		
10		Avisawella	03.08.2024	Grand Divine Hotel, Kosgama	Lawyers	
11			18 & 19.12.2024	Sri Lanka Foundation Institute		
12			20.06.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Ruwanwella		
13			27.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Dehiowita		
14		Attanagalla	14.02.2024	MAS Active (Pvt) Ltd., Malwatta	Employees	20
15			11.11.2024	MAS Active (Pvt) Ltd., Malwatta	Employees	25
16			23.12.2024	MAS Active (Pvt) Ltd., Malwatta	Employees	200

17		Borella	07 & 08.12.2024	Renuka Hotel (UNFPA)	Legal Officers	60
18			10.10.2024	ICES Auditorium (Head Office)	Legal Officers & Other	50
19		Horana	31.05.2024	Attorney General's Office, Millaniya	General Public	
20			11.06.2025	Prison, Kalutara	Prison inmates	25
21			13.09.2024	Abhinawarama Vihara, Polgahakanda	General Public	
22			04.10.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Millaniya	General Public	
23			08.10.2024	Wijesiri Hotel (Organized by the Bar Association-Horana)	Lawyers	
24			18.10.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Horana	General Public	
25			19 & 20.10.2024	Maroon Hotel (Organized by the Bar Association-Horana)	Lawyers	
26			05.12.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Horana	General Public	
27			07&08.12.2024	Renuka Hotel	Lawyers	
28			January to December 2024	Office & Home based (Via mobile phone & Skype)	Prison inmates	75
29		Homagama	10.02.2024	Legal Aid Clinic held at Maharagama Vipashyarama Temple (Organized by Maharagama Divisional Secretariat)	Elderly People	
30			15.02.2024	Homagama Divisional Secretariat Auditorium (Organized by Homagama Divisional Secretariat)	Public Officers	
31			17.02.2024	Rukmale Community Hall (Organized by Maharagama Divisional Secretariat)	Elderly People	
32			01.04.2024	Discussion held at UNDP Headquarters (Thummulla)	UNDP Law Students	
33			06.04.2024	Legal Aid Clinic held at Madiwela Sri Rahula Central College (Organized by Maharagama Divisional Secretariat)	Elderly People	
34			22.10.2024	Homagama Divisional Secretariat Auditorium (Organized by Homagama Divisional Secretariat)	Public Officers	
35		Kaduwela		MAS Active Sports (Pvt.) Ltd.	Employees	
36			21.05.2024	Renuka Hotel	Probation Officers	25

37			27.06.2024	MAS Active Fabrics (Pvt.) Ltd.	Employees	
38			24.07.2024	MAS Active Fabrics (Pvt.) Ltd.	Employees	
39			30.07.2024	MAS Active Sports (Pvt.) Ltd.	Employees	
40			16.08.2024	Wellawaya Central College, Kurunegala	Students	
41			28.08.2024	MAS Active Fabrics (Pvt.) Ltd.	Employees	
42			25.09.2024	MAS Linea Aqua (Pvt) Ltd.	Employees	
43				MAS Linea Aqua (Pvt) Ltd.	Employees	
44				MAS Active Fabrics (Pvt.) Ltd.	Employees	
45			25.11.2024	MAS Active Sports (Pvt.) Ltd.	Employees	
46			27.11.2024	National Women's Committee	Staff	
47			20.12.2024	MAS Active Fabrics (Pvt.) Ltd.	Employees	
48		Kalutara	27.02.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Kalutara	Public Officers	100
49			26.06.2024	General Hospital Nagoda, Kalutara	Public Officers	50
50			09.09.2024	Prison Kalutara	Prison inmates	100
51			25.10.2025	Divisional Secretariat, Beruwala	Public Officers	100
52			09.12.2024	Kalutara General Hospital	Public Officers	100
53			17.12.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Kalutara	Officers	100
54		Mathugama	26.06.2024	Kalutara General Hospital Auditorium	Public Officers	150
55			10.09.2024	Prison Kalutara	Prison inmates	40
56			09.12.2024	Nagoda Hospital (Mithuru Piyasa)	Public Officers	120
57		Minuwangoda	05.03.2024	Linea Aqua, Naiwala	Employees	150
58			26.09.2024	Linea Aqua, Naiwala	Employees	150
59			16.07.2024	Divisional Secretariat	Grama Niladhari Officers	19
60		Negombo	25.04.2024	Town Hall Negombo	General Public	
61			03.06.2024	Negombo Hospital	Public Officers	30
62			02.07.2024	Negombo Prison	Male inmates	75
63			23.08.2024	Negombo Prison	Women inmates	20
64		Nugegoda	03.02.2024	Maharagama Wipaksharamaya	Legal Clinic	
65			14.02.2024	Mirihana Police Station	Police Officers	
66			17-02-2024	Main Hall, Rukmale	Legal Clinic	
67			4/25/2024	Police Training, Mirihana Police Station	Police Officers	
68			6/4/2024	Mirihana Police Station	Police Officers	
69			6/14/2024	Police Training, Mirihana Police Station	Police Officers	

70			6/27/2024	Mirihana Divisional Secretariat	General Public	
71			10/8/2024	Library Hall- Kottawa	General Public	
72			19-10-2024	Marriott Hotel	Legal Officers	
73			10/20/2024	Marriott Hotel	Legal Officers	
74			4/12/2024	Mirihana Police Training Center	Police Officers	
75			5/12/2024	Mirihana Police Training Center	Police Officers	
76			30-12-2024	Kalubowila Hospital	General Public	
77		Wattala	28.11.2024	BMICH	Legal Groups	
78			29.11.2024	BMICH	Legal Groups	
79			20.12.2024	Family Health Bureau	Officers	
80	Southern	Galle	18.07.2024	Galle District Office	Samurdhi Beneficiaries	50
81			29.11.2024	DS-Four Gravets	Samurdhi Beneficiaries	50
82			09.12.2024	Habaraduwa	Samurdhi Beneficiaries	50
83			10.12.2024	Neluwa	Samurdhi Beneficiaries	70
84			17.12.2024	Hambantota	Samurdhi Beneficiaries	70
85		Matara	10.02.2024	Southern Mission - Matara Gangabada Park	General Public	300
86			17.03.2024	Rohana Special School	Disabled persons	250
87			22.03.2024	Ruhunu Campus	Youth	180
88			25.03.2024	Ruhunu Campus	Youth	180
89			21.05.2024	Grand Rocklend Hotel	Public Officers	100
90			19.06.2024	District Secretariat, Matara	Women	250
91			23.06.2024	Ruhunu Sumaga-Kamburugamuwa	Disabled persons	150
92			03.07.2024	District Secretariat, Matara	Public Officers	100
93			04.07.2024	Sanora Vivekaya-Kotapola	Public Officers	100
94			27.07.2024	St. Mary's Convent	General Public	60
95			23.08.2024	Prison- Matara	Prison inmates	20
96			25.08.2024	Madhu Church	Religious Leaders & Committee Members	60
97			26.08.2024	Mannar	Religious Leaders & Committee Members	70
98			27.08.2024	Vavuniya	Religious Leaders & Committee Members	60
99			30.08.2024	Zenmira Hotel, Galle	General Public	75
100			12.09.2024	Monaragala	Women	40
101			13.09.2024	Monaragala	Women	40
102			21.10.2024	Riverside	Public Officers	75

103	Central		29.11.2024	District Secretariat, Galle	General Public	60
104			06.12.2024	District Secretariat, Yakkalamulla	General Public	55
105			09.12.2024	District Secretariat, Habaraduwa	General Public	65
106			10.12.2024	District Secretariat, Neluwa	General Public	50
107			17.12.2024	District Secretariat, Hambantota	General Public	60
108			27.12.2024	D.S.Dondra	Public Officers	100
109		Balapitiya	23&24.03. 2024	Colombo (FoRB and Strategic Litigation)	Training for lawyers	
110			29.03.2024	Aradhana Hotel, Galle	Police officers	100
111			11.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Gonapinuwa	Women	100
112			30.03.2024	Ananda Vidyalaya, Elpitiya	General Public	
113			20.03.2024	District Secretariat, Galle	Women and Children	100
114			19.06.2024	District Secretariat, Galle	Women and Children	
115			26.07.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Karadeniya	Child Affairs Officers	
116			31.07.2024	National Committee for Women	Field Officers	
117			15.08.2024	District Secretariat, Galle	School Bus Drivers and Assistants	
118			14.10.2024	District Secretariat, Galle	Children	
119			23.11.2024	Rock Fort Hotel, Unawatuna.	Lawyers	
120		Hambantota	12.12.2024	Hambantota	Public Officers	50
121		Tangalle	06.12.2024	Community Corrections Office - Tangalle	Aswesuma Beneficiaries	25
122		Morawaka (Deniyaya)	12.10.2024	Waralla M.D. Yapa Maha Vidyalaya	General Public	200
123		Deyyandara	18.12.2024	Divisional Secretariat Mulatiyana	Public Officers	150
124		Baddegama	15.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Baddegama	Women	60
125			20.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Galle	Public Officers	25
126			05.05.2024	Southern Province	Deaf persons	68
127			14.06.2024	District Secretariat, Galle	Public Officers	100
128			19.06.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Gonapinuwa	Public Officers	25
129			10.07.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Gonapinuwa	Public Officers	50
130			2024.12.11	Divisional Secretariat, Gonapinuwa	Public Officers	50
131			2024.12.27	District Secretariat, Galle	Public Officers	25
132		Dambulla	09.10.2024	National Youth Services Council, Inamaluwa		50

133		Hatton	21.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Ginigathhena	General Public	200
134			09.01.2024	RDB Bank, Kotagala	Women	100
135		Kandy	14.10.2024	Deltota Divisional Secretariat	General Public	30
136			22.10.2024	Galaha Community Hall	General Public	25
137			07&08.12. 2024	Renuka Hotel, Kollupitiya	Legal Officers	45
138		Nuwara Eliya	03.10.2024	Equity Sri Lanka, Colombo	Estate Officers	
139			17.07.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Nuwara Eliya	General Public	
140			24.07.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Nuwara Eliya	General Public	
141		Galagedara	28.05.2024	AGA Hall - Galagedara	Women's Association Members	
142			25.07.2024	AGA Hall - Galagedara	Women's Association Members	
143			11.09.2024	AGA Hall - Harispattu	General Public	
144			25.09.2024	AGA Hall - Galagedara	Women's Association Members	
145			10.10.2024	AGA Hall - Poojapitiya	Women's Association Members	
146			28.11.2024	AGA Hall - Galagedara	Women's Association Members	
147			28.11.2024	Community Hall - Meegahahena South	Women's Association Members	
148		Theldeniya	29.02.2024	Divisional Secretariat	General Public	25
149			25.03.2024	BOI	Garment Employees	2500
150			18.07.2024	BOI	Garment Employees	2500
151			24.10.2024	BOI	Garment Employees	2500
152			18.12.2024	EMJAY Garment	Garment Employees	500
153	North-Central	Anuradhapura	17.07.2024	Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	30
154			19.07.2024	Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	30
155			06.08.2024	Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	25
156			15.08.2024	Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	30
157			24.08.2024	Army Camp - Anuradhapura	Military personnel	35
158			19.10.2024	Heritage Hotel	Public Officers	30
159			06.11.2024	Popeye Star Hotel	Public Officers	30
160			29.11.2024	Provincial Council	Public Officers	25
161		Hingurakgoda	12.12.2024	Samurdhi Development Department, Polonnaruwa District Office	Low income earners	91

162	Sabaragamuwa		Monthly Meetings	Participation in the Regional Coordination Committee conducted by the Hingurakgoda Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	
163		Kekirawa	10.01.2024	Rajarata University	Students and Officials	150
164			21.02.2024	Bulnewa School	Students	200
165			24.03.2024	Thirippane Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	150
166			24.04.2024	Anuradhapura Heritage Hotel	Public Officers	60
167			22.07.2024	Wickrama Hotel	Students and Parents	100
168			27.09.2024	Thelbiyagama School	Students and Parents	110
169			15.10.2024	Punchikulam School	Public Officers	110
170			23.12.2024	Divisional Secretariat Galnewa	Public Officers	250
171		Polonnaruwa	24.04.2024	Mahanuge Hotel	General Public	30
172			25.04.2024	Mahanuge Hotel	General Public	15
173			11.10.2024	Welaaddara Hotel	Samurdhee Beneficiaries	30
174			12.12.2024	District Car Secretary	Students and Officials	50
175	Sabaragamuwa	Embilipitiya	20.03.2024	Community Based Corrections Office	Community correction officers	29
176			22.03.2024	Mass Active Asia	Employees	3000
177			25.12.2024	Mass Active Asia	Employees	3000
178		Balangoda	01.02.2024	MAS Active Sports, Balangoda	MAS Active Staff	
179			22.04.2024	MAS Active Sports, Balangoda	MAS Active Staff	
180			05.08.2024	MAS Active Sports, Balangoda	MAS Active Staff	
181			20.11.2024	MAS Active Sports, Balangoda	MAS Active Staff	
182		Rathnapura	29.11.2024	St. Joachim's Garden Ratnapura	Tamil Labourers	100
183			22.10.2024	Samurdhi Hall Ratnapura	Public Officers	80
184			13.01.2024	Foreign Bureau	General Public	75
185			22.10.2024	Divisional Secretariat Ratnapura	Public Officers	50
186			19.03.2024	Women's Aid	Public Officers	100
187		Warakapola	19.01.2024	Mass Kreedha Methliya - Thulhiriya	Employees	
188			30.01.2024	Mass Methliya - Thulhiriya	Employees	
189			13.02.2024	Mass Methliya - Thulhiriya	Employees	
190			05.03.2024	Mass Kreedha Methliya - Thulhiriya	Employees	

191			09.04.2024	Maha Vidyayathanaya-Thuruliya	Employees	
192			26.04.2024	Maha Vidyayathanaya-Thuruliya	Employees	
193			31.05.2024	Maha Vidyayathanaya-Thuruliya	Employees	
194			02.07.2024	Mass Intimoo Institute-Thulahiriya	Employees	
195			23.07.2024	Mass Thuruliya Institute- Thulahiriya	Employees	
196			30.07.2024	Mass Intimoo Institute-Thulahiriya	Employees	
197			31.07.2024	Mass Methliya Institute-Thulahiriya	Employees	
198			06.11.2024	Mass Methliya Institute-Thulahiriya	Employees	
199			04.12.2024	Mass Matrix Institute-Thulahiriya	Employees	
200	North-Western	Chilaw	27.08.2024	Chilaw	Public Officers	15
201		Marawila	09.08.2024	Natthandiya Pradeshiya Sabha	Preschool teachers	70
202			29.08.2024	Mudukatuwa Government Raymond Women's Home	Children	60
203			29.08.2024	Mahawewa Library Hall	Adults	60
204		Kuliyapitiya	10.09.2024	Kuli/Kithalawa Polgalla Maha Vidyalaya	Grade 8,9,10 school students	300
205		Polgahawela	12.11.2024	MAS Active Fabric Institute	Employees	6
206			27.11.2024	MAS Active Fabric Institute	Employees	100
207		Hettipola	14.06.2024	Samurdhi Bank Auditorium, Hettipola	Bank staff	50
208			04.07.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Hettipola	Childcare officers and parents	75
209	Eastern	Ampara	31.01.2024	Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	30
210			26.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	30
211			26.03.2024	Chistila Islam - Kalmunai	Community correction officers	80
212			29.06.2024	Ampara Holiday Resort	General Public	60
213			26.10.2024	East Lagoon Holiday Resort, Batticaloa	Lawyers	30
214			07/08.12.2024	Renuka Hotel	Legal Officers	45
215		Muttur	31.08.2024	JKAB Beach Resort, Coastal Road, Trincomalee (Arranged by Head Office)	Legal Officers of the Eastern Province	
216			01.09.2024	JKAB Beach Resort, Coastal Road, Trincomalee (Arranged by Head Office)	Legal Officers of the Eastern Province	
217		Batticaloa	16.04.2024	Green Garden Hotel Batticaloa	Institution staff	15
218			10.10. 2024	Divisional Secretariat Chenkaladi	General Public	

219		Trincomalee	10.12.2024	HRC Trincomalee		
220			16.12.2024	District Secretariat, Trincomalee	Women	
221		Kanthale	06.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat Kantale		
222		Kalmunei	26.06.2024	Divisional Secretariat	Meeting	
223			31.08.2024	JKAB Beach Resort, Coastal Road, Trincomalee (Arranged by Head Office)	Legal Officers of the Eastern Province	
224			26.10.2024	East Lagoon Hotel Batticaloa	Legal Officers	
225			26.12.2024	Divisional Secretariat Samanthurai	Public Officers	
226		Dehiattakandiya	24.07.2024	Dambana Junior College	Students & parents	100
227		Mullaitivu	13.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat - Oddusudan	Public Officers	
228			16.04.2024	Conference Hall, Divisional Secretariat, Muhudu-bada-pattu	Public Officers	
229			19.06.2024	District Secretariat, Mullaitivu	Public Officers	
230			04.07.2024	District Secretariat, Mullaitivu	Public Officers	
231			17.07.2024	District Secretariat, Mullaitivu	Public Officers	
232		Kilinochchi	02.02.2024	Divisional Secretariat	Staff	30
233			20.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat	Staff	45
234			27.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Punagari	Staff	25
235			19.06.2024	Mullaitivu	Public Officers	45
236			24.06.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Mullaitivu	Public Officers	40
237			06.08.2024	Divisional Secretariat	Public Officers	50
238			04.10.2024	Kilinochchi	Government Staff	40
239			24.12.2024	Kilinochchi	Government Staff	45
240			24.12.2024	Kilinochchi	Government Staff	35
241		Mallakam	15.02.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Thellipalai	General Public	30
242			10.06.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Thellipalai	General Public	40
243			09.10.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Thellipalai	General Public & staff	40
244			10.12.2024	Divisional Secretariat, Thellipalai	General Public & staff	60
245	Uva	Badulla	26.04.2024	Heritage Hotel	Samurdhi Beneficiaries	
246			28.06.2024	Heritage Hotel	Samurdhi Beneficiaries	
247			18.06.2024	District Secretariat	General Public	40
248			28.11.2024	District Secretariat, Badulla	Public Officers	40

249			03.12.2024	District Secretariat, Hali Ela	Public Officers	30
250			05.04.2024	Horombuwa Community Hall	General Public	30
251			05.04.2024	Ruby Hotel Monaragala	NGO officials and lawyers	15
252			24.04.2024	Divisional Secretariat Monaragala	Public Officers	50
253			25.04.2024	Community Based Centre Siriwijayapura	General public	40
254			29.04.2024	Capital Hotel Monaragala	Public Officers	15
255			30.04.2024	Capital Hotel Monaragala	Public Officers	17
256			09.09.2024	Attorney General's Office -Monaragala	General public	20
257			07.10.2024	Govi Sevana Maduruketiya	LAC legal officers	31
258			19 & 20.10.2024	Marriott Hotel Colombo	General public	60
259			22.11.2024	Baduluwela Community Hall	Medical officers and staff	200
260			06.12.2024	District Hospital Monaragala	LAC legal officers	60
261			07 & 08.12.2024	Renuka City Hotel	General public	60
262			10.12.2024	Auditorium -Attorney General's Office, Monaragala	General public	75
263			13.12.2024	Madugasmulla Community Hall	General public	30
264			13.12.2024	Gewela Community Hall	Garment Employees	30
265		Mahiyanganaya	08.04.2024	Gemunupura Shade Line	Garment Employees	50
266			08.07.2024	Shade Line Garments	Women	100
267			12.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat Siyambalanduwa	NGO officials and lawyers	250
268			20.03.2024	Divisional Secretariat Siyambalanduwa	Child Development Committee Members	100
269			09.10.2024	Mo/Siya/Ethimale Maha Vidyalaya	Children	120
270			16.10.2024	Divisional Secretariat Siyambalanduwa	Child Development Committee Members	100
271			18.12.2024	Divisional Secretariat Siyambalanduwa	Child Development Committee Members	100

1.8.4 Program conducted with the National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses

The Legal Aid Commission provides legal representation to victims of criminal cases filed with the Authority to appear in court on behalf of their rights. This is carried out through coordination between the two institutions.

1.8.5 Program conducted in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Child Protection Authority

Discussions are underway between the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka and the Child Welfare Authority to develop a methodology for their role in child related cases, and a series of discussions were held under the auspices of UNICEF to develop a database on child-related cases within the process of administration of justice. This is expected to be implemented practically during the year 2024.

1.8.6 'Regional conference 'Achieving just societies: Inclusive justice pathways for people and planet in Asia and the Pacific' 11-13 November 2024, UN Conference Center'.

The conference was attended by an official representative and focus was made on reviewing the contribution made towards addressing issues existing at the regional level in relation to access to legal aid. Furthermore, the importance of regional cooperation in implementing legal aid programs within the Asian region, as well as the value of knowledge-sharing and training initiatives, was also discussed, along with the formulation of a mechanism for such networking.

1.8.7 Other Programmes conducted under the auspice of UNDP

- Holding sessions to exchange ideas with other organizations providing legal aid for marginalized communities.
- Launching programs parallel to the JURE Project.

Development & Management Division

2. Development & Management Division

2.1 Infrastructure Facilities

2.1.1 Office Equipment

The provision of all necessary facilities including essential books, documents and other stationery, office equipment, computer accessories and photocopiers to the Legal Aid Centres for smooth and efficient provision of legal aid services. The problem of lack of adequate space equally for all centres and the inadequacy of the existing space continues to persist.

2.1.2 Renovation of buildings

Renovation of sanitary facilities at the Head Office and carrying out minor repairs at regional centers under the existing provisions.

2.1.3 Observation of Regional Centres

In 2024 as well, monitoring of regional offices was carried out systematically, identifying their issues and shortcomings, taking necessary actions, and conducting follow-ups. Through this, the legal aid center network was maintained more efficiently and with better coordination.

2.1.4 Staff Training

Participation of Officers in Training Programmes - 2024

No.	Date	Training Programme	Name of the Officer
01	20 & 21.02.2024	Office Employees' Service Duty Training	Ms. Waruni Pahalagama Office Employee
02	02.04.2024	File Management	Ms. Uthpala Maduwanthi Management Assistant
03	06.06.2024	Office Management and Financial Regulations	Ms. Harshani Nisansala Management Assistant
04	30.10.2024 & 29.11.2024	Financial Analysis and Forecasting	Mr. Chinthaka Munasinghe Assistant/Deputy Director (Finance)

During this year, Efficiency Bar examination for Legal Officers was conducted on 18.05.2024 by the Institute for the Training of Non-Judicial Officers, which functions under the Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms. Approximately 57 Legal Officers sat for the examination.

The last Management Assistants' workshop had been held in 2022. Accordingly, a training workshop for all Management Assistants island-wide serving in the Legal Aid Commission was conducted on 18th and 19th December 2024 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute, with the participation of about 100 Management Assistants. The workshop provided them with necessary training for their official duties as well as guidance to resolve issues encountered in their day-to-day work.

2.1.5 New Recruitments

The new recruitments made by the Legal Aid Commission in the year 2024 are as follows.

No.	Post	No. of Officers
01	Director General	01
02	Assistant/Deputy Director (Finance)	01
03	Legal Officer	08
01	Management Assistant (Technical)	01
02	Attachment of Multi-purpose Assistant	01
Total		12

Financial Activities

REPORTING ENTITY

The Legal Aid Commission was established by the Legal Aid Act No. 27 of 1978. Its main objective is to provide legal aid to "eligible persons" in Sri Lanka. The role of the Legal Aid Commission is to offer legal advice and free legal representation to low-income groups, as well as to raise awareness about legal procedures throughout society. Many activities, including representation in courts and other institutions, were carried out during the year.

1.1 Cadre

The cadre of the Legal Aid Commission as at 31st December 2024 was 274.

1.2 Financial Period

The financial period covers a period of twelve months from 01st January 2024 to 31st December 2024.

2. Significance of Accounting Policies

2.1 Responsibility for Financial Statements

The Board of Directors hold responsibility for financial statements.

2.2 Approval of Financial Statements

The financial statements were approved by the Commission's Board of Study and authorized for issue on 21st February, 2025.

2.3 Basis of Measurement

The financial statements of the commission have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

The financial statements are presented in Sri Lankan Rupee, which are the functional currency and the Commission's presentation currency.

2.4 Comparative Information

To enhance understanding and comparability of the financial statements in the current period, comparative information has been disclosed for all amounts reported in the financial statements, including quantitative and detailed information, relating to the previous period. Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified to conform to the classification in the current year, in order to provide better presentation.

2.5 Going Concern

The going concern basis has been used as the foundation for determining the basis of preparation of the financial statements for the year ended 31st December, 2024.

Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka
Statement of Financial Position
as at 31st December 2024

Item	Notes	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
		(Rs.)	(Rs.)
<u>Assets</u>			
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	1	224,866.55	1,908,024.12
Cash & Advances receivable	2	867,509.17	2,428,013.12
Prepayments	3	1,298,433.07	-
Investments	4	9,144,650.25	7,748,671.22
Balance stock of consumables	5	226,791.96	-
Total Current Assets		11,762,251.00	12,084,708.46
<u>Non-Current Assets</u>			
Property, Plant & Equipment	6	45,569,190.25	52,846,332.23
Total Assets		57,331,441.25	64,931,040.69
<u>Liabilities</u>	-		
<u>Current Liabilities</u>	-		
Tax payable	7	25,828.65	-
Income received in advance	8	79,000.00	-
Other current liabilities	9	6,673,221.27	2,385,558.53
Employee benefits	10	530,923.64	5,363.94
		7,308,973.56	2,390,922.47
<u>Non-Current Liabilities</u>	-		
Allocation for Employee Gratuity	11	108,809,964.71	84,801,589.46
		108,809,964.71	84,801,589.46
Total Liabilities		116,118,938.27	87,192,511.93
<u>Net Assets/ Rights</u>		(58,787,497.02)	(22,261,471.24)
Deferred Liability		-	66,271,526.90
Revaluation Reserve		2,518,202.28	2,518,202.00
Retained Reserve		(61,305,699.30)	(91,051,200.14)
Net Assets/ Rights		(58,787,497.02)	(22,261,471.24)

Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka
Statement of Financial Performance
as at 31st December 2024

Item	Notes	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
		(Rs.)	(Rs.)
<u>Revenue</u>			
<u>Exchange Transaction</u>	-		
Income through operational activities	12	1,240,989.74	1,553,030.00
Non-Operational activities income	13	853,039.94	1,236,652.33
Internally generated income		2,094,029.68	2,789,682.33
<u>Non-Exchange Transaction</u>			
Treasury imprests- Recurrent		307,304,504.75	270,554,542.50
Treasury imprests- Capital-Foreign-UNDP Programme		5,140,119.00	10,027,682.50
Treasury imprests- Capital acquisitions & improvements		10,535,925.20	5,653,440.63
Total income		325,074,578.63	289,025,347.96
(-) Expenditure			
Treasury imprests- Capital-Foreign-UNDP Programme			
Expenditure	14	5,140,119.00	10,158,186.50
Personal Emoluments & Wages	15	302,280,370.36	242,226,705.02
Travel Expenses	16	1,019,243.24	717,261.00
Supply & demand	17	3,817,551.66	4,395,396.60
Maintenance Expenses	18	5,450,589.52	8,006,756.39
Fuel & utility payments	19	9,806,246.40	9,631,122.26
Research, Development & Training Expenses	20	2,641,852.60	2,747,476.70
Financial Cost	21	27,948.96	30,250.00
Depreciation		14,287,770.18	14,347,959.83
Other expenses	22	11,344,243.92	5,566,577.71
Toatl Expenditure		355,815,935.84	297,827,692.01
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period		(30,741,357.21)	(8,802,344.05)

Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka
Statement of Change in Equity for the year ended on 31st December 2024

Item	Retained Reserves	Revalued Reserves	Deferred Liability	Grand Total
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
Initial balance as at 01st January 2023	(82,174,743.29)	5,800,525.11	58,326,894.70	(18,047,323.48)
Adjustments for the Year	(74,112.85)	-	-	(74,112.85)
Deficit for the 2023 Period	(8,802,344.00)	-	-	(8,802,344.00)
Revaluation of motor vehicles	-	(3,282,322.83)	-	(3,282,322.83)
(+/-) Deferred income transferred	-	-	7,944,632.20	7,944,632.20
Final balance as at 31st December 2023	(91,051,200.14)	2,518,202.28	66,271,526.90	(22,261,470.96)
Initial balance as at 01st January 2024	(91,051,200.14)	2,518,202.28	66,271,526.90	(22,261,470.96)
Correction of Advance Accounts	-	-	(351,347.56)	(351,347.56)
Correction of Cancelled Check - Capital Acquisition - 2023	-	-	(3,525,297.00)	(3,525,297.00)
Transfer of initial bank balance to government revenue	(1,908,024.29)	-	-	(1,908,024.29)
" SLPSAS-11 Compliance Non-Exchange Transactions	62,394,882.34	-	(62,394,882.34)	-
Deficit of the year	(30,741,357.21)	-	-	(30,741,357.21)
Balance as of 31/12/2024 for the reporting year	(61,305,699.30)	2,518,202.28	-	(58,787,497.02)

Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka
Statement of Indirect Cash Flow
for the year ended on 31st December 2024

Item	2024	2023
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
<u>Cash flow from operational activities</u>		
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the reporting period	(30,741,357.21)	(8,802,344.05)
Adjustment-Property, Plant & Equipment -2024	3,525,297.00	(74,112.85)
Adjustment- Excessive interest income	(163,006.96)	-
<u>(+/-) Adjustments</u>		
Depreciation	14,287,770.18	14,347,959.83
Gratuity payments	29,886,162.75	7,714,605.36
Profit from fixed assets	(47,130.00)	-
Interest income – Fixed Deposits	(602,846.76)	(5,938,586.96)
Treasury grants/ imprests - Capital acquisitions & improvements	(10,535,925.20)	-
Operating surplus/(deficit) before working capital movements)	5,608,963.80	7,247,521.33
<u>Working capital movements</u>		
(Increase) / Decrease in receivables and advances	1,560,503.95	1,032,775.44
(Increase) / Decrease in accrued expenses	(1,298,433.07)	-
(Increase) / Decrease in balance stocks	(226,791.96)	-
(Increase) / Decrease in taxes payable	25,828.65	-
(Increase) / (Decrease) in accrued income	79,000.00	-
(Increase) / (Decrease) in other current liabilities	4,287,662.74	84,869.70
(Increase) / (Decrease) in employee benefits	37,672.20	-
Net cash flow generated from operational activities	10,074,406.31	8,365,166.47
(-) Gratuity Payments	(5,389,900.00)	(5,441,840.00)
Net Cash Flow from Operatonal Activities	4,684,506.31	2,923,326.47
<u>Cash Flow from Investment Activities</u>		
Purchasing of Property, Plant & Equipment	(10,535,925.20)	(11,315,302.35)
Investment –Capital Investment – Transfer of Non-Current Assets	614,500.00	-
Interest Income – Fixed Deposits	602,846.76	-
Income from the sale of discarded assets	47,130.00	-
Income from the sale of fixed assets – Motor Jeep	1,257,500.00	-
Repayment of capital assets purchased in the year 2024 - (Year 2023)		
- Property, Plant and Equipment - Payment to the Line Ministry	(3,525,297.00)	-
Net Cash Flows from Investment Activities	(11,539,245.44)	(11,315,302.35)
<u>Cash Flow from Financial Activities</u>		
Treasury Imprests - Capital – Cash received from the Treasury	10,000,000.00	10,300,000.00
Treasury Imprests - Recurrent - Cash received from the Treasury	307,356,456.89	-
Imprests - Received - UNDP Project – Cash received within the year	12,986,067.50	-
Repayment of the initial bank balance of 2024 to the Government Revenue	(1,908,024.12)	-
Repayment of the internally generated revenue during the year to the Government Revenue	(1,584,319.52)	-
Imprests balance – Repayment of capital and recurring cash to the Treasury	(130,526.94)	-
Transfer of vehicle disposal revenue to the Consolidated Fund	(1,257,500.00)	-
Repayment of the Imprests balance to the Treasury - UNDP Project	(7,845,948.50)	-
Expenditure incurred during the year - UNDP Project	(5,140,119.00)	-
Expenditure incurred during the year - Recurrent Expenditure	(307,304,504.75)	-
Net Cash Flow from Financial Activities	5,171,581.56	10,300,000.00
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	(1,683,157.57)	1,908,024.12
	1,908,024.12	-
	224,866.55	1,908,024.12

Notes to Accounts

Note 01 – Cash and Cash Equivalents

No.	Item	2024	2023
		(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1.	Bank Current Account- Bank of Ceylon	156,868.90	1,908,024.12
		156,868.90	1,908,024.12
2.	Cash in hand	-	-
3.	Petty Cash Imprests	67,997.65	-
		67,997.65	-
	Cash and Cash Equivalents	224,866.55	1,908,024.12

Note 02 – Cash & Advances Receivable

No.	Item	2024	2023
		(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1.	Accounts Receivable	3,458.75	1,711,165.56
2.	Income Receivable	499,149.38	-
		502,608.13	1,711,165.56
3.	Deposits for Services	289,901.04	290,500.00
		289,901.04	290,500.00
4.	Contract Advances	75,000.00	426,347.56
		75,000.00	426,347.56
	Total Cash & Advances Receivable	867,509.17	2,428,013.12

Note 03- Prepayments

No.	Item	2024	2023
		(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1.	Prepayments – to the Line Ministry	1,265,433.07	-
2.	Payments – Income from Registration of Supplies -2025	33,000.00	-
	Total Prepayments	1,298,433.07	-

Note 04 - Investments

No.	Item	2024	2023
		(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1.	People's Bank- Fixed Deposits	9,144,650.25	7,748,671.22
	Total Investments	9,144,650.25	7,748,671.22

Note 05- Balance Stock – Consumable Goods

No.	Item	2024	2023
		(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1.	Balance stock of Consumable Goods	226,791.96	-
	Total Stock	226,791.96	-

Note -06- Property, Plant & Equipment

No.	Cost	Initial Balance		Adjustment	Addition		Discarded Assets		Final Balance		
		As at 2024.01.01		As at 2024.01.01	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	As at 2024.01.01
		(Rs.)		(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1.	Lands	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Buildings	41,606,860.26		40,230,577.16	-	-	-	1,376,283.10	-	-	41,606,860.26
3.	Factory & Machinery	382,679.44		382,679.44	-	-	-	-	-	-	382,679.44
4.	Motor Vehicles	13,200,000.00		13,200,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,200,000.00
5.	Furniture, Fixtures & Soft Furniture	24,603,284.07		23,604,805.82	-	(57,599.00)	1,595,332.00	1,056,077.25	-	-	24,603,284.07
6.	Office Equipment	31,932,034.27		28,829,493.02	(525,297.00)	-	2,472,507.00	3,102,541.25	-	-	31,932,034.27
7.	Computers, Printers, Mobile Phones & Laptops	36,073,544.29		30,235,544.29	(3,000,000.00)	-	6,458,386.20	5,838,000.00	-	-	36,073,544.29
8.	Library books & other books	677,331.50		677,331.50	-	-	9,700.00	-	-	-	677,331.50
	Total	148,475,733.83		137,160,431.23	(3,525,297.00)	(57,599.00)	10,535,925.20	11,372,901.60	0.00	0.00	155,486,362.03

No.	Agregate Depreciation	Initial Balance		Adjustment	Annual Depreciation		Depreciation of Discarded Assets		Final Balance		
		As at 2024.01.01		As at 2024.01.01	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	As at 2024.01.01
		(Rs.)		(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1.	Buildings	19,129,885.10		14,614,241.63	-	-	4,572,701.05	4,515,643.47	-	-	19,129,885.10
2.	Factory & Machinery	382,679.44		382,679.44	-	-	-	-	-	-	382,679.44
3.	Motor Vehicles	9,538,281.67		6,255,958.84	-	-	2,640,000.00	3,282,322.83	-	-	9,538,281.67
4.	Furniture & Fixtures	19,196,317.67		18,168,564.17	-	-	967,455.33	1,027,753.50	-	-	19,196,317.67
5.	Office Equipment	20,147,179.87		17,970,863.52	-	-	2,230,378.21	2,176,316.35	-	-	20,147,179.87
6.	Computers, Printers	26,767,843.49		23,489,652.96	-	-	3,812,978.44	3,278,190.53	-	-	26,767,843.49
7.	Mobile Phones & Laptops	467,214.36		399,481.21	-	-	64,257.15	67,733.15	-	-	467,214.36
8.	Library books & other books	95,629,401.60		81,281,441.77	0.00	0.00	14,287,770.18	14,347,959.83	0.00	0.00	95,629,401.60
	Net Value	52,846,332.23		55,878,989.46							45,569,190.25

Note 07- Tax Payable

No.	Item	2024	2023
		(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1.	Stamp Duty Payable	21,359.42	-
2.	APIT Tax Payable	4,469.23	-
	Total Tax Payable	25,828.65	-

Note 08- Income earned in advance

No.	Item	2024	2023
		(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1.	Income earned for the following year	79,000.00	-
	Total Tax Payable	79,000.00	-

Note 09 – Other Current Liabilities

No.	Item	2024	2023
		(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1.	Accrued Expenditure	2,517,335.89	2,385,558.53
2.	Accrued Expenditure – Cost of Living Allowance 2024	90,000.00	-
3.	Accrued Expenditure - Annual Report Cost - 2024	100,000.00	-
4.	Accrued Expenditure – Audit charges - 2024	420,000.00	-
5.	Accrued Expenditure - Electricity 2024	16,500.00	-
6.	Accrued Rents 2024	64,500.00	-
7.	Accrued Telephone Charges 2024	131,157.77	-
8.	Accrued Water Bills 2024	8,400.00	-
9.	Accrued travel expenses - 2024	134,335.00	-
10.	Accrued external legal services expenses 2024	2,976,750.00	-
11.	Accrued repair expenses 2024	57,870.00	-
12.	Salary Control Account	146,372.61	-
13.	Tender Deposits	10,000.00	-
	Other overall current liabilities	6,673,221.27	2,385,558.53

Note 10 – Employee Benefits

No.	Item	2024	2023
		(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1.	E.P.F. Subscriptions payable	36,811.39	4,248.77
2.	E.T.F Subscriptions payable	6,224.75	1,115.17
3.	Gratuity payable - 2025	487,887.50	
	Total Employee Benefits	530,923.64	5,363.94

Note 11- Allocation for Gratuity

No.	Item	2024	2023
		(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1.	Allocation for Gratuity	108,809,964.71	84,801,589.46
	Total Allocation for Gratuity Payable.	108,809,964.71	84,801,589.46

Note 12 – Operational Income

-

No.	Item	2024	2023
		(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1.	Registration Fee	540,989.74	529,030.00
2.	Course Fee	500,000.00	124,000.00
3.	Income from the Apprenticeship Programme	-	900,000.00
4.	Income from the TOT Programme	200,000.00	-
	Total Income	1,240,989.74	1,553,030.00

Note 13- Non-Operational Income

No.	Item	2024	2023
		(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1.	Income from the library	10,720.00	168,702.00
2.	Interest Income- Fixed Deposits	602,846.76	1,064,195.33
3.	Profit from the sale of assets	47,130.00	3,755.00
4.	Tender charges	6,000.00	-
5.	Other income	183,172.34	-
6.	Interest income-Staff book loan	3,170.84	-
	Total	853,039.94	1,236,652.33
	Grand Total	2,094,029.68	2,789,682.33

Note 14- Treasury Imprests - Capital - Foreign - UNDP Programme

No.	Item	2024	2023
		(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1.	UNDP awareness programme	4,490,752.00	8,544,850.00
2.	UNDP capacity building	65,000.00	896,477.00
3.	UNDP legal aid service meeting	-	170,000.00
4.	UNDP LGBT Programme	-	349,829.50
5.	UNDP Security Programme	161,790.00	197,030.00
6.	UNDP “Wedda” Programme	422,577.00	-
	Total	5,140,119.00	10,158,186.50

Note 15 – Personal Salaries and Wages

No.	Item	2024 (Rs.)	2023 (Rs.)
1.	Salaries & Wages	153,857,742.05	152,259,506.74
2.	Cost of Living Allowance	54,127,381.07	25,124,866.35
3.	Monthly Allowance	16,288,889.59	16,075,239.52
4.	Acting Allowance	41,943.75	4,961.09
5.	Professional Allowances	9,520,824.57	9,543,975.27
6.	Fuel allowance for senior management officers	307,364.92	-
7.	Vehicle allowance for senior management officers	322,096.77	-
8.	Overtime/ holiday pay	326,233.12	87,756.80
9.	E. P. F -12% Contribution	26,314,715.64	22,466,499.08
10.	E. T.F -3% Contribution	6,578,906.70	5,617,436.15
11.	Telephone Allowance	2,866,313.23	2,875,146.75
12.	Salaries, Wages and Allowances – Casual Staff	1,841,796.20	456,711.91
13.	Gratuity	29,886,162.75	7,714,605.36
	Total	302,280,370.36	242,226,705.02

Note 16 – Travel Expenses

No.	Item	2024 (Rs.)	2023 (Rs.)
1.	Travel expenses (Local)	1,019,243.24	717,261.00
	Total	1,019,243.24	717,261.00

Note 17 – Supply and Demand

No.	Item	2024 (Rs.)	2023 (Rs.)
1.	Photocopy expenses	17,270.00	-
2.	Stationery	3,465,364.66	3,220,326.50
3.	Office necessities	7,000.00	963,878.25
4.	Printing, typing and translation	239,117.00	211,191.85
5.	Commodities books and periodicals	88,800.00	-
	Total	3,817,551.66	4,395,396.60

Note 18 – Maintenance Expenditure

No.	Item	2024	2023
		(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1.	Building repair and maintenance	178,390.00	-
2.	Furniture and office equipment repair and maintenance	4,499,647.89	5,209,061.31
3.	Vehicle repair and maintenance	521,988.81	648,449.98
4.	Plant, machinery and equipment repair and maintenance	-	1,960,193.26
5.	Other repair and maintenance	193,956.25	-
6.	Insurance and license fees - (Vehicles)	56,606.57	189,051.84
	Total	5,450,589.52	8,006,756.39

Note 19 – Fuel and Utility Payments

No.	Item	2024	2023
		(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1.	Fuel, oil, vehicle running costs	462,599.07	390,313.15
2.	Postage charges	1,911,179.75	1,707,398.61
3.	Telephone charges	4,855,908.31	4,882,290.50
4.	Electricity charges	1,664,285.99	1,939,919.58
5.	Water charges	393,065.28	281,120.42
6.	Health and sanitation	519,208.00	430,080.00
	Total	9,806,246.40	9,631,122.26

Note 20-Research, Development and Training Expenses

No.	Item	2024	2023
		(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1.	Scholarships & Training Programmes - (Local)	1,819,630.95	31,000.00
2.	Apprenticeship Programmes	-	411,309.95
3.	Awareness Programmes	291,897.25	2,072,963.50
4.	Mahapola Exhibitions	-	99,814.25
5.	Law Week Programme	-	20,981.50
6.	Expenses of World Day against Trafficking Programme	-	13,420.50
7.	Centre observation expenses	14,830.00	97,987.00
8.	Expenses on Women's Day programmes	59,494.40	-
9.	Fees and allowances and benefits for teaching and support staff	456,000.00	-
	Total	2,641,852.60	2,747,476.70

Note 21- Financial Cost

No.	Item	2024	2023
		(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1.	Bank charges	27,948.96	30,250.00
	Total	27,948.96	30,250.00

Note 22 – Other Expenses

No.	Item	2024	2023
		(Rs.)	(Rs.)
1.	Payments to external lawyers	6,095,503.78	2,473,131.38
2.	Other expenses	993,935.08	13,640.00
3.	Welfare expenses	397,798.35	468,697.50
4.	Advertisement and publicity	372,266.94	207,943.00
5.	Audit fees	445,630.00	375,000.00
6.	Legal fees	41,500.00	89,300.00
7.	Rent expenses	1,432,642.86	1,546,967.43
8.	Library expenses	30,351.23	391,898.40
9.	Refreshment expenses	10,020.00	-
10.	Earned income paid to line ministry	1,524,595.68	-
	Total	11,344,243.92	5,566,577.71

Note 23- Balance Stock – Commodities Inventory

Remaining stocks include commodity items such as cleaning materials, stationery and other commodities. These stocks are used to provide services for the operational activities of the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka. This consists of the remaining stocks as at 31.12.2024.

Note 24- Provisions, Intangible liabilities & Intangible Assets

The legal cases have been disclosed along with the nature of the cases and their status. There is the following legal case scheduled to be mentioned on December 31, 2024.

No.	Case No.	Petitioners	Respondents	Nature	Date filed	Action	Court
01.	SC/FR/112/024	02 Assistant/ Deputy Directors and 14 Legal Officers - Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka.	Legal Aid Commission- 06th Respondent. Board of Directors - Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka - 07th-15th Respondents	Fundamental Rights	29/04/2024	Aid	Supreme Court

Note 25

Treasury Imprests- The funds are provided by the Treasury under the Capital Imprests. The use of the Capital Imprests is disclosed as a non-exchange transaction for the relevant year in accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards No. 11.

Note 26**Utilization of Treasury Funds -2024**

Object Code	Item Description	Approved Provisions 2024	Amount of Imprests received from the General Treasury	Total Expenditure-2024	Balance as at 31.12.2024
		(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
110-1-2-2-1503/1509	Recurrent Expenditure - Personal Emoluments & Other Recurrent Expenditure	308,146,955.75	307,356,455.75	307,304,503.61	51,952.14
110-1-2-2- 2201	Capital Expenditure	10,000,000.00	10,000,000.00	9,921,425.20	78,574.80
	Total	318,146,955.75	317,356,455.75	317,225,928.81	130,526.24

At the end of the financial year, the remaining treasury imprests amounting to Rs. 130,526.94 was repaid to the General Treasury in accordance with financial regulations and guidelines.

Note 27: Presentation of budget information in Financial Statements

Statement of Comparison of Budget and Actual Expenditure for the Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka for the year ended on 31st December 2024 (on cash basis).

Item	Original Estimate of Budget	Revised Budget	Actual amount on a comparable basis	Changes
Receipts	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
Treasury Imprests- Recurrent	250,000,000.00	307,821,092.88	307,356,455.75	516,588.13
Treasury Imprests- Capital	10,000,000.00	10,000,000.00	10,000,000.00	0.00
Total	260,000,000.00	317,821,092.88	317,356,455.75	516,588.13
Payments				
Treasury Imprests- Recurrent	250,000,000.00	307,821,092.88	307,304,504.75	516,588.13
Treasury Imprests- Capital	10,000,000.00	10,000,000.00	9,921,425.20	78,574.80
Total	260,000,000	317,821,092.88	317,225,929.95	595,162.93

Audit Report

NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

My No } JLO/B/LAC/FA/2024/10

Your No }

Date } 30th May 2025

The Chairman

Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka

Report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements and Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements of Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka for the year ended 31st December 2024 in terms of the Section 12 of the National Audit Act No: 19 of 2018

.....

The said report is submitted herewith.

Sgd./ G.H.D. Dharmapala

Auditor General (Actg.)

Copies: (1) Secretary - Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
(2) Secretary - Ministry of Justice and National Integration

NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

My No } JLO/B/LAC/FA/2024/10

Your No }

Date } 30th May 2024

The Chairman

Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka

Report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements and Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements of Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka for the year ended 31st December 2024 in terms of the Section 12 of the National Audit Act No: 19 of 2018

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1. Financial Statements

1.1 Qualified Opinion

The audit of the financial statements of the Legal Aid Commission for the year ended 31st December 2024 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31st December 2023 and the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information was carried out under my direction in pursuance of provisions in Article 154 (1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka read in conjunction with provisions of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018 and the Finance Act No. 38 of 1971. My comments and observations which I consider should be report to Parliament appear in this report. My report in terms of the Article 154 (6) of the Constitution will be tabled in the House of Parliament in due course.

In my opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in Basis for Qualified Opinion of this report, the financial statements prepared give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Commission as at 31st December 2024 and its financial performance and cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards.

1.2 Basis for Qualified Opinion

- (a) As per the paragraph 63(e) of Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards No. 01 rounding off levels should be applied in presentation of values of financial statements, but the values presented in financial statements for the year 2024 had been indicated in cents.
- (b) Although property, plant and equipment items with only insignificant changes in the fair value should be revalued every 03 or 05 years in accordance with paragraph 80 of Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards No. 07, the property, plant and equipment other than motor vehicles costing Rs. 103,965,189 had not been revalued by the Commission within the last 05 years.
- (c) Although the residual value and the useful life of an asset shall be reviewed at least at each annual reporting date in accordance with paragraph 65 of Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards No. 07, the fully depreciated assets costing Rs. 38,321,172 as at 31st December 2024 had not been revalued. Accordingly, although it should have been accounted as a change in an accounting estimate in accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards No. 03, it had not been accounted so.
- (d) Although the value of buildings had been indicated as Rs. 41,606,860 and the value of assets category of Computers, Printers, Mobile Phones and Laptops as Rs. 39,531,930 in Note 06 of the Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December 2024, since the values were Rs. 45,727,010 and Rs. 40,874,755 according to the Fixed Assets Register respectively, a difference of Rs. 4,120,150 and Rs.1,342,825 existed between those values respectively.
- (e) The value of fully depreciated plant and equipment mentioned as Rs. 382,679 in the financial statements as at 31st December 2024 could not be confirmed.
- (f) The 04 types of Assets that existed since the years 2009 and 2014 i.e. Office Equipment, Computers, Furniture and Books with a value of Rs. 15,656,035 which had been indicated as initial balance, could not be recognized separately.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards (SLAuSSs) . My responsibilities, under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my qualified opinion.

1.3 Other information included in Annual Report 2024 of the Commission

Other information means the information that is included in the 2024 Annual Report of the Authority which was obtained by me before the date of this Audit report, but is not included in the financial statements and my audit report regarding it . The management is responsible for this other information.

Other information is not disclosed through my opinion on financial statements and , I do not express any assurance or opinion on that.

In relation to my audit of financial statements, it is my responsibility to read the other information identified above when available and, to consider whether other information in accordance with my knowledge obtained with the financial statements or in the audit or otherwise, is quantitatively inconsistent.

Based on the other information obtained by me and tasks performed by me before the date of this audit report, if it is concluded by me that it contains quantitative errors, those matters should be communicated to the governing parties for correction. I have nothing to report in this regard.

1.4 Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intend to liquidate the Commission or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Commission's financial reporting process.

As per Section 16 (1) of the National Audit Act No. 19 of 2018, The Commission is required to maintain proper books and records of all its income, expenditure, assets and liabilities, to enable annual and periodic financial statements to be prepared.

1.5 Auditor's responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. Further, I:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtained an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluated the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion . My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause to cease to continue as a going concern .
- Evaluated the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I will inform the governing parties about significant audit findings, key internal control weaknesses and other matters identified during my audit.

2. Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

2.1 The National Audit Act No.19 of 2018 includes specific provisions for following requirements.

2.1.1. Except for the effects of the matters described in Basis for Qualified Opinion of this report, I have obtained all the information and explanation that were required for the Audit, as per the requirements of Section 12 (a) of the National Audit Act No.19 of 2018 , and I was able to decide that proper accounting records have been kept by the authority.

2.1.2. The financial statements presented, is consistent with the preceding year as per the requirements of Section 6 (i) (d) (iii) of the National Audit Act No.19 of 2018.

2.1.3. The financial statements presented include all the recommendations made by me (except the observations made in 1.2(b), (c), (e) in Basis for qualified Opinion in my report) in the previous year as per the requirements of Section 6 (i) (d) (iv) of the National Audit Act No.19 of 2018.

2.2 Based on the procedures performed and evidence obtained were limited to matters that were material nothing has come to my attention to make the following statements.

2.1.1.that any member of the governing body of the authority has any direct or indirect interest in any contract entered into by the Authority which are out of the normal cause of business as per the requirements of Section 12(d) of the National Audit Act No.19 of 2018.

2.2.2.that the Authority has not compiled any applicable written law , general and special directions issued by the governing body of the authority , as per the requirements of Section 12 (f) of the National Audit Act No.19 of 2018, except for following observations.

Reference to Laws / Direction

Non – compliance

(a) Section 40 (1) of the National
Audit Act No19 of 2018

The Commission had not obtained approval for the post of an Internal Auditor within the approved cadre although the Commission should have their own an Internal Auditor appointed by the governing board of the said Commission in order to carry out internal audit affairs of the Commission.

(b) Section 11 of the Finance
Act No. 38 of 1971 and the Public
Enterprises Circular No. PED 25
dated 29th July 2004.

Although approval of the Minister of Finance or the Minister of portfolio should be obtained by the Government Ministries, Government Corporations and state owned institutions for the investment of their funds, action had not been taken as per the above circular for fixed deposits of Rs. 9,144,650 invested until the end of the year under review.

(c) Stamp Duty Act
No. 43 of 1982

Although a stamp duty of Rs.25 should be charged for payments above Rs.25,000, actions had not been taken recover such charges regarding payments amounting to Rs.590,592 made on 13 occasions.

(d) Financial Regulations of the

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

(i) F.R. 156 (5)

Any necessary corrections must be made by striking out the words, figures, etc., to be altered or deleted, with a single line in red ink, and writing the correct words, figures, etc., where necessary, in red ink, above such alterations. Although the alterations and deletions should be authenticated by the initials of the officer responsible for the correction, action had not been taken in accordance with Financial Regulations when making corrections of 34 vouchers with the value of Rs. 2,060,649/-.

(iv) F.R. 237 (a) (1)

Although a certificate should be appended to the effect that the supplies have been made or the work has been done, satisfactorily and in terms of the contract or agreement, and that the payments recommended are in accordance therewith, payments had been made without obtaining a certificate in relation to 16 repairs amounting to Rs.636,022.

(iii) F.R. 237 (b)

Although a certificate that the articles have been received and that they have been brought on charge in the appropriate inventory, stock book, etc., should be appended, the above provisions had not been adhered to with regard to 08 purchases of the Commission amounting to Rs.886,621.

(e) Public Administration Circulars
No. 05/2008 dated 06th February
2008 and No. 05/2008(I) dated 24th
January 2018.

Although a Citizens'/Clients' Charter should have been introduced by all Government Organizations to make the activities of the public sector more efficient and further to enhance sound understanding and mutual trust among the connected parties, the Commission had not introduced such Citizens'/Clients' Charter.

(f) No.3 in Schedule I under Strategic Planning in Paragraph 2.3 of Public Enterprises Circular No. 01/2021 dated 16th November 2021 (Code of Guidelines on Public Enterprises)

Although the forecasted income statement, forecasted financial position statement and forecasted cash flow statement, should be included in the master budget, the above documents had not been included in the master budget prepared by the Commission.

The letter bearing No. MSDW/08/65 dated 27th April 2018 issued by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife.

The Commission had neither appointed officers to coordinate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals nor organized a Sustainable Development programme.

2.2.3. That actions have been taken in a way that is not complied with the powers, duties and functions of the Authority , as per the requirements of Section 12 (g) of the National Audit Act No.19 of 2018.

(a) Although experimental programmes respecting any aspect of the provision of legal aid should be implemented in terms of Section 4(i) of the Legal Aid Act No. 27 of 1978 of the National State Assembly, the Commission had not made any such arrangements.

2.2.4. That the resources of the Authority have not been procured and utilized sparingly, efficiently and effectively in a timely manner in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations, as per the requirements of Section 12 (h) of the National Audit Act No.19 of 2018.

(a) Although the procurement activities envisaged at least for a period of three years shall be listed in the Master Procurement Plan according to 4.2.1(b) of the Procurement Guidelines 2006, only the procurement activities related to the year 2024 had been included in the Master Procurement Plan prepared by the Commission in the year 2024.

(b) Although the Master Procurement Plan should be regularly updated at intervals not exceeding six months according to 4.2.1(e) of the Procurement Guidelines 2006, a Master Procurement Plan had not been prepared wherefore, it had been unable to act in terms of the Procurement Guidelines.

- (c) The Commission had not prepared a schedule describing in chronological order, steps of each individual Procurement Action, from the point of commencement until its completion for the year 2024, as per 4.2.2(a) of the Procurement Guidelines.
- (d) Although reviewing the evaluation report and recommendation of TEC and making determinations/recommendations in accordance with Guideline 8.1 is a task of the Procurement Committees, purchases had been made with the approval of the Board of Directors based only on the decisions made by the Technical Committee regarding all procurements as the Commission lacks a Procurement Committee.
- (e) Although the proceedings of the bid opening shall be recorded in the format prescribed in 6.3.6 of the Procurement Manual and should be signed by all members of the Bid Opening Committee according to 6.3.6 of the 2006 Procurement Guidelines, the above guidelines had not been followed during the purchase of furniture amounting to Rs. 177,365.

2.3 Other Facts

- (a) According to the age analysis of payable outstanding balance for a sum of Rs. 6,673,222 as at 31st December 2024, a balance amounting to Rs. 5,442,797 for a period less than 01 year, Rs. 5,461 for a period between 01-02 years, Rs. 547,681 for a period between 02-03 years and a balance of Rs. 677,283 for a period more than 05 years were observed whereas the Commission had not taken action to settle the said outstanding balance.
- (b) Arrangements had not been made to discard 03 office equipment under inactive state with a value of Rs. 229,275 and 05 three-wheelers with a value of 2,500,000 out of running condition as at 31st December 2024.

- (c) No steps had been taken in the current year to launch the amended National Legal Aid Policy and the Action Plan within the second and third quarter, to hold Donors' Coordination Meeting in the second quarter, prepare a schedule of charges for criminal matters beyond bail and to provide aid for cases in terms of the agreement between Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka and United Nations Development Fund (UNDP JURE-LOA). Sums of Rs.2,249,000, Rs.180,000 and Rs.637,500 had been allocated for the above purposes respectively, whereas although the commission had received the third instalment from the UNDP on 29th November 2024 the said funds had been sent back to the Treasury on 08th December 2024 as the above tasks had not been carried out.
- (d) Although a sum of Rs.16,830,000 had been allocated for legal aid clinics and awareness programmes within the first 03 quarters in terms of the agreement, a sum of Rs.13,035,683 had been incurred for the related activities as at 31st December 2024. Accordingly, 23% of the total allocation had not been utilized even as at 31st December 2024.
- (e) A sum from Rs.150,000 upto Rs.26,000,000 existed monthly in the bank current account maintained by the Commission in the Bank of Ceylon Hulftsdorf from January to December 2024 which resulted in a surplus amount of the institution remained inactive in the bank account.
- (f) The number of cases in the Commission which were brought forward as at 01st January 2024 was 38,905 of which only 23,709 cases had been settled in the year 2024. Accordingly, the number of cases remained unsettled was 39% as at 31st December 2024 out of the number of cases at the beginning of 2024.
- (g) The number of cases filed in the year 2024 is 12,362 and details of the cases settled had not been submitted as of the date of Audit.

- (h) Although the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers has been received in 2016 to prepare a mechanism that would enable the monitoring of affairs of the commission in order to carry out the provision of legal aid in a more formal manner and to provide an effective service which is more important to the general public, the formulation of national legal aid policy had not been finalized as of 31st December 2024.
- (i) Although a provision of Rs.2,000,000 has been allocated for the maintenance of plant and equipment, no provisions had been spent as of 31st December 2024.
- (j) Although the approved cadre of the Senior Level is 152, 32 vacancies existed for 05 positions of the Senior Level as the actual cadre was 120. Accordingly, the Director General, Director (Legal), Director (Administration/Finance and Secretary to the Commission), Assistant Director/Deputy Director (Regional) of the Commission and 28 positions of Legal Officer remained vacant.

Sgd./ G.H.D. Dharmapala
Auditor General (Actg.)

Telephone Numbers of Regional Centres of Legal Aid

Commission of Sri Lanka

1	Head Office	011-2433618	43	Maho	037-2275075
2	Akkaraipattu	067-2279462	44	Mannar	023-2222045
3	Ampara	063-2223496	45	Marawila	032-2254443
4	Anuradhapura	025-2224465	46	Matale	066-2224828
5	Attanagalla	033-2297020	47	Matara	041-2233815
6	Avissawella	036-2233857	48	Mathugama	034-2249262
7	Baddegama	091-2292051	49	Mawanella	035-2247272
8	Badulla	055-2225759	50	Minuwangoda	011-2297790
9	Balangoda	045-2289099	51	Monaragala	055-2276891
10	Balapitiya	091-2255753	52	Mullaitivu	021-2290077
11	Bandarawela	057-2224733	53	Muttur	026-2238777
12	Battaramulla	011-2877687	54	Nawalapitiya	054-2224227
13	Batticaloa	065-2225399	55	Negombo	031-3321476
14	Chavakachcheri	021-2270882	56	Nikaweratiya	037-2260203
15	Chilaw	032-2222175	57	Nugegoda	011-2809068
16	Dambulla	066-2284551	58	Nuwara Eliya	052-2235260
17	Deiyandara	041-2268077	59	Panadura	038-2244822
18	Deniyaya	041-2271128	60	Pugoda	011-2405333
19	Embilipitiya	047-2230299	61	Point Pedro	021-2260212
20	Galgamuwa	037-2253290	62	Polgahawela	037-2243039
21	Galle	091-2226124	63	Polonnaruwa	027-2226572
22	Gampaha	033-2248804	64	Pottuwil	063-2248485
23	Hambantota	047-2221092	65	Rathnapura	045-2226899
24	Hatton	051-2222390	66	Thambuttegama	025-2276259
25	Hingurakgoda	027-2245521	67	Tangalle	047-2240122
26	Homagama	011-2748813	68	Tissamaharama	047-2239611
27	Horana	034-2265244	69	Trincomalee	026-2226328
28	Jaffna	021-2224545	70	Valachchenai	065-2258349
29	Kadawatha	011-2922440	71	Vavuniya	024-2221863
30	Kaduvela	011-2548150	72	Walasmulla	047-2245566
31	Kalmunei	067-2223710	73	Warakapola	037-2277075
32	Kalutara	034-2222017	74	Wariyapola	037-268199
33	Kandy	081-2388978	75	Welimada	057-2244860
34	Kanthale	026-2234521	76	Wellawaya	055-2274466
35	Kebithigollewa	025-2298101	77	Mallakam	021-2059170
36	Kegalle	035-2231790	78	Puttalam	032-2266636
37	Kekirawa	025-2263536	79	Borella	011-2698003
38	Kilinochchi	021-2285618	80	Dehiattakandiya	027-2250700
39	Kuliyapitiya	037-2284611	81	Siyambalanduwa	055-2279250
40	Kurunegala	037-2229641	82	Galagedara	081-2061025
41	Mt. Lavinia	011-2718708	83	Wattala	011-2935907

LEGAL AID COMMISSION OF SRI LANKA

Established Under Law No 27 of 1978

No.129, Hulftsdorp Street,
Colombo-12.
Sri Lanka.

Tel/ Fax : +94-11-2433618

E-mail : legalaidcommission1978@gmail.com