

පාර්ලිමේන්තු ප්‍රකාශන මාලා අංක - 492

සෞඛ්‍ය අමාත්‍යාංශය

පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ රජයේ ගිණුම් පිළිබඳ කාරක සභාව විසින් සභාගත කරන ලද
චාරිතෘ සම්බන්ධයෙන් ස්ථාවර නියෝග 119(4) යටතේ ගරු අමාත්‍යවරයාගේ නිරීක්ෂණ
හා ගනු ලබන පියවර පාර්ලිමේන්තුව වෙත ඉදිරිපත් කිරීම

பாராளுமன்ற வெளியீட்டு தொடர் இல - 492

சுகாதார அமைச்சு

பாராளுமன்ற அரசு கணக்குகள் குழுவினால் முன் வைக்கப்பட்ட அறிக்கை தொடர்பாக நிலையியல் கட்டளை இலக்கம் 119(4)இன் கீழ் கௌரவ அமைச்சரின் அவதானிப்புக்களும் மற்றும் அது தொடர்பாக எடுக்கப்படும் நடவடிக்கைகளும் பாராளுமன்றத்திற்கு சமர்ப்பித்தல்

Parliamentary Series Number – 492

Ministry of Health

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

Parliamentary Series No - 492
Name of the Institution - Ministry of Health

Part I - 91.00

Serial No.	Shortcomings identified by the committee based on the performance evaluation	Actions taken to rectify Shortcomings and current status
01	Fixed Assets Module of the CIGAS Programme was not maintained up to date basis, in terms of Para 8.1 and 8.2 of the guidelines No 05/2022 dated 13.12.2022 issued by the Department of State Accounts.	Whenever payments relating to fixed assets are made through the CIGAS system, the relevant assets are capitalized at the time of each payment. Furthermore, the capitalization of the existing fixed assets in the CIGAS system is also being carried out on an ongoing basis.
02	Register of Losses had not been updated & maintained. Register of Risk was not maintained up to date basis.	Necessary instructions have been provided to the relevant officers by issuing circulars related to losses and damages. (General Circular No. 01-39/2022 dated 30.11.2022). In addition, the necessary instructions are being continuously provided to ensure that the Register of Losses and Damages is maintained in an up-to-date manner.
03	Annual procurement plan had not been prepared.	The soft copy of the relevant Master Procurement Plan for the period of 2023-2025, has been forwarded to the Department of Public Finance along with a copy to the National Audit Office on 22.03.2023, Furthermore, on 2 May 2023, the soft copy of the said Procurement Plan was re-submitted to the above-mentioned institutions. Moreover, steps have already been taken to ensure that the Procurement Plan is prepared within the stipulated time period.
04	Answers had not been sent to all the audit queries of the Auditor General within one month after receiving such audit queries	Since responses to audit queries are prepared by obtaining information from the relevant hospitals and respective divisions, this process requires some time. Furthermore, the respective divisions and hospitals are informed from time to time of the importance of submitting responses to audit queries within the stipulated time period. Reminder letters have been issued requesting replies to outstanding audit queries, and responses to such audit queries are currently being received.

05	There had been instances where internal audit queries had not been answered within a period of 1 month.	At present, Arrangements have been made to obtain their responses within one month from most institutions.
06	Information about purchases of assets and disposals relating to year 2018 had not been submitted to the Comptroller General's Office in terms of Paragraph 07 of the Asset Management Circular No. 01/2017 of 26.06.2017.	The officers will be informed accordingly, and accurate asset information will be submitted to the Office of the Comptroller General henceforth.
07	No actions had been taken for the recommendations on excesses and shortages & other recommendations revealed by the Board of surveys.	Instructions and stipulated timeframes relating to the conduct of Annual Board of Survey activities have been issued through circulars. (General Circular No. 01-41/2025 dated 16.11.2025) Accordingly, recommendations are made in respect of the excesses and shortages identified during annual board of survey activities, and necessary measures are taken accordingly. Further, instructions are issued to all institutions to ensure that such recommendations are implemented within the prescribed timeframe.
08	Documents to confirm ownership of all vehicles were not in possession. The emblem of the state had not been painted on all pool vehicles. Condemned vehicles had not been disposed of within a period of less than 8 months after condemning. Actions had not been taken on accidents occurred to motor vehicles owned by the government as per the Financial Regulations.	i. Vehicles that did not possess certificates of registration were referred to the Department of Motor Traffic for the issuance of the relevant certificates of registration. It is informed to lodge a complaint with the Sri Lanka Police and submit a copy of the complaint in this regard. Accordingly, letters dated 27.08.2025 and 27.11.2025 were addressed to the Officer-in-Charge of the Maradana Police Station. However, as no action was taken in this regard, a further letter dated 08.05.2026 was addressed to the Inspector General of Police requesting that the necessary action be taken to facilitate the lodging of a complaint. ii. Stickers bearing the State Emblem were printed for use on the pool vehicles of the Ministry and the emblem of the state have been pasted on 66 vehicles. Furthermore, officers of the transport division were assigned to conduct a re-inspection to verify whether the State Emblem stickers remained affixed to the pool vehicles. It was reported that the stickers affixed to some vehicles had faded, while those on certain other vehicles had peeled off. Accordingly, arrangements are also being made to print 300 stickers required for affixing to all the pool vehicles of the Ministry.

		iii. All condemned vehicles were auctioned on 06.08.2025. Once a vehicle has been classified as condemned, the process for its disposal is initiated. iv. Upon receipt of a report of an accident, a committee is appointed in terms of Financial Regulation 104, and subsequent action is taken in accordance with the recommendations of the committee. A register of losses and damages relating to vehicle accidents is maintained and updated regularly. Furthermore, all matters relating to vehicle accidents are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Regulations.
09	Inoperative accounts that are coming from the year under view or previous year had not been settled.	Actions have been taken to identify and close the relevant bank account. The bank account that had remained inactive for a prolonged period has been closed, and action is currently being taken to close the bank accounts that have recently become inactive as well.
10	Balances that are revealed by the findings of Bank Reconciliation Statements & should be adjusted, had not been adjusted within a period of one month as per Financial Regulations.	All such balances that required adjustment have been currently settled. Furthermore, adjustments that were required to be made in accordance with the Financial Regulations, as identified through the bank reconciliation statement prepared for the year under review based on the bank reconciliation statements submitted by decentralized hospitals and institutions, have been effected. It is indicated in the current bank reconciliation statements that all adjustments relating to the year under review have been completed.
11	Consequent to the utilization of provisions allocated for a vote as per FR 94(1), liabilities were exceeding the provisions that remained at the end of the year.	It is no longer possible to enter into commitments in excess of the allocated budgetary provisions, since all hospitals and health institutions have implemented the ITMIS for accounting operations. This situation has been resolved, as the possibility of entering into commitments in excess of the allocated budgetary provisions has been eliminated, and the Treasury releases imprest only upon the entry of duly completed vouchers into the ITMIS. All hospitals and institutions were notified in this regard.
12	Financial provisions had been allocated to other institutes beyond the due date.	At present, the necessary provisions are allocated accordingly.

13	The loan balances in arrears exceeding 1 year had not been settled.	Instructions have been issued to maintain a file in the Accounts Division containing all relevant information necessary to verify the identity of all the officers who are currently serving and have obtained loans, including their names, designations, addresses, NIC numbers, salary numbers, complete details of guarantors, and outstanding loan balances. This will help minimize any future deficiencies in the availability of required information. Instructions have been issued that the individual loan balances of the officers who have obtained loans should be reconciled with the payroll details every month and that all receipts and payments in the books of account should be updated every month. Since all information relating to officers who have been transferred internally and those who have reported for duty after the year 2020 is obtained by the Head Office and reconciled within the relevant year itself, the accounts currently contain only old outstanding loan balances. Necessary instructions have also been issued for the settlement of such outstanding balances. To settle the debt balances of the Provincial Councils, information has been obtained from hospitals and institutions, and after informing the relevant provinces, information has also been obtained from such institutions and steps have been taken to settle the debt balances. Necessary instructions have been issued for the settlement of loan balances of deceased officers, officers under interdiction, and officers who have vacated the post, in accordance with the provisions of the Establishments Code, Financial Regulations, and relevant circulars. All possible efforts have been made to recover the outstanding loan balances from deceased officers, officers under interdiction, and officers who have vacated the post. However, for the loan balances that could not be recovered despite such efforts, necessary forms have been introduced for writing off the balances from the books, relevant information has been collected, and the cases have been forwarded to obtain the approval of the Secretary to the Treasury in accordance with Public Finance Circular No. 01/2024. Further action is being taken based on the instructions received accordingly. Instructions have been issued to prepare the files of retired officers without delay and submit them to the Department of Pensions to obtain the necessary provisions, and settle the relevant outstanding loan balances.
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		Discussions have been conducted live and through Zoom technology, and necessary instructions have been issued regarding the settlement of long-outstanding loan balances relating to the Advance Account. Arrangements have been made to review the progress of the recovery of long-outstanding loan balances relating to the Advance 'B' Account. Necessary action has been taken to rectify the matters identified through audit queries and the Internal Auditor has been instructed to examine certain matters during audits. Balancing of the Advance 'B' Account every six months. Furthermore, necessary actions are being taken to recover outstanding loan balances that have remained unsettled for more than one year.
14	Action had not been taken as per F.R.571 in relation to Public Deposit accounts.	The said deposits have been settled in accordance with the instructions issued to the relevant hospitals and health institutions to take action as per F.R. 571. Furthermore, action is being taken in respect of the deposits that remain settled in accordance with F.R. 571.
15	The ad hoc sub imprests issued as per F.R. 371 had not been settled within one month from the completion of the task. Ad hoc interim imprests exceeding approved limits as per FR 371 were issued.	Internal control measures are currently being implemented, including issuing instructions to settle ad hoc sub-imprests within 10 days after completion of the relevant task, taking action to refrain from issuing further ad hoc sub-imprests where such settlements are not made, and recovering such outstanding amounts from salaries. Furthermore, no ad hoc sub-imprests have been issued exceeding the approved limit.
16	The revenue collected had not been directly credited to the revenue or not been remitted to the Revenue account within a period less than one month having maintained them in the deposit account. The revenue that was collected had not been reimbursed in terms of respective provisions.	All decentralized hospitals and health institutions have been provided with instructions on several occasions to resolve issues relating to the Public Deposit Account. Actions are being taken to credit revenue and make refunds from revenue in accordance with the prescribed procedures. all decentralized hospitals and health institutions have been informed once again in this regard.
17	The staff had been recruited/attached exceeding the approved limits	Field inspections of hospitals and other institutions have currently been commenced by the Department of Management Services to review the approved cadre and effect necessary amendments.

		Accordingly, necessary steps will be taken to identify deficiencies and excesses and carry out the relevant review process. Accordingly, following the relevant review, necessary arrangements will be made to redeploy officers identified as surplus to institutions where cadre shortages exist. The establishment of new medical units and the expansion of patient care services in hospitals and institutions have necessitated the continued provision of uninterrupted patient care services in certain hospitals and health institutions. Therefore, Nursing Officers have been deployed to serve in recently established units beyond the approved nursing cadre. Furthermore, officers of the Department of Management Services and the Planning Division of the Ministry are currently conducting field inspections in all hospitals where requests have been made for increases in cadre requirements. Accordingly, the Department of Management Services is taking action to systematically update the process of granting the requested nursing officer posts. Upon completion of such activities, nursing officers can be deployed in hospitals and health institutions in a manner that avoids any surplus of nursing officers.
18	The staff details of the institution had not been sent to the Department of Management Services in line with the Management Services Circular No.04/2017 dated 20.09.2017	Field inspections of hospitals and other institutions have currently been commenced by the Department of Management Services to review the approved cadre and effect necessary amendments. Accordingly, necessary steps will be taken to identify deficiencies and excesses and carry out the relevant review process. Furthermore, on certain occasions when collecting information through correspondence, the submission of information had been delayed due to delays caused by the relevant institutions. Currently, an online system has been implemented to collect data. Furthermore, steps have been taken to update the information every three months. Furthermore, a system has also now been established to obtain information by accessing the website of the Ministry of Health.

Part II - 36.00

Serial No.	Shortcomings identified by the committee based on the performance evaluation	Actions taken to rectify Shortcomings and current status
19	The website that is maintained by the institution does not provide an opportunity for the public to lodge complaints or to give commendations.	The email address info(@)health.gov.lk and the telephone numbers (94) 112694033, (94) 112675011, (94) 112675449, and (94) 112693493 have been displayed on the Ministry website to enable the public to submit any grievances or obtain necessary information by contacting the Ministry. The email account is monitored regularly, and grievances/queries received through this channel are referred to the relevant divisions for necessary action. Accordingly, responses are provided by the respective divisions.
20	Citizen/ Client Charter had not been prepared or applied properly as per the circular number 05/2008 of Ministry of Public Administration and Management dated 06.02.2008 as amended by circular No. 05/2018(1) dated 24.01.2018.	Data/information has been obtained from all divisions in the Ministry, and the Citizens Charter has been published on the website in the Sinhala language and displayed on a digital screen within the Ministry. Furthermore, arrangements have been made to update it on a biannual basis.
21	A methodology had not been formulated to monitor and evaluate the application of citizen/ client charter by the institution.	Steps have been taken to make the officers of the division aware of the procedures for receiving complaints and suggestions. The Citizen Charter has been updated as stated above, and arrangements have been made for the monitoring and evaluation through the Committee on Public Accounts.
22	A human resource plan drafted in keeping with the provisions of public administration Circular No 02/2018 dated 24th January 2018 was not available. The human resource development plan that had been prepared, did not ensure at least a minimum training opportunity of not less than 12 hours per year for more than 50% of the member of the staff.	It is hereby informed that due attention will be given to this, during the preparation of the new Human Resource Action Plan (2026–2035). Actions will be taken to include this proposal for the new Human Resources Action Plan 2026-2035. A comprehensive training plan, including foreign training and in-service training, is implemented annually by the Education, Training and Research Division for the posts belonging to Specialist Medical Officers, Medical Officers, Nursing Officers, Paramedical and Supplementary Medical Services in the line Ministry and Provincial Public Service. The Provincial Health Services also provide in-service training opportunities for health staff.

		Furthermore, with a view to implementing training programmes for officers in the health service, according to the Action Plan for the year 2023, an amount of Rs. 300 Mn has been requested under Vote 111-2-20-001-2401. (Annex 01) However, due to the allocation of only Rs. 50 million in provisions during the relevant year (Annex 02), the allocated provisions were not adequate to fully implement of the planned training programmes.
23	Performance agreements covering the entire staff had not been drafted or entered. A senior officer of the institution had not been named for the preparation of human resource development plans and to implement capacity and skill development programmes.	The primary reason for this situation was the vacancy of the post of Head of the Human Resource Management and Coordination Division since 2023. Performance appraisal forms for all staff members have been prepared in accordance with Public Administration Circular No. 02/2018 dated 24.01.2018. The respective divisions using the revised performance appraisal forms applicable to all employees evaluate the performance of the staff. This division functions under the supervision of the Additional Secretary (Medical Services) and is responsible for the preparation of the Human Resource Development Master Plan (HRM Master Plan – 2026–2035). This post belongs to the Senior Medical Administrative Grade. Accordingly, action will be taken to appoint a eligible officer at the earliest possible opportunity to undertake the preparation of Human Resource Development plans and the implementation of capacity and competency development programmes.
24	Out of the training opportunities planned, the extent of training opportunities granted, was less than 50%.	According to the Action Plan for the year 2023, an amount of Rs. 300 million was requested under 111-2-20-001-2401. (Annex 01) However, only Rs. 50 million was allocated under the above vote during that year. (Annex 02) Therefore, provisions allocated were not sufficient for the full implementation of the planned training programmes.
25	The audit opinion about the accounts of the institution had been a qualified opinion/disclaimed opinion/ an unfavourable opinion.	Steps are being taken to rectify the relevant matters of the adverse opinion.

26	Recommendations indicated in the Auditor General's Report had not been implemented. The directives/ recommendations issued by the Committee on Public Accounts had not been implemented.	The relevant divisions and hospitals have been informed to implement the recommendations and instructions. Furthermore, the relevant divisions have been informed from time to time in this regard.
27	The necessary action had not been taken to recover the loss caused to the Government by the officers as per Financial Regulation 156 (1). Surcharges ordered to pay as per FR 119 had not been recovered.	The relevant recoveries are made based on the recommendations provided through investigations conducted by the Investigation and Flying Squad Division and further actions will be taken in this regard with due attention.
28	Actions had not been taken to properly transfer the officers who had completed the maximum service period.	Steps are being taken to transfer officers who have completed more than five years of service at the same station by establishing Annual Transfer Committees. Internal transfers are being implemented in several phases with effect from 17.11.2025.



Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa (M.P)
Hon. Minister of Health & Mass Media

Dr. Nalinda Jayatissa (M.P)
Minister of Health & Mass Media
Chief Government Whip
Ministry of Health & Mass Media,
No. 385, "Suwasiripaya",
Rev. Baddegama Wimalawansa Thero Mw,
Colombo 10.

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