



**First Session of the Tenth Parliament  
of  
The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**

**Parliamentary Series No 222**

**First Report  
of the  
Committee on Public Accounts**

(Investigations conducted from 08.07.2023 to 31.10.2023)

*Presented by*  
**Hon. Aravinda Senarath**  
Chair of the Committee on Public Accounts  
on 08<sup>th</sup> of July 2025

*Ordered to be printed by Parliament of Sri Lanka on 08<sup>th</sup> day of July 2025.*

Submission of observations and actions taken on the reports of the Committee on Public Accounts tabled in Parliament.

Standing Order 119 (4) of Parliament states as follows.

*“A report of the Committee on Public Accounts, once tabled in Parliament shall be referred to the Minister in charge of the subject of Finance and the Ministers in charge of the institutions and the respective Minister shall submit the observations and actions taken in that regard to Parliament within eight weeks, and also submit a statement of actions proposed to be taken with regard to the observations or if the Minister is of the view that particular recommendation may not be fulfilled, the Minister shall explain the reasons in writing and indicate alternative actions, the Minister proposes to take to ensure the proper usage of public finance. If the Committee requires, the committee may invite the relevant Minister to explain the position in person and to answer the questions that arise as to such matters within eight weeks. When Parliament so decides, the report concerned may be referred to the Attorney General for his observations and necessary action.”*

**The Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament**  
**Composition of the Committee on Public Accounts**  
**(During the period of investigations)**

1. Hon. Lasantha Alagiyawanna (Chair)
2. Hon. Mohan Priyadarshana De Silva, Attorney at Law
3. Hon. Prasanna Ranaweera
4. Hon. K. Kader Masthan
5. Hon. (Dr.) Suren Raghavan
6. Hon. (Mrs.) Diana Gamage
7. Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake
8. Hon. S. B. Dissanayake
9. Hon. Tissa Attanayake
10. Hon. Wajira Abeywardana
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12. Hon. Kabir Hashim
13. Hon. Mano Ganesan
14. Hon. (Dr.) Sarath Weerasekera
15. Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake
16. Hon. Niroshan Perera
17. Hon. J. C. Alawathuwala
18. Hon. Vadivel Suresh
19. Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe
20. Hon. Buddhika Pathirana
21. Hon. Jayantha Ketagoda
22. Hon. Sivagnanam Shritharan (Since 25.04.2023)  
Hon. Shanakiyan Rajaputhiran Rasamanickam (up to  
24.04.2023)
23. Hon. Hector Appuhamy
24. Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda
25. Hon. Isuru Dodangoda
26. Hon. (Mrs.) Muditha Prishanthi (Since 07.03.2023)
27. Hon. M. W. D. Sahan Pradeep Withana
28. Hon. D. Weerasingha
29. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe (Since 25.04.2023)  
Hon. Hesha Withanage (up to 24.04.2023)
30. Hon (Mrs.) Manjula Dissanayake (Since 07.03.2023)
31. Hon. (Dr.) (Ms.) Harini Amarasuriya

**First Session of the Tenth Parliament**

**Composition of the Committee on Public Accounts**

1. Hon. Aravinda Senarath, M.P.,
2. Hon. Anton Jayakody, M.P.,
3. Hon. Major General (Rtd.) Aruna Jayasekera, M.P.,
4. Hon. Sugath Thilakaratne, M.P.,
5. Hon. Sundaralingam Pradeep, M.P., w.e.f. 21.03.2025
6. Hon. Nalin Hewage, M.P.,
7. Hon. Kabir Hashim, M.P., w.e.f. 21.03.2025
8. Hon. (Dr.) M.L.A.M. Hizbullah, M.P., w.e.f. 21.03.2025
9. Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardhana, M.P., w.e.f. 21.03.2025
10. Hon. J.C. Alawathuwala, M.P., w.e.f. 21.03.2025
11. Hon. Chamara Sampath Dasanayake, M.P., w.e.f. 21.03.2025
12. Hon. Hector Appuhamy, M.P., w.e.f. 21.03.2025
13. Hon. Kavinda Heshan Jayawardhana, M.P., w.e.f. 21.03.2025
14. Hon. Kaveenthiran Kodeeswaran, M.P., w.e.f. 21.03.2025
15. Hon. (Mrs.) Sagarika Athauda, M.P., Attorney at Law
16. Hon. Manjula Suraweera Arachchi, M.P.,
17. Hon. K. Ilankumaran, M.P.,
18. Hon. (Mrs.) Oshani Umanga, M.P.,
19. Hon. Ajantha Gammeddage, M.P., w.e.f. 21.03.2025
20. Hon. Ruwanthilaka Jayakody, M.P.,
21. Hon. (Mrs.) Thushari Jayasingha, M.P., Attorney at Law w.e.f. 21.03.2025
22. Hon. T.K. Jayasundara, M.P., w.e.f. 21.03.2025
23. Hon. M.A.M. Thahir, M.P., w. e. f. 21.03.2025
24. Hon. Susantha Kumara Nawarathna, M.P.,
25. Hon. Lal Premanath, M.P.,

26. Hon. Chanaka Madugoda, M.P., w. e. f. 21.03.2025
27. Hon. Sunil Rathnasiri, M.P., w. e. f. 08.05.2025
28. Hon. Dinindu Saman Hennayake, M.P.,
29. Hon. Chandana Sooriyaarachchi, M.P.,
30. Hon. (Dr.) Janaka Senarathna, M.P.,

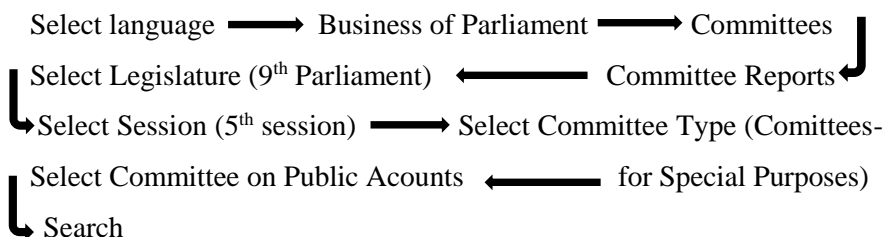
### **Staff of the Committee Secretariat**

#### **The Present Staff of the Committee on Public Accounts:**

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| ➤ Mrs. Kanthi Peiris         | - Secretary to the Committee/<br>Assistant Director (Administration) |
| ➤ Mr. PKDSW Wijegunawardhana | - Principal Officer  |
| ➤ Mrs. R.A.D.N. Geyowanee    | - Deputy Principal Officer   |
| ➤ Mr. J T L P Sameera        | - Assistant Principal Officer  |
| ➤ Miss. G D J H Ayeshmanthi  | - Parliamentary Officer  |
| ➤ Mrs. G M Kallegoda         | - Parliamentary Officer  |

### **Committee Reports**

The Reports of the Committee on Public Accounts can be downloaded through the website of [www.parliament.lk](http://www.parliament.lk) under the following path.



**Contents**

	<b>Page No</b>
a. Chair’s Note .....	7
b. Concise Report .....	8
c. Specific Observations.....	12
d. Main Issues Identified and Observations and Recommendations Made in respect of each of the Institutions Examined.....	13
e. Index.....	189

### **Chair's Note**

It gives me great pleasure to present the First Report of the Committee on Public Accounts, which contains the outcomes of the examinations conducted by the Committee from 08.07.2023 to 31.10.2023 during the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament.

I would like to point out at this stage that while providing remedies for the weaknesses identified during the follow-up process termed 'auditing', the Committee on Public Accounts places more emphasis on guiding institutions to avert the past shortcomings in the future as it is more productive to effectively prevent inefficiencies.

As such, I wish to mention that in addition to summoning and examining government institutions to Parliament, the Committee on Public Accounts successfully carries out the annual evaluation process regarding the government institutions through the on line information management system.

It is my candid opinion that it enables the up-to-date monitoring of institutions by the Committee and provides space to identify the weaknesses and shortcomings existing in institutions and to guide them to rectify through timely policy decisions.

Success of the Committee on Public Accounts means the positive outcome of the cooperation of all of its stakeholders. Therefore, I gratefully appreciate the assistance given me by all Members of this Committee irrespective of their party affiliations in handling properly the follow-up process in respect of the government's financial mechanism.

Further, I wish to place on record that the Committee extends its thanks and appreciation to the Auditor General and his staff, officials of the Treasury, and the Secretary General of Parliament and her staff at the office of the Committee on Public Accounts for their unstinted cooperation in conducting the functions of the Committee on Public Accounts in an efficient manner, though amidst multifarious challenges.

**Aravinda Senarath**

Chair

Committee on Public Accounts

### **Concise Report**

This Report contains the matters subjected to discussion by the Committee on Public Accounts pertaining to the institutions examined during the Fourth Session of the Ninth Parliament, the explanations given by the chief accounting officers (CAOs) or accounting officers (AOs) regarding the issues, and the recommendations given by the Committee on Public Accounts.

**The institutions examined by the Committee on Public Accounts from 08.07.2023 to 31.10.2023 and the period corresponding to the Report of the Auditor General which such examination focused:**

	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Period of the Report of the Auditor General Considered/ Progress in Implementing the Previous Directives of the Committee/ Present Progress</b>	<b>Date of Examination</b>
01	Department of Civil Security	Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance	08 August 2023
02	Department of Samurdhi Development	The "Short term and Mid term program for empowerment of Welfare beneficiary families" presented by the Ministry of the Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment and the progress of the implementation of the directives given at the Committee meetings held on 25.04.2023 and 26.05.2023	09 August 2023



	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Period of the Report of the Auditor General Considered/ Progress in Implementing the Previous Directives of the Committee/ Present Progress</b>	<b>Date of Examination</b>
03	Department of Meteorology	Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance	10 August 2023
04	Department of National Community Water Supply	Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance	11 August 2023
05	Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council	Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance	24 August 2023
06	Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and Sports Development Department	Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance	06 September 2023
07	Ministry of Health	Progress of the directives given at the meeting of the Committee on Public Accounts held on 23.06.2023 and Current Issues of the Ministry of Health	20 September 2023
08	Eastern Provincial Council	Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance	21 September 2023

	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Period of the Report of the Auditor General Considered/ Progress in Implementing the Previous Directives of the Committee/ Present Progress</b>	<b>Date of Examination</b>
09	Department of Probation and Child Care Services	Current Status of the Directives given at the COPA Meeting held on 04.07.2023 and Current Performance	04 October 2023
10	Excise Department	Auditor General's Reports of Year 2021 and the Current Performance	05 October 2023
11	Department of the Registrar of Companies	Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance	18 October 2023
12	Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and Sports Development Department	Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 & 2021 and the Current Performance	20 October 2023

**Special Investigations Conducted by the Committee:**

	<b>Special Investigation</b>	<b>Date of Examination</b>
01	Examining the Current Status and Issues related to the process of Assets Management of Government Institutions	09 August 2023
02	Examining the Current Status and Issues related to the process of Assets Management of Government Institutions	13 September 2023
03	Performance Evaluation of management of the Archaeological Heritage in Sri Lanka	03 October 2023
04	Meeting to examine the progress of the preliminary Technical Committee to recommend the measures to be taken by and among stakeholders to improve collection and improvement of government revenue through effective information system	19 October 2023

### ***Specific Observations***

The Committee on Public Accounts observed the following general issues pertaining to the institutions during the period of examining.

- ❖ **Absence of internal audit units and not conducting Audit and Management Committee meetings.**
- ❖ **Existence of staff vacancies.**
- ❖ **Failure to provide replies within the specific time for the recommendations given by the previous committees on public accounts.**
- ❖ **Delay in recovering the revenues due towards the government as at the specified date.**
- ❖ **Misuse of public funds.**
- ❖ **Absence of healthy coordination among institutions.**

**Main Issues Identified and Observations and Recommendations  
Made in respect of each of the Institutions Examined**

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Department of Civil Security</b>  <i>(Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 &amp; 2021 and the Current Performance)</i>  <b>Date of Examination – 08 August 2023</b></p>		
<p><b>Institutions Summoned –</b>  ❖ Ministry of Defence  ❖ Department of Civil Security</p>		
01.	<p><b><u>Preparing the legal framework of the Department of Civil Security to be in keeping with the present requirements and state policy</u></b></p>	<p>The chief accounting officer (CAO) / accounting officer (AO) of the Ministry of Defence stated before the Committee that a suitable bill has already been prepared for the Department but its process has stopped temporarily because a dialog has been underway for the restructuring of the Department.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee directed the chief accounting officer / accounting officer to forward a report by 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 containing the timeframe for preparing a legal framework by effecting the necessary amendments in accordance with the state policy and the policy decision made regarding the Department, in consultation with the relevant sections including His</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<p>Excellency the President and the Security Council.</p> <p><b>The report concerned has been presented through the letters of the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, dated 03.12.2023 and 20.05.2023.</b></p>
02.	The Committee queried on statistical information regarding the manner in which troops of the Department Civil Security have been deployed at various places in the island including temples and places of archaeological interest and focused its special attention on the weaknesses in the centralized supervision process pertaining to the deployment process.	<p>The CAO / AO of the Ministry of Defence stated that troops have been assigned for other duties after high level discussions such as with the National Security Council, they have been deployed as corps under Senior Army/ Navy Commanding Officers in the respective areas, and the respective Commanding Officer is responsible for their deployment, supervision and transfer.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee directed the CAO / AO to prepare a more centralized process for supervision / control than the state prevailing at present.</p>
03.	The Committee observed that 442 officers who had served in the Department of Civil Security and retired / died in the year 2021 and years before that had been paid salaries amounting to Rs. 10.08 million treating them as those	<p>The CAO / AO informed that administrative lapses had occurred in the years 2019, 2020 and 2021, and that the information concerned has not been reported to the Salary Division properly, and the due sums are being collected as instalments at present. The CAO / AO further informed the</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
	still in service, but only Rs. 2.36 million of it had been recovered; and that the reasons for that were the non-reporting of accurate information to the Salaries Division expeditiously and the weakness in the centralized supervision function.	Committee that the commanding officers in charge of the platoons have been given the power to stop the salaries of platoon members even if the salaries are transferred to the respective banks from the Salary Division, with a view to avoiding such circumstances in future.
04.	The Committee inquired about the earning of incomes of the Department of Civil Security. The Committee focused its attention on the methods of earning incomes as well.	<p>The CAO / AO informed the Committee that the Department increased its income in the year 2022 compared to the year 2021 and pointed out that the income earning projects have also been expanded.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee directed the CAO / AO of the Ministry of Defence to give attention towards a course of action to increase incomes generated while still maintaining the services provided by the Department.</p>
05.	Committee's attention was drawn towards the existence of a loss of Rs. 10.6 million over the course of the past 5 years found when comparing the income and expenditure of the cashew cultivation project maintained in an area of about	<p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee issued a general recommendation that a fair methodology be formulated so that a higher income would be received.</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
	1,200 acres within Kondachchi area in Mannar.	<b>The report has been submitted through the letter of the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence dated 30.12.2023.</b>
06.	The attention of the Committee was drawn to the chillie cultivation project run by the Department of Civil Defence over an area of about 20 acres.	Expressing their views, the officers of the Department of Civil Security stated that a sum of Rs. 17 million had been invested as capital including for machinery for this project which is total of 16.75 acres in 11 identified places all over the island and a sum of Rs. 11.7 million has been earned as income from 8 acres from it and the project would continue to earn further.
07.	It came to light before the Committee that stocks had piled up unnecessarily as the purchasing of equipment and replacement parts necessary for day-to-day needs of the institution had been done without accurately identifying the quantities required; and that some of the stocks were in an unusable condition.	<p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee gave directions to the effect that action be taken to prevent such waste in future.</p>
08.	It came to light before the Committee that troops of the Kantale Corps had been deployed for printing exercise books by the Seva Wanitha Sangamaya (Service Women's Association) for	The CAO/AO of the Ministry of Defence stated before the Committee that this is an institution run for welfare activities of the members of the three forces, that it has its own fund, and that the printing work was done in that manner as it was cheaper to get the



	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
	children of members of the Department and the salaries for it amounting to approximately Rs. 45 million had not been recovered.	<p>printing done by officers of the Department of Civil Defence than to purchase books from outside.</p> <p>In addition, the CAO/AO of the Ministry of Defence stated before the Committee that the printing was carried out at the printing press belonging to the Department located in Trincomalee engaging members of the Corps who volunteered for this task.</p>
09.	The Committee observed that the death toll of elephants and humans due to elephant-human clashes has escalated although a cost exceeding Rs. 627 million had been borne to deploy 845 civil security troops for chasing away wild elephants.	<p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>At that point, the Committee pointed out that practical solution should be reached extraneous to the role of the Department, treating the elephant-human conflict as a common issue.</p>
10.	The Committee queried about the promotion scheme of the Department of Civil Security.	<p>The officers of the Department of Civil Security stated that a promotional scheme akin to that in defence sections is operative at the Department of Civil Security and that promotions are given to approved level of rank according to Circulars issued by the government after recruitment in the year 2015.</p> <p>The officers of the Ministry of Finance who expressed their opinion stated that a recruitment scheme had not</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>been prepared for the Department, and instructions had been issued even in the year 2021 to identify the need for one properly, prepare a recruitment scheme, and obtain the approval of the Public Service Commission for it.</p> <p>The CAO of the Ministry of Defence stated that a request pertaining to preparing of this recruitment scheme had been submitted to the Treasury in the year 2021 considering service exigencies and that it could not be achieved due to issues associated with salary groups. The CAO / AO of the Ministry of Defence informed that the Civil Security Force was being treated as a dwindling force and therefore, all recruitments have been stopped.</p>
11.	The Committee queried about deviation from the procurement process in selling the crop from the maize project in Monaragala area.	<p>Submitting facts, the Department officials stated that the sale concerned had been conducted at a price higher than the bid selected through the tender process. However, the Committee observed that action had been taken contrary to the procurement process during this transaction and part of the sale price had been made available to the company concerned as a loan facility. Thereupon, the Department officials said that the Company obtained a bank overdraft necessary for the purpose.</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<u><b>Recommendations</b></u>  The Committee directed the CAO / AO of the Ministry of Defence to prepare a set of instructions on the tender procedure that should be followed by the Department of Civil Security, send it to the Department, and submit a copy of it to the Committee by 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2023.
12.	The Committee queried about failure to give replies at the meeting held on 10 <sup>th</sup> August 2016 regarding the paying of rents for buildings of the Department that had not been put to use.	The CAO / AO stated before the Committee that the Committee Office was informed on that day that the information associated with the matter had been misplaced.  <u><b>Recommendations</b></u>  Having expressed its displeasure about the failure to send a reply regarding the matter for 7 years, the Committee directed the CAO / AO of the Ministry of Defence to take steps to give an answer within a specific timeframe regarding the recommendations given today.
13.	<u><b>Presenting reports on the matters stated in the Report of the Auditor General, which had not been taken up for discussion at the meeting of the Committee.</b></u>	<u><b>Recommendations</b></u>  The Committee directed the CAO / AO of the Ministry of Defence to submit before 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 a report containing separate details on

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<p>each matter that had been contained in the brief note prepared by the Auditor General pertaining to the Department but not subjected to discussion at the meeting.</p> <p><b>The report has been submitted through the letter dated 30.12.2023 by the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence.</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>Examining the Current Status and Issues related to the process of Assets Management of Government Institutions</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Date of Examination – 09 August 2023</b></p>		
<p><b>Institutions Summoned –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government</li> <li>❖ Ministry of Education</li> <li>❖ Office of the Comptroller General</li> <li>❖ Government Valuation Department</li> </ul>		
01.	<b><u>Accounted and Un-Accounted Government-Owned Financial Assets</u></b>	<p>The Committee observed that the value of accounted non-financial assets belonging to the government as at 31.12.2022 had been Rs. 2,093,287,997,716 (over two trillion) and there were many financial assets yet to be accounted, stressing the need to formulate a methodology for it.</p> <p>The lady Comptroller General stated that the Office of the Comptroller General, which had been established in the year 2017 for managing non-</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
		<p>financial assets of government institutions, is assigned the task of maintaining a centralized database on non-financial assets.</p> <p>The Comptroller General stated that the database on vehicles has been finalized while the database pertaining to buildings and lands has not been completed. At the same time, she further stated that the present situation had arisen because the information sought from government institutions is not provided to the Office of the Comptroller General in time and she pointed out that government institutions could be made more responsible in providing information after passing the Act relevant to the Office of the Comptroller General.</p>
02.	<p><b><u>Obtaining information from government institutions with regard to management of non-financial assets.</u></b></p> <p>It came to light at the Committee that government institutions provide information on their assets to the Department of Public Accounts (through CIGAS database). The Committee in turn inquired about the possibility for the Office of</p>	<p>It was stated here that the Department of Public Accounts obtains information for the purpose of accounting while the Office of the Comptroller General obtains information for the purpose of managing assets. The Comptroller General pointed out that her Department therefore needed data in a volume higher than that was obtained by the Department of Public Accounts. Therefore, she concluded that the information obtained through CIGAS was hardly enough.</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
	the Comptroller General to obtain the information so given to the database concerned.	<p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee directed the Comptroller General to furnish a report containing what information was requested of the government institutions pertaining to management of non-financial assets and what information had been furnished by each of the institutions and what information had not been furnished on or before 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023.</p> <p><b>The report concerned has been presented through the letter No. CGO/ACC/COP-AC/01 dated 24.08.2023. (pertaining to vehicles, buildings and lands)</b></p>
03.	<b><u>Problems Emerging in Valuing Non-Financial Assets</u></b>	<p>As many practical problems have to be faced in valuing non-financial assets, the Committee's attention was focused on whether it is possible to prepare a formula (for example a province-based valuation for lands) that could be used in general with the assistance of the Government Valuation Department as a first step towards in making this process successful.</p> <p>The Committee stressed the importance of establishing a task force and using a computer system for gathering of data on assets of all</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
		<p>government institutions scattered all over the island because it is not an easy task.</p> <p>The Comptroller General informed that a programme had been commenced already to gather data through an online system and it was expected to be in operation with effect from September 2023.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee directed the Comptroller General to present a report before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 for the formulation of a protocol to collect information on valued and non-valued non-financial assets of all government institutions through the information database by presenting a software incorporated with a uniform format usable by all government institutions, specifying the timeframe for its implementation, and submit it to the Committee before 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023. The Committee further directed that an assurance be obtained from the respective head of each institution to the effect that no more assets belonging to the respective institution are in existence in addition to those on which information has been presented.</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<p>The report concerned has been presented through the letter No. CGO/ACC/COP-AC/01 dated 29.08.2023.</p> <p>It has been informed that the Office of the Comptroller General has introduced an online non-financial assets management system (NFAMS) and it will come to effect from 31.09.2023. It has been informed that the module pertaining to vehicles will come into operation as its first step.</p>
04.	<p><b><u>The 157 Vehicles Registered in Favour of Secretary to the Ministry of Education</u></b></p> <p>The Committee queried as to why 157 vehicles registered in the name of Secretary to the Ministry of Education according to the data available in the Department of the Department of Motor Traffic were not available in the Vehicles Register of the Ministry of Education or physically at the Ministry.</p>	<p>The CAO / AO of the Ministry of Education informed that in addition to those registered in favour of the Secretary to the Ministry, some vehicles had been registered in favour of school principals, that information had been unearthed about 93 vehicles from the list of 248 vehicles given in the audit query, and that it had not been possible to unearth definite information about 153 of the vehicles. The CAO / AO of the Ministry of Education further informed that steps would be taken to ascertain whether they had been disposed of because they must have been very old vehicles registered around the 1980s, judging by their registration numbers.</p>



	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
05.	<b><u>Need for an Account Linked with All Government Institutions</u></b>	<p>It was pointed out here that the government account is prepared as per the information obtained pertaining to government Ministries, Departments and District Secretariats, and opined that it was problematic that only the responsibility was reported without records on the assets pertaining to foreign borrowings. The Committee stressed that it would be essential to have an account linked with all government institutions.</p> <p>As such, the Committee recommended convening a discussion with the Secretary to the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies, Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government, the Senior Assistant Secretary (Administration) of the Ministry of Education, the External Resources Department, Director General of the Department of Public Accounts, the Comptroller General, the Chief Government Valuer and relevant officers within the next two weeks in order to resolve the issues concerned and make a policy decision. The Committee also directed that the Secretary to the Ministry of Finance be apprised of the facts discussed on the day.</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
<p align="center"><b>Department of Samurdhi Development</b></p> <p align="center"><i>(The “Short term and Mid term program for empowerment of Welfare beneficiary families” presented by the Ministry of the Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment and the progress of the implementation of the directives given at the Committee meetings held on 25.04.2023 and 26.05.2023)</i></p> <p align="center"><b>Date of Examination – 09 August 2023</b></p>		
<p><b>Institutions Summoned –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment</li> <li>❖ Department of Samurdhi Development</li> <li>❖ Department of Pensions</li> <li>❖ Welfare Benefits Board</li> </ul>		
01.	<p><b><u>Having problems regarding the payment of pensions to the officials.</u></b></p> <p>The committee observed that no proper solutions have been found for the existing problems regarding the payment of pensions to the officers absorbed from the authorities during the establishment of the Samurdhi Development Department, and inquired about the reasons for not implementing the Supreme Court judgment on this matter.</p>	<p>The CAO/AO stated that the officers absorbed into the department under Section 44e (2) of the Divi Neguma Act, shall be absorbed into the department with effect from the day they were given appointments to the respective authorities, and they are entitled to pensions under the provisions of the Pension Minute and the contribution given by the relevant authority to the EPF will be taken into consideration. According to the 2015 settlement decision of the Supreme Court for the case filed against the Samurdhi Development Department by the trade unions, these officers should repay the outstanding widows and orphans contributions for their tenure of office along with interest as per Pension Circular 03/2008, and if</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>those officers have obtained any loan using the EPF as collateral the balance of the loan and its interest should be charged from the EPF and the balance should be released to those officers.</p> <p>The CAO/AO stated that according to the policy decision of the Cabinet of Ministers given in the year 2018, 12% of the government's contribution to the fund paid on behalf of these officers must be paid back to the government, and new circulars have been issued in this regard and the 2015 judgement is not executed.</p> <p>The Director General of Pensions stated that if any contribution has been paid in terms of Section 48(e) of the Pension Minute, the said officer will be entitled to pension after the said amount has been collected along with the interest and 12% contribution paid by the government on behalf of the officer from the date of initial appointment, and the government's contribution to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund must be paid back to the government with interest, and the remaining amount will belong to the officer.</p> <p>The CAO/AO stated that it appears that this problematic situation has arisen due to the fact that the</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<p>Employees' Provident Fund established by the Employees' Provident Fund Act No. 15 of 1958 does not fall under the definition of an 'approved provident fund' mentioned in Article 48(6) of the Pension Minute. He also mentioned that he has received instructions from the Attorney General to act according to the judgment in this regard.</p> <p>The CAO/AO stated that steps are being taken to forward the files of 881 retired officers to the Pension Department, and steps have been taken to solve the problems of 66 officers whose pensions are delayed due to problems related to widows and orphans pensions fund.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation</u></b></p> <p>The CAO/AO recommended to submit a report containing the observations on the payment of pension to the officers absorbed in the establishment of the Samurdhi Development Department and the legal and other issues behind those observations to the Committee within 02 weeks (before 23.08.2023).</p> <p><b>After reviewing the current legal provisions, cabinet decisions, and internal circulars regarding this matter, the Secretary to the Ministry</b></p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<p><b>of Women, Child Affairs, and Social Empowerment prepared a report with observations, which the Committee has received with the letter No. SMS/ACC/01/44 dated August 23, 2023.</b></p> <p>The Committee directed the Director General of Pensions to submit a report to the Committee within two weeks, (before 23.08.2023), containing his recommendations and the conditions that must be fulfilled in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations that authorize the payment of pensions to the aforementioned officials. The Committee also stated that it would forward the report to the President's Secretary.</p> <p><b>A letter of the Director General of Pensions No. Pen/Pol/1C/480 dated 22.08.2023 has been sent to the Committee with a report, including the legal provisions applicable to this matter, the requirements to be met accordingly, along with observations, and the Pension Department has informed the Committee that pensions and post-employment benefits for the officers of the Divineguma Department are given continuously in terms of the Supreme Court decision and the decision of the cabinet of ministers.</b></p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<p><b>This report has been forwarded to the President's Secretary by the Committee on Public Accounts in letter No. PAC/9/4/2024 and dated 02.01.2024 for appropriate further action.</b></p>
02.	<p><b><u>Revision of the approved cadre.</u></b></p> <p>The Committee observed the need to revise the approved staff to solve the job related problems of the officers of the Samurdhi Development Department and inquired about the status of the new staff revision.</p>	<p>The CAO/AO stated that requests that have been made on several occasions since 2020 to increase and revise the number of staff approved in the year 2019 were rejected. The Department of Management Services stated that several discussions were held on this matter and that it is essential to get information about the changes in the cadre with the change in the role of the Samurdhi Development Department.</p> <p><b><u>Observations/recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The committee pointed out the need for a proper staff review and advised the Samurdhi Development Department to provide the necessary information to the Management Services Department.</p> <p>The Committee recommended to the Director General of the Management Services Department to prepare a questionnaire in order to obtain clarifications necessary to make decisions regarding the staff review of the Samurdhi Development</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
		<p>Department and to forward it to the Secretary of the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment with a copy to the Committee on Public Accounts before 16.08.2023, and the Committee further recommended to the CAO/AO of the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment to send the answers to the above questionnaire to the Management Services Department before 01.09.2023 after having a consultation with the Minister in charge of the subject.</p> <p><b>This questionnaire has been forwarded to the Secretary to the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment with a copy to the Committee with the letter No. DMS/1284/Vol.VII dated 15.08.2023 of the Director General of the Department of Management Services. A copy of the letter No. MWCA&amp;SE/ADM/19/61/Volume03 dated 12.09.2023 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment sent to the Department of Management Services regarding the report and the recommendations approved by the Hon. Minister in charge of the subject on the questionnaire of the Department of</b></p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		Management Services has been sent to the Committee.
03.	<p><b><u>Implementation of programs to empower the Samurdhi beneficiaries.</u></b></p> <p>The Committee inquired about the progress of the Samurdhi Beneficiary Empowerment Program during the 25 years since its inception. The committee emphasized that it is not enough to give benefits to empower the poor community and that these Samurdhi beneficiaries should be directed to self-employment or other work arrangements that can generate income and should be monitored regularly. The Committee also stated that these programmes can be implemented jointly with other appropriate institutions, and a formal plan should be prepared in this regard. The committee also specifically pointed out that it is essential to provide the families participating in the Samurdhi movement with the goals to be met within a certain period of</p>	<p>The CAO/AO stated that the Samurdhi Development Department has made a great contribution to bringing down the poverty rate in Sri Lanka, which was more than 28% at the beginning of the Samurdhi campaign. The CAO/AO further stated that there has been no decrease in the number of Samurdhi recipients because the empowered Samurdhi recipients have not left the Samurdhi program and said that various measures have been taken to solve this problem, and he mentioned that it has been possible to reduce it to about 16 lakhs.</p> <p>The CAO/AO stated that a survey conducted by the Samurdhi Development Department with respect to the years 2020, 2021, and 2022 revealed that the department spends about 67 billion rupees per year on subsidies and salaries. The CAO/AO stated that Japanese language courses of 06 months duration (six months) are conducted for 815 students in 19 centers in agreement with the Foreign Employment Bureau.</p>



	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
	time, and the necessary provisions and guidance should be given for that, and follow-up should be done.	
04.	<p><b><u>Program to empower 12 lakh families identified under the Aswasuma Welfare Benefit Scheme.</u></b></p> <p>The Committee inquired about the steps taken so far regarding the implementation of the Samurdhi campaign in parallel with the Aswasuma Welfare Benefit Scheme.</p>	<p>The Welfare Benefits Board stated that it has given priority to the preparation of the data system of the Aswasuma Welfare Benefit Scheme, and it is expected to give access permission to the Samurdhi Development Department in the future. He also mentioned that an observation has been made that it is appropriate to conduct a study on the existing criteria and prepare the program for the next year. The committee emphasized that the information of the beneficiaries who are entitled to welfare benefits should be obtained promptly. The CAO/AO stated that work is being done for that and awareness activities have been started to keep these Samurdhi members in the Samurdhi movement constantly.</p> <p>The CAO/AO stated that the Samurdhi Development Department has prepared a program to empower about 12 lakhs of families who are currently identified as poor or extremely poor under the Aswasuma welfare benefits program within a period of 03 years.</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>The CAO/AO stated that it is planned to empower 03 lakhs of families in the year 2024, 04 lakhs of families in the year 2025, and 07 lakhs of families in the year 2026 under the 3 sectors of mental, social, and economic. Once the basic data is collected, development plans will be prepared for each family, and this program is expected to be implemented by the operational committees appointed at the rural, regional, district, and national levels. The CAO/AO further stated that there are plans to appoint monitoring operational committees and prepare a network for the follow-up process. They further said that a project report has been prepared to be submitted to the National Planning Department to obtain financial approval for this programme and that the program is expected to be implemented after the publication of the final list of the Welfare Benefit Board.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee recommended to the CAO/AO to get Cabinet approval for the programme prepared above for the empowerment of poor and extremely poor families, give targets to the managers at the Grama Niladhari</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>division level and regional level depending on the number of families covered by this program, and do an annual progress review.</p> <p><b>The letter No. SMS/ACC/01/44 and 2023.08.23 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs, and Social Empowerment mentioned that arrangements are being made to obtain Cabinet approval for the programme prepared to empower 12 lakhs of poor and extremely poor families under the Aswesuma Welfare Benefit Scheme during the period of 2024–2026. Targets have been prepared for the officers attached to the empowerment programme at district, regional, and divisional levels, and a performance evaluation process has been included in the plan.</b></p>
05.	<p><b><u>Functioning of Samurdhi Banks</u></b></p> <p>According to the audit analysis, the committee observed that Samurdhi Bank currently has assets of 255 billion rupees and the value of financial assets is 220 billion rupees. However, the</p>	<p>The CAO/AO stated although the Samurdhi Bank has deposits of 178 billion rupees, mandatory savings worth about 45 billion rupees are not utilized for the lending process and are invested separately. Under empowerment, a system of providing loans up to 5 lakh rupees at 4% interest rate is being implemented.</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
	<p>committee noticed that Samurdhi Bank's loan balance is 70 billion rupees, of which 10 billion rupees belong to employees' loans, and the value of investments is 150 billion rupees.</p>	<p><b><u>Observations / Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee also observed that although the fixed deposit interest rate of ordinary banks is high, Samurdhi bank has a higher number of savings deposits that give 3% interest to the depositors, so it can make a wider contribution to the formation of entrepreneurs by increasing the amount of loans given at a low interest rate.</p> <p>The committee also pointed out the importance of providing such credit facilities through Samurdhi Banks for the empowerment of the people who are not members of the Samurdhi movement, and the CAO/AO stated that they are already working for it through community-based organizations.</p> <p>The committee also pointed out that it is appropriate to take steps to amend the Samurdhi Act so that it is subject to the audit of the Auditor General.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Department of Meteorology</b></p> <p align="center"><i>(Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 &amp; 2021 and the Current Performance)</i></p> <p align="center"><b>Date of Examination – 10 August 2023</b></p>		
<p><b>Institutions Summoned –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Ministry of Defence</li> <li>❖ Department of Meteorology</li> </ul>		

	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
01.	<b><u>The staff</u></b>	The attention of the committee was drawn to the vacancies in several posts, including the post of Additional Director General, an approved post at the senior level of the Meteorological Department. The AO stated that although the Post of Additional Director General was approved in 2022 the post is still vacant because the scheme of recruitment has not been approved so far. The officer representing the Department of Management Services of the Treasury stated that it is the responsibility of the Department of Meteorology to fill the vacancies in coordination with the Ministry of Public administrations Home Affairs Provincial Councils and Local Government as recruitment procedures are not required as there are service minutes for the respective posts,
02.	<b><u>Establishment of Audit and Management Committees and number of meetings held</u></b>	Audit and management committee meetings were to be held in 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, and by June 30, 2023, there were 18 meetings, but only 2 meetings were held, and the last meeting was conducted on December 20, 2020. The Chief Accounting Officer stated that since there is no internal auditor in the department, there is no audit committee, and that departmental issues are discussed only in the audit committee of the Ministry.

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<p>The committee recommended that the Ministry take on the responsibility of conducting internal audit committees for the departments and take the necessary steps for that.</p>
03.	<p><b><u>Departmental system of obtaining information regarding immediate weather changes.</u></b></p>	<p>Only 70 out of 122 automatic rain gauges installed by the department on May 31, 2023, were in working condition. 02 out of 38 automated meteorological stations have not been installed, and 12 have been repaired, enabling us to get data on all parameters. The batteries in the rest of the stations were dead and not functioning as expected. There are 453 conventional rain gauge sets, and there are 72 rain gauges that do not receive data continuously as of May 31, 2023.</p> <p>According to the AO data collection is done by automatic rain gauges as well as conventional rain gauge system. However, there are problems with the accuracy of the data in the conventional system and the service of the people doing the measurements is voluntary. He further stated that it is expected to get the necessary allocations to provide training for these people in the upcoming budget.</p> <p>The AO stated that the automated system established in 2018 is a method</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>of obtaining data once every 10 minutes and crashes occur in cases of lightning. Procurement activities have been started to get batteries for the disabled battery units in this system.</p> <p>The CAO/AO stated that the rainfall is measured through the traditional rain gauge system and obtains the related data by post.</p> <p>The committee voiced its dissatisfaction with this cumbersome approach to data acquisition and underlined that, with the advancement of technology, data had to be gathered more expeditiously and practically. In its report, the Committee questioned the usefulness of the antiquated rain gauge system and requested an assessment of its continued need. It also recommended that a more precise automatic system be employed for weather forecasting, and that the Ministry of Defense should be consulted in this regard.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Committee recommended the CAO/AO to submit a report before 10.09.2023 that includes a program to update all existing conventional rain gauges and obtain data instantly.</li> </ul>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p><b>Provisional design for data acquisition by conventional rain gauge sets has been sent through letter No. IAU/COPA/Committee/2023/07 dated 2023.10.10, and it has been informed that the project can be implemented upon receipt of the allocation.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Committee recommended to the CAO/AO to give a report to the Committee before 10.10.2023 about the current status of 122 automatic rain gauges, 38 automated meteorological stations, 453 conventional rain gauge sets, the plan to be followed to remove redundant units or re-commission required units and report with dates on its implementation .</li> </ul> <p><b>A detailed report has been sent by the letter bearing no IAU/COPA/Committee/2023/07 dated 10.10.2023 by the Director General of Meteorology. The draft estimate required for the retrieval method of traditional rain gauge data on the same-day using a mobile phone is presented. It has been informed that 122 automatic rain gauges</b></p>



	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p><b>will be brought back to the operational level before 2024.02.28 and the 38 automatic meteorological stations will be brought back to the operational level before the end of June 2024. It has been informed that plans are underway to acquire data through conventional rain gauge sets.</b></p>
04.	<b><u>Operation of Gongala Radar System.</u></b>	<p>Rs. 402 million had been spent for this project that was implemented in the year 2008 and an amount of Rs.322,926,702 had been remitted to the Department of Meteorology in December 2019 for the 320 million rupees deposited in the Trust Fund of the World Meteorological Society. One million rupees had been kept out of the total money received on December 24, 2019, and the remaining amount had been sent to the Treasury. The project has been put on hold after the Sri Lankan government spent around Rs. 78 million on construction training and other administrative tasks. Additionally, the radar system installation was hindered by the collapse of the crane. Due to the associated equipment being damaged by the idleness, the radar system—that originally cost roughly US\$1.6 million—had to be repaired, incurring additional costs of US\$1.1 million.</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<p>Eventually, the associated equipment's technology became outdated, which is why the project as a whole failed.</p> <p>It was further revealed that equipment worth Rs.9,146,765 allocated for Gongala radar system in January 2016, was also missing.</p> <p>Furthermore, before the equipment related to this project was brought to Sri Lanka, an officer of the Department of Meteorology had checked these machines and informed that it was not in working condition. No notes related to this transaction were disclosed in the financial statements. Rs. It was stated that an investigation is being conducted by the Commission to investigate bribery or corruption regarding the misplaced machinery valued at around Rs. 9.1 million and that the accused officials have not been identified so far.</p>
05.	<b><u>Establishment of Pothuvil Meteorological Station.</u></b>	The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) had signed an agreement with the government of Sri Lanka on June 30, 2017 to provide a grant of 2,503 million Japanese yen for this project. The government of Sri Lanka has to bear an amount of Rs. 486.6 million, but even though five years have passed since 2017, construction work has not started yet.

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>Furthermore, the Meteorology Department has not yet acquired the land where the Meteorology Center is located and where the Pothuvil radar tower will be built. The AO stated that due to reasons beyond the control of the department, the project is being delayed further. He further stated that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not possible to start the procurement activities in 2020, and although the work was started in 2021, the tender procedure was stopped midway as the amount estimated in 2017 was not sufficient, and it is expected to start the project in Puttalam in 2024.</p> <p>It was brought to the attention of the Committee that the ownership of about 10 lands where the regional offices of the Department of Meteorology have been set up, including the place where the Puttalam Doppler Radar machine is to be set up, has not been acquired by the department.</p>
06.	<b><u>Asset management</u></b>	<p>The department had not taken steps to acquire ten plots of land in Anuradhapura, Batticaloa, Katugastota, Mahailuppallam, Mannar, Ratnapura, Kurunegala, Vavuniya, and Mullaitivu, where the regional offices of the department of meteorology were located. The AO</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		stated that the department has taken steps to obtain transfer certificates for these lands from the divisional secretariats, but there have been delays in the process.
07.	<b><u>Asset management</u></b>	Out of 38 automatic meteorological systems worth Rs. 570 million received in 2009 under Japanese aid (JICA), 18 (M type) are within the premises of the Center's Meteorological Divisional Office, and 17 (C type) have also been established on the premises of other institutions of the Centre. While 2 out of 20 M-type systems are not installed and 1 out of 18 C-type systems is completely disabled, The AO stated that only 12 out of 38 automatic meteorological systems are currently at the expected level of operation, and data from 14 systems is being received by the head office.
08.	<b><u>Monsoon Forum</u></b>	The AO stated that the Department of Meteorology is working to make a weather forecast in a monsoon forum held twice a year before each monsoon season in coordination with the Irrigation Department, Sri Lanka Mahaweli Authority, Tea, Coconut, and Paddy Research Institutes, the Agricultural Insurance Board, the Disaster Management Center, and

	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
		<p>other 52 government and non-governmental organizations.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The committee pointed out that there is a need to pass an act to establish legitimacy in the activities of the Meteorological Department regarding the publication of these forecasts. Until then, the CAO/AO was given directives to prepare a work schedule with appropriate legal background to have a coordinating mechanism, including the roles and responsibilities of other government institutions as well as the department of meteorology, information that should be shared, and how to manage and utilize the information and give a report on it to the committee before September 10, 2023.</p> <p><b>Director General of Meteorology has sent a detailed report by the letter no IAU/COPA/Committee/2023/07 dated 2023.09.08. It has been informed that the Minister is taking the initiative to draft an Act for the department and until then, they are working to formalize this mechanism.</b></p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
09.	<b><u>Sri Lanka Meteorological Department Global Ranking.</u></b>	<p>The Committee has recommended that the CAO/AO provide a report to the Committee by September 10, 2023. The report should outline the Meteorological Department's position in the world rankings and the accuracy percentage of the department's weather forecasts in relation to international standards.</p> <p><b>It has been informed that the World Meteorological Association was asked about the position of the Sri Lanka Meteorological Department in terms of global rankings. Furthermore, It has also been informed that the allocation for this subject in Sri Lanka is not enough compared to the rest of the world. Reports of temperature and precipitation verifications have been sent.</b></p>
10.	<b><u>Payment of membership fees/subscriptions to organizations required to receive disaster information internationally.</u></b>	<p>It was revealed that membership fees/subscriptions have not been paid for organizations that are supposed to receive information about disasters internationally. The Committee inquired whether the non-payment of these contributions would not create a problem in obtaining the relevant information .The annual membership fees have been paid to the World Meteorological Organization, but the</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		subscriptions have not been paid to 3 other institutions. The committee recommended to the CAO/AO to follow a specific method in the payment of subscriptions.
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Department of Community Water Supply</b>  <b>(Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 &amp; 2021 and the Current Performance)</b>  <b>Date of Examination – 11 August 2023</b></p>		
<b>Institutions Summoned –</b> ❖ Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development ❖ Department of National Community Water Supply		
01.	<b><u>Filling up vacancies</u></b>	<p>It was revealed before the Committee that no recruitment has been done for the positions for the sociologist, geologist, senior connoisseur, and technical officer positons in the organizational structure of the National Community Water Supply Department from the day of its inception in September 2014.</p> <p>The CAO/AO stated that although requests have been made since the year 2018 regarding filling up the vacancies, no response has been received from the relevant authorities so far. As all the above three posts are Class 1 posts, it has been requested from the Department of Management Services to convert them into Class 3 (11) posts.</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
02.	The committee also observed that although 5228 water projects have been initiated by the National Community Water Supply Department, only about 4500 projects have been implemented. The Committee inquired about the water projects that have been implemented in the Northern Province, which has the lowest rainfall in Sri Lanka and no rivers.	<p>The CAO/AO stated that the department is working to meet the drinking water needs of the people without dividing the north and south.</p> <p>The CAO/AO stated that 50 water projects have been started in Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Mannar, and Vavuniya areas in the Northern Province, and 25 projects have now been handed over to the people. The remaining projects are under construction.</p>
03.	The Committee stated that it has been observed that the National Community Water Supply Department is currently working away from the community-based concept. An inquiry was made regarding work done by contract, though it should be done by community contribution.	<p>The CAO/AO stated that although his department has not deviated from the community-based system, according to the procurement guidelines, tender procedures have to be followed for all the projects with a total turnover of more than 5 million rupees. Other than that, equipment needed for water projects and the technology needed to check the quality of water could not be provided by community contributions, so the procurement process has to be followed for that.</p> <p>This department was established on a "community-based concept" and should be worked accordingly. If the existing procurement guidelines interfere with the community-based process, the committee advised that a</p>



	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		suitable procurement method should be approved.
04.	<b><u>Praja Jala Abhimanee Scheme</u></b>	<p>According to the Auditor General's report, Rs. 6061 million has been allocated to construct 363 projects under the Praja Jala Abhimanee Scheme during the period from 2019 to 2021, but the Committee focused its special attention on the fact that, out of the 174 projects inspected by the Auditor General in June 2023, 166 projects had not been completed.</p> <p>The CAO/AO stated that the Auditor General's report is not correct. According to the explanations made by the CAO/AO, this scheme was introduced in May 2019, and out of 123 projects started in that year, only 03 projects have been completed. In 2020, 88 water projects have been completed. Accordingly, From the year 2019 to the year 2021, 363 water projects were started as three-year medium-term programs under the Praja Jala Abhimanie programe and the construction of 119 projects had been completed by the year 2022., It was also revealed that the rest of the projects are being implemented under each phase.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<p>The Committee recommended to the CAO/AO of the Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development to get necessary information from the Divisional Offices / Divisional Secretaries regarding the statement made by the accounting officer of the National Community Water Supply Department that the information contained in the Auditor General's report regarding water projects is not correct and submit their recommendation to the Committee before 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023.</p> <p><b>The relevant report has been submitted in letter no. FIN/01/01/16 dated 25.09.2023 by the Secretary to the Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development.</b></p>
05.	<b><u>Lack of formal regulation for community-based organizations</u></b>	<p>The committee emphasized that the lack of regulations by the National Community Water Supply Department regarding community-based societies means that the fundamental purposes for which it was established have not been met. The Committee stated that since the government has a contribution to the community based organizations, the National Community Water Supply Department has the responsibility of regulating</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
		<p>them and the National Community Water Supply Department was instructed to obtain information about the financial status of community-based organizations in 25 districts and the status of water projects implemented by those organizations.</p> <p>The CAO/AO stated that the department provides the necessary consultancy services regarding the training related to keeping accounts of community-based organizations and how to determine the water bill, but due to the reluctance of some community-based organizations to provide information related to funds, there is difficulty in obtaining such information.</p>
06.	<b><u>Current status of 4500 water projects initiated under National Community Water Supply Department</u></b>	<p>The Committee recommended to the CAO/AO of the Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development to submit a report to the Committee containing the following points about these water projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the ongoing projects?</li> <li>• Their financial status</li> <li>• the number of families drawing water from them and the quantity of water supplied</li> <li>• the quality of that water</li> </ul>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the proposals/ solutions offered regarding the continuation of the project if problems persist</li> <li>• What are the inactive projects?</li> <li>• What are the reasons for inactivity?</li> <li>• Arrangements that have been made for their re implementation</li> <li>• A programme of support for the community based societies.</li> </ul>
07.	<b><u>Steps to be taken in respect of dormant water projects.</u></b>	<p>Although the total amount spent for the 03 non- functional community base organizations was not submitted for audit by the Community Water Supply Department, it was revealed that the government has spent Rs. 9.5 million for the projects started by dysfunctional community based organizations.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The recommendation of the Committee was that instead of starting new water projects, it is appropriate to re implement the water projects that have been started spending a lot of money and abandoned due to various reasons. The Committee recommended to the CAO/AO of the Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development to formulate an appropriate method to get</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
		<p>the necessary support to prepare a programme to re implement the dysfunctional water projects, to dissolve the dysfunctional water projects that cannot be revived, to distribute the equipment ( water pumps, water motors etc.,) of those dysfunctional water projects to other societies , to provide consultancy to continue with the functioning water projects and to inform the Committee about that programme before 08 November 2023.</p>
08.	<p><b><u>Incurring uneconomic costs for NANO Filters and making payments for unexecuted works and works done contrary to the terms mentioned in the bid documents.</u></b></p>	<p>The Committee recommended to the CAO/AO of the Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development to appoint a committee to look into the matters revealed by the Auditor General and submit a report to the Committee before September 22, 2023, including the current situation of those activities and, if they have been stopped halfway, the reasons for that.</p> <p><b>The relevant report has been submitted in letter no. FIN/01/01/16 dated 25.09.2023 by the Secretary to the Ministry of Water Supply and Estate Infrastructure Development.</b></p>
Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council		

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
<p><i>(Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 &amp; 2021 and the Current Performance)</i></p> <p><b>Date of examination- 24 August 2023</b></p>		
<p><b>Institutions Summoned</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government.</li> <li>❖ Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council</li> </ul>		
01.	<p><b><u>Progress of the implementation of recommendations given at the meeting of the Committee on Public Accounts in relation to the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council On 07.06. 2019.</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee directed the Chief Accounting Officer (C.A.O) of the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government and the Accounting Officer(A.O) of the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council to submit a report of the progress of implementation of each of the recommendaions given at the said Committee meeting and their current state to the Committee within a month (Before 25.09.2023).</p> <p><b>The report of responses has been submitted through the letter of the Chief Secretary of the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council bearing number CSAC/18/FR03/01/28/2023 dated 21.09.2023.</b></p>

	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
02.	<p><b><u>Audit opinion of the institutions of the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council as per the Audit of 2022.</u></b></p>	<p>The Auditor General stated before the Committee that 16 institutions and 45 institutions have received unqualified audit opinion and qualified audit opinion respectively in relation to 61 institutions of the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council for the year 2022.</p> <p>It was revealed before the Committee that only Kuruwita Pradeshiya Sabha has obtained disclaimed audit opinion owing to non-submission of accounting details required by the audit. Therefore, the Committee recommended to the A.O to make arrangements to rectify that and ensure that audit and management committees of all Local Government bodies in the Sabaragamuwa Province are held properly.</p>
03.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General - paragraph No. 2.1 (Hon.Governor's office reference number 2022, 1.5.1 (a))</u></b></p> <p>When there are no provisions in the Circular of the Presidential Secretariat No. PS/CSA/00/1/4/2 dated 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018 transfer the fuel allowance of someone to another , the fuel allowance of the</p>	<p>The A.O stated that the Hon.Governor instructed him on 04.08.2022 that the fuel allowance for the period during which the Hon.Governor was abroad be paid to his Private Secretary who was to cover his duties during the period. Further, as it was revealed at the Committee that the Chief Secretary had replied to the above letter sent to him by the Secretary to the President, the Committee directed the C.A.O/A.O to take the necessary steps</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
	Hon.Governer worth of Rs.725,000 had been paid to her.The Secretary to the President had informed the Secretary of the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council to recover the said payment from the officers who approved and certrified it.	after the Secretary to the President replied to it.
04.	<p><b><u>Auditor General's note-paragraph No. 2.1 (Hon.Governer's office reference No. 2022, 1.5.1 (a))</u></b></p> <p>Even though a vehicle of the Governer's secretary' office had met with an accident in 2020 and repaired, the insurance claim of Rs. 5,983,937 pertaining to the repair had not been obtained from the Insurance Company.</p> <p><b><u>Brief Note of the Auditor General – paragraph No.4.2</u></b></p> <p>Despite the Insurance Company's agreement to pay a sum of Rs.25 Million by considering the damage caused to a vehicle belonging to the Chief Ministry in 2017 as a full damage, the then Chief Secretary had turned</p>	<p>The A.O stated before the Committee that the agreement of the relevant Insurance Company, Sri Lanka Insurance was obtained when referring the vehicle to a private garage. It was revealed before the Committee that estamates were delayed for want of spare parts, the Insurance Regulatory Commission was notified of the non payment of compensation by the Sri Lanka Insurance Company and a letter has been sent to the Ministry of Finance seeking advice in this regard.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The C.A.O/A.O was recommended by the Committee to submit a report about the two vehicles belonging to the Governer'e Secretary's office and the Chief Ministry to the Committee within a month (before 25.09.2023).</p> <p><b>The report has been submitted through the letter of the Chief</b></p>



	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
	<p>down that compensation and handed over the vehicle to a private garage in 2018 and got the said Insurance company to pay a sum of Rs. 3,063,690 to the private garage in March 2019 in contravention of the procurement guidelines. However, four years since then, the vehicle has not been brought back to the Provincial Council and the insurance compensation too had not been obtained.</p>	<p><b>Secretary of the Sabaragamuwa Province No. CSAC/22/FR/04/03 and dated 12.09.2023.</b></p>
05.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 2.2 ( Provincial Council Secretariat – Reference number 2022, 1.5.2(b))</u></b></p> <p>Though there are 22 employees attached to the Provincial Council Secretariat a lot of work including the Committees have come to a standstill with the dissolution of Provincial Councils. However, the excess employees who have been there for 5 years have not been deployed in other offices until the Council resumes.</p>	<p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee directed the C.A.O to inform the decision of the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government in relation to deploying the excess employees of the dissolved Provincial Councils in a meaningful manner within the province, before 24.10.2023.</p> <p><b>The letter sent to the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies by the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government No. PL/6/7/4/SGP</b></p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		dated 17.01.2024 in relation to the above matter has been submitted.
06.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 2.4 (Office of the Deputy Chief Secretary (Engineering Services) Ref. No. 2022, 1.5.5(a))</u></b></p> <p>As per the National Budget Circular No.03/2022 dated 26.04.2022, even though the essential parts of the partly completed projects have to be completed 40 constructions worth of Rs. 524,613,811 in Kegalle, Dehiowita, and Rambukkana have been stalled.</p>	<p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The committee directed thew C.A.O/A.O to follow up the partly completed projects and make arrangements to utilize them efficiently and subit a report in that regard to the committee within a month (before 25.09.2023).</p> <p><b>The report has been submitted through the letter of the Chief Secretary of the Sabaragamuwa Province No. CSAC/18/FR03/01/28/2023 dated 27.09.2023. The delay has been caused by reasons such as non receipt of sufficient imprest to settle bills and the escalation of the prices of goods than the estimates made. However, the contractors have been informed to expedite the constructions.</b></p>
07.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 2.5 (Provincial Revenue Department – Ref.No. 2022, 1.5.6(a) ii)</u></b></p> <p>The provincial revenue department has not assessed</p>	<p>The Commissioner of the Provincial Revenue Department stated that although about 40,000 deeds were registered within a year, only nearly 4,000 deeds could be examined due to the shortage of officers. It was revealed in the committee that the amount of tax</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Key matters discussed</b></p>	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
	<p>the accuracy of the stamp duty charged for 59 deeds of Gift of Rs.95,400,000 registered in the years 2019 and 2021 and 3004 deeds of more than Rs.05 lakhs worth registered at the Ratnapura land registrar's office in 2021.</p>	<p>calculated additionally from the deeds that are examined in this way is close to 50%</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government was directed by the Committee to prepare a suitable programme to assessing the number of gift deeds registered in all 09 provinces and the accuracy of the stamp duty charged for the registered gift deeds, the amount of additionally calculated fees should be properly obtained and a suitable program should be prepared to increase the revenue in the provinces and report to the committee before 24.10.2023</p> <p><b>The letter of the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government No. PL/6/7/4/SGP dated 30.06.2024 has informed that this matter was discussed with the Registrar General's Department and all provincial Commissioners of Revenue where it was revealed that 5 institutions are connected to the task of collecting stamp fees ( Notary Office, Bank, Land Registry, Local</b></p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<p>Government body and the Department of Local Government) and the process of collection of stamp duty is hampered as those institutions are not interconnected. Moreover, it has been proposed that this issue can be sorted out by adopting the Online methodology which is being used by the North Western Provincial Council at present according to which all Provincial Secretaries and Local Government Commissioners were made aware of this methodology at the Inter Provincial Subject Coordination conference held at 06.02.2024 at which they were asked to make arrangements to implement that system in all provinces and it has been reported that stamp revenue can be increased once it is implemented.</p>
08.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 2.6 (Auditor General’s Ref. No 2019, 5.6)</u></b></p> <p>The Provincial Ministry spent Rs.120,710,188 for the construction of a five-storey dormitory at the Pussella Training Center in 2019, after which the construction was abandoned and Rs.24,702,328</p>	<p>The committee observed that Rs.78 million has been paid to the contractor for the said construction and as an advance of Rs.42 million for the construction of the bridge and Rs.36 million for the completed work.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The A.O was directed to submit a full report on this incident including the</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
	<p>of the advance payments given to the contractor had not been collected until now, and no action was taken against the contractor. Also, it was not possible to settle the balance due due to the lack of security for the work of Rs.6,035,509 for this center.</p>	<p>abandonment of the construction of the building and the unpaid advances from the contractor.</p> <p><b>The report has been submitted by the Chief Secretary of Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council's letter number CSAC/18/FR03/01/28/2023 dated 27.09.2023.</b></p>
09.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 2.7 (Department of Health Ref.No 2022, 1.5.8(a))</u></b></p> <p>According to the Private Medical Institutions Registration Act No. 21 of 2006, 68 unregistered medical institutions have been established and maintained in the province even though private medical institutions must be registered with the Private Health Services Regulatory Council and the income earned from the regulation of those institutions has not been properly remitted to the provincial council.</p>	<p>It was revealed in the committee that it is expected to launch legal proceedings against unregistered medical institutions in the province through a panel of lawyers appointed by the Private Health Services Regulatory Council.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee recommended to the C.A.O/A.O to submit a report regarding the problems of regulating unregistered medical institutions and private medical institutions in the province should be submitted to the committee before 2023.09.01.</p> <p><b>The report furnished by the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Health Services Director regarding the registration and regulation issues of those institutions has been submitted by the Sabaragamuwa</b></p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p><b>Provincial Chief Secretary's letter No. CSAC/18/FR03/01/28/2023 and dated 12.09.2023.</b></p> <p>The Committee emphasized that the Secretary of the Ministry of Health should be informed about these problems related to private medical institutions in the Provincial Council.</p> <p>Here, the lack of medicines and doctors in hospitals in Sabaragamuwa province were further discussed in the committee.</p> <p>According to the Registration Act, private medical institutions should remit 50% of the fees earned from the regulation of registered institutions to the Provincial Council, but instead of remitting to the Provincial Council the amount of Rs. 3,921,192 it had been deposited in a current account which caught the attention of the committee.</p> <p>Further, the said bank account had not been revealed in the Financial Statements of the Provincial Council while the balance of it was Rs. 566,992 as at 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and the Committee recommended the A.O to check them.</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
10.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 2.9 ( Co-operate Development Department- Ref.no 2021, 1.5.6 (c))</u></b></p> <p>The Committee observed that the Co operative Department charges an arbitration fee from the Co operative societies to settle disputes and the Co operative Development officers who are involved in settling disputes are paid an arbitration payment. In the year 2021 a sum of Rs. 4,276,848 had been paid as arbitration allowances and a sum of Rs. 1,863,515 had been paid as incentives for the officers involved in law enforcement duties.</p>	<p>It was revealed in the committee that according to the Cooperative Societies Charter No. 03 of 2007, the Cooperative Development Commissioner is empowered to carry out the arbitration process and that the Cooperative Development Officers engage in the arbitration process as an additional to their normal duties.</p>
11.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 2.10 (Local Government Department- ef.No. 2019, 5.4(a))</u></b></p> <p>The committee noticed that the local government department had approved a monthly fuel allowance subject to a limit of Rs. 5000 while a monthly quota of fuel is made available to the heads</p>	<p>The Local Government Commissioner stated that according to Sections 138 (l) and 184 (e) of the Local Council Act, the local government bodies have the power to approve such allowances with the approval of the minister in charge.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>Since it was stated at the Committee that in terms of the Local Government</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
	of Local Government institutions.	<p>Act a local government body has the power to approve allowances subject to the approval of the Minister in charge of the subject and such an expense approved by the Minister shall not be rejected by the Auditor General the C.A.O was directed by the Committee to provide a legal interpretation on the power over the said matter and the power a Governor, the Board of Ministers of a provincial council (when a provincial council is functioning) a Local Government Body has in relation to approving such allowances.</p> <p><b>It has been informed through the letter of the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government No. PL/6/7/4/SGP dated 29.03.2024 that;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Local Government Commissioner has revised the circulars and issued a revised circular dated 14.11.2023, taking into consideration the observations of the Auditor General regarding the provision of fuel allowance for the motorcycles used for the duty journeys of the public</li> </ul>



	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>representatives of the local government bodies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It has been informed that a letter has been submitted to the Attorney General's Department to seek the Attorney General's advice in this regard as only the Supreme Court can give the legal interpretation of who is meant to be the minister in charge of the subject in relation to the approval of allowances under the Pradeshiya Sabha Act.</li> </ul>
12.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 2.11(Provincial Ministry of Road Development, Tourism, Rural Infrastructure and Sports and Youth Affairs – Ref. No. 2022, 1.5.12(b))</u></b></p> <p>The advance of Rs. 4,812,643 given by the Provincial Ministry of Roads to start industries had not been settled even after 14 years, at the end of 2021.</p>	<p>The A.O stated that the letter has been sent to the Attorney General on 22.02.2021 to refer to arbitration against the contractors from whom arrears is due.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee recommended the C.A.O/A.O to submit a full report of such unsettled advances.</p> <p><b>The report has been submitted through the latter of the Chief Secretary of the Sabaragamuwa Province No CSAC/18/FR03/01/28/ 2023 dated 27.09.2023.</b></p>
13.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 2.14</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
	<p><b><u>(Department of Industries Development) Ref. No. 2022, 1.5.15.1(a)</u></b></p> <p>Land and buildings worth Rs.6,200,000 remained idle between 2007 and 2017 due to the closure of 03 meat processing centers in Kegalle district.</p>	<p>The A.O stated before the Committee that one Textile Center is run as a Batik training center and the Divisional Secretary has been informed in writing to take over the other two centers. The Committee recommended to the C.A.O/A.O to make arrangements to utilize the idling buildings usefully and report about it to the Committee.</p> <p>Through the letter of Chief Secretary of the Sabaragamuwa Province no. CSAC/18/FR03/01/28/2023 dated 27.09.2023 it has been informed that, Arawpolamulla Janasalu Institute has been transferred to the Ruwanwella Divisional Secretary on 12.09.2023, Hewadiwela Janasalu Institute- it has been informed that this be taken over by the Rambukkana Divisional Secretary on 22.09.2023. But they demand the plans and Documents of claim. It has been informed to the Rambukkana Divisional Secretary that such documents are not available with the Department on 25.04.2023, Puwakdeniya Janasalu Institute- It has been transferred to the Kegalle Divisional Secretary to run a Batik Training Center from 19.04.2021</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<b>and the D.S office has been informed to formalize the transfer.</b>
14.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 2.15( Ministry of Education, Information Technology and Cultural Affairs – Ref.No 2020, 1.5.13(a))</u></b></p> <p>The Provincial Ministry of Education spent Rs.8,977,624 to construct a building at Kegalle/Ambepussa Maha Vidyalaya until 2019 and then abandoned the construction and the performance guarantee of Rs.1,041,656 expired in October 2019 and the advance guarantee in March 2020. Also, non-recovery of Rs.4,066,315 from paid advances.</p>	<p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The committee recommended to A.O. to submit to the committee before 24.10.2023 about the uncollected advances and the plan to use the abandoned college building.</p> <p><b>The report has been submitted by the Chief Secretary of Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council's letter No. CSAC/18/FR03/01/28/2023 and dated 30.10.2023.</b></p>
15.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 2.16 (Department of Education) Ref.No. 2022, 1.5.17(h))</u></b></p> <p>475 principal posts, 67 deputy principal posts, 116 assistant principal posts are vacant in the province and 14 deputy</p>	<p>The A.O stated before the Committee that the Provincial Education Directors have been informed to balance the excess posts in the difficult zones within a month.</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
	principal posts are in excess in the Mawanella Zonal Education Office.	
16.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 2.17 (Department of Commissioner of Lands) Ref.No. 2022, 1.5.19(c)</u></b></p> <p>Although 615 measurement requests received between the years 2019-2022 in the Sabaragamuwa province were forwarded to the measurement officer of the department in each year, the measurement of 526 requests had not been done by September 2022.</p>	<p>The A.O stated that the Land Commissioner General and the Surveyor General were informed In this regard.</p> <p>Furthermore, the committee recommended that the tax revenue that should be collected from the land given for the hydroelectric power plants in the province should be recovered and priority should be given to those that generate income.</p>
17.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 2.19( Department of Animal Production and Health - Ref.No. 2022, 1.5.21(a))</u></b></p>	<p>While it was revealed that a sum of Rs. 4,213,900 had been paid from 1993 to 2022 for 4 Veterinary offices maintained in private buildings as the rent, the Committee recommended the A.O to look into the possibility of running them in government buildings.</p>
18.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 3.1 ( Development Design and Machinery Authority- Ref.No. 2022, 1.5.7.1(b) i)</u></b></p>	<p>It was revealed in the committee that a damage recovery committee has been appointed to assess the damage identified as per the preliminary investigation report.</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
	<p>According to the preliminary investigation report issued in January 2022 regarding the Sabaragamuwa Development Design and Machinery Authority by the Provincial Chief Ministry Secretary, Rs. 54,394,444 damages were not taken to be recovered from the responsible officials.</p>	<p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>Accordingly, the committee ordered the C.A.O/A.O to submit a report containing the damages identified, responsible officials and matters related to the recovery of the money before 24.10.2023.</p> <p><b>Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council's Chief Secretary's letter No. CSAC/18/FR03/01/28/2023 dated 30.10.2023 has informed that an investigation committee has been appointed to investigate the damage and evidence is being gathered from the company's files and plans to complete the investigation promptly.</b></p>
19.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 3.1( Development Design and Machinery Authority- Ref.No. 2020, 1.5.4.2(a))</u></b></p> <p>02 preface production machines worth Rs.29,900,000 received as a grant to the Development Design and Machinery Authority have been idle since the date of acceptance in 2015.</p>	<p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The committee ordered the A.O that a report be submitted to the committee before 24.09.2023 regarding the effective use of the idle machines under an alternative method.</p> <p><b>The report has been submitted by the Chief Secretary of Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council through his letter No. CSAC/18/FR03/01/28/2023 dated 30.10.2023.</b></p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
20.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 3.2(Industries Development Authority – Ref.No. 2021, 1.5.9.1(a))</u></b></p> <p>Outstanding balance of Rs.5,564,032 more than one year old related to Balavinna Precast Concrete Yard has not been settled.</p>	<p>The A.O reported that an amount of Rs. 3.1 million has been recovered from 12 debtor balances out of the outstanding debtor balances related to 37 debtors.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The committee recommended to the C.A.O/A.O . to submit a report to the committee before 24.09.2023 that includes the program related to the recovery of the debtor balance and the amount of money to be recovered (Outstanding Balance).</p> <p><b>The report has been submitted by the Chief Secretary of Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council's letter No. CSAC/18/FR03/01/28/2023 dated 30.10.2023.</b></p>
21.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 3.3 (Pre Childhood Education Development Authority- Ref.No. 2022, 1.5.16.1)</u></b></p> <p>Only 1450 teachers out of 1537 pre-schools have completed the diploma course related to early childhood</p>	<p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The committee also recommended to the A.O. to prepare and implement a training program related to the development of early childhood education for the teachers of 87 pre-schools who have not completed the diploma.</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
	development as per the provincial charter.	
22.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 3.4 (Road Passenger Transport Authority- Ref.No 2022, 1.5.7.4.(b) iii)</u></b></p> <p>The outstanding Log Sheet income of Rs. 7,462,850 from 74 Bus Stations belonging to the Road Passenger Transport Authority in 2021 and 2022 and inter provincial entrance fee of Rs. 1,134,500 have not been recovered from 46 buses.</p>	<p>The C.A.O/A.O was recommended to collect and keep the information of all the roads belonging to the Road Passenger Transport Authority of Sabaragamuwa Province (the number of buses, the combined schedules of the buses, the information of the roads jointly with the Ceylon Traffic Board.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The committee recommended to the C.A.O./A.O. to submit a document containing the information of the inter-provincial buses running without permission from the Road Passenger Transport Authority before 24.09.2023.</p> <p><b>By the letter of the Chief Secretary of Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council's letter No. CSAC/18/FR03/01/28/2023 and dated 30.10.2023, a document has been submitted containing the information of inter-provincial buses that have obtained licenses from the Sabaragamuwa Road Passenger Transport Authority.</b></p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
23.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 3.5 (Sabaragamuwa Library Board – Ref.No. 2022, 1.5.7.3 (b))</u></b></p> <p>Though the Library Services Board has been established with 17 objectives, it has failed to achieve them. Despite the payment of Rs.5,545,424 from 2015 to 2022 as allowances the objectives of the board have not been achieved and although the Board has purchased 20651 books to the tune of Rs. 8,800,000 in 2016 7028 of them had not been put to use and had been stacked in a hall in the library for 8 years.</p>	<p>The A.O said that the books piled on the floor of the library hall are currently packed on the shelves as scheduled and arrangements have been made to implement 23 projects under 17 objectives by the year 2023.</p>
24.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 4.2 (Embilipitiya Urban Council – Ref.No.3.1 (a))</u></b></p>	<p><i>A LED billboard was installed in the year 2019 and the cost of Rs.2,689,200 was planned to be covered in 20 months, but the income received in 34 months after installing the billboards was only Rs.35,500.</i></p> <p>The A.O . stated before the Committee that those billboards which were in an inactive state have been restored by now.</p>



	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
25.	<b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 4.3 (Embilipitiya Pradeshiya Sabha – Ref.No.3.2 (e))</u></b>  Although a sum of Rs. 11,189,389 had been spent on 9 employees and 6 vehicles and machinery to dispose 1080 Metrc Tonnes of garbage within the year under review, such garbage had not been disposed of in an environment friendly manner.	<b><u>Recommendations</u></b>  The A.O was recommended to explore alternate methods of disposing garbage instead of dumping them at the Chandrika Wewa.
26.	<b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 4.4 (Eheliyagoda Pradeshiya Sabha- Ref. No 2.2.2 (a))</u></b>  Existence of an outstanding assessment balance of Rs.15,181,158 and an outstanding acreage tax balance of Rs.127,459 as on 31.12.2022, which is more than 05 years old.	The C.A.O stated before the Committee that a revenue plan has been prepared to recover the arrears of assessment balances and arrangements have been made to hold monthly revenue meetings.
27.	<b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 4.5 (Imbulpe Pradeshiya Sabha- Ref. No 3.3(a))</u></b>	The committee directed that legal action be taken regarding the land that has not been transferred to the local council and has not been settled.

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
	The land with the toilet system, which was completed at a cost of Rs.1,852,279 near Pahantudawa Falls, was not handed over to the council and the ownership of 133 cemeteries owned by the council was not settled.	
28.	<p><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 4.6 (Kalawana Pradeshiya Sabha- Ref. No 3.4)</u></p> <p>The Kukulegama Hydroelectric Power Plant did not give permission to access the tank built to dispose of sewage, and the Rs. 902,100 spent on it was wasted, and the sewage disposal problem was not resolved.</p>	The A.O explained to the committee that the problem has been solved in consultation with the Ceylon Electricity Board.
29.	<p><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 4.7 (Kahawatta Pradeshiya Sabha- Ref. No 3.1(a))</u></p> <p>29 illegal constructions identified from 2019 to 2022 have not been dealt with in accordance with Section 47 of the Local Council Act No. 15 of 1987</p>	The relevant officials said that according to the local council act, they are expected to legalize the illegal constructions that can be legalized and remove the illegal constructions that cannot be done so.

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
30.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 4.8 (Kuruwita Pradeshiya Sabha- Ref. No 3.4(a))</u></b></p> <p>Resolved in the general assembly meeting on 16.07.2021 to get the services of a lawyer for a monthly allowance of Rs.25,000 for the proceedings of the council and contract with a lawyer outside the procurement process on the same day. Furthermore, from July 2021 to December 2022, Rs.425,000 has been paid to him as monthly allowances and another Rs.103,920 has been paid to him for the proceedings of the House and Rs.578,627 to other lawyers.</p>	<p>The A.O declared that after this incident was pointed out by the audit, a departmental investigation has been initiated in this regard and accordingly, further action is expected to be taken.</p>
31.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 4.9 (Kolonna Pradeshiya Sabha- Ref. No 3.1(a))</u></b></p> <p>An expenditure of Rs. 7,612,713 had been incurred in 2020 and 2021 to construct a Compost Yard and purchase the machinery required in addition to the receipt of a Bailer mechine worth</p>	<p>It was revealed at the Committee that the work of the project has commenced at present.</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
	Rs.950,000 from the Provincial Council. However, the work of the project had not got under way even at the end of the year under review.	
32.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 4.10 (Godakawela Pradeshiya Sabha- Ref. No 3.1(a))</u></b></p> <p>Although Rs.2,771,927 was spent to renovate Madampe fish market, which cost Rs.5,654,649, some of the traders are selling fish in front of the market, showing weaknesses in the construction.</p>	The committee recommended that in the future construction of markets should be built by consulting the traders.
33.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 4.11 (Niwithigala Pradeshiya Sabha- Ref. No 3.3(b))</u></b></p> <p>96 issued flagpoles were not returned. Although the value of 15 poles had been recovered, the value of 81 flagpoles worth Rs. 1,032,750 had not been taken from those responsible as per the decision of the General Assembly. Also, those responsible for the</p>	The A.O declared that according to Financial Regulation 104, an investigation has been initiated to identify the officials responsible for the above matter and it is expected to proceed accordingly in the future.

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
	shortage of 35 items had not been determined.	
34.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 4.12 (Pelmadulla Pradeshiya Sabha- Ref. No 3.2)</u></b></p> <p>A lessee who acquired a land near Pelmadulla Weekly fair without the approval of the minister in charge had acted contrary to the agreement by not paying the ground rent since 2006, but the council had not taken any action against it.</p>	It was revealed at the Committee that an inquiry has been initiated in this regard and action would be taken based on the report of the inquiry.
35.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 4.15 (Ratnapura Pradeshiya Sabha- Ref. No 3.3)</u></b></p> <p>As the ruling of the court of a case filed in 2006 by a woman against the Sabha for constructing a road across a private land illegally, the undisputed ownership of that land had to be given to her and the Sabha had to pay legal charges to the tune of Rs. 479,505 in 2022.</p>	It was revealed before the Committee that a scheme has been put in place to identify the officials responsible for this and recover the loss from them.

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
36.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 4.13 (Balangoda Urban Council - Ref. No 3.5(a))</u></b></p> <p>Contrary to the decision of the planning committee, the plans for 02 unauthorized buildings had been approved and compliance certificates had been issued at the discretion of the chairman. In granting that approval, the income to be collected by the Balangoda Municipal Council which was Rs. 886,301 had been ignored.</p>	<p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The committee directed that a committee be appointed and conduct an investigation related to the recovery of the lost income from the responsible officials of Balangoda Municipal Council, and that a report on the measures taken in this regard be forwarded to the committee before 24.10.2023.</p> <p><b>The report has been furnish through the letter of the Chief Secretary of the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council No. CSAC/18/FR03/01/28/2023 dated 30.10.2023.</b></p>
37.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 4.16 (Weligepola Pradeshiya Sabha- Ref. No 3.1(b))</u></b></p> <p>349 water meters purchased in 2021 at a cost of Rs. 2,031,180 had not been taken to use even in January 2023. Further, owing to the disfunction of 449 water meters only Fixed Charges have been charged. As at 31.12.2022 the outstanding amount was Rs. 2,700,036 within which was a balance of</p>	<p>In order to make the water meters functional, the committee recommended to the A.O to get the necessary technical support from the district rural water project office.</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
	Rs. 921,744 which was over one year old.	
38.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 4.17 (Rathnapura Minicipal Council - Ref. No 3.2(b))</u></b></p> <p>5,265,787 rupees and 1046 labor days were spent on electrical equipment during the repair of the electrical system of the Rathnapura Municipal Council building. But, a formal plan and cost estimate had not been prepared and approved by a chartered electrical engineer.</p>	<p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The A.O was recommended to inquire in t this and submit a report to the Committee before 25.09.2023.</p> <p><b>The report has been furnisher through the letter of the Chief Secretary of the Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council No. CSAC/18/FR03/01/28/2023 dated 30.10.2023.</b></p>
39.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 5.1 (Kegalle Urban Council - Ref. No 3.1 (c))</u></b></p> <p>Even though the Rest House that belonged to the Sabha and was subsequently taken over by the Urban Developmet Authority had to be handed over back according to the Gazette No. 1589/20 of 2009 it had not happened even in December 2022. Moreover, ther was an outstanding Rest House Management fee of Rs.</p>	<p>The Committee directed the C.A.O to obtain information from all local authorities regarding the inns taken over by the Urban Development Authority in relation to the local authorities and the fees payable to the local authorities by the said authority but not paid, and to take a policy decision to collect the fees due to the concerned council.</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
	1,506,700 to be recovered from 2020 to 2022. Further, external parties had made revenue from the said Rest House from 2009 to July 2015 and a request from those parties to waive off fees of Rs.502,026 was questionable.	
40.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 5.1 (Kegalle Pradeshiya Sabha- Ref. No 3.4)</u></b></p> <p>Contrary to the State Finance Circular No. 01/2021, 78% and 68% of the total number of contracts executed in the years 2021 and 2022 respectively were awarded to a single contractor.</p>	<p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee recommended to the C.A.O to implement a monitoring system over the issues like this in all Local Government institutions like at the Kegalle Pradeshiya Sabha. .</p>
41.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 5.3 (Mawanella Pradeshiya Sabha- Ref. No 3.5)</u></b></p> <p>In the year 2006, the council decided to recruit on the basis of direct labor for the vacant posts of field and health workers and accordingly, 31 workers were recruited from the year 2013. But, contrary to</p>	<p>The Committee recommended to the C.A.O to set up a suitable system to hire employees on Labour Contract in hiring employees for projects of Local Government institutions.</p>



	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
	the above decision of the council, they were employed for other tasks and 57,524,942 rupees were paid as salaries from the council fund until August 2022. Also, the appointment letters of 10 employees were not included in the personal file.	
42.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 5.4 (Warakapola Pradeshiya Sabha- Ref. No 3.2 (b))</u></b></p> <p>As per the Local Government Reforms Circular 11/2020 machinery from which income can be generated should not be given for free, machinery that could generate an income of nearly Rs. 3,361,500 income had been given free for 747 hours on the instructions of the Chairman and the records of arrival and departure times of the Back Hoe had not been maintained.</p>	The A.O was instructed to follow this up and take necessary action.
43.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 5.5 (Yatiantota Pradeshiya Sabha- Ref. No 3.2 (a))</u></b></p>	The A.O stated that an investigation was conducted in this regard and that only one of the stalls has been acquired without the tender procedure and

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
	14 stalls worth Rs. 1,950,822 built in the year 2021 in Kitulgala area are still unused by October 2022.	arrangements have been made to utilize the rest of the stalls.
44.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 5.6 (Ruwanwella Pradeshiya Sabha- Ref. No 3.5)</u></b></p> <p>As the repairs of the central library were not completed, the amount given for the digitization of the library was Rs. 1,173,419 devices were unused.</p>	The A.O said that the remaining repairs of the library are expected to be completed with the council fund, and it is expected to cost about Rs. 3.3 million.
45.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 5.7 (Dehowita Pradeshiya Sabha- Ref. No 3.5 )</u></b></p> <p>As the first phase of the construction of a water project through a village, the water in the well built was unfit for use, and Rs. 909,710 spent for the construction of the well was wasted and none of the rest of the water project was completed until September 2022.</p>	The A.O stated before the Committee that after obtaining the related test report (Testing Report), it will be decided regarding the release of payments to the contractors.

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
46.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 5.8 (Bulathkohupitiya Pradeshiya Sabha- Ref. No 3.3)</u></b></p> <p>The Compactor which was worth Rs. 6,221,373 in 2019 has not been utilized since then.</p>	It was revealed at the Committee that the said Compactor was exchanged with the Godakawela Pradeshiya sabha and that it is being used efficiently now.
47.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 5.9 (Aranayaka Pradeshiya Sabha- Ref. No 3.2 (b))</u></b></p> <p>Owing to the protests of the residents of the area solid waste was not disposed at the land which was purchased for that purpose and waste had been disposed at the land obtained on annual lease of Rs.880,000. Though a sum of Rs. 6,746,686 had been spent on waste management in 2022, the Sabha had been unable to manufacture fertilizer and earn an income from that.</p>	The A.O stated before the Committee that a land was purchased at the Kalugala Debathgama area as waste was disposed at a leased land earlier the relevant estimate and the proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government and it will be done on a phased out manner.
48.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 5.10</u></b></p>	It was mentioned in the committee that a complete stock survey of the council's assets is being carried out.

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
	<p><b><u>(Galigamuwa Pradeshiya Sabha- Ref. No 3.3 (b))</u></b></p> <p>It was revealed in the committee that a land amounting to 31.12 perches worth Rs.4,668,000, which should be transferred to the council for public works during a land auction, was not assigned.</p>	
49.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 5.11 (Deraniyagala Pradeshiya Sabha- Ref. No 3.2 (b))</u></b></p> <p>A sum of Rs. 24,299,000 charged from 29 contractors in 2014 and 2015 for constructing stalls at the Bus Stand had not been utilized for that purpose till the end of the year under review.</p>	<p>It was stated in the committee that they have entered into an agreement with the shop owners to give the shop rooms, and they are looking forward to completing the work with the support of the local credit development fund.</p>
50.	<p><b><u>Note of the Auditor General – paragraph 5.12 (Rabukkana Pradeshiya Sabha- Ref. No 2.2.2 (b))</u></b></p> <p>Loss of income of Rs.3,750,000 due to non-leasing of part of the building</p>	<p>The A.O said that although the building portion with an estimated value of Rs.125,000 was tendered on three occasions, no one took the tender, so the estimated value was reduced to Rs.100,000 and the building is expected to be tendered again with the approval of the Honorable Governor declared.</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
	where the local council is located for more than 02 years.	
<b>Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and Sports Development Department</b> <b>(Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 &amp; 2021 and the Current Performance)</b> <b>Date of Examination : 06 September 2023</b>		
<b>Institutions Summoned -</b> ❖ Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs ❖ Sports Development Department		
01.	The attention of the Committee was drawn to the fact that only 2 of the 4 Assistant Sports Directors who should be in the approved staff in the Sports Development Department are currently working in the Sports Department.	The C.A.O/A.O stated that, two officers have been appointed to cover duties of the relevant work and the it has been referred to the Public Service Commission to get the approval approval for the recruitment of the 2 vacant posts.  <b>The report has been submitted through the letter of the Secretary to the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs dated 03.12.2023 and 20.05.2023.</b>
02.	<b><u>Checking the progress regarding the projects implemented by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Department of Sports Development as indicated in</u></b>	The Committee directed the C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs to submit a comprehensive report to the committee before 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 in relation to all the projects indicated in the Auditor General's brief, a committee was

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
	<b><u>the Auditor General's brief prepared in relation to the Auditor General's reports for the years 2020 and 2021</u></b>	<p>appointed by the Ministry of Sports with the participation of the Sports Development Department and conducted a study on each project to assess the following -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will the project continue?</li> <li>2. What is its current status?</li> <li>3. Why is it stopped now?</li> <li>4. What is the expected date of completion of the project?</li> </ol>
03.	The committee inquired about the the lighting system of the Torrington Hockey Stadium, which was renovated at a cost of 31.8 million during 2016-2017, the height required to hold international matches was not there and as a result, it could not be converted into a first-class hockey stadium in the future, and the stadium was damaged/ dilapidated to an unusable level.	Officials of the Ministry of Sports stated that the stadium was developed by the Sports Development Department before 2015 and was handed over to the Hockey Federation last year. They also stated that the engineer who was in charge of the project has gone overseas and it is in a dilapidated condition at present owing to continuous use.
04.	<b><u>Calling for reports on all matters mentioned in the Auditor General's report. .</u></b>	The Committee recommended to the C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs to appoint a committee to study the audit query contained in the brief note prepared by the Auditor General on the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Sports Development Department

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		which was not discussed at this meeting and submit a report to the Committee on the dates when each recommendation/ observation contained in them would be implemented, before 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2023.
05.	The committee inquired about the responsibility/intervention of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Department of Sports Development for the development of sports in Sri Lanka and the role currently being played and the officials assigned those responsibilities.	The officials of the department stated that the aim of the sports development department is to work for the welfare of the athletes and guide the national level athletes towards international achievements in sports. The C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs stated that there are 66 National Sports Associations/ Federations registered under this at present and sportsmen/women are participated at international games through them. He also stated that sportsmen/women are participated at the Olympis Games, World Champion series, Asian and South Asian Games in addition to training them on long term basis while the Sports Development Department is engaged in the provision of funds, nutrition allowances, training equipment and other necessary infrastructure facilities required by the sportsmen/women in the national pool selected out of the ones from the Sports federations owing to the difficulty in providing the

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		required financial assistance to the sportsmen/women at Sports Associations/ federations.
06.	<u>Getting updated information about international sports tournaments in which Sri Lanka is participating.</u>	<p>The Committee emphasized that a computerized visual presentation should be made at the next meeting highlighting the,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. number of sports with available variants at present,</li> <li>2. the current rating of Sri Lanka in each of the above sports,</li> <li>3. the targeted programme for the development of sports as per the proposals given by the National Council.</li> </ol> <p>In relation to the Olympic Games, World Champion Series and the Asian and South Asian Games.</p> <p>The Committee recommended to the C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Sports to make submissions at the meeting of the Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023.</p> <p><b>The relevant reports have been submitted through the letter of the Secretary to the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs dated 18.10.2023.</b></p>
07.	The Committee inquired about the expected and allocated annual recurring and capital	In this regard, the officials of the Ministry stated that more than 75% of the allocation allocated for the



	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
	allocations for the Ministry. There, the allocation of funds for the development of sports at the school level received the attention and discussion of the committee, and paid attention to spending relatively more money for recurring expenses.	Ministry is used for the development of sports. Also, the ministry officials stated that a certain percentage of the recurring expenses will be used for providing food, accommodation and air tickets for the players. Also, the ministry's C.A.O/A.O said that the funds allocated for the ministry will also be used for institutions that are not directly related to sports, such as the National Youth Service Council, the National Youth Corps, etc., which are under this ministry.
08.	The committee discussed the non-preparation of a national sports plan and non-establishment of district sports committees.	<p>The C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry said that circulars related to the establishment of district sports committees have been issued to all the districts 3 months ago, and only 3 districts have been informed in writing that they will set up the said committees.</p> <p>According to the circular, it should be established by August 3, 2023, but no evidence that any sports committee has been established has been revealed in the committee.</p>
09.	The annual budget estimate for the development of sports infrastructure is Rs. 500 million, despite many requests in writing, the Ministry of	Officials of the National Budget Department who spoke here stated that due to the unsatisfactory state of the country's cash flow and the suspension of new projects as per the circulars

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
	Finance has given Rs. The ministry officials who presented the facts for this had stated that it is only 125 million.	issued by the cabinet, it was not possible to provide the requested allocations in full. That approval was given for carrying out the projects with more than 50% completed work.
10.	<u>To gain awareness regarding the determination of Sri Lanka's national sport</u>	The C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Sports was recommended by the committee to Submit a report before October 20, 2023 regarding the manner in which volleyball was proposed to be named as the national sport, the reasons for it, the method adopted for it and its legal status.
11.	<u>Obtaining update details of Sorting events for which Sri Lanka participates.</u>	<p>The Committee emphasized that a computerized visual presentation should be made at the next meeting highlighting the,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. number of sports with available variants at present,</li> <li>2. the current rating of Sri Lanka in each of the above sports,</li> <li>3. the programme for the development of sports as per the proposals given by the National Council,</li> <li>4. the years and the events in which medals can be expected to win and, the targeted program prepared for that,</li> </ol>

	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
		<p>in relation to the Olympic Games, World Champion Series and the Asian and South Asian Games.</p> <p>The Committee recommended to the C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Sports to make submissions at the meeting of the Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023.</p> <p><b>The relevant reports have been submitted through the letter of the Secretary to the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs dated 18.10.2023.</b></p>
12.	<b><u>Calling for reports on all matters mentioned in the special audit report on sports and its administration in Sri Lanka</u></b>	The C.A.O/A.O of the ministry of Sports was recommended by the Committee to submit a comprehensive report on all matters mentioned in the special audit report on the Sports in Sri Lanka and its administration dated 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2018, before 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2023.
13.	<b><u>Coordination between the Ministry of Sports and the Ministry of Education.</u></b>	The C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Sports was recommended to submit a report to the Committee before October 20, 2023 regarding the measures taken for the program to direct the school students to suitable sports in terms of physical fitness and to take the athletes emerging from the school level to the national level.

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
<p><b>Examining the Current Status and Issues related to the non-financial Assets Management process in Government Institutions</b></p> <p><b>Date of Examination : 13 September 2023</b></p>		
<p><b>Institutions Summoned -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies,</li> <li>❖ Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government</li> <li>❖ Ministry of Education</li> <li>❖ Office of the Comptroller General</li> <li>❖ Department of Government Valuation</li> </ul>		
01.	<b><u>Working Committee to Prepare Procedure for Proper Accounting of Non-Financial Assets of Government</u></b>	<p>The Auditor General stated that in order to resolve this issue, a working committee consisting of officials from the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy and the National Audit Office has been appointed, and accordingly, the government's financial statements for the year 2023 will be prepared as accurately as possible. The Auditor General further stated that it is important to consider assets identified from project loans amounting to about 8 trillion in the management of non-financial assets of public institutions.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee recommended to the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and national policies to</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>prepare a work plan on the programme of the Committee till 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 and submit a report about the afore mentioned work plan along with its convenor and the members on 13.10.2023.</p> <p><b>The report has been submitted through the letter No. SA/MAA/AG/01 and dated 17.10.2023 of Director General of Public Accounts Department. Accordingly, a document has been provided regarding the convener and members of the relevant committee. In addition, 3 sub-committees have been appointed and the names of their members have been submitted. A work plan has been prepared. According to the recommendations received from the audit, it has been mentioned that the modification of the financial reporting system for the preparation of financial reports for the year 2023 is expected to be completed on 28.02.2024.</b></p>
02.	<b><u>Accounting of Non-Financial Assets and Liabilities of Government</u></b>	The committee pointed out that it is important to find out the measures followed by other countries in the world regarding the identification and accounting of non-financial assets of the government and other related

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>issues and whether there was a work order for this in Sri Lanka in the past and the correct accounting methods expected to start from the year 2023. Emphasizing that a necessary policy framework should be prepared and legalized for continued implementation</p> <p>The C.A.O/A.O stated that Loans given for various government projects are included in the government account as a liability and the amount of loans (liability value) may change due to changes in the exchange rate, and as an asset (cost) accounts in the accounts of the institution providing the project. It was mentioned here that the depreciation of the asset may also happen. On these facts, there is a difference between asset and liability.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>However, the committee which emphasized the importance of the country's total assets and liabilities being perfectly reflected in one account recommended to the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and national policies to make arrangements to formulate legal provisions based on policy decisions</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		that should be used when accounting state assets and liabilities.
03.	<b><u>Collecting data about the assets of the state institutions.</u></b>	The Comptroller General's office has started the work of collecting all the assets owned by the government institutions in Sri Lanka in an online manner, and the data collection work related to vehicles has started from 01.09.2023. The Comptroller General also stated that the timeline has been setout to collect data under 06 catogaries.
04.	<b><u>Assets owned by Provincial Councils and Local Authorities</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendations</u></b>  The Committee recommended to the Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy to arrange to obtain information about the assets owned by the Provincial Councils obtained in other ways, except from the Consolidated Fund of the Government, with the support of the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government.  The committee also recommended to look into the possibility of preparing the asset registers for the lands owned by the local government bodies, then prepare a gross asset register containing the facts about it, and if the

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		data on the assets should be updated accordingly, appropriate notes should be entered under the relevant assets and then measured and the correct values should be entered.
05.	<b><u>General issues</u></b>	<p>The committee emphasized the importance of using information technology in government institutions and maintaining data systems in an orderly and up-to-date manner, as well as the need for government institutions to coordinate and share information with those institutions.</p> <p>The Committee which pointed out the fact that officers without a knowledge about the relevant subject get appointed to the posts of state institutions including Ministries and Departments, stressed that such a system prevents from the expected service from those institutions going out to the public. The Committee highlighted the importance of appointing officers with the relevant knowledge when making appointments to state institutions.</p> <p>As it is important to apply the decisions/recommendations and important matters discussed by the committee in making policy decisions of the government, it is necessary for</p>



	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>the representatives of the Ministry of Finance participating in the committee to refer those decisions/recommendations and important observations and matters to the relevant responsible departments. The committee indicated that.</p> <p>The C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Public Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy stated that an information technology system has been prepared to forward those decisions to the Treasury Secretary/Deputy Secretaries.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ministry of Health</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Progress of the directives given at the meeting of the Committee on Public Accounts held on 23.06.2023 and Current Issues of the Ministry of Health)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Date of Examination : 20 September 2023</b></p>		
<b>Institutions Summoned -</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Ministry of Health</li> <li>❖ National Drug Regulatory Authority</li> <li>❖ State Pharmaceuticals Corporation</li> <li>❖ State Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Corporation</li> </ul>		
01.	<b><u>Establishing sub committees</u></b>	The Committee observed that there are many problems related to the Ministry of Health and the hospital system and other institutions under the Ministry, and emphasized the need to study these

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>problems in depth and provide prompt solutions. Accordingly, the following two sub-committees were appointed to study the issues and make recommendations.</p> <p>Sub-Committee I - Sub-Committee to Investigate Medical Supplies and Related Issues in the Ministry of Health.</p> <p>Members of the Sub-Committee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>01. Hon.Tissa Attanayake, M.P. (Chairman)</li> <li>02. Hon. Mrs. Diana Gamage, M.P.</li> <li>03. Hon. Kabir Hashim, M.P.</li> <li>04. Hon. Ashok Abeysinghe, M.P.</li> <li>05. Hon. Jayantha Katagoda, P.M.</li> <li>06. Hon. Hector Appuhami, M.P.</li> <li>07. Hon. (Dr) Ms. Harini Amarasuriya M.P.</li> </ol> <p>Sub-Committee II - Sub-Committee to Investigate Matters Related to Information Technology, Human Resource Management and Management of Hospitals/Institutions under the Ministry of Health</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
		<p>Members of the Sub-Committee</p> <p>01. Hon. (Dr.) Major Pradeep Undugoda, M.P. (Chairman)</p> <p>02. Hon. Wimalaweera Dissanayake, M.P.</p> <p>03. Mr. Isuru Dodangoda, M.P.</p> <p>04. Hon. Ms. Mudita Prishanthi, M.P.</p> <p>05. Hon. Weerasumana Weerasinghe, M.P.</p> <p>06. Hon. Ms. Manjula Dissanayake, M.P.</p>
02.	<b><u>Staff of the Ministry of Health</u></b>	<p>A computer presentation was made by the Ministry of Health regarding the medical staff of the Ministry of Health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accordingly, the total number of doctors was 22,541 as on 30.06.2023: 14,688 in the central government and 7853 in the provincial councils.</li> <li>• During the period from August 30, 2022, to August 30, 2023, a total of 957 doctors left the service: 526 doctors took 5-year leave and went abroad; 163 resigned; 197 went abroad without notice; and 71 retired. About 670 doctors are scheduled to retire on 31.12.2024.</li> <li>• It was pointed out to the Committee through this computer visual presentation that it has become difficult to run certain</li> </ul>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>hospitals/institutions in this situation.</p> <p>It was revealed before the Committee that there are more doctors in the Ministry of Health than the approved staff and that there is a weakness in maintaining accurate data regarding the staff.</p> <p>The C.A.O/A.O. stated that they will find out whether an unnecessary number of doctors are working in the Ministry of Health and take steps to attach the excess doctors to other necessary places.</p> <p>It was revealed before the Committee that there are problems with the staff in the Ministry of Health and the Committee recommended to the C.A.O/A.O. of the Ministry of Health to submit a report related to the staff to the Sub-Committee.</p> <p>The Committee observed the weaknesses in providing precise and accurate information about the specialist doctor staff, and the investigation of all these problems in the medical service was assigned to the Sub-Committee appointed to investigate matters related to information technology, human</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		resource management and management of hospitals/institutions under the Ministry of Health.
03.	<b><u>"Swastha" data system</u></b>	<p>It was stated that this data system is currently being implemented in 737 places and there are problems in implementing this data system in all hospitals due to the lack of computers and internet facilities. It was also stated at this point that unnecessary data of the previous data system has been fed to the new system.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation</u></b></p> <p>The Committee on Public Accounts recommended to the C.A.O/A.O. Ministry of Health to submit a precise report to the Committee before 06.10.2023, including the dates on which this new "Swastha" data system will be fully implemented in all hospitals.</p> <p><b>It has been informed by submitting a report in this regard through the letter No. CA/AQ/FCC/02/COPA/2019-2021MOH/2023(IV) dated 06.10.2023 of the Health Secretary that it has been planned to extend the new Swastha data system to all the 1159 hospitals before 31.12.2023 if the necessary computers and</b></p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		internet facilities are provided within the stipulated time frame.
04.	<b><u>Emergency purchase of drugs</u></b>	<p><b><u>Recommendation</u></b></p> <p>The Committee inquired about making emergency purchases at higher prices despite the availability of certain medicines and it was recommended to C.A.O/A.O. of the Ministry of Health to provide to the Committee (before 27.09.2023) a document containing the registered institutions from which quotations are called for the purchase of medicines</p> <p><b>A register of the said institutions has been sent through the letter No. CA/AQ/FCC/02/COPA/2019-2021/MOH/2023 (IV) dated 06.10.2023 of the Health Secretary.</b></p>
05.	<b><u>Medical Supply Management Information System (MSMIS) and the Swastha system established in the Ministry of Health.</u></b>	<p><b><u>Recommendation</u></b></p> <p>Even though the University of Colombo had submitted a 77-page report to the effect that the Medical Supply Management Information System (MSMIS) system can be implemented, it was suggested to introduce a new system through the newly added page to the aforesaid report namely "Page No 78". The Committee recommended to the</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>C.A.O of the Ministry of Health to examine this matter and submit a report before 27.09.2023 to the Sub-Committee (Sub-Committee 2) appointed to investigate matters related to information technology, human resource management, management of hospitals/institutions under the Ministry of Health.</p> <p><b>A report in this regard has been submitted through Health Secretary's letter No. CA/AQ/FCC 02/COPA/2019-2021/MOH/2023 (IV) dated 06.10.2023.</b></p> <p><b>Accordingly, a 77-page report prepared by the expert committee including Prof. K.L. Jayaratne of UCSC on the defects of the MSMIS system has been submitted to a special meeting held in this regard on 09.08.2021. Later, the summary report with 78 pages wick contains the basic facts with final recommendations has been given to the Hon. State Minister on 29.09.2021 by Prof. KL Jayaratne. It has been stated that any matter which is not contained in these reports submitted by UCSC has never been given by the then State Ministry.</b></p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
06.	<b><u>Disciplinary action - Deputy Director, Outpatient Department, Colombo National Hospital</u></b>	The officer working as the Deputy Director of the Outpatient Department of the Colombo National Hospital had stayed in Sri Lanka for more than 08 months out of one year period approved for foreign training and received foreign training allowances and salaries. Although she was required to report for duty to the Ministry after returning to Sri Lanka during training and undergoing the prescribed quarantine process, the officer remained in the country from 28 March 2020 to 09 August 2020 without reporting for duty. It was revealed before the Committee that this officer was cleared of all charges based on the recommendation given by the Ministry Secretary to the Public Service Commission regarding these matters and the Committee recommended that a full report regarding this incident be obtained from the Public Service Commission before 10.10.2023.
07.	<b><u>National Cancer Control program</u></b>  <b><u>Special audit report on the establishment of high quality high powerful</u></b>	<p>The Ministry of Health made a visual computer presentation on this.</p> <p>Accordingly it was explained to the Committee through this visual computer presentation that</p>



	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
	<p><b><u>radiation equipment for patients</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the number of cancer patients and deaths due to cancer in Sri Lanka has gradually increased.</li> <li>• there is a possibility to prevent oral cancer and lung cancer which are more prevalent among the male population of Sri Lanka through a method that can limit the use of tobacco and cigarettes and</li> <li>• the Linear Accelerator machines purchased by the Ministry of Health have currently been installed at Maharagama Apeksha Hospital, Kandy National Hospital, Karapitiya Teaching Hospital, Jaffna-Telippalai Hospital and Batticaloa Teaching Hospital, and that the Kandy hospital does not have the necessary air conditioning facilities to operate one of the machines.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Eastern Provincial Council</b>  <i>(Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 &amp; 2021 and the Current Performance)</i>  <b>Date of Examination : 21 September 2023</b></p>		
<p><b>Institutions Summoned -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government</li> </ul>		

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
❖ Eastern Provincial Council		
01.	<p><b><u>The progress in implementing the recommendations made in the meeting of the Committee on Public Accounts held on 5th April 2017</u></b></p>	<p>• <i>Recommendation No. 07</i> – “To take appropriate action and submit a report to the Committee regarding the audit of the accounts of the Governor's Trust Fund”.</p> <p>It was revealed before the Committee that the relevant report has not been received by the Committee and steps have not been taken to legalize the Governor's Trust Fund and Emergency Fund.</p> <p>The Chief Accounting Officer (C.A.O)/ Accounting Officer(A.O) stated that the relevant statutes are being drafted for the legalization of this fund, and since the term of office of the Provincial Council has been over for several years, it has not been possible to get the statute passed.</p> <p>The Committee instructed the C.A.O/A.O to complete all the requirements necessary for submitting the relevant statute for the approval of the provincial council until the establishment of the Provincial Council.</p> <p>In addition, the Committee on Public Accounts expressed its displeasure</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
		<p>about the fact that no reports related to recommendation Nos. 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 given by the Committee in its meeting held on 05.04.2017 have been submitted to the Committee even though more than 6 years have passed and the Committee recommended to the Chief Accounting Officer/Accounting Officer (C.A.O./A.O.) that all those reports should be submitted to the Committee before 05th October, 2023.</p> <p><b>The relevant reports have been submitted through the Eastern Province Chief Secretary's letter No. EP/09FR//2023/01COPA/01 dated 05.10.2023</b></p>
02.	<b><u>Non-remittance of stamp duty levies to local authorities</u></b>	<p>The Auditor General brought to the attention of the Committee that stamp duty collections of 349 million rupees had been retained in the Provincial Council for more than 2 years without being remitted to the local authorities. In addition to that, the Auditor General also pointed out that there has been a loss of 280 million due to the fact that another Rs. 700 million was not invested in fixed deposits but deposited in current accounts.</p> <p>This matter was discussed at length and since this is a common situation for all provincial councils, the</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		Committee instructed the C.A.O of the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government to take steps to prepare a suitable system to receive the money owed to local authorities without delay.
03.	<b><u>Principal Vacancies</u></b>	<p>It was disclosed before the Committee that while there are 566 principal vacancies in 15 zonal education offices in the Eastern Province, there is an excess of 20 principals in 02 zonal offices in Ampara district.</p> <p>The C.A.O/A.O. who commented at this point stated that although there should be 1531 principals in the Eastern Province, there are only 837 principals at present . Accordingly C.A.O/A.O. stated that there are 691 principal vacancies, but not a surplus of principals . The C.A.O/A.O. further stated that an excess of principals has been observed due to the fact of counting as principals the senior teachers (ACTING PRINCIPALS) who have been appointed to cover the duties of principals in schools without principals.</p> <p>The Committee noted that although senior teachers have been appointed as acting principals to cover the duties</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
		of principals, they have not been attached to schools where there are vacancies . The need for the Ministry of Education to have a formal programme regarding the filling of principal vacancies was also emphasized at this point .
04.	<b><u>Providing licences by the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau (GSMB) for mining activities.</u></b>	<p>The Committee inquired about the permission given by the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau to a private company to carry out mining activities in inhabited areas of Kutchchaveli area.</p> <p>The C.A.O/A.O. stated that the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau has given permission to a private company to carry out mining activities in a land in Kuchchaveli Divisional Secretariat Division, in which human settlements, government institutions, religious places and other public places are located. The C.A.O./A.O. stated that due to objections raised by various parties, the Governor questioned the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau in writing regarding the lack of prior notification in this regard. The C.A.O/A.O. further stated that the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau has resorted to court action by naming as respondents a group including the Minister of Environment, the</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>Governor of the Province, the Provincial Chief Secretary, and the Divisional Secretary of Kuchchaveli.</p> <p>The Committee, which expressed its surprise regarding the filing of a case by the Geological Survey and Mines Bureau, an institution under the Ministry of Environment, making its Minister also a respondent, recommended that a detailed report regarding that case (including the reason for the filing of the case, the names and positions of the respondents, and their current status) be submitted to the Committee before October 5, 2023.</p> <p><b>The relevant reports have been submitted through the Eastern Province Chief Secretary's letter No. EP/09/FR/01/2023/COPA/01 dated 05.10.2023.</b></p>
05.	<b><u>Teacher Vacancies</u></b>	<p>The Committee observed that there is a surplus of 664 teachers in 6 education zones, while there are 1509 teacher vacancies in 11 zones out of the 17 education zones in the Eastern Province, according to the Auditor General's report.</p> <p>The C.A.O/A.O stated before the Committee that even though there were vacancies and surpluses of</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>teachers in the province, as was stated in the Auditor General's report, almost 90% of that situation has been balanced by now. He further mentioned that not even a single teacher has been recruited since the year 2019 and that, though there were 3608 teacher vacancies, he was able to bring his province to the first place in the G.E.C. (Advanced Level) Examination in the year 2022.</p> <p>Appreciating the success achieved in the education sector in the face of many challenges, the Committee also emphasized the importance of maintaining a data system to obtain information about teachers.</p>
06.	<b><u>Financial losses incurred during the construction of 2 bridges on Malwatu Suriyapodei Road</u></b>	<p>The Committee paid its special attention to the fact that a loss of 72.2 million rupees was incurred by the provincial council by paying an amount of Rs. 150 million as compensation as a result of resorting to arbitration in the dispute regarding the construction of 2 bridges on Malwatu Suriyapodei Road with World Bank assistance, even though it could have been reached at a settlement by paying an amount of 77.8 million rupees, which consisted of compensation of Rs. 40 million and late charges of Rs. 37.8 million</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>through the tribunal proceedings related to the said dispute.</p> <p>The C.A.O further stated that after referring the dispute to arbitration, both parties were not satisfied with the amount fixed to be paid as compensation to the contractor company, so they resorted to arbitration again, and finally the problem was settled by paying an amount of 150 million rupees.</p> <p>It was stated at this point that the recommendation of the Treasury in regard to the paying of this amount of compensation was to provide for provisions to pay it using the allocations made through the annual estimates of the year 2021 or the revenue of the provincial council subject to the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers, taking into consideration the financial situation of the Provincial Council.</p> <p>The Committee stated that the Cabinet of Ministers has not approved the payment of this compensation as recommended by the Treasury and concluded that this is an unnecessary expense. The Committee stressed that legal action should be taken against the officials related to this incident if they</p>



	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>have committed a mistake, and recommended that a committee should be appointed by the C.A.O/A.O under a deputy secretary to investigate the incident and that the report of that committee should be submitted to the Committee before October 5, 2023.</p> <p><b>The relevant reports have been submitted through the Eastern Province Chief Secretary's letter No. EP/09/FR/01/2023/COPA/01 dated 05.10.2023.</b></p>
07.	<b><u>Charging Value Added Tax (VAT) on payment of contributions to Employees' Provident Fund and Employees' Trust Fund</u></b>	<p>The Committee paid its strong attention to the fact that the Provincial Council paid an amount of 9.04 million rupees during the period from 01.05.2020 to 31.12.2020 to the companies that had contracted for providing security services and sanitary services, as contribution to the Employees Provident Fund and the Employees Trust Fund without evaluating whether they have been registered with the said funds and that the aforesaid employees have not received the benefits concerned.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation</u></b></p> <p>The Committee instructed that the two companies concerned be summoned and they be informed to pay the contributions to the Employees'</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<p>Provident Fund and the Employees' Trust Fund and if not, the relevant contribution be paid out of an amount which should be paid by the provincial council to the said two companies and failing that too the agreement entered into with them be abolished. It was recommended to the C.A.O /A.O. to submit to the Committee a report of the action taken in this regard before 05<sup>th</sup> October 2023.</p> <p><b>The relevant report has been submitted through the Eastern Province Chief Secretary's letter No. EP/09/FR/01/2023/COPA/01 dated 05.10.2023.</b></p> <p>Also, it was disclosed at this point that an amount of 6.3 million rupees had been paid as Value Added Tax (VAT) for the contributions made to the Employees' Provident Fund and the Employees' Trust Fund.</p> <p>The Committee inquired at length about this matter too and it was recommended to the C.A.O/A.O that a report of this matter too be submitted to the Committee before 05<sup>th</sup> October 2023.</p> <p><b>The relevant report has been submitted through the Eastern Province Chief Secretary's letter No.</b></p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<b>EP/09/FR/01/2023/COPA/01 dated 05.10.2023.</b>
08.	<b><u>Conducting of Audit and Management Committee Meetings</u></b>	<p>The Committee inquired whether the audit and management committee meetings are conducted properly by the institutions under the purview of provincial council. It was disclosed before the Committee that several institutions have not convened audit committee meetings and that the Provincial Road Passenger Transport Authority has not conducted a single meeting of the Audit and Management Committee in the past several years.</p> <p>The C.A.O /A.O stated at this point that the local authorities conduct their audit and management committee meetings, and in addition, all local authorities are called for the audit and management committee meetings conducted by the provincial council once a quarter.</p> <p>The Committee pointed out that problems cannot be solved by holding meetings having called all the institutions to the Ministry , and that solutions can be obtained by going to the relevant institutions and discussing the problems stated in the Auditor General's reports.</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<p>The Committee emphasized that the Chief Secretary should issue a circular and actively intervene in this regard, and that this situation should have been rectified when called for the Committee meeting of the next year.</p> <p>The Committee instructed all the heads of institutions who had joined the meeting through ZOOM technology to hold audit committee meetings of their institutions separately, and stated that the sole responsibility of coordinating the meetings will be assigned to the Chief Secretary.</p>
09.	<u>The fact that the Addalachchena hospital complex has been abandoned for 2 years without making any use of it</u>	<p>The Committee questioned about the medical and health facilities of hospitals in the Eastern Province and also about the fact that the Addalachchena hospital complex, which was completed in May 2021 at a cost of 81 million, has been abandoned for 2 years without making any use of it.</p> <p>The C.A.O/A.O stated that the building construction activities of the Addalachchena hospital has been completed by now, but the electricity and water supply has not yet been obtained.He also said that the said supplies will be received in a few</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
		weeks, after which duties can be started here.
10.	<b><u>Vehicle control</u></b>	<p>It was also discussed at this point about the fact of 11 vehicles belonging to the Provincial Council were not repaired for more than 05 years and were parked at the office of the Regional Health Services Director. The Committee pointed out that the ownership of the vehicles is in the name of the Provincial Council due to the non-cancellation of the registration of the vehicles belonging to the Provincial Council after they are scrapped or auctioned, and the Committee instructed that after scrapping or auctioning the vehicles, action should be taken to inform it to the Department of Motor Traffic and get the registration of the vehicles concerned cancelled.</p> <p>The Committee recommended to the C.A.O/A.O to submit a document on the vehicles auctioned by the Provincial Council to the Committee before 05 October 2023.</p> <p><b>The relevant report has been submitted through the Eastern Province Chief Secretary's letter No. EP/09/FR/01/2023/COPA/01 and dated 05.10.2023.</b></p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<p>In addition, the Committee recommended to the C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government to submit to the Committee before 29.12.2023 , a list of vehicles of the 9 provincial councils, which were auctioned and scrapped during the last 10 years.</p> <p><b>The relevant report has been submitted through the letter No. PL/6/7/4/EP dated 23.11.2023of the Secretary to the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government.</b></p>
11.	<p><b><u>Though an amount of more than 150 million rupees has been paid in relation to the construction of a building for the office of the Chief Secretary, the construction work of the building has not yet been completed.</u></b></p>	<p>It was disclosed before the Committee that though an amount of more than 150 million has been paid by the Planning Secretariat of the Eastern Province for the construction of a building for the Chief Scretariat, the construction work of the building has not yet been completed .</p> <p>The C.A.O/ A.O stated at this point that this is a building that has been designed not only for the Chief Secretariat but also for the establishment of several other institutions. The C.A.O/ A.O stated that the construction work of this</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>building could not be completed on the scheduled date and that the work on two floors has been completed while other construction work has been completed by about 75%. However, the C.A.O/A.O stated that another Rs. 164 million is required to complete the work on the third and fourth floors and he expressed confidence if that provision is received, all the construction work can be completed next year.</p>
<b>Performance Evaluation of Archaeological Heritage Management in Sri Lanka – Second Meeting</b> <b>(Auditor General’s Investigation)</b> <b>Date of Examination : 03 October 2023</b>		
<b>Institutions Summoned -</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs</li> <li>❖ Department of Archaeology</li> <li>❖ Department of National Museums</li> <li>❖ National Archives Department</li> <li>❖ Central Cultural Fund</li> <li>❖ Department of Forest Conservation</li> <li>❖ Department of Wildlife Conservation</li> <li>❖ Bureau of Geological Survey and Mines</li> <li>❖ Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority</li> <li>❖ Post Graduate Institute of Archaeology</li> </ul>		
01.	The Committee paid its attention to the vacancies	The C.A.O/ A.O of the Ministry stated that the filing of a fundamental rights

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
	<p>available in the executive level posts in the Department of Archaeology. It was disclosed at this point before the Committee that even though the schemes of recruitment for 27 assistant director posts were prepared and approved in 2016, the aforesaid posts have remained vacant since the date of approval of those posts.</p>	<p>case before the Supreme Court by a group of employees of the institution regarding the recruitment process was an obstacle to filling these vacancies. It was stated before the Committee that the parties of this case have requested that those officials also be given an opportunity to apply for the relevant executive grade positions.</p>
02.	<p><b><u>The fact that the post of Legal Officer in the Department of Archeology remains vacant</u></b></p>	<p>The C.A.O /A.O. of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs said that with the release of the National Budget Circular 03/2022, the Public Service Commission ordered that the approval of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy be obtained to fill the relevant vacancies, but the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy did not grant approval for it .</p> <p>The Officials of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy stated at that point that the Department of Management Services had been authorized to do it and that it was expected to grant</p>



	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
		<p>approval to the relevant vacant posts within that week</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee recommended to the C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to inform the Committee by 10.10.2023 about the recruitment to the post of Legal Officer in the Department immediately once the approval of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy is granted.</p> <p><b>The reply report has been sent through the letter No. MNH/AD/11/ARC/01 dated 30.04.2024 of the Secretary to the Ministry Buddhasasana, Ministry of Religious and Cultural Affairs</b></p>
03.	Gazetting and protecting antiquities	<p>The C.A.O / A.O of the Ministry of Buddhasasana , Religious and Cultural Affairs stated before the Committee that 5664 archaeological sites have been identified and documented across the country at present and that 2793 of them have been gazetted. He further stated that according to the Antiquities Act, all ancient objects existing before March 28, 1815 are considered as</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<p>antiquities and they do not need to be specially gazetted.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee recommended to the C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to formulate a programme in collaboration with the District Secretary and District Coordinating Committees/Structures to protect the gazetted antiquities currently identified in the country, and also devise a system to gazette the antiquities which have not been gazetted so far.</p> <p><b>The reply report has been sent through the letter No. MNH/AD/11/ARC/01 dated 30.04.2024 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs.</b></p>
04.	<b><u>Mapping of archaeological sites in the country and publishing them on the website.</u></b>	<p>The Committee stated that it cannot be satisfied with the time frames fixed in the plan submitted for this at present and it recommended to the C.A.O/A.O of this Ministry to take action to prepare an accurate data system with the help and advice of people who volunteer and have expertise in the field in collaboration with the subject Minister, other relevant parties such as the Tourism Board and the Central</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
		<p>Cultural Fund and map all the archaeological sites in the country and include them in the website and also to take action to submit to the Committee an action plan which includes the amount of time that has to be spent for it, the period of time that will be taken for it , the specific time frames and the officials who have been entrusted with the responsibilities in it .</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee gave instructions to the C.A.O / A.O to discuss information technology issues (IT) with the relevant universities and look into the possibility of getting the necessary support</p> <p><b>The reply report has been sent through the letter No. MNH/AD/11/ARC/01 30.04.2024 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs.</b></p>
05.	<b><u>Mapping marine antiquities</u></b>	<p>The Director General of the Central Cultural Fund revealed to the Committee that the software used by the Department of Archeology for mapping archaeological sites is expensive and it requires trained human resources and as a result of which another software has been</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>established with the support of the private sector for gazetting marine antiquities.</p> <p>It was stated at this point that photos and videos of 60% of the sunken ships have been included in it , and the relavant basic information has been included in the rest of the places. The Director General of the Central Cultural Fund further stated that the information such as the date of sinking of the ship, the reason for the sinking and whether there is public access to the sunken location can be obtained through this.</p>
06.	<b><u>Gazetting of Marine Antiquities</u></b>	<p>The Director General of the Central Cultural Fund also stated that marine antiquities are classified as movable antiquities, and that although archaeological sites and archaeological monuments are gazetted, the antiquities submerged in the sea are not gazetted.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee recommended to the C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to look into the possibility of gazetting the currently identified marine antiquities.</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
07.	<b><u>Display of access routes to marine archaeological sites included on the website.</u></b>	<p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee recommended to the C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to name the places where services can be obtained for diving activities related to marine archeological sites around Sri Lanka, and to include the land routes accessible to them in this map.</p>
08.	The Committee inquired about the provision of service facilities for tourism industry related to the sea.	The Chairman of the Tourism Board who spoke at this point said that a development plan has been implemented with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank and 60%-70% of its work has been completed by now. The Chairman of the Tourism Board further stated that the remaining part of this can be completed within this year and it is expected to gazette the criteria and guidelines for the water related tourism industry under 13 sectors before the end of this month.
09.	<b><u>Amending the National Policy on Archaeology</u></b>	The C.A.O./ A.O. of the the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs, who commented at this point , said that the terms of reference related to the task of amending the national policy on archeology have been prepared and submitted to the Cabinet for approval.

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<b><u>Recommendations</u></b>  The Committee recommended to the C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to call the relevant institutions mentioned in the National Policy regarding the matters included in the terms and conditions (TOR) related to the task of amending the National Policy on Archaeology and entertain their opinions and suggestions and submit them to the Cabinet of Ministers and where upon to submit a report of it to the Committee by November 03, 2023.  <b>The reply report has been sent through the letter No. MNH/AD/11/ARC/01 dated 30.04.2024 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs.</b>
10.	The Committee inquired about the recommendations given by the Committee in the Committee meeting held on 24.05.2023 regarding the provision of insurance coverage for divers.	The C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs said that many efforts were made to get insurance as per the recommendations of the Committee and only Ceylinco Insurance Company agreed to provide insurance coverage for local divers, and that further negotiations are going on to get insurance for foreign divers.

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<u><b>Recommendations</b></u>  As mentioned above, the Committee gave instructions to the C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to take further necessary steps regarding obtaining life insurance for the divers.
11.	<p>On 24.05.2023, the Committee on Public Accounts paid its attention to the absence of a joint mechanism to establish proper coordination between the Archaeological Advisory Council and the relevant councils / committees established in other institutions related to archaeology and the Committee inquired about the recommendations made in the said committee meeting.</p> <p>In that regard, it was revealed before the Committee that no program has been prepared according to the recommendations made by the Committee on Public Accounts on the above-mentioned day.</p>	<p>The C.A.O./A.O of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs expressing his views at this point stated before the Committee that there is an archaeological steering committee that has been established by connecting all institutions dealing with archeology and that the committee meets every three months.</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
12.	<p><b><u>Obtaining a report on recommended World Heritage Sites</u></b></p>	<p>The C.A.O/A.O.of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs said that currently the approval of the Governing Body should be obtained for 10 places that have been decided to be proposed to UNESCO to be named as world heritage sites, and the relevant reports for those places should be prepared separately and that since the human resources required for that process are not in the department of archeology action will be taken to outsource that service.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee recommended to the C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to submit the Committee a report with specific tme frames , which includes the places that have been decided to be proposed to UNESCO to be designated as world heritage sites, the steps to be taken until the draft is forwarded to UNESCO and the officers whom the responsibility of it has been assigned.</p> <p><b>The reply report has been sent through the letter No. MNH/AD/11/ARC/01 dated 30.04.2024 of the Secretary to the</b></p>



	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<b>Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs</b>
13.	<p><b><u>Directing/supervising of archaeological excavations, conservation and data storage.</u></b></p> <p>The Committee inquired about the recommendations made by the Committee on Public Accounts in its meeting held on 24.05.2023 in this regard</p>	<p>The C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs said that a list of excavation sites is being maintained, and each excavation report should be studied to obtain information related to these excavations.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee recommended to the C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to make arrangements to feed into a data system the information related to the archaeological excavations carried out in the country, such as the places where the excavations were carried out, the discoveries made by the excavations and their successes /failures , whether the excavations should be continued and what other important excavations should be carried out.</p> <p><b>The reply report has been sent through the letter No. MNH/AD/11/ARC/01 dated 30.04.2024 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs</b></p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
14.	<p><b><u>Conservation of Atthanagalu Ferry</u></b></p>	<p>It was stated at this point that the conservation limit of some parts of this ferry has been exceeded and the expert committee appointed by the Subject Minister has presented an action plan of 8 steps, and 5 steps out of the said steps have been completed by now. The C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs stated before the Committee that an estimate has been submitted to work together with the Central Cultural Fund and the National Replica School for the next 3 steps and the approval of the Archaeological Advisory Council has also been received for these activities,</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee recommended to the C.A.O/A.O of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs to take necessary action paying special attention to the conservation measures of the ferry.</p>
15.	<p><b><u>Use of modern technical equipment to verify the identity of archaeological objects</u></b></p> <p>In this regard , the Committee questioned about the fact of not submitting to it a report</p>	<p>The Director of the Central Cultural Fund also stated that action will be taken to digitalize the antiquities of Sigiriya / prepare three dimensional structures of them under the aid to be received under KOIKA Aid Program of Japan.</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
	which includes a programme in conformity with the recommendations made in the meeting of the Committee on Public Accounts held on 24.05.2023.	
16.	<b><u>Conservation of the Archaeological Sites in North and East areas.</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendations</u></b>  The Committee recommended to the C.A.O./A.O. of the Ministry of Buddhasasana, Religious, and Cultural Affairs to submit to the Committee by 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 a report on whether all the archeological sites located in the north and east indicated by the audit inquiries have been identified and gazetted by the Department of Archeology and to submit to the Committee by January 7, 2024 a report on the program put in place and problems related to the conservation of those places .  <b>A relply report has been sent through the letter No. MNH/AD/11/ARC/01 dated 30.04.2024 of the Secretary to the Ministry Buddhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs.</b>
<b>Department of Probation and Child Care Services</b> <i>(Current Status of the Directives given at the COPA Meeting held on 04.07.2023 and Current Performance)</i>		

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
<b>Date of Examination : 04 October 2023</b>		
<b>Institutions Summoned -</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment</li> <li>❖ Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms</li> <li>❖ Ministry of Defense</li> <li>❖ Department of Probation and Child Care Services</li> <li>❖ Sri Lanka Police</li> <li>❖ National Child Protection Authority</li> </ul>		
01.	<b><u>Progress in implementation of recommendations issued by the Committee on Public Accounts in its meeting held on 04 July 2023.</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Establishing an Internal Audit Unit and reporting to the Committee before June 25, 2023.</li> <li>(ii) Coordinating the relevant institutions and providing a report including the dates of implementation of the data system of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) to the</li> </ul>	<p>(i) The Chief Accounts Officer (CAO)/Accounting Officer (AO) stated that the departmental audit and management committee meeting was held on 19.07.2023 and that there is no approved internal auditor position in the cadre of the Department of Probation and Child Care Services due to being a category C department. He also stated that departmental internal audits are carried out by the Ministry's Internal Audit Unit as per Financial regulation 133 (b).</p> <p><b>It has been informed that the Audit and Management Committee of the Department of Probation and Child Care Services has been established by letter No. PCC/2/2/10 dated</b></p>

	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
	<p>Committee before August 8, 2023.</p> <p>(iii) Preparing a program to obtain information at the provincial and national levels for the implementation of the recommendations of compulsory attendance of children in schools and producing a report to the committee before August 08, 2023.</p> <p>(iv) Appointment of a full-time officer to the post of Legal Officer</p> <p>(v) Provide a detailed report including the method of implementation of operational committees to provide solutions to problems/complaints related to children and the coordination of the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment, Department of Probation and Child Care Services, National Child Protection Authority and Provincial Probation Department for this</p>	<p><b>07.08.2023 of the Secretary, Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment and as per Management Audit Circular No. DMA/01-2019, and that its first meeting was held on 19.07.2023.</b></p> <p>(ii) Information Communication and Technology Agency (ICTA) has informed in writing on 06.08.2023 that it is difficult to host this data system, and as an alternative, Save the Children Organization has agreed to provide financial support for the hosting of the system. Accordingly he further stated that it is expected that the bids would be called from a government's approved institution and hosting facilities would be obtained, and other problems in the system would be resolved and this data system would be implemented within the relevant time frame.</p> <p>He also stated that the Interim Report of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in Sri Lanka, which is due by 10.11.2023, is being manually drafted. However, the committee which expressed its displeasure over the delay in the</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
	<p>purpose to the Committee before 08 August 2023.</p> <p>(vi) Expediting the improvement as a national data system with the support of the Sri Lanka Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) and universities by integrating all relevant institutions such as the Department of Labor, Sri Lanka Police, etc. including the Department of Probation and Child Care Services. Submitting a preliminary report to the committee before 08.08.2023 including the program and secondly, a report with operational dates on the same before 04.10.2023.</p> <p>(vii)Expediting the revision of laws and ordinances related to children, including the Adoption Ordinance, as per the need of the hour, and a to submit the committee</p>	<p>proper completion of this process which has been ongoing since 2021, as well as over the failure to consider hosting facilities in the development of the data system, recommended the CAO/AO to issue a report to the committee by 04.11.2023 after finishing this process.</p> <p><b>The letter No. PCC/2/2/10 and dated 03.11.2023 by the Secretary to the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment, has stated that by 31.12.2023, all institutions should enter the data and make the system fully operational with relevant changes in the data system.</b></p> <p>(iii) The committee emphasized that the Ministry of Education should maintain up-to-date data on the non-attendance of children who should receive compulsory education and that the Department of Probation and Child Care Services should prepare national policies on ensuring children's education</p> <p>The Secretary to the Ministry of Justice, Prisons and Constitutional</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
	<p>with a report by the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment jointly with the Ministry of Justice, Prisons and Constitutional Reforms with dates by 08 August 2023 .</p>	<p>Reforms stated that although the Children and Young Persons Ordinance has changed the age limit under the definition of "child" from 16 to 18 years, the department has faced challenges in enforcing it in practice for probation purposes. Furthermore, the secretary stated that in the future, one new bill will be introduced to replace all the bills on children and that bill has already been drafted and forwarded for the observation by the Attorney General.</p> <p><b>Through the letter No. PCC/2/2/10 and dated 07.08.2023 by the Secretary to the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment, the Commissioner on Child Care Services has informed the Ministry of Education about this matter, and it has been informed that the Ministry's decision has been sent to the Commissioner of Child Care Services. According to the letter, it has been informed that further discussions will be held with the Ministry of Education to strengthen the program as</b></p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p><b>the current space to obtain information under an integrated approach for this task is limited.</b></p> <p>(iv) CAO stated that at present, the Legal Officer of the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment has been appointed to cover these duties and a request has been made to the Department of Management Services to fill the vacancy and that the recruitment will be made once the approval is received in due course .</p> <p>(v) In the discussion among the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment, the Department of Probation and Child Care Services, the National Child Protection Authority and the Provincial Probation Department, it was agreed to perform the work related to the institutionalization of children by the Provincial probation departments and the awareness raising work for the section "Prevention" by the Department of Probation and Childcare Services. It was stated here that the Department of Probation and Child Protection Services would also carry out the</p>



	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>awareness activities and the National Child Protection Authority would also carry out the activities related to the legal status and Child protection committees that cater to the safety of school children .</p> <p>AO stated that a program for training and imparting technical knowledge to relevant magistrates on law enforcement issues for the coordination of provincial probation matters and a program for training officials to implement the alternative care policy have also been implemented.</p> <p><b>As stated in the letter No. PCC/2/2/10, dated 15.11.2023 by the Secretary to the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment, the Ministry has introduced a schedule to the Provincial Committees to hold these steering committees. The National Steering Committee has arranged to discuss provincial issues at the national level on 21.11.2023.</b></p> <p>(vi) The committee was unhappy that the corporate data system has not been upgraded and maintained as a national data system so far.</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>Currently, as a preliminary training, the online data system is being tested in Ratnapura district. Furthermore, the Chairman of the National Child Protection Authority stated that the implementation of the initial phase data system has already started. The committee recommended the CAO./AO to immediately issue the report which has been requested to be submitted before 04.10.2023.</p> <p><b>The letter dated 07.08.2023 by the Secretary of the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment has been sent stating that the report with dates related to the establishment of the National Data System will be provided in the near future. Accordingly, it has been informed that the report related to the development and establishment of this national data system will be prepared in the near future with the relevant time periods after the coordination of experts in the field of information technology, ICTA and universities after obtaining</b></p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p><b>the advice and approval of the board of directors.</b></p> <p><b>The letter No. PCC/2/2/10, dated 13.11.2023 by the Commissioner of Probation and Child Care Services has presented the proposed time frame related to the plan to upgrade the corporate data system to a national data system.</b></p> <p>(vii)The CAO of the Ministry of Justice, Prisons and Constitutional Reforms stated that a period of one month has been requested by the committee appointed by the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment to obtain information from the relevant parties. In this regard, the committee recommended the CAO/AO of the Ministry of Justice, Prisons and Constitutional Reforms to ensure a representation from the Provincial Child Care Services Department and also to submit a report including the dates of the final progress to the committee before 04.11.2023.</p> <p><b>A report has been given through the letter No.</b></p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<p>MOJ/L(1)/124/2022 and MOJ/L(4)/563/2023 dated 17.10.2023 of the Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reforms.</p> <p>It has been informed that the Child Protection and Justice Bill and the Adoption Bill will be tabled in Parliament in January-February in 2024 and in April 2024 respectively.</p>
02.	<b><u>Running the Paraththa National Center for Child Training and Counseling Services.</u></b>	<p>The Paraththa Children's Training and Counseling Services National Centre, the only center in the island to conduct training and counseling programs for girl probationers aged 15-18 who are not going to schools, has fallen into a dilapidated status after the damage caused on its property after being used as a Covid treatment center from May 12, 2021. It was brought to the attention of the committee that the center has not been used for training activities up until today. The AO stated that estimates for the repair work of this center have been prepared and referred to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for approval and that the funds have been received and the</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		repairs can be carried out within this month.
03.	<b><u>Conducting Provincial Steering Committees</u></b>	<p>The committee was displeased that many provinces had not met the target of conducting at least 1 steering committee per quarter. The Committee, in this regard informed that a letter of notice from the Committee on Public Accounts will be forwarded to the District Secretaries and Provincial Chief Secretaries to the effect that these operational committees should be held formally in accordance with the relevant circulars.</p> <p>The committee also recommended the CAO/AO that the steering committees should be held in the 9 provinces before October 31, 2023 and the report should be given to the committee by the provincial commissioners. It was stated that the Probation and Child Care Services Department, the National Child Protection Authority and the Sri Lanka Police should also be represented in these committees. Doing so, the committee recommended the CAO/AO to submit a report of the 9 provinces to the committee before 15.11.2023 mentioning the program of work of each province after creating a common agenda for these committees</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>and after discussing the solutions to the reported problems of children in each province.</p> <p><b>The relevant report has been submitted through the letter PCC/2/2/10 dated 15.11.2023 by the Secretary of the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment.</b></p> <p>Also, the Committee recommended the CAO/AO that this notification should also be done by the Ministry of Women, Child Affairs and Social Empowerment too. The committee emphasized that a follow-up should be done, since this circular has been issued by the central government. AO stated that the Provincial commissioners will be informed and reminded about this. Furthermore, the committee recommended the CAO/AO to regularly conduct the National Steering Committees as well.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Excise Department</b>  <b><i>(Auditor General's Reports of Year 2021 and the Current Performance)</i></b>  <b>Date of Examination : 05 October 2023</b></p>		
<p><b>Institutions Summoned -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy</li> <li>❖ Excise Department</li> </ul>		

	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
01.	<p><b><u>RASED Computer Information System proposed to be implemented in Excise Department</u></b></p>	<p>The CAO/AO stated that at present, no computer data system is functional in the Excise Department, and that arrangements are underway to get consultancy support from the University of Moratuwa to start the computer data system.</p> <p>The committee expressed its displeasure regarding the lack of adequate steps to implement this system, although an amount of 100 million rupees has been allocated for this data system in the year 2022.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The committee recommended the Excise Department to submit a report containing each step for the establishment and operation of this computerized data system (including the tender process), the time taken and the officers assigned with the relevant responsibility, to the committee on or before 06.11.2023.</p> <p><b>According to the letter No. MF06/4/Excise/COPA/2023 dated 07.11.2023 from the Secretary to the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy, it has been informed that it is expected to obtain a consultancy service from the University of Moratuwa and</b></p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<p>that arrangements will be made to provide the plan after preparing a complete action plan based on their directives as well. Later, it has been informed in this regard that, the Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy has submitted a report dated 01.04.2024 and that as the financial value of the financial proposal given by the University of Moratuwa is very high, the Ministry of Finance has directed to get a financial proposal related to the counseling service from another university. Accordingly, it has been informed that arrangements are made to get a financial proposal related to the counseling service from the Colombo and Kelaniya Universities as well.</p>
02.	<u><b>Use of fake security stickers</b></u>	<p>The committee pointed out that the use of fake safety stickers leads to the loss of taxes by the government, violation of the laws and also the violations of consumer rights.</p> <p><u><b>Recommendation</b></u></p> <p>The Committee recommended the Excise Department to provide a report including the list of employees of the Excise Department who were</p>



	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>employed in those factories and transferred in connection with the incidents of affixing fake stickers instead of the prescribed stickers on bottles during the production and distribution of alcohol, the dates of transfer, the place transferred to and the current place of service before 12.00 pm on 06.10.2023 to the committee.</p> <p>The Committee recommended the Excise Department that an investigation be conducted regarding the distribution of the bottles of alcohol with fake safety stickers on, and further recommended that they should proceed to cancel the liquor permits of the particular liquor factories, or else the party who decided against it should be held responsible.</p> <p>It was revealed in the committee that the Excise Department does not have enough staff and the committee advised to recruit the required staff.</p> <p><b>The relevant report has been submitted through ED/02/01 Parliamentary Questions and letter dated 06.10.2023 of Commissioner General of Excise. The Committee has recommended that a detailed report be given in this regard and the said report has also been given</b></p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<p>through Parliamentary Questions ED/02/01 and letter dated 13.10.2023 of the Commissioner General of Excise. It has been informed in this regard that , the Criminal Investigation Department has started investigations related to the use of fake security stickers based on the report No. MF06/4/Excise/COPA/2023 dated 04.01.2024 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy and that currently the statements of the officials of the Excise Department are being recorded. Also, it has been informed that the inspections are being carried out by the inspection boards appointed by the department regarding the establishments that had the products with fake stickers and that the staff recruitment activities have also been started, since the department lacks sufficient staff.</p>
03.	<p><u>Agreement entered into with the Indian company providing security stickers for liquor bottles</u></p>	<p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>The committee observed several instances where the agreement entered into with the Indian company has been violated by the relevant company and that the security sticker management process could not be maintained</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>effectively through this agreement. The committee also recommended CAO of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies that the department should jointly appoint a committee and make recommendations regarding this sticker process and further recommended to provide an inclusive report (noting that the terms of the agreement have not been breached) to the committee before 13.10.2023.</p> <p>The Committee also emphasized the importance of getting advice from the Attorney General in signing such agreements.</p> <p><b>A report containing relevant recommendations has been given vide letter No. MF06/4/Excise/COPA/2023 of the Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies dated 30.10.2023. Accordingly, 8 recommendations have been made and it is appropriate to use the digital coding system for all local alcohol products, and that the top management should make an appropriate program to secure the government revenue by promptly completing all the testing processes that are currently being carried out.</b></p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
04.	<p><b><u>Identification of liquor released to the market with fake stickers using machines provided to District Excise Offices</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee recommended to the Excise Department to make a program (IT Solution) to get the relevant information to the mobile phone through an application (App) developed by the IT Division of the Excise Department, to check whether fake stickers have been affixed on the liquor bottles in the shops and factories by using these devices and to get the relevant information (checking center, date, time, checked quantity) and to report its progress to the Committee before 15.10.2023 and to provide the report with the information thus obtained, to the Committee before 31.10.2023.</p> <p>Also, it was revealed in the committee that the excise officers in the factories check the products every 20 minutes and the committee recommended the excise department to get reports from them as well.</p> <p><b>It has been informed that the relevant information is currently being obtained through a WhatsApp group, through letters No. MF06/4/Excise/COPA/2023 dated 07.11.2023 and dated 04.01.2024 issued by the Secretary, Ministry of</b></p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<p><b>Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policies and that the future work is to be done on the technical advice of the IT Department of the Ministry of Finance since there are no IT knowledgeable officers in the department to create the relevant application (App).</b></p>
05.	<p><b><u>Cancellation of permits of liquor manufacturing establishments where outstanding tax dues have not been paid</u></b></p>	<p>It was revealed before the Committee that as of 31.12.2022, an amount of Rs. 5,491,066,488/- should be recovered by the Excise Department from the liquor manufacturing establishments.</p> <p>The CAO/AO stated that a large amount of the arrears of tax should be collected from the manufacturing companies that used the aforementioned fake alcohol stickers.</p> <p>As these liquor manufacturing establishments have tax arrears to be paid to the Excise Department, the said liquor manufacturing establishments have been informed according to the CAO/AO to pay the respective arrears by 30.10.2023, failing which, the liquor permits will be cancelled.</p> <p>The committee also recommended to cancel the permits of the alcohol manufacturing establishments that do not pay the arrears of tax. The</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>Committee recommended the Excise Department to submit a report to the Committee before 15.11.2023 containing information on the amount of arrears of tax, the period of non-payment of the arrears of tax, the amount of fine imposed for the arrears amounts, agreements reached with the respective establishments and the progress of payment of arrears.</p> <p><b>Information regarding 09 institutions has been submitted through letter No. ED/11/2/COPA-2023 dated 15.11.2023 of the Excise Commissioner General. Contracts entered into with 4 institutions have been submitted.</b></p> <p><b>Proceedings are going on in relation to 3 institutions. Through letter No. MF/4/06Excise/COPA/2023 dated 04.01.2024 of the Secretary to the Treasury, Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy in this regard, it has been informed that the Hon. Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy would be informed about the tax payments and the delays in the payment of arrears of tax installments, and according to the instructions received, measures will</b></p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<b>be taken to recover the tax and late fees to be recovered by to the government to the maximum, by providing opportunities to keep the factories operational as much as possible.</b>
06.	<u><b>Not taking legal action against a manufacturing company that has not paid the outstanding tax installments</b></u>	<p>The Committee inquired the Excise Department regarding the failure to take legal action regarding the inability of a company whose production activities had been suspended and resumed, to pay the outstanding installments where the arrears amount of Rs. 1,292,877,138/- and late fees of Rs. 1,456,079,040/- remained outstanding.</p> <p>The CAO/AO stated that the relevant manufacturing company has filed a case against the Excise Department in the Court of Appeal for erroneously calculating the tax arrears, and that it would be possible to deal with the matter and after receiving the decision of the case.</p>
07.	<u><b>Production of toddy and levying a toddy tax</b></u>	<p>The CAO/AO explained that artificial toddy is produced all over Sri Lanka and a test was conducted with the ITI (Industrial Technology Institute) to identify artificial toddy and a report was issued and that the tests will be</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<p>repeated with the Sri Lanka Standards Institute, to confirm these test results.</p> <p>Also, after the completion of those tests, it was stated that standardization can be done regarding artificial toddy and that legal criteria can be established accordingly. It was further explained by the CAO/AO that fines will be collected regarding the production of artificial toddy, according to the reports obtained from the samples submitted to the government analyst department.</p> <p>It was mentioned here the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy make arrangements to collect the toddy tax from the places other than the taverns under the excise duty system and further that the toddy produced throughout Sri Lanka are obtained from distilleries, bottled toddy factories, toddy taverns and vinegar factories. CAO/AO stated that at present, it has been proposed to levy a tax of Rs. 7.50per litre.</p>
08.	<b><u>Decrease in alcohol production due to increase in alcohol taxes</u></b>	The committee observed that due to the increase in alcohol related taxes, there has been a decrease in the production of alcohol and that the use of illicit toxic liquor has increased. The Committee advised the Excise



	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		Department to pay attention to setting up liquor stores close to each other as there may be a collapse in sales.
<b>Department of the Registrar of Companies</b> <i>(Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 &amp; 2021 and the Current Performance)</i> <b>Date of Examination : 18 October 2023</b>		
<b>Institutions Summoned -</b> ❖ Ministry of Industries ❖ Department of the Registrar of Companies		
01.	<b><u>Not recruiting the required officers for IT sector</u></b>	<p>The Auditor General pointed out to the committee that although the contract had been started on the agreement to finish the contract in 9 months at a cost of 57 million, related to the development of the software for computerization of company registration process (e-Roc system) in the year 2017, the necessary staff had not been hired until 2020. The Auditor General pointed out that they cannot be satisfied about security of the data system, since all activities related to the e-Roc data system of this department are managed by a private company.</p> <p>Although the Department of Management Services has recommended that an IT Director be hired for their department upon the</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>approval of the Director General of Combined Services, the recommendation of the Director General of Combined Services is to hire an officer from the Government IT Service. CAO/AO further stated that however their department needs an officer with experience in software development and data system administration. CAO/AO further stated that although the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government announced that an Assistant Director of the Information Technology Service will be provided before September 15, 2023, it has not been done yet. . CAO/AO further stated that this data system can be maintained under the control of the department, if a suitable officer is appointed.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation</u></b></p> <p>The committee emphasized that the company registrar department must definitely have an information technology director, and directed the secretary of the committee to inform the secretary to the Ministry of public administration, Home affairs, Provincial councils and Local government to arrange for an</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		information technology director to be appointed for the company registrar department considering it as a the highest priority.
02.	<b><u>Inquiring about the objectives of a company at its registration.</u></b>	<p>The committee emphasized the importance of ensuring the purpose of establishing a company before registering it and that it does not lead to detrimental results.</p> <p>CAO/AO who commented here stated that the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007 does not contain any provision requiring the objective of establishing the company to be mentioned when applying for the registration of a company. CAO/AO stated that as it is not a legal requirement, his department does not inquire about the objectives of a company while registering it.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The committee stressed that it is essential to present the specific objectives of a company at the registration, and the Committee recommended to bring this matter to the attention of the Advisory Commission and in this regard the Advisory Commission which has been appointed to advise the Honorable Minister on the laws which are relevant for companies and to forward</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<p>a copy of the report produced by the advisory commission to the minister, containing the recommendations to the Committee before 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023.</p> <p><b>It has been informed by letter No. MIC/FIN/08/05/01 dated 17.11.2023 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Industries and Estates Infrastructure Development that the Advisory Commission has unanimously decided that it is not appropriate to disclose the objectives while establishing a company. It has been informed that the relevant report will be submitted to the committee before 15.12.2023.</b></p>
03.	<b><u>Filing of Annual Reports (Annual Returns).</u></b>	<p>Although every company has to submit Annual Returns as per Section 131 (1) of the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007, it was revealed at this point that the outstanding income exceeded four thousand million due to non-filing of annual returns from 2007 to 30 June 2023, and the committee questioned as to which related purpose should these incomes be recovered by the company.</p> <p>AO stated that there is a fee to be paid by every company while filing an annual report, and in addition, a fine</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>will be charged for not filing the reports on the due dates. AO further explained the committee that some companies have not filed annual reports since the year 2007, and if they had filed reports, the fee that the department should have received from those companies and the sum of the fines that should have been collected up to now would have been calculated as an arrears payment.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation</u></b></p> <p>The Committee recommended that the existing legal provisions should be followed in respect of companies that failed to file reports, and the list of companies liable to pay dues to the government should be published on the website of the Department of the Registrar of Companies.</p>
04.	<b><u>Weaknesses in the -e-Roc data system</u></b>	<p>The committee pointed out that the data system (e-Roc) belonging to the Registrar of Companies Department, which is run at a high cost of 1.4 million, should contain the details of all the currently registered companies, and that the number of active companies should be available through the data system.</p> <p>That AO stated that all the details of the registered companies have been</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>included in the data system after the establishment of this data system in the year 2018, and that at least the name and number of the companies registered before that have been included in the data system. It was further stated that steps will be taken to update the information of the companies by publishing newspaper advertisements and re-registering all the companies.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee advised to prepare this data system in a way that suits the needs of the department, in consultation with the software development company that maintains the e-Roc data system of the Registrar of Companies Department, and to focus on entering into a new agreement, if it is not possible under the existing agreement.</li> <li>• The committee which focused on the fact that 85 million had been spent for scanning and indexing of documents related to company registration when entering data into e-Roc system, recommended the CAO/AO to submit a report on the following matters before 20</li> </ul>

	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
		<p>November 2023 to the Committee;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Has there been sufficient document scanning (scanning) against the amount spent on that?</li> <li>ii. Have all those scanned documents been included in the database?</li> </ol> <p><b>The relevant report has been submitted by letter No. MIC/FIN/08/05/01, dated 17.11.2023 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Industries and Estates Infrastructure Development.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee which focused on the fact that around Rs -25 million had been spent for entering old information into the data system, recommended the CAO/AO to submit a report containing information on the following matters to the committee before November 20, 2023;             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. What is the extent of information entered into the database?</li> <li>ii. Does the said information currently exist in the data system?</li> <li>iii. What action will be taken against information that have</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
		<p>not been entered into the data system?</p> <p><b>The relevant report has been submitted by the letter No. MIC/FIN/08/05/01, dated 17.11.2023 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Industries and Estates Infrastructure Development.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee Recommended the CAO/AO to submit a report containing the identified deficiencies in the data system of the department which is currently run by a private company/ the information available through that system, before 20th November 2023.</li> </ul> <p><b>It has been informed by letter No. MIC/FIN/08/05/01, dated 17.11.2023 of the Secretary to the Ministry of Industries and Estates Infrastructure Development that the data owned by the department is not stored in a private company but in the server of Sri Lanka Telecom and that there is no defect in the data system.</b></p> <p><b>A report on the information available in the data system is presented.</b></p>



	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee recommended the CAO/AO to bring the necessary amendments to the Companies Act No. 7 of 2007, if new rules and regulations are required for future legal proceedings regarding the questionable cases/persons in the Annual Returns filing process and to properly address the objectives of the department.</li> </ul> <p><b>The letter No. MIC/FIN/08/05/01 dated 17.11.2023 by the Secretary to the Ministry of Industries and Estates Infrastructure Development has suggested that it is appropriate to re-register the companies which have been incorporated without amending the Companies Act, but by submitting a Special Provisions Act.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Committee which observed the fact that the maintaining the data system of the Department of the Registrar of Companies completely under a private company was not a favorable situation regarding the confidentiality of information, instructed to immediately rectify the particular situation.</li> </ul>
05.	<b><u>Disparity in distributing of duties</u></b>	The relevant information was presented before the committee by the AO according to the notice given by

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>the committee to separately submit the information about the number of certificates approved by each officer who approved the registration certificates in the last month.</p> <p>The committee which observed a clear contradiction in the amount of duties performed by the officers according to the report submitted noted that a disparity is shown in the division of duties.</p> <p>Commenting on this, AO mentioned that the information presented was only related to the duties performed by the data system, and that the activities related to tenderers, auditors, secretaries and society registration which are still manually done, are not included in this report.</p> <p>The AO of the company registrar department, who mentioned that the duties performed through the e-Roc system are carried out online by the officers of his department even at night, stated that a more efficient service could be provided, if all the work of the company registrar department were included in this system.</p> <p>The Committee, which gave instructions to rectify the deficiencies</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		in the data system, also mentioned that the service of the dedicated officers should be appreciated.
06.	<b><u>Payment of incentives</u></b>	<p>The AO stated that approximately 100 million rupees is generated by the Department of Registrar of Companies per month and a request has been made regarding giving an incentive as an appreciation for the service of the officials. AO further mentioned that it will be difficult to retain them in the organization, if such an incentive is not given and also that it takes several months to train the new officers after the transfer of experienced officers, leading to a decrease in performance.</p> <p>AO stated that during the covid pandemic, officers were given the opportunity to do their duties from home (Work From Home), and during that time, the costs of the institution as well as of the officers decreased showing an increase in efficiency.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Meeting to review the progress of the preliminary Technical Committee to recommend measures to be taken by and among stakeholders to improve collection and improvement of government revenue through effective information technology</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Date of Examination : 19 October 2023</b></p>		

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
<p><b>Institutions Summoned -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Prime Ministerial Secretariat</li> <li>❖ Presidential Secretariat</li> <li>❖ Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy</li> <li>❖ Ministry of Technology</li> <li>❖ Ministry of Industries</li> <li>❖ Inland Revenue Department</li> <li>❖ Sri Lanka Customs</li> <li>❖ Department of Motor Traffic</li> <li>❖ Import and Export Control Department</li> <li>❖ Department of Registration of Persons</li> <li>❖ Department of Agriculture</li> <li>❖ Registrar of Companies Department</li> <li>❖ Registrar General Department</li> <li>❖ Colombo Municipal Council</li> <li>❖ Sri Lanka Standards Institute</li> <li>❖ Sri Lanka Information and Communication Technology Agency</li> </ul>		
01.	<p><b><u>Progress in implementation of the recommendations contained in the interim report tabled in Parliament on 23.11.2016 by the Sub-Committee of the Committee on Government Accounts for using information technology systems to increase government revenue.</u></b></p>	<p>The chairman of the committee emphasized that the main Technical Committee chaired by the Prime Minister's Secretary was appointed for the implementation of the recommendations included in the interim report due to the non-implementation of the recommendations included in the interim report tabled in the Parliament on 23.11.2016 by the sub-committee of the Committee on Government Accounts on using information</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>technology systems to increase government revenue, on 23.03.2023.</p> <p>The committee emphasized the importance of integrating the various data systems existing between the institutions and also observed the integrated data systems operating in other countries' government institutions beyond focusing on the data systems for revenue collection , currently operating in these institutions and their future measures.</p>
02.	The attention of the Committee was drawn to the need for the speedy introduction of the digital national identity card, which is used to integrate the data systems of government institutions.	<p>The Secretary to the Prime Minister stated before the Committee that the Sri Lanka Unique National Identity Card Program, which is considered as the digital basis for the efficient public services of the 13 identified government institutions, has been implemented on a priority basis within a specific and targeted time frame within the next 18 months.</p> <p>Accordingly, The Secretary to the Prime Minister stated before the Committee that as it is planned to fully implement the digital national identity card (Digital ID) by the end of 2025, the Prime Minister said that the existing data system of the Election Commissioner Department has been transferred to several institutions to</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>exchange data between departments for the interim period until then.</p> <p>The Secretary to the Prime Minister further stated before the committee that those institutions are the Department of Inland Revenue, the Department of Labor, the Department of Registration of Persons and the Department of Immigration and Emigration.</p>
03.	It was revealed in the committee that when government institutions are digitized, it is difficult to attract the human resources required to maintain integrated data systems with the salary structure of the government IT service.	<p>The Secretary to the Prime Minister further stated before the Committee that as a quick remedy, it has been recommended to establish "Sri Lanka Digitization Corporation" as a new institution under the Ministry of Technology and it has been recommended to hire the necessary IT officers for 13 identified government institutions on the market salary scale and deploy human resources to those institutions on a priority basis as needed.</p> <p>It was revealed in the committee that technology support has been sought from the World Bank for the creation of the Digital Public Infrastructure project aimed at the year 2023. The Secretary to the Prime Minister also revealed before the committee that the Digital Road Map led by the Ministry of Technology chaired by the Prime</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>Minister's Secretary has been submitted to the Consultative Committee of the Parliament.</p> <p>The Secretary to the Prime Minister further stated that since there is a "social opinion" that there may be problems in data exchange between governments when using the Indian-aided Modular Open Source Identity Platform (MOSIP Platform) system, which will be used as the data identification and verification platform for the SLUDI (Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity) project , the MOSIP Platform system has been handed over to SLASSCOM, a private software association, for further analysis and a professional technical impartial report on the matter.</p> <p>It was revealed in the committee that the Priliminary Technical Committee has recommended identifying the obstacles caused by the acts in force in the implementation of the data systems of the 13 institutions related to the Priliminary Technical Committee and in the integration of those data systems. The Secretary to the Prime Minister also stated that the preliminary technical committee is expected to contact the law drafters and take the necessary steps to amend the laws related to the institutions that</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		are identified as having legal obstacles to the integration of data systems between the institutions.
04.	<b><u>The concept of connected government is expected to be created by connecting the data systems of government institutions.</u></b>	A.O of Sri Lanka Information and Communication Technology Agency stated that The basic foundation of the concept of connected government (Connected Government), which is expected to be created by connecting the data systems of government institutions, is the digital public infrastructure. He further stated that Unique Digital National ID, National Payment Platform as well as the integration of data systems of organizations (Data Base Connected) and the elements of the connected government concept. He pointed out that a clear digital strategy and program is needed for that and a formal mechanism is needed to implement that strategy and program and that mechanism should be monitored and evaluated.
05.	Department of Registration of Persons	The Committee observed that in the Department of Registration of Persons, there are 7 million digitally available data based on verified data. The Commissioner General of Registration of Persons stated that Currently, the digital data and non-digital data are exchanged with 88 government



	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		institutions and financial institutions through a software introduced by the Information and Communication Technology Agency .The Commissioner General of Registration of Persons further stated before the committee that the 7million digitally available data will be exchanged with other relevant institutions by .31.12.2023
06.	<b><u>Observations of the Committee</u></b>	<p>A.O of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy stated that according to the recommendation of the previous committee, a technical committee headed by the Director General of the Information Technology Management Department of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy and a legal committee headed by the Director General of the Legal Affairs Department were appointed in regard to the legal issues.</p> <p>In the said technical committee, it was mentioned in the committee that the National Identification Number, Tax Identification Number (TIN) and Company Registration Number were recognized as common symbols that can integrate the data systems of the 13 institutions included in the preliminary technical committee.</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>It was also revealed in the committee that the possibility of using the passport number instead of the above numbers when it is necessary to enter the information related to a foreign individual into the systems , is expected to be investigated in the future.</p> <p>In addition, it was also revealed in the committee that the Inland Revenue Department - Inland Revenue Act and the Registrar General's Department - Notary Ordinance and Document Registration Ordinance were identified as the main legal obstacles in the exchange of information between institutions. A.O of The Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy has stated that there are no legal obstacles to exchange information between other identified institutions.</p> <p>It was revealed in the committee that Sri Lanka Public Information Authority is expected to be established as a new institution to exchange information between institutions without legal obstacles.</p> <p>It was revealed that through this authority, organizations will have a legal obligation to exchange</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>information and through that authority, necessary information will be distributed to other organizations. The committee observed that the authority is bound to protect the confidentiality of the information of the institutions and that the authority has the right to the information of the institutions.</p>
07.	<b><u>ASECUDA System of Sri Lanka Customs</u></b>	<p>The Committee observed that 17 institutions directly connected with Sri Lanka Customs have been connected to the ASECUDA system of Sri Lanka Customs, and 25 institutions have been identified to be connected with the system and A.O of Sri Lanka Customs stated that by the end of this year, several other institutions are expected to be connected to the ASECUDA system.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The committee recommended to the AO of Sri Lanka Customs and the Secretary to the Prime Minister to submit a report to the Committee within a week including how much of the total income received by the Sri Lanka Customs from the import and export of goods is received online and how much is received through Bank Drafts and if any amendments are required in this regard and the committee also recommended to study</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<p>the reasons for paying money through Bank Drafts.</p> <p><b>The report has been submitted by the Prime Minister's Secretary's letter No. PMO/DEV3/SA/06/05/2023 dated 14.12.2023.</b></p>
08.	<b><u>RAMIS system of Inland Revenue Department</u></b>	<p>A.O of The Inland Revenue Department said that only 6 institutions have been connected to the RAMIS system of the Inland Revenue Department. It was mentioned in the committee that the Immigration and Emigration Department, Motor Traffic Department, and Persons Registration Department are expected to be connected with the RAMIS system.</p> <p>Furthermore, the committee observed that there are about 20 institutions that should be connected to the RAMIS system, but have not yet been connected to the RAMIS system. The committee recommended to the A.O of the Inland Revenue Department to inform this technical committee about the new institutions that should be connected to the RAMIS system of the Inland Revenue Department.</p> <p>The Chairman stated before the Committee that the Preliminary Technical Committee is scheduled to be called before the Committee on</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>public Accounts in January 2024 and the committee recommended to the Prime Minister's Secretary to do a computer presentation including the dates of the implementation of the information technology systems of all the institutions represented by Technical Committee.</p> <p>The committee further recommended that the progress of the institutions connected with the RAMIS system of the Inland Revenue Department and the program to connect the rest of the institutions should also be included in the computer presentation.</p>
09.	<b><u>Registrar General Department</u></b>	<p>AO of the the Registrar General Department stated that it is expected to connect to the Inland Revenue Department's RAMIS system in the future, and the Registrar General Department is expected to obtain information related to the registration of land deeds.</p> <p>It was also revealed that the Registrar General's Department is expected to implement the software projects of e-land, e-population, e-births, marriages, deaths and e-rights.</p> <p>The committee observed that the e-land software project is expected to be implemented in 03 phases and in its</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		<p>first phase, the project was implemented as a pilot project covering 07 land registrar offices. A.O of the Registrar General Department stated that in the second phase, it is expected to register the land deeds and in the third phase, it is expected to issue the copies of the deeds online by 30.06.2024. It was also revealed that further work is expected to be done by involving all 50-land registrar offices for the e-land project.</p> <p>AO of the Registrar General's Department revealed before the committee that there is a great need for computer devices and related equipment for land registrar offices, and currently the e-land project is being implemented in land registrar offices with minimal facilities.</p> <p>As a budget proposal, the committee advised the Prime Minister's Secretary to take necessary measures to provide general provisions for the implementation of information technology in government institutions.</p>
10.	<b><u>Methodology of using the same National Identity Card number as the birth certificate registration number</u></b>	The A.O of the Department of Persons Registration stated that the system of using the National Identity Card number as the birth certificate

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>registration number is currently in operation.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation</u></b></p> <p>The Committee recommended the Prime Minister's Secretary and the Director of the Department of Registration of Persons to submit a report to the Committee that includes the stages and expected dates for the issuance of the national digital identity card with biometric data included in the report submitted by Technical Committee to the Committee.</p> <p><b>The report has been submitted by the Prime Minister's Secretary's letter No. PMO/DEV3/SA/06/05/2023 dated 14.12.2023.</b></p>
11.	<b><u>Sri Lanka Standards Institute</u></b>	<p>A.O of the Standards Institute stated that The online system established in the Sri Lanka Standards Institute for inspection of importers' goods has been connected with the ASECUDA system of the Sri Lanka Customs since 2019. He also stated that there is a need to link the data system of the Sri Lanka Standards Institute with the data system of the Import and Export Control Department.</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		It was revealed in the committee that the Sri Lanka Standards Institute has provided facilities to download services online whenever required, and other services provided by the Sri Lanka Standards Institute have also been provided as e-Services.
12.	<b><u>The Department of Import and Export Control</u></b>	The A.O of the Export Control Department stated that the data system of the Import and Export Control Department is now connected with the Sri Lankan Customs and the organizations that give recommendations to the Import and Export Control Department are connected through the Lanka Pay system. It was revealed in the committee that other institutions that are currently not connected to the data system of the Department of Import and Export Control, but required to be connected, are expected to be connected by the month of February 2024 under the phase 2 of the STRATLINK system.
13.	<b><u>Department of Registrar of Companies.</u></b>	The Committee observed that even though IT officers have been approved to the Department of Registrar of Companies in 2017 no IT officers have been assigned to the department until todate.



	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
		<p>Since it was mentioned in the committee that the work from home method that was implemented during the covid period worked efficiently in the company registrar department, if that method is confirmed to be effective, the committee said that it would be more effective to apply and implement the same method in the company registrar department.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation</u></b></p> <p>Committee recommended to the Secretary to the Prime Minister, if the method of working from home is effective, to discuss with the Secretary of the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government and appoint a committee to look into the possibility of introducing that method to the public service including the company registrar department.</p> <p><b>The Prime Minister's Secretary's letter No. PMO/DEV3/SA/06/05/ WFH/2024 dated 14.06.2024 has presented a report on the possibility of introducing work from home for the public service and recommendations regarding the</b></p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<b>measures to be taken if it is introduced.</b>
14.	<b><u>Excise Department</u></b>	<p>The Committee observed that there are irregularities and problems in the process of issuing stickers for liquor bottles by the Excise Department and emphasized that the stamps issued should be randomly checked.</p> <p>AO stated that a Revenue Administration System has been established within the Excise Department to exchange the data of the Excise Department with other institutions. It was revealed in the committee that the University of Moratuwa has been chosen to obtain the expertise needed to create the data system, and the expert fee of Rs. 146 million has been submitted for the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers.</p> <p>The committee informed CAO / AO that it is necessary to establish a system to record the number of bottles of alcohol sold daily in the limited liquor stores established in Sri Lanka.</p>
15.	<b><u>Colombo Municipal Council</u></b>	The AO of the Colombo Municipal Council stated that the collection of taxes in the Colombo Municipal Council was done through a computer system from the year 2000, and the

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>collection of revenue was done online from the year 2014 and that currently around 01 billion rupees of revenue is being collected online.</p> <p>AO of the Colombo Municipal Council said that US\$ 08 million was received to install a system under the financial support of Korea International Co-operation Agency (KOICA) to collect tax revenue. She further stated that under the project, stamp duty, assessment tax, business tax, business license income will be collected online.</p>
16.	<b><u>Method of levying court fines by local authorities</u></b>	<p>AO of the Colombo Municipal stated that the local authorities will check and record the documents of the court fines and then get the court fines from the Provincial Revenue Department after the court has certified them.</p> <p>The committee observed that there is no formal system for providing court fines directly to local government bodies .The committee informed the CAO / AO to integrate the Ministry of Public Administration Home Affairs, Ministry of Provincial Councils and Local Government, Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reform and the Ministry of Local Government of Provincial Councils and to have a</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>direct mechanism to calculate to tax revenue such as Assesment taxes/ Penalties/ Stamp Duty of the the local government bodies.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Committee recommended to the Technical Committee to contact the Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reform in the next meeting, and that the Committee on public Accounts will inform the Ministry of Justice, Prison Affairs and Constitutional Reform in this regard.</p>
17.	<b><u>E-Motoring project</u></b>	He stated before the committee that E-Motoring (E-Motoring) project has been prepared to start by the end of the year 2023. AO of the Motor Transport Department stated that The new driver's license issuance project and the procurement of the D-Merit project are expected to be done in the year 2024.
18.	<b><u>Food Control Unit, Ministry of Health</u></b>	AO of the Food Control Unit of the Ministry of Health stated that in relation to the work done by the food control unit of the Ministry of Health, requests have been submitted for the creation of an information technology system related to the charges made during the issuance of export health certificates.

	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
19.	<b><u>National Plant Quarantine Service</u></b>	<p>A.O of the Department of Agriculture said that three information technology systems are being established to make the work of the National Plant Quarantine Service more efficient.</p> <p>In the import of plant materials, arrangements have been made to exchange the plant health certificate with 36 countries and it is expected to exchange the plant health certificate with other countries in the future. He further stated that an electronic payment system has been officially started from 08.08.2023 to collect fees for the services provided in the import and export of plant materials and arrangements have been made to create a Plant Quarantine Information Management System (PQIMS).</p>
20.	<b><u>Asset Management of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy</u></b>	<p>It was discussed in the committee on the Asset Management of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy.</p> <p>The committee recommended to the CAO of the Ministry of Technology to pay attention to the provision of sufficient necessary infrastructure to all relevant government institutions in the implementation of data systems through the coordination of government institutions.</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		<p>Furthermore, the committee recommended to the Prime Minister's Secretary to pay attention to the allocation of money required to integrate the data systems, the assignment of IT service officers to the respective institutions, and the maintenance of the software systems of the institutions.</p> <p>In the next meeting to be held in January 2024, the technical committee and the legal committee appointed under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Policy should make a computer presentation and the existing data systems of each of the 13 government institutions identified in the computer presentation should be implemented. The committee emphasized that the dates should be included on how to do and their progress and how to integrate the rest of the relevant institutions.</p>
<b>Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and Department of Sports Development</b> <b><i>(Auditor General's Reports of Years 2019, 2020 &amp; 2021 and the Current Performance)</i></b> <b>Date of Examination : 20 October 2023</b>		

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
<b>Institutions Summoned</b> ❖ Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs ❖ Sports Development Department		
01.	<p>The committee drew attention to the fact that 17 of the 26 projects mentioned in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of the audit brief had been completed and handed over with a delay, and 19 projects were also delayed in completion and 10 projects were not completed</p> <p>Those projects have been started without proper prioritization and feasibility studies and in the years 2020, 2021 and 2022, the Ministry of Sports and the Department of Sports Development have spent more than 4 billion in capital expenditure for these projects.</p>	<p>The CAO / AO of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs said that that out of the 26 unfinished projects mentioned here, 18 have been completed and they can be used now, and 8 of the 10 abandoned projects are still in operation. The work on those 8 projects could be completed by 31.12.2023.</p>
02.	<p>The attention of the committee was also drawn to the construction work of the Bingiriya Sports Complex in the North-Western Province. It was revealed before the committee that the stadium was proposed to be constructed with an artificial turf, but due to lack of funds,</p>	<p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>Regarding the development projects that have been stopped midway due to the end of the allocations the committee pointed out that it is appropriate to appoint a committee and decide on the level at which the work</p>

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
	steps were taken to make it a grass stadium.	<p>of the respective constructions should be completed,</p> <p>Speaking here, the chairman of the National Sports Council said that many organizations bid at low prices during the tender for the construction of many projects, and then leave the project due to financial problems that arise in the middle of the project. Therefore, he further stated that when starting projects, agreements should be made clearly stating the relevant requirements and specifications, and a formal system should be prepared by the department.</p> <p>Currently, the CAO / AO of the Ministry of Sports and youth affairs stated that an engineering unit including a chief engineer has been established by the ministry to carry out the necessary work in the projects, and the sports infrastructure division of the sports ministry and the sports resource development department have merged to carry out further work on these projects.</p>
03.	It was observed that there are deficiencies in the utilization of completed projects	<p><b><u>Recommendations</u></b></p> <p>The committee stated that there are deficiencies in the utilization of completed projects and pointed out the importance of having a system to</p>



	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
		check the status of the projects at the time the contractor hands over the relevant projects.
04.	<b><u>Making legal appointments to District Sports Committees</u></b>	<b><u>Recommendations</u></b>  The Committee inquired whether the appointments to the District Sports Committees have been made legally, and requested that the officials be assigned responsibilities, arrange for the relevant appointment letters to be issued and be informed about the responsibilities, and follow up on the meeting reports. The committee also recommended to send an officer from the ministry to participate in this meetings.  Also, the committee directed the CAO / AO to identify and bring forward the players at the local level, to prepare the necessary provisions for the same, and to complete the formation of all the district committees by January 1, 2024.
05.	Convening all National Sports Associations to discuss and decide on the skill level of players to participate in the Asian Games	The National Sports Association president said that it was decided to develope 300 highly talented players selected at the national level divided into groups & pay Rs. 100,000/-, 75,000/- Rs. 50,000/- and Rs. 25,000/- monthly by changing the previous method of paying one lak monthly to

	Key matters discussed	<p>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</p> <p>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</p>
		100 players. Once in 3 months the skills of the players will be reviewed and the players with less skills will be moved to the lower level and a period of 3 months will be given to improve their performance.
06.	<p><b><u>Formation of District Sports Committees, Provincial Sports Committees and Regional Sports Committees</u></b></p>	<p>It was also mentioned that the Minister has been empowered to form District Sports Committees, Provincial Sports Committees and Regional Sports Committees as per the amended Sports Act in 2022. According to this, apart from the two districts, Vavuniya and Anuradhapura, district committees have been appointed for the remaining 23 districts and in the future, regional sports committees will be established, according to the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs.</p> <p><b><u>Recommendation</u></b></p> <p>The Committee asked whether the appointments to the District Sports Committees have been made legally, to assign responsibilities to its officers, to arrange for the issuance of relevant appointment letters and to inform them about the responsibilities &amp; to follow up on the meeting reports. The committee also recommended to make an officer on the part of the ministry participate in such meetings.</p>

	Key matters discussed	<p><b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b></p> <p><b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b></p>
07.	<u>Since sports coaches represent Sri Lanka and participate in foreign sports tournaments, giving the necessary official status to those coaches</u>	<p><b><u>Recommendation</u></b></p> <p>As sports coaches represent Sri Lanka and participate in foreign sports tournaments, the committee advised that those coaches need an official status, to consider the possibility of providing them with an identity card, and to look into the facilities and accommodation facilities of the squads.</p>
08.	Failure to prepare an annual calendar related to sports considering the time limits of domestic and international sports tournaments	The AO of Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs said that all the sports associations have been requested to submit information regarding all the domestic and foreign tournaments in the coming year, and the information has also been requested from the National Olympic Committee & sport calendar for the upcoming year will be published before 30.11.2023.
09.	The committee inquired about the method used to identify athletes with sports skills at the school level. Matters were also inquired about the program taken to direct the school boys and girls towards suitable sports according to their physical fitness and to take the athletes emerging	314 school level students who were identified on the basis of physical fitness were trained in the training centers in 2015, together with the Ministry of Education. AO of Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs stated , this program was stopped midway in the year 2019, due to the lack of provision for the allowances to be paid to the coaches, and then due to the covid menace .

	<b>Key matters discussed</b>	<b>- Explanations by the Chief Accounting Officer (CAO)/ Accounting Officer (AO)</b>  <b>-Observations , recommendations/ directives by the Committee</b>
	from the school level to the national level.	<b><u>Recommendation</u></b>  Since the training of school students identified on the basis of sports skills/physical fitness should be continued, the committee has requested the AO of the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs to prepare a formal program in consultation with the relevant parties including schools.  In addition, the committee pointed out that there is a need for a program that should be prioritized to identify school level students with innate sports abilities and bring them forward.

***Index***

**Page No**

**D**

Department of Civil Security

Department of Meteorology

Department of National Community Water Supply

Department of Probation and Child Care

Department of Samurdhi Development

Department of the Registrar of Companies

**E**

Eastern Provincial Council

Excise Department

**M**

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs

**S**

Sabaragamuwa Provincial Council

Sports Development Department

### **Special Investigations**

**Page No**

- Examining the Current Status and Issues related to the process of Assets Management of Government Institutions
- Examining the Current Status and Issues related to the process of Assets Management of Government Institutions
- Performance Evaluation of management of the Archaeological Heritage in Sri Lanka
- Meeting to examine the progress of the preliminary Technical Committee to recommend the measures to be taken by and among stakeholders to improve collection and improvement of government revenue through effective information system