

ආයතනයේ නම: විදේශ කටයුතු අමාත්‍යාංශය

ස්ථාවර නියෝග අංක 119 (4) ප්‍රකාරව රාජ්‍ය ගිණුම් පිළිබඳ කාරක සභාව විසින් සහාගත කරන ලද වාර්තා සම්බන්ධයෙන් ගරු අමාත්‍යවරයාගේ නිරීක්ෂණ හා ගෙන ඇති පියවර ඉදිරිපත් කිරීම

නிறுவනத்தின் பெயர்: வெளிநாட்டு அலுவல்கள் அமைச்சு

பொதுக் கணக்குக் குழுவினால் நிலையியற் கட்டளை எண். 119 (4) ன் பிரகாரம் சமர்ப்பிக்கப்பட்ட அறிக்கைகள் தொடர்பாக எடுக்கப்பட்ட நடவடிக்கைகள் மற்றும் கௌரவ அமைச்சரின் அவதானிப்புகளை சமர்ப்பித்தல்

Name of the Institution: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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

Part 01

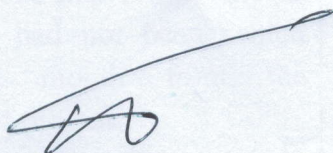
	Shortcomings identified by the Committee	Action taken by the Institution to rectify the shortcomings / current status
01.	Annual Financial Statements had not been submitted on due date	<p>The Financial Statements of 2020 had been submitted to the Auditor General on 25.02.2021 before the due date of 28.02.2021. (<i>Annex 01</i>).</p> <p>The financial statements of 2021 had been submitted to the Auditor General on due date of 28.02.2022 and necessary actions have been taken to submit the Financial Statements of 2022 on or before the due date of 28.02.2023.</p>
02.	Register of Losses had not been updated and maintained	It is identified that the register of losses is maintained since 2021 and the relevant information on losses of 2021 is available. Necessary instructions have been given to the officials to update the register accordingly.
03.	The annual procurement plan had not been prepared	Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, normal activities and smooth functioning of the Ministry, planning, and performing of procurement activities had been interrupted. However, the annual procurement plans for the years 2021 and 2022 have been prepared accordingly, and the procuring activities are being carried out as planned.
04.	Answers had not been sent to all the audit queries of the Auditor General within 01 month	As the information has to be collected from the missions abroad, it takes more than 01 month. Further, faced difficulties in collecting the required information in the year 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. This issue had been discussed at the last Audit and Management Committee meeting and the instructions were given to comply with the requirements accordingly.
05.	Minimum 02 meetings of the Audit and Management Committee has not been held during the year as per the DMA Circular I-2019	Due to the prevailed situation in the country in 2020, it was practically difficult to summon relevant officials to hold the committee meeting as per the regulatory requirements. However, after the situation was back to normalcy, a meeting was held on 19.10.2022 and the arrangements have been scheduled to summon the meeting as per the circular requirement in 2023. (<i>Annex 02 - Timetable for 2023 -AMC</i>)
06.	The relevant reports had not been submitted to the Auditor General by	Even though the Boards of Survey Committees were appointed as per the regulation on time, the

	the due date after conducting Board of Survey (BoS) as per the Public Finance circular no. 05/2016 of 30.03.2016	Board of Survey (BoS) activities were unable to complete before the due date owing to the Covid19 pandemic. However, BoS activities for the year 2021 were completed successfully and actions have been taken to complete the BoS for the year 2022 as per the circular requirements.
07.	The excesses and deficits that were disclosed through the board of survey and other relating recommendations, actions were not carried out during the period specified in the Public Finance circular no. 05/2016 of 30.03.2016	The regulatory requirement of condemning and write off procedure was also delayed due to reasons given above in <i>Para 6</i> . The due procedural activities pertinent to the actions of the Board of Survey have been resumed.
08.	Fuel consumption of vehicles belonging to the ministry had not been re-tested in terms of the provisions of paragraph 3.1 of the Public Administration circular no. 30/2016 of 29.12.2016	Testing of fuel consumption of the ministry vehicles were not conducted as per regulations due to Covid 19 pandemic during the period concerned. However, the test was conducted in the month of November 2021 and applied the measures since 01.04.2022.
09.	Action had not been taken in terms of Financial Regulations regarding balances that had been disclosed through bank reconciliation statements and for which adjustments had to be made, and had those balances been settled within 01 month	Information related to unrealized and unidentified balances, is being gathered and settled continuously. The amount of Rs.612,729.00 was cleared and necessary instructions have been given to the officials to comply with the Financial Regulations accordingly.
10.	Loan balances in arrears for over 01 year had not been settled	By obtaining the relevant information, arrangements have been made to settle the amounts which have not been settled for more a year. The amount of Rs.353,504.00 was cleared and required instructions have been given to the officials to comply with the Financial Regulations accordingly.
11.	Actions had not been taken as per F.R.571 in relation to disposal of lapsed deposits	As per the information gathered, actions have been taken to clear the lapsed deposits.
12.	The ad-hoc sub-impressts issued as per F.R.371 had not been settled within one month from the completion of the task	Several delays were reported due to Covid 19 pandemic etc., reasons which are beyond our control. However, required instructions have been disseminated to the officials to comply with FR and circular requirements in settling out the Ad- hoc advances obtained.
13.	The Annual Performance Report was not prepared and submitted to Parliament on due date	Even though the submission of Annual Performance Report was delayed due to the reasons mentioned above in <i>Para 12</i> , the annual performance report of 2021 had been submitted on

		due date. Thus necessary actions have been taken to submit the annual performance report of 2022 as per circular requirements.
14.	The staff had been recruited / attached exceeding the approved limits	As a practice this Ministry maintains an additional cadre temporally, in addition to the approved carder, until the employees who served in the Missions are returned to the Ministry. However, through the internal cadre review, minimum cadre requirement of this ministry has been identified and actions have been taken to forward the same for the approval of the Management Services Department in order to get the new cadre approved.

Part 02

	Shortcomings identified by the Committee	Action taken by the Institution to rectify the shortcomings / current status
01.	The institute had failed to identify the sustainable development goals applicable to its scope	The Ministry of Foreign Affairs does not implement any projects related to the SDGs in Sri Lanka. The Ministry is part of the National Steering Committee on SDGs chaired by Secretary to the Hon. Prime Minister. The Ministry was associated together with Ministry of Finance in the launch of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2023-2027 that reflects Sri Lanka's national development priorities in line with the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Ministry will facilitate coordination between the government stakeholders and the UN agencies in support of these priorities, as required.
02.	Performance targets that would enable the measurement of the level of achievement of the identified sustainable development goals had not been set	The Ministry facilitates substantively Sri Lanka's participation at multilateral conferences on SDGs with a view to projecting the progress made by Sri Lanka on SDGs at the international level.
03.	Specific parties relevant for the achievement of the sustainable development goals applicable to the institution had not been identified.	The Ministry also advises the Sustainable Development Council on international developments related to the SDGs.
04.	The institution had not reported to the Ministry, naming two representatives who were to be appointed in order to coordinate matters pertaining to Sustainable Development Goals	
05.	The human resource development plan that had been prepared, did not provide for at least a minimum of 12 hours training per employee	Due to the prevailed situation in the country in 2020, it was difficult to conduct 12 hours training programmes for each employee. However, for the year 2023, the Training programmes have been planned according to the subject and circular requirements.
06.	Performance agreements covering the entire staff had not been drafted	Performance appraisals of most of the officials have been conducted annually as per the Circular of Public Administration. However, required actions will be taken to revisit and formulate the performance agreement to cover the entire staff requirements.
07.	Shortcomings/errors pointed out by the Auditor General in the paragraphs had not been rectified.	The comments made by Auditor General have been duly considered and some shortcomings were rectified accordingly. In addition, required measures are being preceded to rectify the comments related to the last period.



Aruni Wijewardane

Secretary / Ministry of Foreign Affairs

දිනය Date	විස්තරය Description	පිටුව Page	පිටුව Page	පිටුව Page	පිටුව Page	විස්තරය Description
25/02 2021	FM/FIN/CUB2/2020					112 - විදේශ ආදායම
①	විදේශ 112 - ආදායම	01	02	03	04	විදේශ 112 - විදේශ ආදායම
②	විදේශ 419 - ආදායම	01	02	03	04	FM/FIN/CUB2/2020 closing the Chartered Bank
③	විදේශ 112 - විදේශ ආදායම	01	02	03	04	විදේශ 112 - විදේශ ආදායම

Annex 02**Scheduled dates for held the Audit and Management Committee Meetings – 2023****Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
23 rd February	11 th May	10 th August	23 rd November

**** The scheduled dates may be subject to the change due to situations beyond the control of the chairperson, members and observers.**