

ආයතනයේ නම : ප්‍රවාහන හා මහාමාර්ග අමාත්‍යාංශය

ප්‍රකාශන මාලා අංකය : 182/183

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

නිලාවතයෙහි පෙර : පොරොන්දු කරනු ලබන මාර්ග
නිලාවතයෙහි පෙර : පොරොන්දු කරනු ලබන මාර්ග

පාරාලාමයන්තයෙහි අරය කණයටු කුමුඩයාල
මුන්වෙයකප්පට්ට අහිකය තොටර්පාක නිලයයර්
කට්ටයා ඉලයක 119 (4) ඉන් කීර් කෙලරව අමයයරියර්
අවතානර්පුකයා අතු තොටර්පාක යටුකප්පට්ට
නටවයකයකයා පාරාලාමයන්තයෙහි සමර්ප්පිට්ට.

Name of the Institution: Ministry of Transport and Highways

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

Institution - Department of Railways

The matter discussed	Actions taken institutionally and actions expected to be taken in future
01. Provision released to prepare a master operation plan.	On September 17, 2017, Asian Development Bank approved a grant of 1.5 USD for preparation of a master plan by the Department of Sri Lanka Railways. (TA No 9382 SRI) The Asian Development Bank has directly awarded the consultancy contract to the Japanese consulting company, PADECO Co. LTD, to prepare this master plan. This plan was prepared for the period 2020-2030 with the concurrence of the Department of Railways. This plan has identified strategic directions for the efficient implementation of the functions of the Department of Sri Lanka Railways and includes medium and long term investments. Under the current situation in the country, there are restrictions on the implementation of such large capital investments and it is important to implement the projects selected on the priority basis with the support of the private sector. Taking these facts into consideration, the final railway master plan should be prepared by incorporating amendments in the currently prepared master.
02. Kelanivalley Railway line Project	The feasibility study of the Kalanivalley railway line was completed by the Colombo Suburban Railway Project with loan support from the Asian Development Bank. Although a loan was expected from the Asian Development Bank for this project, the project was temporarily stopped due to the non-receipt of the relevant loan.
03. Process of monitoring the progress of foreign aided projects	Discussions on the progress of the foreign aided projects are conducted monthly or bi-weekly with the participation of the relevant project director and the ministry. Apart from that,

	Steering Committees are convened every 3 months under the chairmanship of the Secretary to the Ministry.
04. Out of 160 railway carriages purchased from India under the Indian line of credit, still not using 130 of them.	Although the Department of Railways uses vacuum braked train carriages, air braked train carriages of new technology are used in other countries including India. Under this Indian line of credit, locomotives were also to be purchased along with the 160 railway carriages, and as the locomotives are equipped with air brakes, these locomotives have been equipped with air brakes accordingly. These railway carriages are not unfitted for use in Sri Lanka, and after the first 10 carriages were brought to Sri Lanka and tested, the rest of the carriages were brought after correcting the defects that should have been corrected. The carriages so brought are now used for train operations. The technical errors arising during the operation are being dealt with as per the agreement.
05. Non-implementation of a proper transport policy	The accelerated development of the infrastructure necessary for achieving a rapid economic growth, in line with modern requirements has been an accepted basic agreement within the government's development policy framework. Accordingly, it was observed that for the purpose of reaching the basic policy agreement required for making the expected contribution from the transport sector to realize the desired economic growth, the National Transport Policy-2009 currently in force needs to be updated. A specific factor that influenced the need for this update was to setting up a system to reduce the gap existing in the areas such as utilizing information technology for optimal use of the existing and expected transport infrastructure, transport demand management and setting up the related data systems and streamlining the transport of goods and containers. . Accordingly, the draft National Transport Policy - 2019 prepared by updating the currently effective National

	Transport Policy - 2009 was submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers on December 26, 2019. It had been informed by the Cabinet decision No. 19/3507/225/008 dated 14.01.2020 to submit suitable revisions, if any, by appointing a committee consisting of the transport sector experts for analyzing the consistency of the said draft with the government's national policy framework, "Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour", and submit the National Transport Policy draft prepared again based on such revisions for the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers. According to the above decision, an expert committee chaired by Prof. Lalithasiri Gunaruwan and consisting of 09 members was appointed by the Secretary to the Ministry of Transport on 02.03.2020. The expert committee thus appointed consisted of the following stakeholder institutions. 01. Ministry of Transport 02. Ministry of Finance 03. Department of National Planning 04. Department of External Resources 05. University of Moratuwa 06. University of Colombo 07. Kotalawala Defense University The above expert committee extensively analyzed the National Transport Policy-2019 Draft and examined its consistency with the then government's national policy framework of " Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour", and on 23.08.2020, completed the preparation of the committee report with the recommendations thus prepared. Afterwards, the "National Land Transport Policy of Sri Lanka" which was prepared by making necessary amendments to the said draft based on the recommendations mentioned in the report of the expert committee, was submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers on 22.07.2022 for its approval however, the draft was not approved.
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	Subsequently, the Planning Division of the Ministry of Transport re-examined this transport policy and revised the policy principles included in it in accordance with the logical framework approach, and the relevant stakeholders were identified to review if there were any deficiencies in the policy that were not included in the draft. This draft will be reviewed with stakeholders on 13.01.2023 and will be submitted for Cabinet approval in the first quarter of 2023 and will be implemented after receiving the approval.
06. Possible actions to be taken to make railway transport efficient	• In order to reduce the delay in office trains, the train timetables of the coastal line in the morning and those of the Kelaniveli line are currently being implemented, with the revisions newly made to the timetable. • Trains running between Aluthgama - Galle and Beliatta - Galle are operated with an additional compartment attached to each of them. • Running a new office train on Kalaniweli line up to Vaga station and that train is currently running up to Kosgama station. • A new train service trip that operates between Colombo Fort and Negombo during office hours, has been added. • A work study of all functions were conducted and all departments were reorganized and SOP were issued to everyone. • Some delays are not actually reported as delay reports are given by those responsible for train delays themselves. But, the passengers are uncomfortable with such delays. Therefore, investigating the delays by an independent committee or agency. • Maintaining the cleanliness of the trains in operation and providing the necessary labor for proper maintenance. • Improvement of facilities at train yards. • Recruitment and training of technicians, train drivers, driver assistants, shunting drivers. • Investigating and ratifying the causes of delays in repairs of carriages and engines.

	• Matching the train schedule and available resources for running of trains and stopping unnecessary, less passenger trains. • Closure of stations with low revenue (that cannot cover minimum water bill and electricity bill) • Issuance of tickets completely through online systems (such as QR Code). Identifying people traveling without tickets by increasing emergency checks. • Issuing prepaid tickets and providing simple equipment to check them. • Stopping unnecessary expenses. • Encouraging officers to increase revenue. • Implementation of work environment. • Development of employee restroom facilities. • Increasing revenue through PPP type projects. • As the cost of diesel is very high, establishing systematic control measures for diesel consumption. Introduction of maintenance management software. Improving the environment by maintaining roads and yards
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The matter discussed	Actions taken institutionally and actions expected to be taken in future
07. The number of buses running in the present crisis situation.	Checks and corrections are made to see if the passengers traveling in the buses have the ability to travel without accidents in bus operation.
08. The way the fuel shortage in the country has affected the bus service	Due to the fact that fuel is issued by other filling stations for private buses through QR codes, the demand for fuel by private buses through SLTB Depot is currently at a minimum level. The Ministry of Energy arranged to provide 60% of one week's fuel requirement for Provincial Transport Authority buses and 75% of one week's fuel requirement for National Transport Commission's buses, and it continues to be implemented. (National Transport Commission)
09. The emphasis within the committee that a system should be set up so that it can be ascertained whether the fuel given by SLTB to private buses through depots is used for the very purpose of running of buses.	It has been recommended to prepare an action plan including programs expected to be implemented in the short and medium term to maintain and develop public transport more efficiently in the coming period, based on the measures taken and observations made in relation to the reports submitted to the Parliament by the Public Accounts Committee, As of now, the "National Land Transport Policy of Sri Lanka" has been updated with the participation of stakeholders, academics and officials from the Ministry and its affiliates. The said policy and the Cabinet Paper prepared in all three languages were submitted to the Hon. Minister of Transport and Highways on 21.03.2023 for approval. After getting the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers for the said policy and the Cabinet paper, the policy should be tabled in the Parliament and enforced. The sectoral objectives in the components to be achieved in order to achieve the overall

	objective of the National Land Transport Policy under the identified policy framework, have also been included in this policy statement. Subsequently, the strategies for achieving the sectoral objectives have already been identified, and the short- and medium-term action plan including the related activities and time frame should be prepared with the participation of the affiliated institutions with their agreement.
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The matter discussed	Actions taken institutionally and actions expected to be taken in future
20. E- Motoring Project	The Department of Motor Traffic has planned to obtain the five-storied building of HunupitiyaGangarama Temple on rent basis to implement the e-motoring project. Accordingly, by the Government Valuer's letter No. CM 1 /CMC /RP /1179 dated 16.01.2023, the monthly market rent for the first, second, third, fourth and fifth floors of the said building has been assessed as Rs.3,400,000.00. It has been further informed in the above letter that as mentioned in the letter dated 02.01.2022 submitted by the governing council of Sri Jinaratana Educational Institute and the annexures attached with the said letter, the above monthly rental value has been submitted subject to carrying out the renovation work of the building, and that the monthly rental value be included in the lease agreement for the next02-year period, and that the above rent value has been submitted on the basis of payment of all repairs and assessment taxes by the owner of the building. (Department of Motor Traffic)
	No. As per the Cabinet Decision No.22/1091/608/009 dated 22/08/2022 given for the Cabinet Memorandum No. MT /05/2023dated 23.01.2023, of the Hon'ble Minister of Transport and Highways, a Cabinet Subcommittee meeting has been held on 13.02.2023, and as per the report of the said meeting, a committee with the following composition has been appointed to prepare and present a report with recommendations regarding the steps to be taken for the implementation of the e-motoring project in a sustainable manner without incurring any cost to the Treasury, paying due attention to the points mentioned in the observations presented by the Minister of Finance, Economic Stabilization and National Polies.

	• Secretary to the Prime Minister - Prime Minister's Office - Chairman • Secretary to the Ministry of Technology - Ministry of Technology - Member • Secretary to the Ministry of Transport and Highways - Ministry of Transport and Highways • Deputy Secretary to the Treasury to be nominated by the Secretary to the Treasury - Ministries of Finance • Chairman - Sri Lanka Information and Communication Technology Agency • Commissioner General of Motor Traffic - Department of Motor Traffic - Secretary / Convener The above committee met on 21.02.2023, and the committee report with the recommendations is due to be submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers by the Hon. Minister within the next 02 weeks. (Ministry of Transport)
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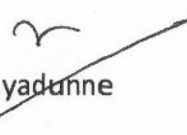
The matter discussed	Actions taken institutionally and actions expected to be taken in future
Part one : 90.00	01. Non-submission of daily running charts and monthly summary reports for pool vehicles to the Auditor General. Steps have been taken to send the daily running charts and monthly summary reports related to the year 2021 to the Auditor General, and by now, action has been taken to send the monthly summaries related to the year 2022 to the Auditor General. 02. Non-disposal of a vehicle within a period of less than 06 months from being condemned. The three-member committee has sent reports stating that since the KX-3743 BMW car costs more than 50 lakhs to repair, the repair of this car is not effective, and accordingly, letters have been sent to the Department of Railways inquiring whether this Department which is under the Ministry needs this car or not. Due to non-response until now, the disposal of this vehicle has not been done so far, and actions will be taken to carry out the disposal in the future. Steps have been taken to send reminders to the Department of Railways. 03. Failure to carry out the fuel consumption test on vehicles In the first quarter of the year 2022, the fuel consumption test was carried out for about 03 vehicles. (KD-4971 / KD-9204 / KI-1775). Subsequently, Since instructions and approval were not given to carry out the fuel consumption test of the vehicles, the test was not carried out. In the future, action will be taken to carry out the fuel consumption test of the ministry's pool vehicles 03 of them at a time. Necessary arrangements have been planned to start fuel consumption test from April.

04.Existence of loan balances remaining outstanding for more than a year.

Serial No.	Name	Description
01.	Mr. A. W. A. U. J. Alahakoon (Rs.198,138/=)	While in service in the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the letter of leaving the service has been issued for himon 28.02.2014 due to non-reporting for duty without proper approval of leave. The officer made an appeal to the Public Service Commission against the order of leaving the service, and this appeal has been dismissed by the Public Service Commission. The appellant has appealed against that decision to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. The personal file is also in the Public Service Commission pending that decision, The Administrative Appeals Tribunal has not yet issued a decision. Until then, the recovery of the loan balance has been put on hold.
02.	Mr. K. P. M. D. Dias (Rs.112,964/=)	The outstanding loan balance as on 20.03.2023 (Rs. 112,964/=) was fully paid.
03.	Mr. H.M.Bandara (Rs. 87,600/=)	He left the service on 01.12.2015 while working in the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Although several letters were sent to pay the balance of the loan, there was no response. The Hon. Attorney General was informed to initiate legal action relating

		*the recovery of the said loan balance. Summoning relating to this case is scheduled for 27.06.2023.
04.	Mrs. P.W.M.P.Podimani (Rs. 121,945/=)	She has been sentenced to prison terms, when pleaded guilty after being presented to the court by a 'B' report on 08.03.2013 by considering the complaint made by several people about not providing foreign jobs after receiving money promising to provide jobs in Italy, Also, similar punishments have been meted out in several cases which have been filed under separate case numbers relating to the complaints made by several external persons separately. Considering all these facts, this officer has been dismissed from the date of suspension. The appeal filed by Ms. P.W.P.Podimani to the Public Service Commission against the order of dismissal has been rejected by the same commission. At present, Mrs. P.M.P.Podimani has appealed to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal in this regard and the next summons is scheduled for February 2023. Loan recovery proceedings have been put on hold until the decision of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal is given. And a grace period has been given to pay the loan balance till 31.03.2023.

	05. Recruitment of staff exceeding the approved cadre. Based on the government policy, 61 development officers have been assigned to this ministry. Also, a video cameraman officer was attached to the previous state ministry and he has now taken local leave according to P.A.C. circular No.14/2022.
Part two : 59.00	Clients Charter has been prepared duly. Preparation of the human development plan has been completed. Training programs could not be held in the year 2020 due to the COVID epidemic situation. As the public life has been restored by now, a training plan has been prepared and training programs are being implemented for the officers under the said programme. Accordingly, action has been taken to put in place maximum measures that enable the provision of at least 12-hour training for each employee per year. Within the institution, the Senior Assistant Secretary (Administration) has been appointed to prepare human resource development plans and implement capacity and skill development programs. Necessary action will be taken within this year to prepare performance contracts for the entire staff and entering into such contracts.


M.M.P.K. Mayadunne

Secretary

Ministry of Transport and Highways