පාර්ලිමේන්තු ප්‍රකාශන මාලා අංක : 290
ආයතනයේ නම: විදේශ කටයුතු අමාත්‍යාංශය

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

பாராளுமன்ற வெளியீட்டுத் தொடர் இலக்கம்: 290
நிறுவனத்தின் பெயர்: வெளிநாட்டு அலுவல்கள் அமைச்சு

பாராளுமன்றத்தின் அரச கணக்குக் குழுவினால் முன்வைக்கப்பட்ட அறிக்கை தொடர்பாக நிலையியற் கட்ளை இலக்கம் 119 (4) இன் கீழ் நிறுவனங்களிற்குப் பொறுப்பான கெளரவ அமைச்சரின் அவதானிப்புக்களும் மற்றும் அதுதொடர்பாக எடுக்கப்படும் நடவடிக்கைகளும் பாராளுமன்றத்திற்குச் சமர்ப்பித்தல்

Parliamentary Series No: 290
Name of the Institution: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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

Parliamentary Series Number : No.290
Name of the institution : Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Part 01

	Shortcomings identified by the Committee	**Explanation for the shortcomings and Action taken by the Institution to rectify the same/current status**
01.	Answers had not been sent to all the audit queries of the Auditor General within one month of receiving such audit queries.	Since the information has to be collected from the Missions abroad, delays usually happen in replying to the audit queries. Further, difficulties were faced in collecting the required information in the year 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation. However, the matter has been discussed at the last audit and management committee meeting, and required arrangements have been made to respond to the audit queries or an interim reply within one month nevertheless to request an extension time period.
02.	At least 02 meetings of the Audit and Management Committee had not been held per year.	Difficulties were encountered in convening the committee meeting according to regulations due to the pandemic situation in the country in 2021. However, three meetings were held in 2023 after normalising the country. Arrangements have been made to hold the meeting in 2024 as per circular requirements.
03.	The information about purchases of assets and disposals relating to the year 2018 had not been submitted to the Comptroller General's office in terms of Paragraph 07 of the Asset Management Circular No. 01/2027 of 26 June 2017	According to the file records, only information about the Ministry Headquarters in Colombo has been submitted to the Comptroller General's Office. However, efforts will be made to gather information about Sri Lanka and Missions/Posts abroad, and it will be submitted to the Comptroller General's Office.
04.	A suitable liaison officer was appointed to coordinate the implementation of provisions of the circular, and the details of the nominated officer were not sent to the Comptroller General's office in terms of Paragraph 13 of the Asset Management Circular No. 01/2027 of 26 June 2017	A Staff Grade Officer has been appointed to coordinate with the Office of Comptroller General in implementing the Online Non-Financial Assets Management System (NFAMS) for the Public Sector Institutions - Module on Vehicles for Sri Lanka Missions/Posts abroad. The Overseas Assets Management and Development Division of the Ministry, in coordination with the Office of Comptroller General, is in the process of uploading vehicle details to the said portal.

05.	The relevant reports had not been submitted to the Auditor General's office by the due date after conducting the Board of Survey in accordance with F.R.756(6) within the time frame mentioned in paragraph 11.1 of Part 1 of Public Finance Circular No.01/2020 dated 28.08.2020	Board of Survey 2021 & 2022 have already been submitted to the Auditor General's office. The Overseas Assets Management and Development Division is in the process of receiving Board of Survey reports of 2023 from SL Missions/Posts, and the compiled document will be submitted to the Auditor General's office in due course. However, the actions have been taken to follow up communications to all SL Missions/Posts in order to expedite the process.
06.	The excesses and deficits that were disclosed through the board of survey and other related recommendations, actions were not carried out during the period specified in Public Finance Circular No.01/2020 dated 28.08.2020	Details will be gathered, and necessary measures will be taken to rectify this matter.
07.	Daily running records and monthly summaries of the pool vehicles were not prepared and submitted to the Auditor General.	It is identified that the Daily running records and monthly summaries of the pool vehicles were not submit to the Auditor General in year 2021. However, Details in 2022 were sent to the General Audit Division. Details in 2023 have been complied with and are ready to send to the Auditor General.
08.	Actions had not been taken in terms of FR 103, 104, 109 and 110 with regard to every vehicle accident.	There were 13 vehicle accidents in 2021 and 11 vehicle accidents in 2022, and the related full repair costs have been charged by the insurance companies. In the year 2023, there have been 25 vehicle accidents, and those damages have been recovered from the respective insurance policies. FR investigations related to those accidents are currently being conducted.
09.	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	Fuel consumption testing was not possible between 2021 and 2023 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by a fuel shortage and restrictions. Fuel consumption tests will be conducted in 2024.
10.	The dormant accounts that had existed in the year under review or since the previous year had not been settled	Due to the unexpected closure of the Embassy of Tripoli in Libya, the Mission's bank account may be reported as dormant. We are currently working to coordinate with relevant parties and gather all necessary information. Within the next three months, we will take the necessary actions to submit the required documents to the General Treasury. These

		actions may include closing the account or writing off any associated items accordingly.
11.	Balances that are revealed by the findings of Bank reconciliation statements & should be adjusted had not been adjusted within a period of one month as per financial regulations.	Delays have been reported due to a lack of required information, and situations have arisen that are beyond our control. The amounts of Unidentified Receipt and Payment, totalling Rs. 1,458,855.52 and Rs. 5,746,953.70, respectively, have been reconciled. (***Annex-1***) Necessary actions have been undertaken to ensure compliance with Financial Reporting (FR) and circular requirements pertaining to Bank Reconciliation.
12.	Loan balances in arrears for over 1 year had not been settled.	The associated amounts stem from prolonged outstanding balances and insufficient provision of necessary information. Furthermore, circumstances beyond our control have contributed to the situation. The amount of Rs. 1,302,276.87 as of December 31, 2021, has been reconciled ***(Annex-4).*** Information pertaining to the remaining balances is currently being gathered, and actions are being taken to settle them accordingly.
13.	The action had not been taken as per F R 571 in relation to dormant accounts.	The required action, as stipulated in FR571, could not be executed due to the time required to gather pertinent information from the Mission abroad. All the associated amounts as of December 31, 2021, have been reconciled in accordance with the Financial Regulation. (***Annex-2&3)***
14.	The ad hoc sub-imprest issued as per FR 371 had not been settled within one month from the completion of the task.	If actions were taken to comply with FR requirements, the occurrences were reported due to circumstances beyond our control. The officials have been instructed to adhere to FR and circular requirements when settling the Ad-hoc advance obtained.
15	The staff had been recruited/ attached exceeding the approved limits	The task of keeping staff within the approved limits has proven to be quite challenging, given the requirement to retain officers who have returned from mission postings and those who are to be attached to the mission for a specific period.

Parliamentary Series Number : No.290
Name of the institution : Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Part 02

	Shortcomings identified by the Committee	**Explanation for the shortcomings and Action taken by the Institution to rectify the same/current status**
01.	The institute had failed to identify the sustainable development goals applicable to its scope.	Due to unforeseen circumstances, the identification of relevant and sustainable goals for this Ministry was delayed. However, initial steps have been taken to identify those goals, and the Committee has already been appointed. Relevant implementations will be carried out soon.
02.	The targets to be reached to achieve the identified sustainable goals had not been decided.	In accordance with the recommendation of the appointed committee, the Ministry will be taking the necessary actions soon.
03.	The indicators to measure the progress of implementation of Sustainable Development Goals have had not been set.	In accordance with the recommendation of the appointed committee, the Ministry will be taking the necessary actions soon.
04.	The human resource plan drafted in keeping with the provisions of public administration Cir. No. 02/2018, dated 24th January 2018, was not available.	Due to a lack of awareness, the said human resource plan has not been incorporated into the Performance Report-2021 of the Ministry. However, the staff of the Ministry was trained within a limited budget and other provisions. The respective human resource plan for the Ministry has been developed.
05.	The human resources development plan that had been prepared did not ensure at least a minimum training opportunity of not less than 12 hours per year for more than 50% of the members of the staff.	Due to a lack of resources, including necessary budget provisions and human resources, the minimum training requirement of the staff of the Ministry was not achieved. Ensuring the provision of minimum training requirements for the staff of the Ministry.
06.	Performance agreements covering the entire staff had not been drafted or entered.	Regrettably, the Ministry was unable to provide Performance Agreements to all staff due to a lack of awareness. However, the Ministry will be taking necessary steps to ensure that these agreements are incorporated into the next performance report, aimed at enhancing the overall performance of the organization.
07.	A senior officer of the institution had not been named for the preparation of human resource	A senior officer who is responsible for the preparation of the human resource development plan has already been nominated.

	development plans and to implement capacity and skill development programmes.	
08.	Out of the training opportunities planned, the extent of training opportunities granted was less than 50 %	Due to a lack of resources, including necessary budget provisions and human resources, training opportunities were not provided as planned. Ensuring the provision of minimum training requirements for the staff of the Ministry.
09	The audit opinion about the accounts of the institution had been a disclaimed opinion or an unfavorable opinion.	The Ministry received a qualified opinion regarding the Financial Statements for 2021 due to a few shortcomings. The highlighted shortcomings have been addressed and rectified during the financial year 2022
10.	The necessary action had not been taken to recover the loss caused to the Government by the officers as per Financial Regulation 156 (I)	Actions have been taken to recover the loss caused to the Government by the officers as per Financial Regulation 156 (I).
11.	Actions had not been taken to properly transfer officers who had completed the maximum service period.	This Ministry is a popular organization only for Office Employee Service and Drivers. Officers of those categories were always transferred after the maximum service requirement. A few officers of other service categories, such as Management Service Officers and Development Officers, are retained on service requirements.

M.U.M. Ali Sabry PC, MP
Minister of Foreign Affairs

STRY OF FOREAIGN AFFAIRS

Annexture - (1)

Bank_Account Reconciliation for the A/C No: 7040296 as at 31/12/2021

Description	Amount	Amount
Balance as per cash book		0.00
Adjustment to Cash Book		
Add Unpresented Cheque	240,722,683.47	
Less Unrealized Receipts	61,443,670.00	
Adjustment to Bank Statement		
Add Unidentified Receipts	1,458,855.52	
Less Unidentified Payment	5,746,953.70	
Less Transfer to Treasury	0	
Balance as per Bank Statement		174,990,915.29

Certified by:

P. D. L. Kularathna
Chief Financial Officer
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Colombo 1.

Government Accounting Software generated statement

Accountant

Unidentified Receipt

Date	Chequeno	Amount
eb 2021	UR/02/05	6,000.00
ar 2021	UR/03/13	5,000.00
pr 2021	UR/04/04	5,000.00
pr 2021	UR/04/11	9,436.69
lay 2021	UR/05/11	1,600.00
un 2021	UR/06/10	9,337.50
un 2021	UR/06/11	3,095.00
un 2021	UR/06/14	1,600.00
un 2021	UR/06/19	24,800.00
ul 2021	UR/07/01	6,400.00
ul 2021	UR/07/06	66,000.00
Aug 2021	UR/08/17	23,442.60
Aug 2021	UR/08/18	1,225.74
Oct 2021	UR/10/02	93,723.04
Oct 2021	UR/10/04	56,936.50
Oct 2021	UR/10/12	75,000.00
[illegible] 2021	UR/10/13	5,900.00
Oct 2021	UR/10/15	4,000.00
Oct 2021	UR/10/21	5,200.00
Oct 2021	UR/10/24	1,583.43
Oct 2021	UR/10/27	7,800.00
Nov 2021	UR/11/03	5,000.00
Nov 2021	UR/11/07	2,200.00
Nov 2021	UR/11/13	28,000.00
Nov 2021	UR/11/19	4,200.00
3 Dec 2021	UR/12/01	87,700.02
4 Dec 2021	UR/12/06	913,500.00
3 Dec 2021	UR/12/07	5,175.00
** Total ***		Rs 1,458,855.52

Fax 2430220 E-Mail cypher@mea.gov.lk இணைய தளம் Web site www.mea.gov.lk

ew CIGAS:-> MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Unidentified Payment

Date	Chequeno	Amount
22 Feb 2021	UP/02/05 B	98,367.98
22 Feb 2021	UP/02/05 B-O	139,000.00
08 Apr 2021	UP/04/01	1,036,887.76
11 May 2021	UP/05/09-SLI	119,030.06
11 May 2021	UP/05/10	120,076.57
16 Jun 2021	UP/06/06-QUR	52,500.00
11 Aug 2021	UP/08/08 USD	3,075,450.00
08 Sep 2021	UP/08/05 QRU	0.50
17 Sep 2021	UP/09/08	234,180.80
01 Nov 2021	UP/11/01	42,000.00
11 Nov 2021	UP/11/04 USD	340,398.52
30 Nov 2021	UP/11/21	489,061.51
*** Total ***		Rs 5,746,953.70

Annexure - (2)

18/43/320

PSPF

Balances As at 2021.12.31

DATE	RECEIPT NO.	MISSION	FROM	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT LKR
09-12-19	2A054193	03A	Mr.Chaminda Vithanage	SLBFE renewal fee	3,238.19
26-12-19	2A054319	03B	Ms.M.A.Sumali Dilrukshi	SLBFE Renewal fee	3,254.55
08-12-19	2A054310	03B	Mr.Aruna Dhammika	SLBFE registration	15,510.12
25-05-19	05/71*12	06A	LOCAL STAFF SALARY	PSPF	208.83
25-07-19	07/68*12	06A	LOCAL STAFF SALARY	STAMP FEE	239.17
24-12-19	191257*C	28A	Mrs D .R. Mallawarachchi, Clerk	PSPF 8% December 2019	59,147.97
31-12-19	191289*A	28A	PRUN GENEVA	for Ms D.R.Mallawarachchi, Cle	88,721.95
28-11-19	191122*A	28A	Gov of Sri Lanka	12% contribution of PSPF	142,894.05
31-12-19	Dec94*5	29A	Mrs.W.V.Thilakarathne	Stamp duty -January 2020	42.35
23-12-19	761*9	JEDDAH	Mr MYMFM Irfan-Cerk(L/R)	PSPF-Dec 2019	10,742.36
23-12-19	761*12	JEDDAH	Mr ARLS Mohammed-Driver(L/R)	PSPF - December 2019	10,742.36
23-12-19	761*8	JEDDAH	Mr MACJ Fonseka-Clerk(L/R)	PSPF - DEcember 2019	11,505.58
23-12-19	761*10	JEDDAH	Mr AQM Rahman-Receptionist(L/R)	PSPF - Dec 2019	11,810.87
23-12-19	761*11	JEDDAH	Mr MNM Nilfer-Driver(L/R)	PSPF - December 2019	13,871.57
23-12-19	761*7	JEDDAH	Mr ARM Naleer-Translator(L/R)	PSPF-December 2019	19,309.53
26-12-19	762*2	JEDDAH	Consul General-GDA/18/43/320	12% PSPF Contribution to LR St	116,973.37
					508,212.80

Certified by:

. L. Kularathna
Financial Officer
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Colombo 1.

Annexture (3)

13/53/316
OTHER INSTITUTIONS

)pening Balance As at 2021.12.31

DATE	RECEIPT NO.	MISSION	FROM	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
22-10-19	551*1	01A	Australian Taxation Office	To be paid to Mr.S.Skandakumar	6,325.15
29-11-19	R59	14A	SRI LANKA HIGHCOMMISSION	SALARY/MR O L AMEERAJWAD03-09 JULY	170,320.71
23-12-19	Dec51*6	29A	Mr.M.H.Dahanayake	EPF 8% dedution - December 201	1,597.62
24-10-19	Oct42*6	29A	Mr.M.H.Dahanayake	EPF 8% deuction -October 2019	1,611.50
25-11-19	Nov50*6	29A	Mr.M.H.Dahanayake -Chauffeur	EPF 8% Deduction -November 201	1,611.60
-09-19	Sep33*6	29A	Mr.M.H.Dahanayake -Chauffeur	EPF 8% deduction on salary	1,611.67
28-11-19	Nov61*6	29A	H.E.Majintha Jayesinghe	COL Adjustment -September 2019	6,869.86
30-01-19	190141	32D	VAT COMMISSIONER - NEW DELHI	REFUND OF INDIVIDUAL GST FOR JULY	12,932.13
24-12-19	191239	32D	DEPARTMENT OF GST - NEW DELHI	REFUND OF INDIVIDUAL GST CLAIM	59,305.93
20-12-19	AR 339*8	61B	SRI LANKA EMBASSY IN BEIJING	VAT REFUND FOR 3RD QTR 2019 -F	14,680.98
02-04-19	**080488C**	**46A**	**MINISTRY OF FINANCE - LEBANON**	**VAT REFUND**	**9,388.80**
28-06-19	1/V56309	41A	S/FA	UNSPENT AMOUNT - PRESIDENT VISIT	825,066.10
)06-19	**080703B**	**46A**	**MFA - LEBANON**	**VAT REFUND**	**11,134.58**
20-08-19	081931	22A	SEB BANK	RETURN PAYMENT	112,234.94
20-08-19	081932	22A	SEB BANK	RETURN PAYMENT	93,300.69
30-08-19	452*1	01A	Australian Taxation Office GST Refund 2019 1st quarter	Former HE's refund	1,774.70
09-08-19	190816	32A	VAT COMMISSIONER - NEW DELHI	REFUND OF INDIVIDUAL VAT FOR JULY - SEPTEMBER 2018	13,546.42
30-08-19	190844	32A	GST COMMISSIONER - NEW DELHI	REFUND OF GST FOR JANUARY TO MARCH 2018	31,639.02
16-08-19	23	37A	HOTEL HAYAD	REFUND OF RECEPTION CHARGES	13,974.27
					1,388,926.67

Certified by:

*. D. L. Kularathna
Chief Financial Officer
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Colombo 1.

Annexture - 4

Detail of the settled Lone Amounts	
Details	**Amount**
K.P.S.Jayalath /KKS Distress & Festival	114,551.00
A.F.Fasmiya /MSO Distress	142,171.00
Transferred Officers settled Lone	75,789.40
Retired Officers settled Lone	962,265.47
M.H.D.Prasanga Festival	7,500.00
Total	**1,302,276.87**

Certified by;

P.D.L.Kularathna
Chief Finacial Officer

P. D. L. Kularathna
Chief Financial Officer
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Colombo 1.