



Submission of observation with regard to the reports tabled by the Committee on Public Account in terms of Standing Order No:119 (4) and the steps taken in that regard.

Parliamentary Series No: 290

Name of the Organization: Department of Government Information

Deficiencies identified in the Financial and Performance Evaluation for the year 2021	Action taken by the organization to rectify the deficiencies and the current status
1. Annual action plan had not been prepared.	Arrangements have been made to prepare the next year's action plan before December 15. (The action plan for the year 2024 has been prepared before December 15, 2023 and has been approved by the Secretary to the Ministry of Mass Media.)
2. Answers had not been sent to all the audit queries of the Auditor General within one month after receiving such audit queries.	There are some delays in getting answers from the sections. However arrangements have now been made to send an interim reply within a month.
3. The internal audit programme had not been submitted to the Auditor General in terms of Financial Regulation 134(2).	At present, an internal audit department has been established and the related activities are being carried out properly.
4. At least 02 meetings of the Audit and Management Committee had not been held per year.	Audit and Management Committees were not established as there was no internal audit unit in the department. At present, an internal audit unit has been set up and the relevant activities are being carried out properly.

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5. The relevant reports had not been submitted to the Auditor General by the due date after conducting 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.	The Board of Survey reports related to 31.12.2021 were submitted to the Auditor General on 12.06.2023.
6. 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 circular.	Arrangements are being made to finalize the solutions related to the Board of Survey 2023.
7. Documents to confirm ownership of all vehicles were not in possession.	The ownership of all vehicles has been transferred to the department. Original copies of registration have been obtained.
8. Daily running records and monthly summaries of the pool vehicles were not prepared and submitted to the Auditor General.	Daily running charts and monthly summary reports for reserve vehicles have been sent to the Auditor General in the year 2023.
9. The emblem of the state had not been painted on all pool vehicles.	On 25.08.2023, State emblem painted on all vehicles.
10. Condemned vehicles were not disposed of within a period of less than 8 months after condemning.	This process has been commenced from the year 2022.
11. Action had not been taken in terms of F.R. 103, 104, 109 and 110 with regard to every vehicle accident.	Since the year 2022, the activities have been carried out in accordance with the Financial Regulations.
12. Fuel consumption of vehicles belonging to the Ministry / Department 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 .	The fuel consumption of the departmental vehicles are being inspected from 2022.



13. 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.	By now, monthly bank reconciliations have been prepared by correcting all the deficiencies in the bank reconciliations.
14. Liabilities exceeding the provisions that remained at the end of the year had been taken on in terms of F.R 94 (1).	Obligations have been made in excess of the remaining allocations only in certain expenditure subjects. However, according to the role of the department, it was mandatory to bear the relevant expenses. Most of those liabilities have been incurred in the following year without any transfer of provision as the next year's provision is used to meet the December expenditure. Although liabilities have been made in excess of the allocations in only a few expenditure subjects, no obligations or liabilities have been created in excess of the total allocation allocated to the department for this year.
15. Loan balances in arrears for over 1 year had not been settled.	01. <u>Mr. O.C.L. De Silva</u> As the final notice, the officer has been informed through Divisional Secretary, Horana to pay the loan amount. Also, actions are being taken to update the previous file on this loan, which was forwarded to the Attorney General's Department . 02. <u>Mr. M.Ariyarathna</u> The committee has been appointed to get the recommendations related to debt write-off and the relevant report has been prepared. 03. <u>Mr. W.A.M. Prasanga</u> The amount of the distress loan has been recovered. The officer has been informed to pay the arrears of salary and allowances.
16. Action had not been taken as per F.R.571 in relation to dormant accounts.	The overdue deposits are retention amounts related to the construction contract for the new media center building. After recovery of losses, the retention money was credited to the Government Revenue on 09.05.2023.

17. The ad hoc sub imprests issued as per F.R. 371 had not been settled within one month from the completion of the task.	Depending on the nature of the tasks assigned to the department, some tasks such as making documentaries take some time. This results in delays in the settlement of imprests until the relevant task is completed. In most cases, the balance will be settled immediately upon completion of the work-related expenses. In the case of activities such as documentary film production, it takes extra time to finish editing and release the final product, so there is a slight delay in filing bills and submitting advance payment vouchers. Furthermore, efforts are being made to avoid such situations by informing the relevant officials to constantly check the advance documents and settle the unpaid advances.
18. The staff had been recruited/attached exceeding the approved limits.	Staff were not recruited beyond the approved cadre limit. Development officers recruited and confirmed in 2022 and officers seconded from the National Media Center who are not part of the cadre have been shown as surplus staff.
19. All members of the staff had not been assigned duties in writing.	Duty lists were provided to all officers of the department by the year 2023.
20. The institution had failed to identify the sustainable development goals applicable to its scope.	Sustainable Development Goals are identified.
21. The targets to be reached to achieve the identified sustainable goals had not been decided.	Sustainable Development Goals have been formulated.
22. The indicators to measure the progress of implementation of Sustainable Development Goals had not been set.	Prepared.
23. Citizen/ client charter had not been prepared or applied properly.	The Citizen/Beneficiary Charter was prepared in the year 2023.
24. A methodology had not been formulated to monitor and evaluate the application of citizen/ client charter by the institution.	A complaints and suggestions box is placed in the Department.

25. A human resource plan drafted in keeping with the provisions of public administration Circular No 02/2018 dated 24th January 2018 was not available.	A human resource plan was prepared for the years 2023, 2024.
26. The human resource development plan that had been prepared, did not ensure at least a minimum training opportunity of not less than 12 hours per year for more than 50% of the member of the staff.	Considering the allocated provisions and the Service Minutes related to each officer, arrangements were made to provide maximum training opportunities related to the scope of work during the year 2023.
27. Performance agreements covering the entire staff had not been drafted or entered.	Not prepared. Arrangements are being made to prepare in the year 2024
28. A senior officer of the institution had not been named for the preparation of human resource development plans and to implement capacity and skill development programmes.	A senior officer has been nominated for the year 2024.
29. Out of the training opportunities planned, the extent of training opportunities granted, was less than 50%.	40% training opportunities have been provided for the years 2022 and 2023.
30. The audit opinion about the accounts of the institution had been a disclaimed opinion or an unfavorable opinion.	The audit opinion on the department's accounts was not at a disclaimer or adverse level. A subordinate opinion was given in relation to the year 2021.
31. The institution had not identified three performance indicators which can measure the progress of performing the functions of the institute so as to make its functions clear, in line with para 12.1 of the Public Finance Circular No. 02/2020, dated 28/08/2020.	Identified.
32. Recommendations indicated in the Auditor General's Report had not been implemented.	Most of the recommendations of the management audit report have already been implemented. Several recommendations to be implemented involving other institutions are still being implemented.
33. The necessary action had not been taken to recover the loss caused to the Government by the officers as per Financial Regulation 156 (1).	Investigations are going on regarding damages and losses. Recovery will be done after the investigations are over.

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