

Submission the observations and actions taken with reference to Standing Order 119(4) tabled in the Parliament of Sri Lanka by the Committee on Public Accounts.

Parliament Publication Collection No : 290

District Secretariat - District Secretariat - Anuradhapura.

Shortcomings and directives pointed out by the Committee on Public Accounts	Actions taken by the Accounting Officer	Current Progress
Pass words related to the software uses to prepare government salaries as per the Public Account Circular No. 171/2004 dated 11.05.2004 had not been changed once in three months	Relevant to the years 2022 and 2023 Pass words related to the software of the preparation of salaries have changed once in three months and a register is being maintained.	After changing the password on 05.12.2023, it was changed again on 01.03.2024 and action will be taken to change the passwords once in three months in the future
Instances were reported not answering audit queries within one month	Inspections have been done by the Internal Audit Section for the 11 Divisional Secretariat and 11 Audit queries have been issued for those offices. Out of those 11 audit queries, 05 Divisional Secretariats have submitted answers within a month, and 05 offices out of the remaining 06 offices have submitted answers within 1 and 1/2 months. Only one office (Kahatagasdigiliya) has taken a long time to answer about 07 months. The reason for this was the delay in submitting the answers due to the limitation of calling officers to the office due to the Covid-19 pandemic in the country at that time.	A procedure has been implemented to answer the Audit queries within the stipulated time period by informing the relevant officers.
Even minimum number of Audit and Management Committees had not been held.	As per the instructions mentioned in paragraph 5.3 of the Circular No. DMA/01-2019 of the Director General of Management Audit Department and dated 12/01/2019, it was expected to hold 04 Audit and Management Committee meetings for 04 quarters, 01 per quarter in the year 2021, Though the 04 Audit committees as expected to be held, the first	In 2023, one committee meeting per quarter has been held and 04 Audit Committee meetings have been held. The Audit committee relevant to the first quarter of 2024 has been held.

	quarter meeting was held on 23.03.2021, and the last meeting relevant to the fourth quarter was held on 07.01.2022.	
A vehicle had not been disposed within not less than 6 months, after condemned.	Out of 13 vehicles to be disposed, six vehicles have been disposed. The following 07 vehicles are to be disposed The following actions have been taken in this regard. GI-7329 - Motorcycle 50-0305 - Double Cab 43-3017 – Lorry bowser 43-2967 - Lorry Bowser 31-6753 –Motor Vehicle NC MY-8024 } Motorcycles } handed NCMY -8028 } over to the army According to the decision taken by the District Audit and Management Committee, the 05 vehicles are to be re-assessed have been assessed and the reports have been forwarded to the Secretary of the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government for approval. Action have been taken to dispose all the above 07 vehicles, including the 02 motorcycles returned by the Army by publishing a newspaper advertisement after receiving the approval for above 5 vehicles. The necessary documents have been forwarded to the Comptroller General for transferring the possession the cab NO. 50-0305 in the name of District Secretary.	It is informed that it will take considerable time to dispose as few institutions, especially the Motor Traffic Department have to be involved in the disposal process.
National Emblem had not been painted on all vehicles.	Actions have been taken to paint the National Emblem and the name of the Institution.	

Dormant Accounts had been forwarded from the reviewing year and previous years were not settled.	There were not such dormant bank accounts in the year 2021 or in previous years.	
There were outstanding loan balances existing more than one year	The outstanding loan balances more than one year includes the loan outstanding balances of the interdicted officers, the loan outstanding balances of the officers who vacate the service as well as the loan balances of the retired and deceased officers and the actions have been taken regarding respective officers separately.	<u>Loan Outstanding balances of interdicted Officers</u> Mrs. H.M.S. Nirosha Management Service Officer District Secretariat This officer who had been interdicted has been reinstated by the letter of the Director General of Combined Services No. DP/02/13/2018 and dated 09.06.2022 and Action have been taken to recover the loan outstanding balances from the officer's monthly salary. Mrs. R. B. P. K. Ratnaweera Grama Niladhari Nuwaragam Palatha Central Divisional Secretariat The case filed by the Attorney General's Department under No. 00495/M/21 against the officer in the Anuradhapura District Court was called on 14.02.2024 and adjourned to 19.06.2024 to settle the outstanding loan balance by this suspended officer. Mrs. R.H.K. Vanninayake Grama Niladhari Ipalogama Divisional Secretariat This officer deceased on 19.11.2022 while the Attorney General's Department was conducting a case against the officer under No. 30483/M in the Anuradhapura District Court to settle the outstanding loan balance of the interdicted officer. Since the officer has deceased, the outstanding loan balance and outstanding interest to be

		recovered from him will be deducted by the Widow & Orphan Fund. Mr. P.B.T. Fernando Grama Niladhari Thambuttegama Divisional Secretariat According to the F.R.104 (a) investigation carried out regarding the non-recovering of the disaster and festival advance loan balance of this officer, actions have been taken to write off the loan balance department's books in December 2022 as per F.R.113. <u>Loan Balance of the officers who vacated the post</u> Mrs. K.M. K. Kangara Menike Palugaswewa Divisional Secretariat The outstanding loan balance and the interest to be recovered from the Mrs. K.M.K. Kangara Menike, Management Service officer who vacated the service has been fully paid by the relevant officer by using the receipt No. 595396 dated 23.03.2023 and receipt No.595467 dated 20.04.2023 to the Divisional Secretary of Palugaswewa. <u>Loan balance of the retired and deceased officers</u> Mr. H.M. M. R. K. Herath Divisional Secretary The loan balance of this officer who retired from the service while working in the Galnewa Divisional Secretariat has been settled in April 2024 from the pension gratuity Mr. S.A. S. Rathnayaka Grama Niladhari Kebithigollewa Divisional Secretariat Action have been taken to settle the loan balance from the gratuity of death in October 2022.
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Performance targets had not set to measure progress in implementing the identified Sustainable Development Goals.	Setting performance targets for projects implemented from around Rs.10, 000 in various ranges at the village level under various programs on the basis of annual budget allocations was not done since it is a problematic situation that cannot be determined practically.	
As per the Public Administrative Circular No. 02/2018 dated 24.01.2018, the human resource plan, which was duly prepared, had not been guaranteed a training opportunity of at least 12 hours for more than 50 percent of the staff.	The Human Resource plan for the year 2021 was not prepared.	As per the circular 01/2023 of the Ministry of Finance, since it is informed that opportunity should be given to respective officers compulsorily to have training in accordance with the service minutes, additional trainings programs cannot be implemented.
Performance agreements including all staff had not been prepared and had not entered into.	Performance agreements related to the years 2021, 2022 and 2023 were not prepared.	It is informed that it is not necessary to sign the performance agreements for the year 2024 as per circular 02/2018(1).
A senior officer had not been designated in the organization to prepare human resource development plans and implement capacity and skill development programs.	It had not been nominated for the year 2021.	A senior officer has been nominated now for the year 2024.
The audit opinion on the Institution had been at the level of disclaimer or adverse.	Due to deficiencies in the financial statements of the institution, in the year 2021, a qualified audit opinion was given.	In the year 2023, the audit opinion was given as fair and reasonable.
Achievements of identified performance indicators were less than 24%.	In the year 2021, the Percentage of achieving targets of this office was between 50% and 74%.	In the year 2023, the Percentage of achieving targets of this office was between 50% and 74%.
The training opportunities were less than 50% comparing the Planned training opportunities.	Training programs were not held due to the Covid 19 pandemic in 2021.	As per the circular 01/2023 of the Ministry of Finance, since it is informed that opportunity should be given to respective officers to who are compulsorily to have training in accordance with the service minutes, additional trainings programs cannot be implemented.

The recommendations /orders of the Committee on Public Accounts had not been implemented.	As per the orders given by the Public Accounts Committee on 30.06.2012, the following actions have been made to settle the advance given by the treasury for the purchase of paddy during the period 2001-2006 1. Sri Lanka Cooperative Society - 3,485,983.50 According to the letter of the Commissioner of Cooperative Development of the Department of Cooperatives No. Co.De.De/P.C.Gr./05/04 dated 24.01.2021 and the letter of General Manager of Sri Lanka Cooperative Marketing Association No.S/21/22-23, dated 10.02.2023, it has been informed that no arrears have to be paid. Accordingly actions will be taken after checking the past records and files of this office. 2. Agrarian Development District Office - 11,184,593.51 As the rice mill owner was prisoned (Case No. - HC/02/2009 and HC/92/2009) for the amount of Rs.2,120,000.00 to be recovered from the advances given to Maradankadawala and Shravastipura Agricultural Service Centers, upon the inability to recover further ,the documents have been prepared to write off the losses and forwarded to the Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government. Also, cases have been filed in the Anuradhapura High Court against the Agrarian Service Centers of Adiyagala, Eppawala and Thalawa. (Case Nos HC64/2019,HC25/2019 HC62/2009)	The amount to be settled as at 31.12.2021 is Rs. 32,247,247,.87 and out of the amount Rs. 850,000.00 has been paid . Accordingly, remaining balance is Rs.31,397,247.87.
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3. Nochchiyagama Multi-purpose Cooperative Society - 3,823,817.90

It is informed that through the North Central Province Cooperative Development Commissioner's letter No. NPC/CCD/D4/540/ Liquidation II, and dated 14.12.2023, that the audit work of the Nochchiyagama Multi-purpose Cooperative Society as well as the identification of assets and liabilities are being carried out and after preparation and presenting the of last liquidation proposal ,the priority will be given to the settlement of government loans . Accordingly, Through the letter My No. Anu/Dis/2/4/1/2011 dated 24.04.2024, current situation has been inquired. Action will be taken accordingly.

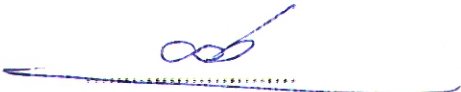
4. Kahatagasdigiliya Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society - 3,866,281.45

Case No. - 24443/M has been filed in Anuradhapura District Court and the next date of hearing is 28.06.2024.

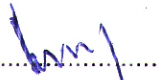
5. Eppawala Multi- Purpose Cooperative Society = 4,950,304.01

In a letter dated 24.08.2023, the General Manager of Eppawala Multi- Purpose Cooperative Society has informed that it was decided at the board meeting held on 21.08.2023 to pay Rs.30, 000.00 monthly from the interest of an investment of the society and Rs.500, 000.00 annually from the profit of the seed project society. Accordingly, Rs. 30,000.00 has been taken to Account of the District Secretariat in the month of January and February of 2024 and the amount

	was accounted under account number 7000-0-0-250-03-419 in the sundry advance account of the treasury. 6. North Central Province multi-purpose Cooperative Society - 4,086,267.50 Case No.- 23598/M has been filed in Anuradhapura District Court and the next date of hearing is 28.06.2024.	
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 E.M.C. Herath
 Chief Accountant (Acting)
 District Secretariat,
 Anuradhapura.

E.M.C. Herath
Chief Accountant (Acting)
For District Secretary


 J.M.J.K. Jayasundara
 Government Agent / District Secretary,
 District Secretariat,
 Anuradhapura.

J.M.J.K. JAYASUNDARA
District Secretary
Government Agent
Anuradhapura

Recommendation of the Secretary

Measures taken by the District Secretary are recommended and instructions have been given to District Secretaries to pay personal attention on the other shortcomings pointed out and to take corrective measures regarding them.



Pradeep Yasarathne

Secretary

Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs,

Provincial Councils and Local Government

Pradeep Yasarathna
Secretary

Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs,
Provincial Councils & Local Government
(Home Affairs Division)
"NILA MEDURA" Elvitigala Mawatha, Colombo 05.

Recommendation of the Minister and the Action Taken

Instruction have been given by me to the Ministry Secretary to take necessary steps by paying special attention on the instructions given to the District Secretary by the Committee on Public Accounts, to ensure that such shortcomings may not occur again and it is expected that the such measures would enable the provable level to reach the optimum level within the year 2024.



Hon. Dinesh Gunawardena (M.P.)

Prime Minister and

Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs,

Provincial Councils and Local Government