

Submission of observations and measures to be taken regarding Standing Order 119(4) tabled by the Committee on Public Accounts of the Parliament of Sri Lanka

Parliamentary Publication Series No. 290

District Secretariat: Gampaha

Shortcomings pointed out by the Committee on Public Accounts and guidelines	Actions taken by the Returning Officer	Current progress
As per the provisions mentioned in Paragraph 3.1 of the Public Administration Circular No. 2016/30 dated 29.12.2016, the fuel consumption of the vehicles maintained by the District Secretariat was not examined.	As the availability of fuel was restricted due to fuel shortage, the fuel combustion testing activities were temporarily suspended . All Divisional Secretaries have been informed by the letter dated 02.02.2023 that the fuel combustion test shall be done by a committee with the participation of two staff officers. Accordingly, the fuel combustion test is carried out as scheduled.	I kindly inform that as per the provisions mentioned in Paragraph 3.1 of the Public Administration Circular No. 2016/30 dated 29.12.2016, the relevant fuel combustion test is being carried out at present.
2. Documents confirming the ownership of the vehicle were not available for all the vehicles and the State Emblem of all the vehicles were not painted.	Kindly inform that the documents confirming the ownership of the vehicle of all the vehicles are available except of the car numbered CAO-1650 and since this vehicle belongs to the State Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government, the relevant documents have been forwarded to the Ministry to transfer the ownership. Also, the necessary actions are being taken to paint the state emblem on the vehicles that are not painted with the same.	Since further actions have been taken regarding the relevant matters, I will take measures to complete the relevant tasks immediately.

3. Dormant bank accounts continued from the year under review or from previous years were not settled.	Actions have been taken to close dormant accounts continued from the previous years and it is informed that there are no dormant bank accounts at present.	there are no dormant bank accounts at present.																								
4. There were outstanding loan balances continued from more than a year.	Regular follow-up actions have been done to recover these loan balances. It has been decided to be recovering most of those loans from the retirement gratuity of the respective borrowers and relevant measures have been taken. <table><tr><th>Classification</th><th>The balance As at 31.12.2021</th><th>Charges as at 31.03.2024</th><th>Further dues</th></tr><tr><td>Deceased officers</td><td>441,531.00</td><td>441,531.00</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Retired officers</td><td>2,061,115.00</td><td>1,574,976.00</td><td>486,139.00</td></tr><tr><td>Suspended officers</td><td>1,130,142.00</td><td>620,809.00</td><td>509,333.00</td></tr><tr><td>Vacated officers</td><td>313,498.00</td><td>220,668.00</td><td>92,830.00</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>3,946,286.00</td><td>2,857,984.00</td><td>1,088,302.00</td></tr></table> By 31.03.2024, most of the loan balances have been recovered and I will take actions to recover the remaining balances as much as possible in the year 2024.	Classification	The balance As at 31.12.2021	Charges as at 31.03.2024	Further dues	Deceased officers	441,531.00	441,531.00	0	Retired officers	2,061,115.00	1,574,976.00	486,139.00	Suspended officers	1,130,142.00	620,809.00	509,333.00	Vacated officers	313,498.00	220,668.00	92,830.00		3,946,286.00	2,857,984.00	1,088,302.00	Since most of the dues can be recovered from the retirement gratuity of the borrowers, the necessary arrangements have been made for that and actions will be taken to recover the outstanding balances to be charged as much as possible in the year 2024.
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5. Overdue deposits in the General deposit account were not dealt with as per F.R.571.	I kindly inform that a standardized programme has been prepared to settle the balance of the General deposit account during the last few years and most of the balances have been settled. Similarly, a special programme has been arranged to settle the compensation payments and due to the insufficient amount of compensation under acquisitions for highways, this amount represents a large amount of compensation that has not been received and until an agreement is reached, the relevant compensation payments have to be kept in the General deposit account. Further, the settlement of these compensations is delayed due to land disputes, compensation recipients going abroad, etc. However, I will take measures to settle these deposit balances as much as possible in the year 2024.	As of 31.12.2022, there are no deposits of more than 2 years under Deposit Account No. 6000-0-0-1-0-61 (Guarantee Deposit), 6000-0-0-2-79 (Tender Deposit), 6000-0-0-13-49 (Payments to Third Party) and 6000-0-0-18-39 (Statutory Payments) and the contractors have been informed to settle the deposit balance of more than 2 years Rs.14,104,972.11 and under Contract Payments (6000-0-0-16-31) and it is expected to be settled in the year 2024. In the meantime, issues have arisen in settling the deposit balance of Rs. 86,883,880 under land deposit (6000-0-0-17-0-10) which is more than 10 years due to land disputes. The balance is also expected to be settled in the year 2024.
6. Revenues collected were not repaid in accordance with relevant provisions.	Officers have been instructed to duly send the reports that are required to be sent.	Actions will be pursued as per the provisions of the circulars.

7. Surcharges to be charged as per F.R.119 were not charged.	An amount of Rs. 63,366.96 has been charged from the cost that is to be charged from the responsible officials regarding the financial fraud that happened in the Mahara Divisional Secretariat in the year 2014 and regular notices have been given to the relevant officials and institutions to recover the remaining money.	Regarding the money fraud that occurred in the Mahara Divisional Secretariat in 2014, letters have been sent to recover Rs. 338,201.69 each, equally from the four officials and regular reminder letters have also been sent. Accordingly, an amount of Rs. 63,366.96 has been recovered from the loss to be recovered, and the relevant officials and the institutions where they work have regularly been informed in this regard with a view to recovering the remaining amount.
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