Presenting to the Parliament Observations and measures taken regarding Standing Orders 119(4) tabled by the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament of Sri Lanka.

Parliamentary Session No. - 290

District Secretariat - Hambantota

First part :79.00

	Deficiencies and guidance pointed out by the Public Accounts Committee	Actions taken by the Accounting Officer	Current Progress
01	The list of vehicle registration document was not properly kept up-to-date.	The officials were instructed to take necessary steps to update the relevant documents	The relevant document has been duly updated.
02	All audit queries submitted by the Auditor General were not answered within a month.	This was discussed in the District Audit Management Committee and the Divisional Secretarial meeting and accordingly, the Divisional Secretariats and other heads of institutions have been instructed to provide the necessary information promptly in order to answer the audit queries within a month.	This situation has arisen due to the delay in providing relevant information by the institutions collaborates with the District Secretariat regarding the projects carried out by the District Secretariat in the district. But it is hereby informed you that the audit queries will be answered promptly as soon as they receive.
03	It was notified some instances of internal audit inquiries that has not being answered within a month were reported.	In the District Audit Management committee, the Divisional secretarial meeting and the progress review meeting of the accountants, the necessary instructions have been given to the relevant officers of the district secretariat and all the divisional secretariats to provide answers to the relevant audit queries within a month.	At present, it is informed you that it has taken action to provide prompt answers to internal audit queries.

04	The Board of Survey reports were not submitted to the Auditor General on the due date according to the paragraph 11.1 of section 1 of Public Finance Circular No. 01/2020 dated 28.08.2020 in accordance with F.R.756(6)	The officials have been informed to send the relevant report to the Auditor General before the due date.	It is informed that the Board of Survey report related to the year 2022 has been submitted to the Auditor General on 15.06.2023 and the report of 2024, will be submitted before the scheduled date.
05	It has not been acted properly on government vehicle accidents in terms of. F.R. 103,104,109 and 110.	The concerned officials have been informed to act accordingly in terms of F.R. on government vehicle accidents	Except for a few problematic files in the year 2021, all other files have been completed. It is informed that steps will be taken to act according to F.R. 103,104,109 and 110 regarding vehicle accidents.
06	The fuel combustion of the vehicles owned by the District Secretariat was not checked according to the provisions mentioned in paragraph 3.1 of the State Administrative Circular No. 2016/30 dated 29.12.2016.	The officials have been informed to act accordingly to the mentioned provisions.	At present, fuel combustion tests are being carried out as per the mentioned provisions.
07	Not all the vehicles had the state emblem printed on them.	Though the state emblem previously printed on the vehicles has faded out, the officials have been informed to take necessary steps to restore it.	The District Secretariat is taking related measures regarding the printing work.
08	According to the F.R.94(1) the allocation made for a vote of expenditure had been utilized so as to exceed the remaining allocation limit at the end of the year.	The officers have been informed not to over use the allocation limit in future and to manage the expenditure within the allocation limit.	-
09	The “ad hoc” sub impress issued in terms of F.R. 371 has not been settled within 10 days of its completion.	All staff grade officers have been informed.	Steps have been taken to settle all the “ad hoc” sub impress advances issued by the year 2024 within the stipulated period.
10	The imprest reconciliation statement which reconciled with approved imprest account balances and the treasury books on quarterly basis was not submitted to the Department of Treasury Operations before the due date.	The Officials are directed to send the relevant form of TOD/IMP/05 before the due date.	By the year 2024, the report will be sent on the due date.
11	According to Management Circular No. 04/2014 dated 20.09.2017, carder information was not forwarded to the Department of Management Services within one month after the end of a quarter.	Instructions have been given to submit the relevant information to the Management Services Department within one month after the end of a quarter as per the circular.	In current years, the relevant information will be directed to the Management services department.

Second part: 79.00

01	There were no performance contracts including the entire staff.	All staff were instructed to be included in contract from 2022 onwards	All officers have entered into performance contract in 2023.
02	The audit opinion on accounts of the Institute was at the disclaimer or adverse level.	The financial statements for the year 2021 have not been given a disclaimer or an adverse opinion and have been given only a qualified opinion.	A qualified opinion has been given in the year 2022 as well.
03	The achievement of the identified task indicator was less than 24%.	The achievement of the identified task indicator was identified as 68%.	-
04	The amount of training opportunities given out of the planned training opportunities was less than 50%.	Due to the Covid epidemic in 2021, it was not possible to call the officials and conduct the training courses.	Currently, training opportunities are being conducted using ZOOM technology and the district and divisional secretariat level.
05	All the officers had not submitted assets and liability declarations.	Due to the Covid situation in the year 2021, it was not possible to get assets and liabilities declarations from the officers and the officers were instructed to do it correctly from the year 2022.	By the year 2022, all officers submit asset and liability reports correctly.

H.P. Sumanasekara
District Secretary/Government Agent
Hambantota.

W. L. Geethika
Cheif Accountant (Acting)
District Secretariat
Hambantota.

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H.P. Sumanasekara 2024 . 04 . 30
District Secretary/Government Agent,
Hambantota District.

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W.L. Geethika
Chief Accountant (Acting) 2024 . 04 . 30
District Secretariat, Hambantota.

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