

Presenting the observation and actions taken by the Honourable Minister to the Parliament under Standing Order No. 119 (4) regarding the reports tabled by the Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts.

Parliamentary Series No. 79

Name of the Institute: - Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Aviation

	Weaknesses identified by the committee	Actions taken to prevent weaknesses/current status
<u>01</u>	After utilizing the allocation made under F.R. 94 (1) for an expenditure Object, liabilities were incurred so that the remaining provision limit saved at the end of the year has exceeded the sanctioned limit. the remaining allocation limit at the end of the year had exceeded the approved limit.	No such liabilities have been entered into with external parties and contractors those providing services. Measures are taken in terms of F.R. 94 (i).
<u>02</u>	Existence of outstanding loan balances dating back more than a year.	(a) Credit balances of transferred officers By 31.12.2023, there are two unrecoverable loan balances of Rs.92,800.00 and Rs.26,400.00 of R.Nanayakkara and Y.M. Fasuldeen who have been transferred. The approval of the Secretary has been received to write off these two loan balances according to the Public Finance Circular No. 01/2024 dated 29.05.2024 and an expenditure object has also been approved. Accordingly, arrangements will be made to transfer and write off the provisions in this year.


K.D.S. Ruwanchandra

Secretary

Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Aviation
No. 19, Chaithya Road, Colombo 01, Sri Lanka.

		(b) Loan balances of suspended officers A distress loan balance of Rs.293,470.00 should be collected from Mr. J.A. Ariyasena, who has been suspended and deprived of his pension in the year 2023. A letter dated 20.06.2024 has been forwarded seeking the approval of the Treasury Secretary for writing off this loan balance in terms of the Public Finance Circular No. 01/2024 dated 29.05. 2024.
<u>03</u>	The audit opinion on the company's accounts was at inferior level / disclaimer level / adverse level.	By reducing the losses in the year 2022 and preparing the final accounts of the year 2023, a true and fair opinion has been received for the final audit opinion.
<u>04</u>	Government emblem was not imprinted on all vehicles.	Arrangements have been made to display a printed name plate with the government emblem on the vehicles owned by the Ministry so that the name of the Ministry is clearly visible.
<u>05</u>	Log books for each vehicle were not maintained on an up-to-date basis	You are kindly informed that, vehicle log books are maintained for all 42 vehicles belonging to this Ministry according to the common format 267, and the log books were kept up-to-date except for the amount of fuel combustion, transfer of custody of the vehicle, monthly summaries about travels and the notes of the inspectors, and you are further informed that the above facts have already been updated and the entire log books have been maintained on an updated basis.  K.D.S. Ruvachandra Secretary

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06	There was no system in place to monitor or evaluate the implementation of the Citizen/Client Charter in the institution.	A monitoring process should be implemented to ensure that the Citizen Client Charter is scrutinized in accordance with Section 2.3 of Public Administration Circular 05/2008, and a quarterly evaluation was done in the year 2021 for that purpose. The respective departments have informed that no revisions are required for checking information related to the final quarter presented by each department of this ministry. Nevertheless, it is advisable to carry out an evaluation after a reasonable period of time as stated in the said circular. During that period, one of the two officers of the committee appointed for that supervision and evaluation failed to submit the report because he transferred to another institution on full-time basis. 2. However, since the aviation sector has also been joined this Ministry, you are kindly informed that two new members have been appointed to perform the services more effectively and qualitatively so that the sector is also represented. I would like to inform you that the monitoring and evaluation process has been continued for the half year ended on 30th June, 2023, including the aviation sector, and the reports have been approved by the Secretary.
07	Performance agreements were not prepared and entered in to for the entire staff.	You had been kindly informed that the performance agreements related to the year 2022 will be prepared and finalized by 15.09.2023, as it was pointed out during the audit query by the auditors of the National Audit Office that the performance agreements for the years 2022 and 2023 have not been prepared. Accordingly, you are kindly informed that performance agreements have been signed for the entire staff for the year 2022. Since the performance agreements related to the year 2023 should be prepared during the period from 01.01.2023 to 31.12.2023, it has been informed that necessary steps will be taken to sign the performance agreements related to the year 2023 before 31.01.2024.



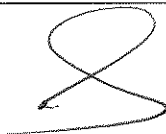
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		Accordingly, you are kindly informed that performance agreements have been prepared for the year 2023.
08	The number of training opportunities provided was less than 50% of the planned training opportunities.	Due to the risk of the Covid-19 virus in the year 2021, most of the training courses were postponed by the institutions conducting the courses and due to the fact that they were held online, it was not possible to make the officials participate in the training courses as expected. Therefore, the number of training opportunities provided was less than 50% of the planned training opportunities for the year 2021. But a percentage level of 67% in the year 2022 and 75% in the year 2023 has been achieved. You are kindly informed that the necessary activities are expected to be carried out to achieve a percentage higher than the level of 75% this year (2024).



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