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## **Preface**

This Report has been compiled in accordance with the procedures, policy decisions and strategies followed by the office of National Secretariat for elders, established under the ministry of Social service, as spelt out in Act No 09, 2000.

The objective of this Annual Report - 2015 is to highlight the level of Performance of the programmes implemented with a view to enhancing wellbeing of the elder community in Sri Lanka, to the honourable members of the Parliament of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

As stated in the Act, numerous programmes were implemented in year 2015 to bring about self dignity, independence, participation, safety and protection for elders. Being able to deliver a fruitful service for the elder community, gives us utmost satisfaction and pleasure.

Further through 100 days program of present government, it was proposed, to offer Rs.2, 000 to the elders above 70 years, the every elder considered to be the major contributors for building our glorious past heritage. This noteworthy, praise worthy step was taken towards bringing about a satisfactory life for elder community, a step which too, will make Sri Lanka a miracle.

## **Executive Report**

The office of the National Secretariat for elders implemented diverse programmes and projects throughout Sri Lanka for the wellbeing of elderly population in the country in year 2015. This very reason enabled the said institution to achieve physical and financial progress as planned in 2015.

Among the programmes implemented, providence of Rs.2000 allowances for the elders above 70 years under the 100 days program of present government has been the leading one. The assistance and the guidance given by honourable ministers, deputy ministers and also the staff attached to the ministry to overcome the challenges had been noteworthy.

Further special thanks should go to the secretary of social services, staff members, the staff of the National secretariat of the elders and also the officers in charge for the subject matter, attached to the divisional secretary's division.

The aforesaid achievements and performance targets of year 2015 were achieved with utmost dedication and the detailed description of the same is provided in the inner pages of the report.

## **Introduction**

There has been a visible improvement in the health, nutritional and education sectors in Sri Lanka, the result of continuous social & economic development, the country has witnessed during past several decades. The above factor resulted in the drop in birth rate and an improvement in the life expectancy, increasing the percentage of elder population in the country. There has been a considerable growth in the elder population in Sri Lanka. Accordingly, it is expected that the percentage of elder population in the country will grow from present 12.2% to 20% within the next decade.

It is necessary that the welfare facilities to improve the living standards of elder should be upgraded. The rights of elder too, should be protected. The office of the National Secretariat for elders, act with utmost dedication towards achieving the above mentioned goals. Various steps were taken in year 2015 to empower the elder population. The registration of Village Elder Committees, Provincial Elder councils and District Elder councils, implementation of psychological counselling programmes to improve mental and spiritual development of elders, and also the training of elder caretakers were some of the major steps taken towards achieving the afore mentioned goals.

Our foremost intention is to prevent the elders leading a solitary life and to enhance their participation in the society.

## **National Secretariat for Elders**

National Council for Elders & National Secretariat for Elders have been established under the Protection of the Rights of Elders Act No. 09 of 2000

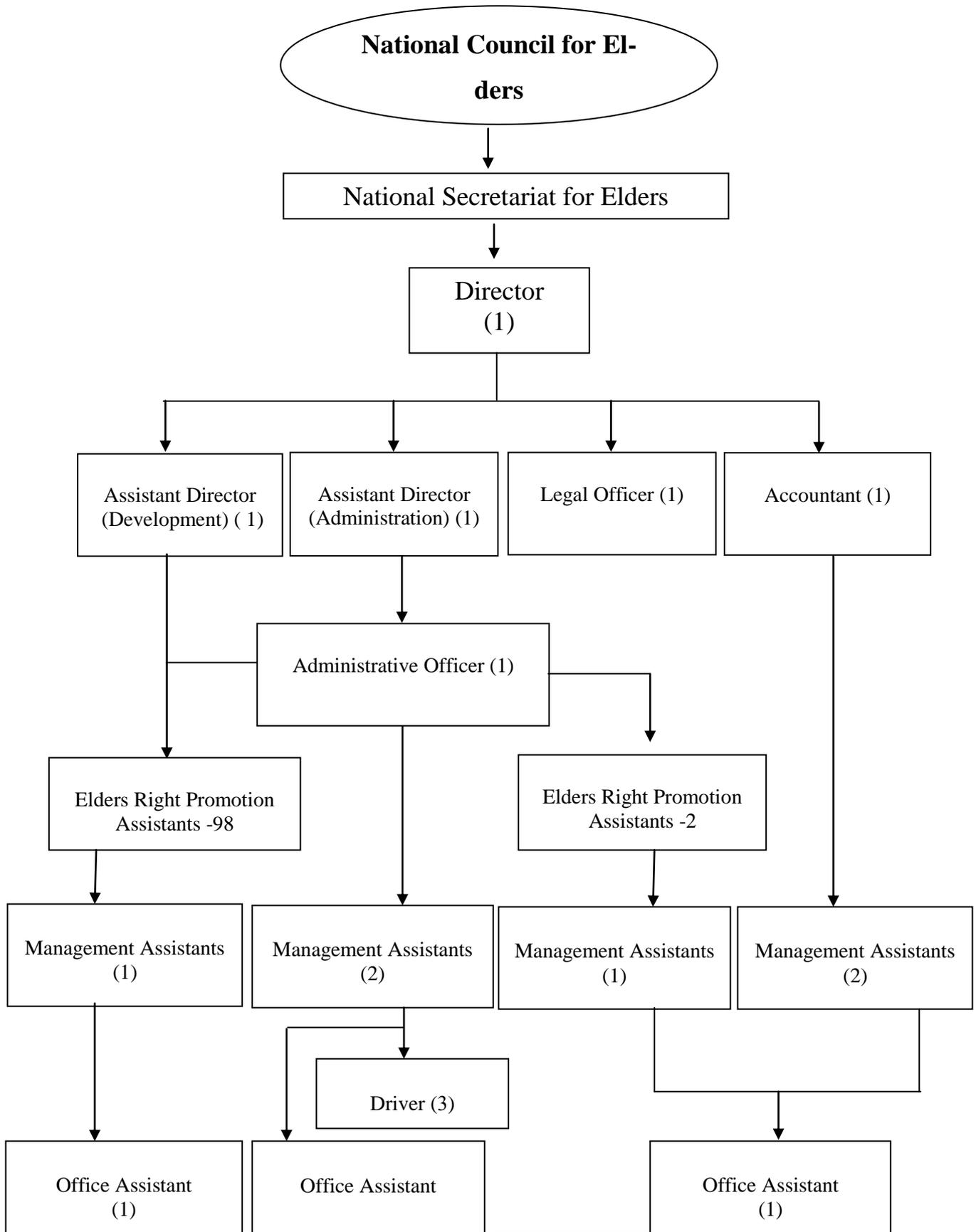
### **Vision**

To take people of Sri Lanka towards an active, Productive and dynamic ageing through caring

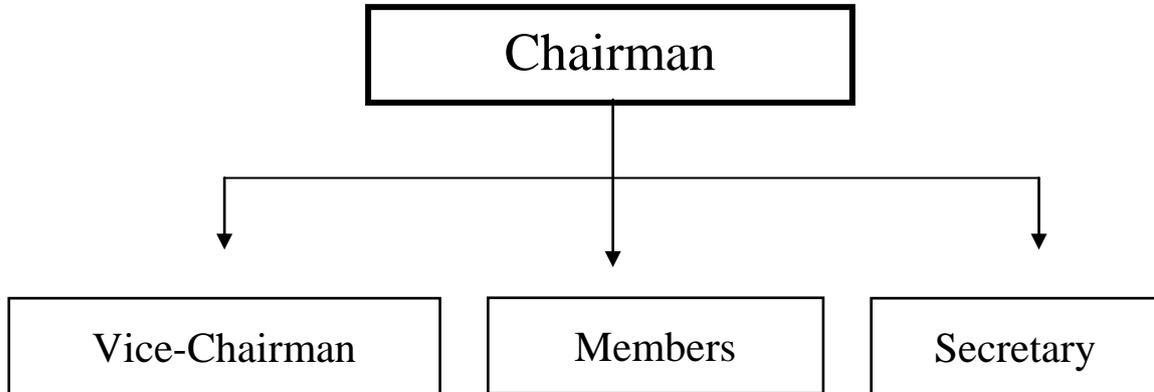
### **Mission**

To encourage participation of older persons on social development and to ensure their independence, care, participation, self-fulfilment, dignity and to protect the rights of elders through awareness programmes.

## Organization Chart



## National Council for Elders - 2015



	<b>Name</b>	<b>Post</b>
1.	Mr.Mahinada Senavirathne	Chairman
2.	Mr. Saman Udawatte	Vice-Chairperson
3.	Mr. Suvinda s.Singappuli	Secretary
4.	Mr.Pradeep Yasarathne	Member
5.	Rev.Girambe Ananda thera	Member
6.	Mr. Somapala Liyange	Member
7.	Mr. D.Mahinda kithsiri De Silva	Member
8.	Dr .Ananda Jayalal	Member
9.	Dr.A.A.Jayantha Jayasiri	Member
10.	Mr. Sudeera Jayaweera	Member
11.	Mr. Mahilala Chandima	Member
12.	Dr. Riddley Jayasinghe	Member
13.	Mr .K.M.S.G.Bandara	Member
14.	Mrs. Malar Gangatharan	Member
15.	Mr. Kamal Amarasinghe	Member
16.	Dr.Mrs.Neela Piyaseeli Gunasekara	Member

## **National Council for Elders Chairman's Report - 2015**

Among social and economic problems Sri Lanka is presently encountering, the rapid growth of elderly population has been one of the major problems. Therefore it is visible that the social responsibility entrusted upon the National Council for Elders has been growing by the day. This has made it all the more important for the council to pay extra attention to plan, and implement strategies with a view to bringing about wellbeing and protection for the elders.

Accordingly the council was able to carry out a broader National service compared to previous years, through the implementation of policy decisions taken to achieve the aforesaid task. This has brought us utmost satisfaction.

Therefore my appreciation and special thanks should go to all members attached to the National Council for Elders, and the director and the staff of National Secretariat for Elders, and also the Elder maintenance board for providing yeoman service with utmost responsibility. Further my special thanks go to the non-government organizations for assisting us in numerous ways to improve wellbeing and protection for elders.

**Mahinada Senevirathne**

**Secretary**

**Ministry of Social Empowerment and Welfare  
& Chairperson,**

**National Council for Elders**

## National Secretariat for Elders Director's Report – 2015

The brief description of the level of performance achieved in the year 2015, by the office of the National Secretariat for Elders, in accordance with the policy decisions and pre-determined procedures of the National Council for Elders, with a view to bringing about well-being for the elders in Sri Lanka, is stated below.

### **1. Allowance Rs 2000 for senior citizens**

As appeared in the 100 days program on behalf of the protection and welfare of the elders above 70 years, the government has allocated additional funds from the budget 2015.

During the year 2015, the Rs.2000/- allowance has paid to around 386080 senior citizens above 70 years old who are in less income.

### **2. Establishment of Rural elder committees and provision of financial assistance**

Financial assistance worth Rs.3.510million was provided to 640 Rural Elder Committees, 06 Regional Elder committees, 06 District Elder committees and 04Provincial Elder committee.

### **3. Issuance of elder's I.D cards**

110766 elders' ID cards were issued spending Rs. 0.815 million within the year 2015.

### **4. Provision Grants for Income Generating Activities**

120 grants were provided for low income elders spending 1.991 Million in year 2015.

### **5. Training and awareness programmes**

331 awareness programmes for elders at rural level, 331 awareness programmes for elders at Divisional level, and 25 awareness programmes for elders at provincial level and 02 Counselling awareness program were conducted. Rs. 9.989 million was spent on the said programmes.

### **6. Provision of eye lenses and hearing aids, free of charge**

According to medical advices, 4873 elders were provided with eye lenses and 323 persons were given with hearing aids in the year 2015. Rs.13.085 million was spent on these projects.

## **7. Commemoration of International Elders Day**

Under the theme “Sustainability and Age Inclusiveness in the Urban Environment” a function to commemorate the elders day was held on 01.10.2015. It was held under the distinguish patronage of the Honourable Ministers and also with the participation of large number of elders from all over the Island. For this function Rs.10.270 million was spent.

## **8. Provision of Financial Assistance for “Homes for the Elders**

Rs. 19.221 million was spent on 24 developing the elder’s home including Katharagama and Maligathenna elder`s home and the Circuit bungalow at Kataragama. These elders homes are managed by the administrative council which is functioning under the National Secretariat for Elders.

## **9. Elder Cover sponsorship scheme (Vedihiti Awarana sponsorship scheme)**

In the year 2015, 51 elders were continuously provided with financial assistance of Rs. 250/= per month, through the contribution from philanthropists.

## **10. Maintenance Board of the Elders**

The board met 45 times within the year 2015. Out of 107 complaints received from the elders, 67 cases were solved completely. Accordingly Rs.0.929 million was spent on the activities of the maintenance Board in the year 2015.

## **11. National Council for Elders**

National Council for elders had 04 meeting sessions in the year 2015. The expenditure on this was Rs.0.384 million.

In spite of allocating Rs.25 million for capital and Rs.120 for recurrent expenditure in the year 2015, only Rs.24.6 million for capital and 119.4 million for recurrent had been received.

However, 118.605 million as recurrent expenditure and, Rs. 25.163 million as capital expenditure were directly spent on elder welfare in 2015.

**Suvinda.S.Singappuli**  
**Director**  
**National Secretariat for Elders**

## Development Progress - 2015

### Refurbishment of Elders Homes

District	Name of the Elder Home	Released Amount (Rs. Mn)
Hambanthota	Thangalle Yayawaththa Elder`s Home	2,750,000.00
Monaragala	Katharagama Government Elder`s Home	165,405.52
Gampaha	Maligathenna Governement Elder`s Home	1,761,169.17
Kurunegala	Wawlewa wewtheragama Elderls Home	1,000,000.00
	Polgahawela Nahakotamada day Center	241,070.73
	Polgahawela Nahakotamada day Center	100,204.52
Putlam	Naththandiya senior citizen federation	500,000.00
Galle	Elpitiya Smadhi Elder`s Committee	500,000.00
Ampara	Sarana Elder`s home	566,341.12
Batticoale	Swami Vipulananda Elder`s Home	500,000.00
Mathara	Pitabeddara Derangala elder`s Home	1,191,758.49
Anuradhapuaara	Saliyapura Government elder`s Home	2,065,255.93
<b>Total</b>		<b>11,341,727.83</b>

### Providing Equipments for Elder`s Home

District	Name of the Elder`s Home	Amount (Rs. Mn)
Colombo	Maithree Eldre`s Home Horana	46,400.00
Kandy	Godahena Elder`s Home	278,428.00
Gampaha	Meerigama Sethsewana Elder`s Home	759,940.00
Rathnapura	Kalwana Gnanodaya Fondation	454,448.00
Ampara	Dehiaththakanadiya Sarana Elder`s Home	402,099.00
Trincomale	Sevan elder`s Home	1,300,000.00
Mathara	Kirinda Puhulwella Karunarathna Sethsewana Elder`s Home	1,061,405.00
Hambanthota	Katuwana Liyanapathirana Elder`s Home	112,500.00
Anuradhapura	Saliyapura Government Elder`s Home	2,425,350.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>6,840,570.00</b>

## Mobile Services for Issuing of Elders ID Cards - 2015

Province	District	Number of ID Cards
Western	Kuluthra	5933
	Colombo	7542
	Gampah	10119
Central	Mathale	2963
	Nuwaraeliya	3604
	Kandy	8670
Southren	Hambanthota	4257
	Galle	7347
	Mathara	5802
Eastern	Batticaloa	2121
	Ampara	4149
	Trincomale	1718
North western	Kurunegala	10161
	Puttalam	4906
North Central	Anuradhapura	5494
	Polonnaruwa	2922
Uva	Badulla	3565
	Monaragala	1905
Sabragamuwa	Rathnapura	8126
	Kegalle	4570
Northern	Jaffna	2335
	Mannar	840
	Mulathive	681
	Kilinochchi	628
	Vavniya	408
<b>Total</b>		<b>110766</b>

## Establishment of Elders Village Level Committees & Granting Rs.5, 000

Province	District	Number of Committees Assisted
Western	Kaluthara	16
	Colombo	12
	Gampaha	89
Central	Kandy	35
	Mathale	14
	Nuwaraeliya	07
Southern	Galle	26
	Mathara	57
	Hambanthota	35
Northern	Jaffna	12
	Vavuniya	14
	Kilinochchi	01
	Mannar	01
	Mulathive	04
Eastern	Batticaloa	43
	Ampara	31
	Trincomale	14
North Western	Puttalm	11
	Kurunegala	70
Sabaragamuwa	Rathnapura	32
	Kegalle	28
Uva	Monaragala	13
	Badulla	24
North Central	Anuradhapura	50
	Polonnaruwa	01
<b>Total</b>		<b>640</b>

**Financially Assisted (Rs. 7,500) Divisional Level Elders Committees**

<b>Province</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Divisional Secretariats</b>
Western	Colombo	01
Southren	Galle	01
Uva	Badulla	01
North Western	Puttalm	01
Eastern	Batticaloa	01
Nothern	Jaffna	01
<b>Total</b>		<b>06</b>

**Financially Assisted (Rs.15, 000) District Level Elders Committees**

<b>Province</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>District Committees</b>
North Western	Puttalm	01
North Central	Polonnaruwa	01
<b>Total</b>		<b>02</b>

**Financially Assisted (Rs.25, 000) Provincial Level Elders Committees**

<b>Province</b>	<b>Provincial Committees</b>
Western	01
North Central	01
Southern	01
<b>Total</b>	<b>03</b>

## **Care Givers - Training Programme**

National Secretariat for Elders has initiated a programme to train and employ elder care voluntary workers with the intention of providing care and nursing services needed for elders. Accordingly, a group of 135 selected persons were given a systematic training for three weeks, on looking after and providing health services for elders by now, precious opportunity has emerged especially for those elders living in Western province with the requirement of such a service, to obtain the services of these trained personal. To provide this service, for an eight hour shift during the day time Rs. 750/=, during the night Rs.900/= and 24 hours whole day shift Rs.1650/= will be charged.

This service is provided under the complete supervision of the National Secretariat for Elders and depending on the nature of the required service of receivers, services of a female or a male service provider can be obtained. Also, the elder care givers that are employed will work according to a code of ethics.

The training programme has been planned and operated jointly by the Ministry of Social Services and the Ministry of Health. A proper certificate and an identity card are issued for those who have completed the training successfully. Therefore obtaining the services of elder protection voluntary workers with more confidence has become possible.

As a result of this programme not only the elders and their families, but also those who have been trained as elder protection voluntary workers have been benefited. They can now own a government recognized valuable certificate after going through a training and earn an income by working as an independent caretaker.

Although the functioning of this elder protection voluntary service is presently implementing around the Western province and some extend in Eastern Province, by spreading this service to the other provinces in the future it is hoped to provide a broader service to the elders who require such a service.

## **Wedihiti Awarana Kepakaru” - Sponsorship Scheme**

The NSE has started a programme called Sponsorship Scheme for Elders which helps needy elders above 70 years according to the suggestion made by the NSE.

Any person can contribute their money for this programme and the money collected through this programme will be paid to needy elders selected from AGA divisions and each elder is paid Rs. 250/- per month. The recipient is paid Rs. 1,000/- for 4 months period and it is done by the Divisional secretariat.

An officer attached to the secretariat by the NSE will inform the donor about the date the financial grant is made and he also looks for the status of the recipient.

A donor can select an elder or number of elders from the list prepared by the Secretariat or otherwise they are selected by the Secretariat.

Information about the elder will be provided to the donor.

A donor can contribute for this programme through forwarding the donation to the account number 5234881 in BOC Battaramulla in favour of sponsorship scheme for Elders; otherwise they can make contribution to the Secretariat.

It is expected to expand the programme since this is a great service for needy elders.

Accordingly list of donors as well as beneficiaries and divisional secretariats in the year 2015 is given below.

No	Donor's name	No of Beneficiaries	Beneficiary's Name	Divisional Secretariat
1	Anusha Gokula Fernando	07	Mrs. Hemamala Perera	Maharagama
			Mr.M.A.Peeter Perera	Maharagama
			Mr. W.Darmadasa	Maharagama
			Mrs. G.Theresa Dilek	Kelaniya
			Mr.H.Vini Fernando	Panadura
			Mrs. D. B. Jean Nona	Rideegama
			Mr. vini Fernando	Panadura
			Mrs.Viniprida Perera	Kaluthara
			Mr.A.G.Darmawardan	Deraniyagala
2	Miss. P.K.Subodhani	01	Mrs. M.P.Lilee	Kelaniya
3	Mr. H.B.Thamithegama	08	Mrs. A.R.Karalinona	Mihinthale
			Mrs.W.P.Leelawathie	Thissamaharamaya
			Mrs.H.M.Herathmanike	Ibbagamuwa
			Mrs.D.M.Dingiramma	Maspotha
			Mrs.W.G.Gunawathie	Kundasale
			Mr.B.D.jane Nona	Ridigama
			Mrs. R.P.D.Ukku	Paduwasnuwra west
			Mrs. T.B.D.Ango	Mawanella
4	Mrs. Hintid	08	Mrs. G. R. Sadinona	Warakapola
			Mrs. I. G. Soida	Warakapola
			Mrs. H. P. Podinona	Warakapola
			Mrs. J. P. Laisa	Warakapola
			Mrs.Yasawathie weththasinghe	Maharagama
			Mr.Simion	Negambo
			Mr.A.Amarasiri De Silva	Negambo
5	Mrs. N.A.Fernando	03	Mrs.R.D.Pini	Giribawa
			Mrs.H.M.D.Manikhami	Mahakumbukkadawala

			Mrs.H.D.Leelawathie	Giribawa
6	A.M.R.Jayasundara	01	Mrs.Aginona	Kaduwela
7		01	Mr.Karunarathne	Kaduwela
8	W.M.Wathsala	01	Mrs.Aspathiyegedara	Waththegama
9	M.P.Gunadasa	01	Mrs.M.K.A.Soma Gunawardana	Minuwangoda
10	Mrs.Udayangani Gunadasa	01	Mrs.H.P.Vipulasena	Minuwangoda
11	Mr.M.S.M.Asrof	02	Mrs.N.Jepin	Minuwangoda
			Abdul RaswanHyruk Nisa	Kaluthara
12	Mr.J.A.D.Lenard Rohana	01	Mrs.G.A.Emalinnona	Biyagama
13	Mrs. LalaNi Perea	02	Mrs.W.Dinu Hami	Polpithigama
			Mrs.K.M.Bandara Manike	Pathahewaheta
14	Mr.Jayantha Punchhewa	01	Mrs.K.Merynona	Kesbewa
15	Mr.K.P.Nisantha	01	M.P.Asilin nona	Dompe
16	Mrs.D.P.Wkramaarachchi	01	Mr.Thusitharthne Silva	Balapitiya
17	Mrs.A.B.Prera	01	Mr.M.A.Sethansighno	Aththanagalla
18	Mrs. Prasangika Silva	01	Mrs.H.G Vayalat	Thambuttegama
19	Mrs.Nanda Karunasena	01	Mrs. L.A.Heen hami	Kelaniya
20	Mrs.Tharanga Karunasena	01	Mrs.I.Ansinona	Kelaniya
21	Mrs. D.P.Wickramarachchi	01	Mr.Thusitharathna Silva	Balapitiya
22	Account Fund	04	Mrs. Hurathlee	Kolonna
			Mrs.K.A.Podihamine	Sri Jayawardanapura Kotte
			Mr.G.A Piyasena	Sri Jayawrdanapura Kotte
			Mrs.K.Mery Nona	Kesbewa

## Katharagama Circuit Bungalow - Income and Expenditure Statements in 2015

Month	No of rooms Reserved	Income	Expenses			
			Water Bill (Rs.)	Electricity Bill (Rs.)	Cleaning Charges (Rs.)	Other
January	35	34,800.00	16,944.15	1,777.20	-	-
February	34	29,000.00	8,352.75	2,070.00	-	-
March	19	17,800.00	11,116.65	5,427.18	9,875.00	-
April	33	52,300.00	11,532.90		-	-
May	36	33,500.00	10,783.65		9,695.00	-
June	31	26,200.00	20,007.75	2,490.90		-
July	42	37,100.00	13,825.15	2,490.90	-	-
August	45	45,400.00	18,548.00	3,900.00	9,832.00	-
September	04	3,800.00		496.20	-	-
October	-	-	4,717.50	240.00		-
November	-	-	1,404.15	276.00	8,300.00	-
December	-	-	-	404.70	10,000.00	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>279,900.00</b>	<b>117,232.65</b>	<b>20,545.08</b>	<b>47,702.00</b>	<b>-</b>

## **Senior Citizens Pension Scheme**

This Pension Scheme was started in the year 2007 in line with the International Day for Elders under the supervision of Ministry of Social Services & Social Welfare. The National Secretariat for Elders jointly with the Sri Lanka Social Security Board launched the programme with effect from 01/01/2008.

Accordingly needy elders who are above their 70's and not getting any financial assistance from the Government are selected from divisional level are considered for this scheme and priorities are given to elders with disabilities and non-communicable diseases.

Rs. Million 03 granted by the National Lotteries Board through "Supiri Wasana" lottery has been deposited in the bank by the Sri Lanka Social Security Board and monthly pensions are made out of the interest generated through the investment.

At present, 89 suitable elders are receiving monthly allowances of Rs. 500/- each through this scheme.

## **Maintenance Board for Elders**

The Maintenance Board for Elders was established to protect the Rights of Elders under the Protection of the Rights of Elders Act, No. 9 of 2000. It consists of five members, including the Chairman, who are appointed by the Judicial Services Commission. The present Chairman is a retired High Court Judge.

The role of the Board is to assist needy elders (over 60 years of age) claim maintenance funds from their own children who have neglected them.

Once a maintenance claim is received by the Board from parents, the two parties concerned are summoned, questioned and examined. The children are then ordered to make reasonable monthly maintenance payments for their parents on whom the parents can survive on with their basis requirements, according to the Act.

Parents are eligible to claim maintenance from their adopted children in addition to their biological children. Moreover, parents who are below 60 years of age and who are mentally or physically disabled can claim maintenance according to provision 24(i) of the Act.

Applications for claiming maintenance have been made available in Divisional Secretariats or Grama Niladhari Offices by the National Secretariat for Elders.

This Board has no legal power to settle family disputes or property related family matters.

When a particular child violates a maintenance order given by the board, there is the possibility of getting the maintenance order enforced by the Magistrate Court. There, the Magistrate has the power to enforce the maintenance order as it has been made under maintenance ordinance.

### Maintenance Board for Elders

Applications received during the year 2014	-	112	
			↓
No. of applications that do not come under the scope of the Board (Land matters & Family Disputes)	-	12	
No. of cases taken up for determination	-	103	
No. of cases settled	-	58	} 103
No. of cases disallowed	-	14	
No. of cases withdrawn	-	04	
No. of cases pending inquiry	-	27	

### Members of the Maintenance Board for Elders

Chairman	-	Mr. Dudley Karunaratne
Secretary	-	Mr. M.G.Punchibanda

### Members of the Board

1. Mr.D..L.R.Subasinghe
2. Dr.Lily Gunasekara
3. Mr. K.Markandu
4. Mr. A.R.A.M. Lafeer

## Accounting Policies of the National Secretariat for Elders

### General Accounting Policies:

(a). The financial statements of the organization are prepared in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles and Sri Lanka Accounting standards.

(b). **Government Grants**

The National Secretariat for Elders is mainly funded by the General Treasury and treated as non-trading organization. The grant given by the Treasury for recurrent expenditure is credited to the income and expenditure Account while the amount granted for capital expenditure being capitalized and reflected as Government Capital Grant.

### Fixed Assets and Depreciation

(a). **Depreciation Policy**

I. Full year depreciation for the purchasing year and no depreciation for disposing year.

II. Depreciation rates on straight line are as follow.

(1) Vehicle	-	10% p.c
(2) Building partitions	-	15% p.c
(3) Plant & Machinery	-	20% p.c

(b) Capital & Recurrent imprest are included in the statement of financial Performance.

(d) A certain part of fixed assets (Furniture & office equipment) is under the control of Divisional Secretariat.

## National Council for Elders

Annex - 1B

## Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December 2015

Description	Note	2015 (Rs.)	2014 (Rs.)
<b><u>FIXED ASSETS</u></b>			
Investment - Fixed Deposits		6,974,959.28	6,488,334.23
Furniture & Office Equipment		10,516,235.67	8,351,777.90
Vehicle		13,640,500.00	10,400,000.00
Plant & Machinery		4,949,242.41	1,408,056.96
Land		13,000,000.00	-
		<b>49,080,937.36</b>	<b>26,648,169.09</b>
<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>			
Stocks	4	708,085.30	630,815.49
Receivable income for Vehicle		881,000.00	-
Unsettled Festival Advanced		6,250.00	41,000.00
Staff Loan	3	3,952,557.00	3,595,190.00
Bank charges Receivable	2	-	50,000.00
Cash & Cash Equivalents	1	5,018,513.47	3,021,250.04
		<b>10,566,405.77</b>	<b>7,338,255.53</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>59,647,343.13</b>	<b>33,986,424.62</b>
<b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>			
<b><u>Current Liabilities</u></b>			
Provision for Audit Fees	-	80,000.00	80,000.00
Staff Loan Fund	-	572,022.56	425,527.40
Miscellaneous Deposit	7	4,020,208.87	3,718,492.81
Accrued Expenses	6	186,319.88	60,721.80
Provision for Gratuity	5	10,720,215.00	9,447,291.00
Wedihiti Awarana Kepakaru Fund	8	324,187.76	362,187.76
WHO Fund	9	-	104,613.52
		<b>15,902,954.07</b>	<b>14,198,834.29</b>
<b>Non – Current Liabilities</b>		-	-
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>15,902,954.07</b>	<b>14,198,834.29</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>43,744,389.06</b>	<b>19,787,590.33</b>
<b><u>NET ASSETS / EQUITY</u></b>			
Capital Contributed by Government entities	10	43,744,389.06	19,770,735.27
Reserves	11	27,895,000.06	9,100,000.00
Accumulated Surplus /(deficit)	12	(13,917,384.62)	(9,083,144.06)
<b>Total Net Assets /Equity</b>		<b>43,744,389.06</b>	<b>19,787,590.33</b>

Signed by,  
Mahinda Senevirathne  
Chairperson,  
National Council for Elders

Signed by,  
Suvinda .S. Singappuli  
Director,  
National Secretariat for Elders

Annex - 1B

**National Council for Elders**  
**Statement of Financial Performance for the Year Ended 31st December 2015**

Description	Note	2015 (රු.)	2014 (රු.)
<b><u>Revenue</u></b>			
Other revenue	20	134,003,961.59	89,983,264.73
Government Grants		1,468,905.973	1,005,562.20
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>135,472,867.56</b>	<b>90,988,826.93</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>			
Personal Emoluments	13	54,989,855.75	41,428,976.26
Travelling	14	1,908,541.00	1,224,052.42
Supplies & Consumable Units	15	1,580,016.38	1,981,566.14
Maintenance	16	2,453,787.18	599,128.79
Contractual Services	17	3,817,027.91	5,929,680.78
Other Operating Expenses	18	66,657,324.83	35,937,720.32
Depreciation	19	6,444,895.19	4,490,344.58
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>137,851,448.24</b>	<b>91,591,469.29</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit for the period)</b>		<b>(2,378,580.68)</b>	<b>(602,642.36)</b>

Signed by,  
Mahinda Senevirathne  
Chairperson  
National Council for Elders

Signed by,  
Sivinda S.Singappuli  
Director  
National Secretariat for Elders

## National Council for Elders

## Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31st December 2015

Description	2015 (Rs.)	2014 (Rs.)
<b>Cash Flow From Operating Activities</b>		
Deficit from Operating Activities	(602,642.36)	(602,642.36)
<b>Non –Cash Movements</b>	6,044,895.19	4,490,344.58
Depreciation		
<b>Current Assets</b>	(77,269.81)	(20,404.23)
Increase in Stock at the end of year		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Gratuity	1,272,924.00	2,065,482.00
Increase in staff loan balance	146,495.16	(73,294.00)
Decrease in Un – Settled Festival Advance	34,750.00	(19,000.00)
Increase in Investment Fixed Deposit	(486,625.05)	(616,538.58)
Bank Chargers Receivable	50,000.00	(50,000.00)
Increase Provision Audit Fees	-	20,000.00
Increase in Staff Loan Fund	(357,367.00)	148,604.63
Decrease in Miscellaneous Deposit	(301,716.06)	(600,866.52)
Decrease Accured Expenses	125,598.08	(7,605,807.36)
WHO Fund	(104,613.52)	-
Receivable Income For Vehicle from M of EW	(881,000.00)	-
Adjustment for Last Year	(2,455,659.00)	(2000.00)
<b>Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>	<b>1,235,263.43</b>	<b>(2,866,121.84)</b>
<b>Cash Flow from Investing Activities</b>	(14,991,038.41)	(5,380,203.29)
Purchase from Property ,Plant & Equipment		
<b>Net Cash Flow from Financing Activities</b>	<b>(14,991,038.41)</b>	<b>(5,380,203.29)</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>		
Government Grants(Capital)	9,996,038.41	10,570,735.27
Treasury Grants(Vehicles)	5,795,000.00	-
Vedihiti Awarana Sponsorship Scheme	(38,000.00)	(1,000.00)
<b>Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>	<b>15,753,038.41</b>	<b>10,569,735.27</b>
<b>Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>1,997,263.43</b>	<b>2,323,410.14</b>
Cash & Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Period	3,021,250.04	697,839.90
Cash & Cash Equivalents at Ending of Period	<b>5,018,513.47</b>	<b>3,021,250.04</b>

Signed by,  
Mahinda Senevirathne  
Chairperson  
National Council for Elders

Signed by,  
Sivinda S.Singappuli  
Director  
National Secretariat for Elders

## Schedules

2014 (Rs.)	Note 13		Personal Emoluments	12/31/2015 (Rs.)
21,682,066.40		(I)	Salaries & Wages	23,277,607.29
3,604,843.37		(II)	E.P.F. contribution	3,738,555.07
901,210.65		(III)	E.T.F. Contribution	934,638.60
328,285.92		(IV)	Overtime	491,000.71
72,644.15		(V)	Holiday Pay	79,214.00
9,804,423.86		(VI)	Allowances (COL)	10,197,140.00
5,035,501.91		(VII)	Interim Allowances	16,271,700.08
<b>41,428,976.26</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>54,989,855.75</b>

2014 (Rs.)	Note 14		Travelling Expenses	12/31/2015 (Rs.)
1,164,217.50		(I)	Domestic	1,908,541.00
59,834.92		(II)	Foreign	-
<b>1,224,052.42</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>1,908,541.00</b>

2014 (Rs.)	Note 15		Supplies & Consumable Used	12/31/2015 (Rs.)
1,466,631.84		(I)	Stationery & Office Requisites	920,688.02
502,934.30		(II)	Fuel & Lubricants	643,328.36
12,000.00		(III)	Uniforms	16,000.00
<b>1,981,566.14</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>1,580,016.38</b>

2014 (Rs.)	Note 16		Maintenance Expenditure	12/31/2015 (Rs.)
396,155.14		(I)	Vehicle	2,221,756.98
202,973.65		(II)	Plant, Machineries & Equipments	232,030.20
<b>599,128.79</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>2,453,787.18</b>

2014 (Rs.)	Note 17		Contractual Services	12/31/2015 (Rs.)
166,032.00		(I)	Transport	199,384.00
450,892.74		(II)	Postal & Telecommunication Charges	705,406.40
866,049.85		(III)	Electricity	799,534.98
246,756.00		(IV)	Cleaning Charges	266,972.16
25,990.00		(V)	Newspaper Charges	29,618.50
33,269.15		(VI)	Entertainment Expenses	32,941.00
51,904.00		(VII)	Audit fees	35,631.00
451,550.00		(IX)	Allowances for Council Members	-
987,929.00		(X)	Allowances for Board Members	-
582,326.04		(XI)	Other Allowances	468,615.87
1,500.00		(XII)	Bank Charges	6,000.00
2,065,482.00			Gratuity	1,272,924.00
<b>5,929,680.78</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>3,817,027.91</b>

2014 (Rs.)	Note 18		Other Operating Expenses	12/31/2015 (Rs.)
3,784,490.00		(I)	Establishment of Village Level Committees	2,942,367.00
458,937.75		(II)	Issue of identity Cards	800,365.00
1,870,962.06		(III)	Establishment of Day Centres & provision of Grants for Income Generating activities	1,990,570.00
1,775,344.88		(IV)	Publications	1,798,071.00
3,984,751.00		(V)	Training & awareness Programme	9,974,448.50
7,716,450.00		(VI)	Conducting Medical clinics ,Issue of Eye lenses & Assistive Devises	11,846,330.00
6,603,329.28		(VII)	Commemorating “International Elders Day”	10,058,794.01
1,248,180.61		(IX)	Assisting Home for the aged	8,128,448.76
301,837.10		(X)	Allowance for Council Members	383,868.50
5,206,965.44		(XI)	Rehabilitation & Maintenance of Elders Home	10,850,471.73
2,986,472.20		(XII)	Training & Capacity Building	4,041,754.23
-		(XIII)	Allowances for Board Members	929,470.50
-			Administrative Expenditure 2000/-Allowances	2,912,365.60
<b>35,937,720.32</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>66,657,324.83</b>

2014 (Rs.)	Note 19		Depreciation	12/31/2015 (Rs.)
1,968,476.02		(I)	Furniture & Office equipments	2,617,518.09
1,655,000.00		(II)	Vehicle	2,154,000.00
866,868.56		(III)	Plant & Machineries	1,672,877.10
<b>4,490,344.58</b>			<b>Total</b>	<b>6,444,895.19</b>

## **Opinion of the Auditor General**

The audit of Financial Statements of the National Council for Elders for the year ended 31 December 2015 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2015 and the statement of financial performance and cash flow statement for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information was carried out under my direction in pursuance of provisions in Article 154(1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka read in conjunction with Section 13(1) of the Finance Act No. 38 of 1971 and section 20(3) of the protection of the Rights of Elders Act, No. 9 of 2000. My Comments and observations which I consider should be published with the Annual Report of the Council in terms of Section 14(2) (c) of the Finance Act appear in this report. A detailed report in terms of Section 13(7) (a) of the Finance Act was forwarded to the Chairman of the Council on Future.

### **Opinion**

In my opinion, except for the effects of the matters described in paragraph 2:2 of this report, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the National Council for Elders as at 31 December 2015 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

H.M.Gamini Wijesinghe  
Auditor General



**විගණකාධිපති දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව**  
கணக்காய்வாளர் தலைமை அபிபதி திணைக்களம்  
**AUDITOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT**



මගේ අංකය  
எனது இல.  
My No. }

LEW/C/NCE/1/15/06

ඔබේ අංකය  
உமது இல.  
Your No. }

දිනය  
திகதி  
Date }

09 September 2015

The Chairman,  
National Council for Elders

Report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements of the National Council for Elders for the year ended 31 December 2015 in terms of Section 14(2) (c) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971

The audit of financial statements of the National Council for Elders for the year ended 31 December 2015 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2015 and the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information was carried out under my direction in pursuance of provisions in Article 154(1) of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka read in conjunction with Section 13 (1) of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971 and Section 20 (3) of the Protection of the Rights of Elders Act, No. 09 of 2000. My comments and observations which I consider should be published with the Annual Report of the Council in terms of Section 14 (2) (c) of the Finance Act appear in this report. A detailed report in terms of Section 13 (7) (a) of the Finance Act, will be issued to the Chairman of the Council in due course.

## 1.2 Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards and for such internal control as the management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements whether due to fraud or error.

අංක 306/72, පොල්දූව පාර, බත්තරමුල්ල, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව. - இல. 306/72, பொல்தூவ வீதி, பத்தரமுல்லை, இலங்கை. - No. 306/72, Polduwa Road, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka



+94-11-2887028-34



+94-11-2887223



oaggov@slt.net.lk



www.auditorgeneral.gov.lk



### 1.3 Auditor's Responsibility

-----

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards consistent with International Auditing Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAI 1000-1810). Those Standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatements.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatements of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Council's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of financial statements. Sub-sections (3) and (4) of Section 13 of the Finance Act, No. 38 of 1971 give discretionary powers to the Auditor General to determine the scope and extent of the audit.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

### 1.4 Basis for Qualified Opinion

-----

My opinion is qualified based on the matters described in paragraph 2:2 of this report.



## 2. Financial Statements

-----

### 2.1 Qualified Opinion

-----

In my opinion, except of the matters described in paragraph 2:2 of this report the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the National Council for Elders as at 31 December 2015 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards.

### 2.2 Comments on Financial Statements

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#### 2.2.1 Accounting Policies

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The accounting policy being used for accounting the Government grants had not been disclosed in the financial statements. Amortization had not been computed on 02 motor vehicles received from the Treasury during the year under review and the year 2012 valued at Rs.14,895,000, and shown in the financial statements.

#### 2.2.2 Accounting Deficiencies

-----

The following observations are made.

- (a) The land valued at Rs. 13,000,000 that had been received by the Council as a donation, had been shown as "lands" in the statement of financial position instead of being shown as "donations" under reserves.
- (b) The expenditure amounting to Rs. 288,264 incurred on training and awareness programs had been accounted as a capital expenditure. Accordingly, the deficit of the year under review had been understated by Rs. 288,264.
- (c) Although the movable and immovable properties of the Home for Elders and Guidance Center in *Kataragama*, had been vested in the Council, they had not been assessed and included in the financial statements.



### 3. Financial Review

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#### 3.1 Financial Results

-----

According to the financial statements presented, the operations of the Council for the year ended 31 December 2015 had resulted in a deficit of Rs.2,378,580 as compared with the corresponding deficit of Rs.602,642 for the preceding year. As compared with the preceding year, a deterioration of Rs.1,775,938 in the financial result of the year under review was observed. This had mainly been attributed by the increase in the expenses for the year under review by Rs.46,259,979 despite the increase in the Government grants by Rs. 44,020,697. In considering the employee remuneration and depreciation on non-current assets for the year under review and 04 preceding years, the contribution of the Council had continuously improved since the year 2012.

### 4. Operating Review

-----

#### 4.1 Performance

-----

The following functions should be performed in terms of Section 13 of the Protection of the Rights of Elders Act, No. 9 of 2000.

- To advise the Government on the promotion of the welfare and the rights of elders. To recommend programmes to the Government and the other appropriate bodies, to strengthen the family unit based on the traditional values of Sri Lanka.
- To take all such measures as are necessary, in consultation with the relevant Ministries, Provincial Authorities, Local Authorities, Districts and Divisional Secretariats, religious institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations and private sector organizations, to promote and protect the welfare and rights of elders.
- To maintain accurate and up to date statistics relating to elders.
- To encourage the establishment of welfare centres, recreation centres, day care centres and other appropriate institutions with accommodation for destitute elders and to provide the necessary facilities to such centres and institutions.



- To introduce and implement a health insurance benefit scheme for elders.
- To facilitate elders to obtain necessary legal advice and assist elders to seek redress under section 25 of this Act.

According to the Act of the National Council for Elders, 16 functions had been stated. Only 08 of them had been included in the Action Plan for the year under review, and provisions amounting to Rs. 47,000,000 had been granted in that connection. However, the progress in performing those functions are as follows.

(a) **Financial Assistance given to Elders' Committees**

-----

- (i) A sum of Rs. 5,672,500 had been allocated during the year under review to establish 1,042 elders' committees comprising 950 rural level committees, 75 regional level committees, 11 district level committees, and 06 provincial level committees. However, only 651 committees comprising 640 rural level committees, 06 regional level committees, 02 district level committees, and 03 provincial level committees had actually been established. As such, 391 elders' committees had could not be established, and Rs. 2,322,500 of the sum allocated in that connection, had been saved.
- (ii) A savings account with a minimum balance of Rs. 3,500 should be maintained in the name of rural level elders' committees in terms of National Council for Elders Circular, No. 2011/01 dated 06 January 2011. However, action had not been taken to confirm the balances of the accounts of 385 committees.



(b) Issue of Elders' Identity Cards  
-----

Although provisions had been made by the Council by planning to issue identity cards annually for the elders older than 60 years, a methodology had not been set up to obtain accurate information from the Divisional Secretariats relating to the number of identity cards issued. Hence, the total number of elders' identity cards issued so far could not be verified in audit.

(c) Financial Assistance Given for Self-employment  
-----

In compliance with the objective of promoting welfare and rights of the elders, a sum of Rs. 1,750,570 had been given as assistance for self-employment of senior citizens to 120 individuals from 40 Divisional Secretariats engaged in self-employment.

Only 05 Divisional Secretariats had taken follow-up action as to whether the assistance had been properly utilized in the self-employment. Furthermore, it had not been established from 105 self-employed individuals whether the assistance had been acknowledged.

(d) Conducting Awareness and Training Programmes  
-----

According to the Action Plan for the year under review, the expenditure estimated for 721 programs amounted to Rs. 10,000,000, but only 672 programs had been conducted by the end of the year under review, and 49 training programs could not be conducted. Progress reports relating to the programs conducted, had not been furnished to the Divisional Secretariats, and no follow-up actions whatsoever had been taken in that connection.

(e) Supervision of the Homes for Elders  
-----

Although 87 homes for elders had been registered under the Council in the year under review, 72 of the homes had not been supervised by the Council.



(f) **Granting Financial Assistance and Equipment to the Homes for Elders**

-----

In order to purchase equipment for the elders' homes, and to renovate buildings, sums of Rs.8,280,120 and Rs.10,941,728 had respectively been granted to Divisional Secretariats

The following matters are observed in this connection.

- (i) Of the sum granted for purchasing equipment, Rs.8,128,448 had been spent. The Elders Secretariat had not taken follow-up action to ensure that the requested equipment had been purchased.
- (ii) A sum of Rs. 10,880,471 had been given through the Divisional Secretariats to renovate the buildings. Although the monthly progress relating to those repairs should have been reported to the Elders' Secretariat, action had not been taken accordingly.

(g) **Instances of not Failing the Objectives of the Act.**

-----

In accordance with Section 13 of the Protection of the Rights of Elders Act, No. 9 of 2000, the following functions had not been executed by the National Council for Elders during the year under review.

- (i) Recommending programmes to the Government and the other appropriate bodies, to strengthen the family unit based on the traditional values of Sri Lanka.
- (ii) Maintaining accurate and up to date statistics relating to elders.
- (iii) Promoting studies and research with a view to identifying the principal causes of the problems of elders and their needs and aspirations and to promote effective measures for the alleviation or elimination of such causes and for the satisfaction of such needs and aspirations



- (iv) Providing due publicity through all appropriate means to the findings of the studies and research in order to make the public aware of the problems, needs and aspirations of elders.
- (v) Monitoring and coordinating programmes and schemes initiated and implemented by the Government, voluntary Organizations and bodies of persons, for the uplift of the status of elders.
- (vi) Introduction and implementation of a health insurance benefit scheme for elders.
- (vii) Maintaining a directory of paid and unpaid job opportunities available to elders, for the reference of elders and to assist elders wherever possible to be gainfully employed.
- (viii) Maintaining a directory of elders according to their talent and expertise for the reference of the public.

#### 4.2 Personnel Administration

-----  
The following observations are made.

- (a) Although 96 Elders Rights Promotion Officers had been appointed and attached to the Divisional Secretariats, action had not been taken to get the functions executed by those officers that had not been done so far.
- (b) As a proper methodology had not been followed to appoint the Elders Rights Promotion Officers to the Divisional Secretariats, officers had not been appointed to several districts.
- (c) The posts of the Assistant Director (Administration), and the Legal Officer of the Council had remained vacant since the year 2011.



4.3 Operating Inefficiencies

-----

The following observations are made.

(a) The fixed deposit of Rs. 6,974,959 being maintained at the National Savings Bank for the welfare of the elders, and its annual interest income, had not been utilized for elders' welfare and remained idle.

(b) A liability amounting to Rs. 4,020,208 had been shown in the accounts as sundry deposits of the Council and, a sum of Rs. 1,370,041 of that had not been specifically identified.

4.4 Commencement of Projects in the Lands and Buildings not Vested Properly

-----

Although 12 years had elapsed since the movable and immovable property of the Home for the Elders and Guidance Center in *Kataragama*, had been vested in the Council by the Director of Social Services on 22 August 2003, action had not been taken to survey the land and the building thereby preparing a deed. Instead, a sum of Rs. 11,974,436 had been incurred by the Council on repairs and constructions since 2004 up to the year under review.

4.5 Establishment of a Fund for the Provisions of Employees' Gratuity

-----

The provision for the payment of gratuity amounted to Rs. 10,720,215 in the accounts of the Council as at 31 December of the year under review. However, an amount sufficient to pay the gratuity when it is arisen in future, had not been invested.

5. Accountability and Good Governance

-----

5.1 Corporate Plan

-----

Although the Corporate Plan had been prepared for the period 2012-2016, it had not been presented and approval of the Board of Control had not been obtained.



5.2 Action Plan

-----

The Council had not introduced a methodology to review the progress in implementing the Action Plan in a timely manner.

6. Systems and Controls

-----

Deficiencies in systems and controls observed during the course of audit were brought to the notice of the Chairman of the Council from time to time. Special attention is needed in respect of the following areas of control.

Area of Systems and Controls	Observations
-----	-----
(a) Accounting	Failure to account assets and donations properly
(b) Staff	<u>Failure to reach performance up to the expected level as the vacancies in the staff had not been filled, and deficiencies of the staff.</u>

H.M.Gamini Wijesinghe.

Auditor General



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சமூகவலுவூட்டல் மற்றும்நலனோம்புகைஅமைச்சு  
Ministry of Social Empowerment & Welfare  
ජාතික වැඩිහිටි මහලේකම් කාර්යාලය  
முதியோர்களுக்கான தேசிய செயலகம்  
National Secretariat for Elders



මගේ අංකය  
எனது இல  
My No

NSE/ADM/02/02/General

ඔබේ අංකය  
உமது இல  
Your No.

දිනය  
திகதி  
Date

2016.05.30

Secretary,  
Ministry of Social Empowerment and Welfare,  
Auditor General,  
Auditor General's Department,

**Report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statement of the National Council for Elders for the year ended 31 December 2015 in terms of Section 14(2)(c) of the Finance Act, No.38 of 1971**

**Answering the Audit Report on Accounts for the year ended 31.12.2015**

With reference to the report of the Auditor General, bearing No. LEW/C/NCE/1/15/06 dated 24.05.2016, my observations are kindly submitted below.

**02. Financial Statements**

2.2 In accordance with Sri Lanka Standard 20, the amortization has so far not been applied to calculations in the financial statements when maintaining basic public accounting. Therefore, I would take actions to adjust total entries up to the year 2016 by the final accounts in the year.

**2.2.1. Accounting Deficiencies**

The following observations are made.

- Having accurately adjusted by the final accounts, I would submit the note of Rs. 1, 300, 00.00 in connection with the Donor Accounts.
- The receipts of Rs. 396,598.00, which was received without spending in the previous 02 years for 04 Expenditure Heads, would be adjusted in the year 2016 by the adjusted profit accounts and submitted final accounts.
- I would make arrangements to rectify the note related to transfer of imprest receipts in connection with the expenditure of Rs. 288,264.00 for trainings and awareness programmes from Capital Receipts into Recurrent Receipts in the year 2016.
- Kataragama Elders Home was vested with the National Secretariat for Elders by the letter dated 22.08.2003 and the valuation report has been received to the Officer in Charge of Kataragama Elders Home by now. I will take actions to enter into accounts in the year 2016.

ලිපිනය : 2 වන මහල, D කොටස, සෙත්සිරිපාය - දෙවන අදියර, බත්තරමුල්ල.  
முகவரி : 2ஆம் மாடி,தொகுதி D, செத்திரிபாய - கட்டம் II, பத்திரமுல்லை  
Address : 2<sup>nd</sup>Floor,Block D, Sethsiripaya - II Stage, Baththaramulla.  
ඊ-මේල් / ஈ-மெயில் / E-mail : nsemss@gmail.com

දුරකතන / தொலைபேசி/ Telephone:  
අධ්‍යක්ෂ / பணிப்பாளர் / Director : 2187045  
කාර්යාලය / அலுவலகம் / Office : 3094543  
ෆැක්ස් / பாக்ஸ் / Fax : 0112187015

#### 4. Operating Review

##### 4.1 Performance

(a) Supply of financial assistance for Elders Committees

- (i) Elders Committees are established and maintained by the Divisional Secretariats. In order to empower such Committees, they are provided with the financial assistance by this Office. Financial assistances are provided to the Committees upon the requests received by the recommendations of Divisional Secretary, District Secretary and Provincial Director of Social Services, for the reason that, adequate requests were not received in the year 2015, the said financial assistance could not be provided as planned.
- (ii) Divisional Secretaries have been informed to present the relevant affirmations with immediate effect in connection with Committees, in which they were unable to submit the receipts to prove that they deposited Rs. 3500/ from such money when granting financial assistance for Elders Committees. In Subsequence, having prepared arrangements to obtain the relevant affirmations without any delay, I will take actions to report you, in this regards,

(b) Issuance of Elders Identity Cards

A format was introduced to certify the total number of identity cards issued by the Divisional Secretarial level annually and all Divisional Secretaries were informed to submit the information accordingly. The correct data in this regard will be submitted in the future.

(c) Supply of financial assistance for self employments

When the audit procedure was taken place, follow up activities were conducted in only 05 Divisional Secretariats, provided that by 31.12.2015, follow up activities were completed in another 05 Divisional Secretariats.

Cheques were issued to Divisional Secretariats for providing financial assistance to self-employees and Divisional Secretaries, those, who did not acknowledge us the receipt of cheques by sending the receipts, were informed to send the receipts as soon as possible. Accordingly, I will take actions to report you following the receipt of those receipts to our office. Moreover, Officers were made aware that it would be compulsory to obtain the receipts for cheques henceforth.

(d) Conduct of awareness and training programmes

- i. Divisional Secretaries were made aware to sent progress in connection with awareness and training programmes in an appropriate manner in future. Hence, I would take actions to submit the correct data with regard to training and awareness programmes in the year 2016 in future.
- ii. Follow up activities of awareness affairs were initiated in the year 2016 and I would take actions to continue this in a successful manner.

(e) Supervision of Elders Homes

I would take actions to formalize the supervision activities of Elders Homes in future.

(f) Supply of financial assistance for Elders Homes

- (i) I kindly inform you that follow up activities on the equipment purchased in the year 2015 are
- in operation.
- (ii) You are kindly informed that follow up activities have presently been initiated to prove that the work of rehabilitation of buildings was fulfilled by financial assistance that had been provided.
- (g) Situations in which, it is not paying attention to discharge functions in the Act.
- (i) Arrangements were made to commence lectures, seminars and workshops on the strengthening of the family units on the basis of traditional values of Sri Lanka since 2016.
- (iii) A computer data base is currently being prepared under the joined cooperation of the University of Colombo with the view to maintaining accurate and up-to-date data on older persons.
- (iv) RDTRI (Rural Development Training & Research Institute) has already commenced a survey for collecting information on elderly people and arrangements have also been made to conduct another survey to collect data for setting up a suitable insurance method for all elders.
- (v) The public will be made aware in the future regarding the actions to be taken on the basis of the research findings at the end of these two surveys.
- (vi) (vii) (ix) (x) – I kindly informed you that we would take actions to carry out all functions in connection with these matters on the basis of the research findings.

#### **4.2 Staff Administration**

- (a) The Officers who served in Divisional Secretariats and District Secretariats had been instructed to take actions to discharge functions, which were not fulfilled in the Act by 2016. I would like to mention that the following functions are in progress by this time.
1. Village Level Elders Committees, Divisional Level Elders Committees, District Level Elders Committees and Provincial Level Elders Committees have been set up in Grama Niladhari Divisional level by Divisional Secretariats for the purpose of the welfare of elders.
  2. Day Centres for Elders have been set up with the view to upgrading the mentality of the older persons
  3. Providing aids for self-employment opportunities in order to improve the economic status of elders
  4. Implementing the programme for granting Rs. 2000/= allowance for low income older persons
  5. Making arrangements to commence Elders Homes for helpless and destitute elders in district level.
- (b) Even though 100 Elders Rights Promotion Assistants were approved to the Institution, only 84 Officers have been attached to Divisional Secretariats and District Secretariats. Moreover, only 9 Officers are in the service attaching to the Head Office. For the reason that, these post holders are not eligible to obtain the pension and they contribute to the Employees' Provident Fund, these Officers leave this service at time to time. Therefore the vacancies are continuously existed in this post. Due to the shortage of Officers

in the said post, there is not any possibility to attach Officers to all District and Divisional Secretariats. Hence, I kindly informed you that letters had already been sent to the Department of Management Services to approve these posts to recruit these Officers to all 331 Divisional Secretariats.

- (c) Because the post of Assistant Director (Administration) remains as an acting post, the Officers do not express their willingness to such a post, therefore this post continuously remains in vacant.

The approval was received to this Institution to create the cadre for the post of Legal Assistant by the Department of Management Services but not the post of Legal Officer. The post of legal Assistant is implemented in the salary scale of MA 3 and which is parallel to the salary scale MN 4 in the Government Graduate Scheme. In subsequence, the Officers with law degree would often prefer to get employments opportunities in higher positions with many benefits in either public or private sector. Thus, I wish to mention that we found it difficult to recruit the Officer for this post.

#### **4.3. Operating Inefficiencies**

- (a) The approval was given by the National Council to make necessary arrangements to provide assistances to elderly cancer patients by utilizing the monies in this savings
- (b) I wish to inform that actions would be taken to bring the correct account balances forward, having done all adjustments in the year 2016 in connection with the balance of General Deposit Account.

#### **4.4. Commencement of projects in lands and buildings which were not formally acquired**

Kataragama Elders Home and Guidance Centre had been vested with the National Secretariat for Elders in the year 2003 and I accept that acquisition activities had not been taken place till 2015. However, the acquisition procedure was commenced on 28.07.2015 by F.R. 53 and relevant valuation reports dated 07.04.2014 were received, in this regard. The Chief Valuer has already informed that present value of these properties would be Rs. 33,713,000.00. Accordingly, as per the acquisition procedure, Survey General would be planned to perform the land surveying activities as scheduled. At the end of the acquisition procedure it would be able to finalize the procedure with a deed. As per the Land Acts, the procedure of acquisition of government land has been initiated.

Moreover, I would like to inform you that we had to incur the expenditure for repairing and constructions of buildings since 2004 because the said lands and buildings had been vested with the National Secretariat for Elders in 2003 by the Department of Social Services and further older persons had been resided in Kataragama Elders Home.

- 4.5** Even though, the annual gratuity allocation was done by the Account for paying the gratuity of Officers in this Office, an investment in this regard, was not carried out. Future activities to be taken in this regard are under the discussion with the Ministry of Finance and I would report in future, having taken actions to adhere the instructions given by the Ministry of Finance.

Suvinda S. Singappuli  
Director