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ஆண்டு அறிக்கை
ANNUAL REPORT
2016



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முதியோர்களுக்கான தேசிய சபை
National Council for Elders

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சமூக வலுவூட்டல் மற்றும் நலனோம்புகை அமைச்சு
Ministry of Social Empowerment & Welfare

Table of Content

Preface	120
Executive Report	121
Introduction	122
National Secretariat for Elders	123
Vision	123
Mission	123
Organization Chart- 2016	124
National Council for Elders - 2016	125
National Council for Elders Chairman's Report - 2016	126
National Secretariat for Elders Director's Report – 2016	128
Development Progress - 2016	130
Refurbishment of Elders Homes.....	130
Issuing of Elders ID Cards - 2016	131
Establishment of Elders Village Level Committees & Granting Rs.5, 000	132
Financially Assisted (Rs. 7,500) Divisional Level Elders Committees.....	133
Financially Assisted (Rs.15, 000) District Level Elders Committees	133
Care Givers - Training Programme	134
Wedihiti Awarana Keparu” - Sponsorship Scheme.....	135
Katharagama Circuit Bungalow - Income and Expenditure Statments in 2016.....	138
Senior Citizens Pension Scheme	139
Maintenance Board for Elders.....	140
Accounting Policies of the National Secretariat for Elders.....	142
Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December 2016.....	143
Statement of Financial Performance For The Year Ended December 31st, 2016.....	144
Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31st December 2016	145
National Council for Elders Notes	146
Opinion of the Auditor General.....	149
Auditor; General Report.....	150
Reply for the Auditor General Report.....	163

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 - 2016 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 2016 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 present government 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 2016. This very reason enabled the said institution to achieve physical and financial progress as planned in 2016.

Among the programmes implemented, providence of Rs.2000 allowances for the elders above 70 years 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 2016 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 14.6% to 21% 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 2016 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

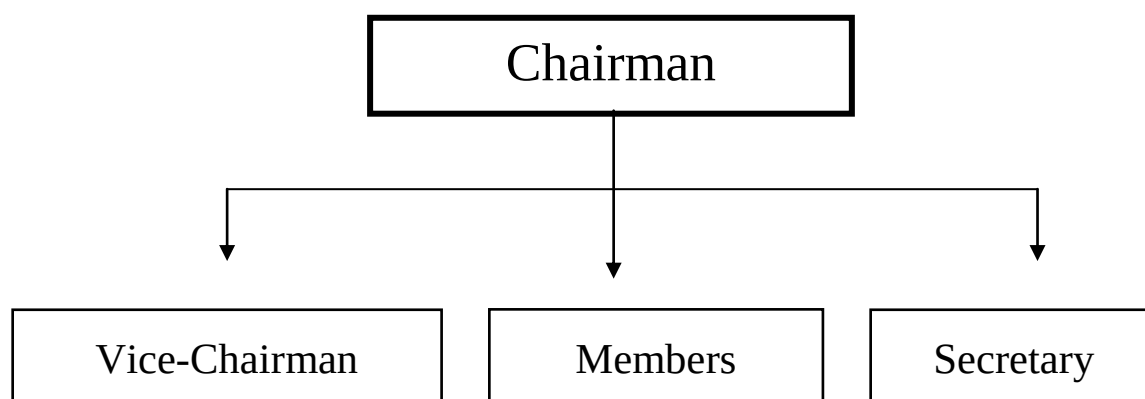
Mission

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- 2016



National Council for Elders - 2016



Name		Post
1.	Mr.Mahinada Senavirathne	Chairman
2.	Mr. Saman Udawatte	Vice-Chairperson
3.	Mr. Suvinda s.Singappuli	Secretary
4.	Mr.Pradeep Yasarathne	Member
5.	Mr.Thilak Da Soisa	Member
6.	Mr. Mahinda Ranasinha	Member
7.	Mr. Wasantha Aberathna De Silva	Member
8.	Dr .Ananda Jayalal	Member
9.	Dr. Riddley Jayasinghe	Member
10.	Mr. Pro.Premakumara De Silva	Member
11.	Mr. Sudeera Jayaweera	Member
12.	Mr. B.D. Mahilal Chandima	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 - 2016

The National Council for Elders has been established under 2 (1) of Part I of the Protection of the Rights of Elders Act, No. 09 of 2000, which was amended by the Protection of the Rights of Elders (Amendment) Act, No. 5 of 2011 and the National Secretariat for Elders has been established in accordance with Section 10 of the same Act in order to assist the Council when performing its functions.

The principle functions and other functions of the Council have been introduced under Section 12 and 13 of Part I of the Protection of the Rights of Elders Act.

Considering the elderly population, Sri Lanka is facing a problem with an aging population and experiencing one of the fastest ageing populations in the Asian Region. Despite the fact that, one in every ten Sri Lankans were considered as elders in 2000, Sri Lanka would experience the major demographic changes by increasing the elders into one in every five persons by 2030 and one in every four persons by 2040 and which was statistically predicted.

In consideration of the year 2016, the National Council has done a remarkable and identified role and I take this opportune time to express my deepest gratitude to the former chairman and all who worked as members of the Council for their commitment towards the success.

Moreover, I highly appreciate the role, which has done by the National Secretariat for Elders, in the year 2016 in the manner of implementing the proposals that were approved by the National Council. In particular, I wish to mention herewith that the National Secretariat for Elders performed with a high performance, having drawn its attention towards the activities which to be reorganized, even though the National Secretariat was functioned with the limited staff.

In the light of the year 2016 and 2017, I would like to express some of the facts with regard to the way, in which, the National Council and National Secretariat for Elders to be functioned from 2018 onwards regarding the elders.

Furthermore, the latest data of the United Nations has shown that 14.6% of elderly population in 2015 would be increased up to 28.6% by 2050.

In this context, new plans and strategies should be implemented with a view to fulfilling the main objective and sub objectives cited in Section 12 and Section 13 respectively of the said Act for promoting the welfare and rights of the older persons and specially to fulfilling the needs of the said elders when considering the sustainable development targets which to be achieved by 2030.

The Ministry has already prepared a three year productivity improvement strategic plan for 2018 – 2020 pertaining to each and every subject of the Ministry.

In this connection, the National Secretariat for Elders has identified various strategies in the said three year plan to achieve the objectives of Section 12 and 13 of the Act for fulfilling the needs of the older persons.

When preparing these plans and strategies, it is expected to deal with the government sector, voluntary organizations and private sector in a combined approach.

Presently, all over Sri Lanka, there are 06 elders' homes that are maintained by the government and there are 300 elders' homes that are maintained by the charities and voluntary organizations. In subsequence, the total number of elders' homes is 306. With the increase of the attention towards the elderly people, there is a necessity of increasing the number of centres, which provide the elderly care. Approximately, there are 7500 elders living in aforesaid elders' homes. In spite of that, these elders' homes are registered at present; there is not a methodology for obtaining a standard service from these elders home while regulating the said homes.

In addition to this, there are 281 divisional level elders committees and one national level elders committee. In addition to the providence of the assistance to the services performed by these committees for the older persons, the National Secretariat for Elders should coordinate the government mediation which is required to provide the voluntary committed service on behalf of the said older persons.

The number of older persons who apply for staying in the elders' homes has been increased due to poverty and other social matters. When preparing a broad programme for the supply of required services for the elders, the above mentioned staff, which has currently been approved to the National Secretariat for Elders, is not sufficient at all. For this purpose, it is expected to strengthen this Institute with human resources.

As mentioned above, in order to execute the proposed new plans and strategies, an elders fund has been established and a project of obtaining the financial contribution from Sri Lankan and foreign donors has also been prepared to strengthen the fund furthermore. Therefore, the required financial strength could be achieved from this elders fund to meet the needs of the older persons.

In view of matters showed above, I should specially remember with gratitude that the special leadership and guidance given by Hon. Minister, S.B. Dissanayake and Hon. Deputy Minister, Ranjan Ramanayake for protecting the rights and welfare of older person in 2017 and on wards. Moreover, their commitment towards success in the National Secretariat for Elders in 2016 is also highly appreciated.

Srirani Weerakon

Secretary

Ministry of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan Heritage

& Chairperson,

National Council for Elders

National Secretariat for Elders Director's Report – 2016

The brief description of the level of performance achieved in the year 2016, 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 2016.

During the year 2016, 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.1.999 million was provided to 325 Rural Elder Committees, 03 Divisional level elders committees, 01 District level Elder committee, 01 North-western religious program, 01 Northern province Meeting, Stationeries for 17 district elders committees have been spent under this programme.

3. Issuance of elder's I.D cards

61791 elders' ID cards were issued spending Rs. 0.600 million within the year 2016.

4. Training and awareness programmes

By the end of 31st of December 2016, Incurred expenditure was Rs. 5.500 million for conducting 120 awareness programmes for school children, 121 awareness programmes for women's organizations at rural level, 01 Awareness programmes regarding 2000/- allowances, 02 care giver awareness programmes, 01 pre retirement training, Care giver T- Shirt 90 and ID 30, 01 care giver training, school children awareness programmes in Anula Abhiman Exhibition, 01 friendship exchange programme, 02 progress evaluation meetings

5. Provision of eye lenses and hearing aids, free of charge

According to medical advices, 3693 elders were provided with eye lenses and 489 persons were given with hearing aids in the year 2016. Rs.9.998 million was spent on these projects.

6. Commemoration of International Elders Day

Under the theme "Take a stand against Ageism" The International Elders day were celebrated on 01.10.2016. with the participation of Honourable Ministers and also with the participation of large number of elders from all over the Island. Parallel to this national celebration elders who achieved 100 years were awarded, parents who have highest children were awarded, and held Art competition among the school children etc. Overall Rs.11 millions were spent for commemoration International Elders Day in 2016.

7. Provision of Financial Assistance for “Homes for the Elders

Rs. 13.580 million was spent on 14 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.

8. Elder Cover sponsorship scheme (Vedihiti Awarana sponsorship scheme)

In the year 2016, 45 beneficiaries are being benefited. Out of this 10 beneficiaries are being granted Rs.500/- each and other 35 are being granted Rs.250/- each, upon the desire of donors.

9. Maintenance Board of the Elders

The board met 52 times within the year 2016. Out of 130 complaints received from the elders, 90 cases were solved completely. Accordingly Rs.1.055 million was spent on the activities of the maintenance Board in the year 2016.

10. National Council for Elders

National Council for elders had 12 meeting sessions and 05 audit and management committee meeting in the year 2016. The expenditure on this was Rs.0.903 million.

11. Publication

By the end of December 2016, as publications 2000 copies of elder magazines, 5000 elder Hand books and 4000 Elders acts printed for distributing among elderly community. Total incurred expenditure was 1.400 Million.

12. Provision Grants for Income Generating Activities

209 Gants were provided for low income elders spending 3.995 Million in year 2016.

In spite of allocating Rs.22 million for capital and Rs.125 for recurrent expenditure in the year 2016, only Rs.22 million for capital and 124.999 million for recurrent had been received. However, 128.967 million as recurrent expenditure and, Rs. 24.781 million as capital expenditure were directly spent on elder welfare in 2016.

Suvinda.S.Singappuli
Director
National Secretariat for Elders

Development Progress - 2016

Refurbishment of Elders Homes

District	Name of the Elder Home	Released Amount (Rs. Mn)
Mathara	Pitabeddara Derangala Elders Home	2,646,828.17
Mathale	Ibulandanda Elders Home	262,000.00
	Gurulupotha Sarana Elders Home	611,850.00
Kandy	Udunuwara Elders Home	1,509,000.00
	Bopitiya Elders Home	2,058,153.02
Polonnaruwa	Medirigiriya Mapiya Sewana Elders Home	241,657.00
	Perakum Elders Home	574,469.20
Chilaw	Naththandiya senior citizen fedaration	562,082.74
Galle	Rathgama Elders Home	2,500,000.00
Gampaha	Jayawardana Samaru Elders Home	48,875.00
	Meerigama Elders Day Care Center	100,000.00
	Weliweriya Elders society Building	934,357.81
Kurunegala	Kotawehera Day Care Center	39,934.53
Total		12,089,207.47
Malwathu Hiripitiya and Katharagama elders homes maintances		1,518,792.53
Total		13,580,000.00

Issuing of Elders ID Cards - 2016

Province	District	Number of ID Cards
Western	Kuluthra	3380
	Colombo	3490
	Gampah	8254
Central	Mathale	1289
	Nuwaraeliya	1584
	Kandy	3652
Southren	Hambanthota	1805
	Galle	5440
	Mathara	2265
Eastern	Batticaloa	1204
	Ampara	1802
	Trincomale	927
North western	Kurunegala	3959
	Puttalam	1521
North Central	Anuradhapura	3940
	Polonnaruwa	1336
Uva	Badulla	2698
	Monaragala	617
Sabragamuwa	Rathnapura	4664
	Kegalle	3101
Northern	Jaffna	1268
	Mannar	579
	Mulathive	535
	Kilinochchi	347
	Vavniya	571
Total		60228
Namber of ID Cards issued by head office in mobile services		1563
Total		61791

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

Province	District	Number of Committees Assisted
Western	Kaluthara	04
	Colombo	06
	Gampaha	08
Central	Kandy	53
	Mathale	25
	Nuwaraeliya	41
Southern	Galle	07
	Mathara	06
	Hambanthota	16
Northern	Jaffna	27
	Vavuniya	05
	Kilinochchi	-
	Mannar	-
	Mulathive	-
Eastern	Batticaloa	14
	Ampara	52
	Trincomalee	28
North Western	Puttalam	10
	Kurunegala	07
Sabaragamuwa	Rathnapura	01
	Kegalle	07
Uva	Monaragala	-
	Badulla	04
North Central	Anuradhapura	04
	Polonnaruwa	-
Total		325

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

Province	District	Divisional Secretariats
Southren	Hambanthota	01
Sabaragamuwa	Rathnapura	01
Eastern	Ampara	01
Total		03

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

Province	District	District Committees
Central	Mathale	01
Total		01

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 150 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 2016 is given below.

No	Donor's name	No of Beneficiaries	Beneficiary's Name	Divisional Secretariat
01	Mr. Lenard Rohana	01	Mrs.M.G Wayalat	Thabuththegama
02	Mrs W.M Wathsala	01	Mrs G. aspaththiniye	Pathadumbara
03	Mr. M.S.M.Asrof	07	Mrs.N. Jepin	Minuwangoda
			Mrs.W.G.Gunawathi	Kundasale
			Mrs. T.W.G.Ango	Mawanella
			Mrs.B.D.Jennona	Ridigama
			Mrs.R.A.Keralainnona	Mihinthalaya
			Mrs D.M DingiriAmma	Maspotha
			Mrs I.AnsiNona	Kelaniya
04	Mrs.Prema Gunadasa & Mrs Udayangani Gunadasa	02	Mrs M.K.A Soma Gunawardana	Minuwangoda
			Mr H.P.Wipulasena	Minuwangoda
05	Mrs A.B perera	01	Mr M.A Sethan sinaya	Aththanagalla
06	Account Fund		Mrs G.M.Lili	-
			Mrs.K.A Podihamine	Sri Jayawardanapura-kotte
			Mr.A.Anthoni	Sri Jayawardanapura-kotte
			Mrs E.Wayalat	Sri Jayawardanapura-kotte
			Mrs K. Merinona	Kesbewa
			Mr.M.Nobat Wimalasena	Kesbewa
			Mrs R.Asilinnona	Kaduwela
			Mrs E.Piyaseeli	Kaduwela
			Mr S.A.Karunarathna	Kaduwela
			Mr A.Hemapala Perera	Maharagama
			Mr W.Darmadasa	Maharagama
			Mrs Yasawathi Weththasinha	Maharagama
			Mrs M.A.Hemalatha Perera	Maharagama
			Mr Antan Densil Miral	Negambo
			Mr.J.L.Agnas Pranandu	Negambo
			Mr G.A.Piyasena	-
			Mrs H.D.Leelawathi	Mahakubukkadawala

			Mrs M.M.D.Menikhami	Giribawa
			Mrs R.C.Wini	Giribawa
			Mr K.R.Dingiri	Polgahawela
			Mrs R.P.D Ukku	Paduwasnuwara
			Mrs H.M.Herath Menike	Ibbagamuwa
			Mr A.G Darmawardana	Deraniyagala
			Mrs S Hurathali	Kolonna
			Mrs I.G.Soida	Warakapola
			Mrs J. P Leisa	Warakapola
07	Mrs Santhi Tintad		Mrs G.R Sadinona	Warakapola
08	Mrs Lalani Perera	02	Mrs W.Dinuhami	Polpithigama
			Mrs K.M.Bandara Menike	Pathahewaheta
09	Mrs Anuradha Jayamali		Mr S.W.Peeris Stiwana Pranandu	Chawakachcheri
10	Mrs Rani Keerthi Sri	01	Warnapulige Nandadasa	Seethawaka
			Mrs Panawennage Prithi latha	Seethawaka
11	Mrs K.N.Kumari Somarathna	01	Mrs H.Kusum Perera	Seethawaka

Katharagama Circuit Bungalow - Income and Expenditure Statements in 2016

Month	No of rooms Reserved	Income	Expenses		Other
			Water Bill (Rs.)	Electricity Bill (Rs.)	
January	-		4,496.87	606.00	-
February	-		7,447.48	606.00	-
March	11	13,200.00	7,425.87	642.60	-
April	09	9,000.00	11,953.73	789.30	-
May	19	20,200.00	13,351.23	752.40	-
June	14	23,200.00	8,072.19	789.90	-
July	11	11,500.00	11,612.54	1,777.20	-
August	67	71,100.00	14,215.72	3,094.80	-
September	47	45,500.00	13085.53	4,869.90	2,960,694.00
October	35	27,500.00	11,361.19		81,710.00
November	-	-	6,807.25	1,466.10	
December	-	-	10,246.86	569.40	1,751,697.54
Income of room reservation from NSE head office in 2016	38	38,400.00	-	-	-
Total		259,600.00	120,076.46	18,670.05	4,794,101.54

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, 55 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 2016	-	130	
		↓	
No. of applications that do not come under the scope of the Board (Land matters & Family Disputes)	-	14	

No. of cases taken up for determination	-	116	
		=====	
No. of cases settled	-	90	} 116
No. of cases disallowed	-	10	
No. of cases withdrawn	-	04	
No. of cases pending inquiry	-	12	

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) Building	-	04%
(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 2016

Description	Note	2016 (Rs.)	2015 (Rs.)
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	1	42,799,797.33	5,018,513.47
Staff Loan	2	4,059,118.00	3,952,557.00
Receivable income	21	754,041.30	881,000.00
Unsettled Festival Advanced	3	7,500.00	6,250.00
Inventories	4	533,708.81	708,085.30
		48,154,165.44	10,566,405.77
Non- current assest			
Investments – Fixed Deposit NSB		6,974,959.28	6,974,959.28
Fixed Deposit BOC		389,000,000.00	-
Vehicle		11,486,000.00	13,640,500.00
Plant & Machinery		12,273,592.74	4,949,242.41
Furniture & office Equipment		11,232,078.31	10,516,235.67
Building		7,338,953.00	-
Land		13,000,000.00	13,000,000.00
		451,305,583.33	49,080,937.36
Total assests		499,459,748.77	59,647,343.13
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities			
Accrued Expenses	5	311,033.79	186,319.88
Miscellaneous Deposit	6	1,866,920.41	4,020,208.87
Provision for Audit Fees	7	80,000.00	80,000.00
Staff Loan Fund	8	737,992.40	572,022.56
Provision for Gratuity		293,600.00	10,720,215.00
Payable to Government Institutes		427,704,100.00	-
Elders Security Fund		214,187.76	-
Wedihiti Awarana Kepakaru Fund	9		324,187.76
		443,654,120.86	15,902,954.07
Non – Current Liabilities			
		55,805,627.91	43,744,389.06
Net assest			
NET ASSETS / EQUITY			
Capital Contributed by Government entities	10	54,816,763.15	44,661,773.68
Capital Donation	11	13,000,000.00	13,000,000.00
Accumulated Surplus /(deficit)	12	(12,011,135.24)	(13,917,384.62)
Total Net Assets /Equity		55,805,627.91	43,744,389.06

Signed by,
Mahinda Senevirathne
Chairperson,
National Council for Elders

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

National Council for Elders
Statement of Financial Performance For The Year Ended
December 31st, 2016

Description	Note	2016	2015
<u>Revenue</u>			
Other revenue	20	4,667,918.46	1,468,905.97
Government Grants		126,925,495.02	134,003,961.59
Deferred Revenue		9,630,951.51	-
Total Revenue		141,224,364.99	135,472,867.56
<u>Expenses</u>			
Personal Emoluments	13	66,025,931.68	54,989,855.75
Travelling	14	1,759,165.82	1,908,541.00
Supplies & Consumable Units	15	2,667,439.03	1,580,016.38
Maintenance	16	1,770,885.91	2,453,787.18
Contractual Services	17	3,292,911.09	3,817,027.91
Other Operating Expenses	18	55,260,549.49	66,657,324.83
Depreciation	19	9,630,951.51	6,444,895.19
		140,407,834.53	137,851,448.24
Total expenses			
Surplus/(Deficit for the period)		(816,530.46)	(2,378,580.68)

Signed by,
Mahinda Senevirathne
Chairperson
National Council for Elders

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

National Council for Elders

Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31st December 2016

Description	2016 (Rs.)	2015 (Rs.)
Cash Flow From Operating Activities		
Deficit from Operating Activities	816,530.46	(2,378,580.68)
Non –Cash Movements		
Depreciation	9,630,951.51	6,044,895.19
Deferred Revenue	(9,630,951.51)	-
	174,376.49	(77,269.81)
Current Assets		
Increase in Stock at the end of year		
Current Liabilities		
Gratuity	1,726,071.50	1,272,924.00
Increase in staff loan balance	(106,561.00)	146,495.16
Decrease in Un – Settled Festival Advance	(1,250.00)	34,750.00
Increase in Investment Fixed Deposit	(389,000,000.00)	(486,625.05)
Bank Chargers Receivable	-	50,000.00
Receivable Income sales of Motor vehicle	881,000.00	(881,000.00)
Receivable Income from flag sale	(754,041.30)	-
Increase Provision audit fees	-	-
Increase in Staff Loan Fund	165,969.84	(357,367.00)
Decrease in Miscellaneous Deposit	(2,153,288.46)	301,716.06
Decrease Accured Expenses	124,713.91	125,598.08
WHO Fund	-	(104,613.52)
Adjustments For Last Year	1,089,718.92	2,455,659.00
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(387,036,759.64)	1,235,263.43
Cash Flow from Investing Activities		
Purchase from Property ,Plant & Equipment	(22,855,597.48)	(14,991,038.41)
Net Cash Flow from Financing Activities	(22,855,597.48)	(14,991,038.41)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
Government Grants(Capital)	19,785,940.98	9,996,038.41
Treasury Grants(Vehicles)	-	5,795,000.00
Vedihiti Awarana Sponsorship Scheme	(110,000.00)	(38,000.00)
Payable to Government Institutes	293,600.00	-
Elders Security Fund	427,704,100.00	
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	447,673,640.98	15,753,038.41
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	37,781,283.86	1,997,263.43
Cash & Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Period	5,018,513.47	3,021,250.04
Cash & Cash Equivalents at Ending of Period	42,799,797.33	5,018,513.47

Signed by,
Mahinda Senevirathne
Chairperson
National Council for Elders

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

National Council for Elders Notes

2015 (Rs.)	Note 11		Capital Donation	12/31/2016 (Rs.)
13,000,000.00		(I)	Land- Holly – Cross Gampaha	13,000,000.00
13,000,000.00			Total	13,000,000.00

2015 (Rs.)	Note 12		Accumulated surpluses (deficits)	12/31/2016 (Rs.)
(9,083,144.94)			Opening Balance	(13,917,384.62)
(2,455,659.00)			Previous year adjustment	1,089,718.92
(2,378,580.68)			deficit/surplus for the year	816,530.46
(13,917,384.62)			Total	(12,011,135.24)

2015 (Rs.)	Note 13		Personal Emoluments	12/31/2016 (Rs.)
23,277,607.29		(I)	Salaries & Wages	28,211,621.43
3,738,555.07		(II)	E.P.F. contribution	4,355,437.60
934,638.60		(III)	E.T.F. Contribution	1,081,900.98
491,000.71		(IV)	Overtime	497,351.36
79,214.00		(V)	Holiday Pay	125,181.05
10,197,140.00		(VI)	Allowances (COL)	11,468,517.07
16,271,700.08		(VII)	Interim Allowances	18,292,492.19
54,989,855.75			Total	66,025,931.68

2015 (Rs.)	Note 14		Travelling Expenses	12/31/2016 (Rs.)
1,908,541.00		(I)	Domestic	1,360,811.10
-		(II)	Foreign	398,354.72
1,908,541.00			Total	1,759,165.82

2015 (Rs.)	Note 15		Supplies & Consumable Used	12/31/2016 (Rs.)
920,688.02		(I)	Stationery & Office Requisites	1,704,044.23
643,328.36		(II)	Fuel & Lubricants	939,394.80
16,000.00		(III)	Uniforms	24,000.00
1,580,016.38			Total	2,667,439.03

2015 (Rs.)	Note 16		Maintenance Expenditure	12/31/2016 (Rs.)
2,221,756.98		(I)	Vehicle	1,350,777.35
232,030.20		(II)	Plant, Machineries & Equipments	420,108.56
2,453,787.18			Total	1,770,885.91

2015 (Rs.)	Note 17		Contractual Services	12/31/2016 (Rs.)
199,384.00		(I)	Transport	183,727.79
705,406.40		(II)	Postal & Telecommunication Charges	852,379.81
799,534.98		(III)	Electricity	1,630,725.31
266,972.16		(IV)	Cleaning Charges	272,313.68
29,618.50		(V)	Newspaper Charges	32,358.00
32,941.00		(VI)	Entertainment Expenses	69,628.00
35,949.00		(VII)	Audit fees	21,949.00
468,615.87		(VIII)	Other Allowances	221,329.50
6,000.00		(IX)	Bank Charges	8,500.00
1,272,924.00		(X)	Gratuity	-
3,817,027.91			Total	3,292,911.09

2015 (Rs.)	No te 18		Other Operating Expenses	12/31/2016 (Rs.)
2,942,367.00		(I)	Establishment of Village Level Committees	1,998,600.00
601,553.15		(II)	Issue of identity Cards	800,365.00
		(III)	Establishment of Day Centres & provision of Grants for Income Generating activities	3,995,431.00
1,990,570.00				
1,798,071.00		(IV)	Publications	1,640,058.50
9,974,448.50		(V)	Training & awareness Programme	5,496,372.14
		(VI)	Conducting Medical clinics ,Issue of Eye lenses & Assistive Devises	9,998,415.00
11,846,330.00				
10,058,794.01		(VII)	Commemorating “International Elders Day”	10,881,796.35
8,128,448.76		(VIII)	Assisting Home for the aged	13,607,794.09
383,868.50		(IX)	Allowance for Council Members	1,049,580.00
929,470.50		(X)	Allowance for Board Members	892,097.00
2,912,365.60		(XI)	Administrative Expenditure 2000/-Allowances	2,923,057.24
-		(XII)	Donation for cancer patients	250,000.00
10,850,471.73		(XIII)	Rehabilitation & Maintenance of Elders Home	-
4,041,754.23		(XIV)	Training & Capacity Building	1,925,795.02
66,657,324.83			Total	55,260,549.49

2015 (Rs.)	Note 19		Depreciation	12/31/2016 (Rs.)
2,617,518.09		(I)	Furniture & Office equipments	3,064,472.88
2,154,500.00		(II)	Vehicle	2,154,500.00
1,672,877.10		(III)	Plant & Machineries	4,106,188.92
6,444,895.19			Total	9,630,951.51

Opinion of the Auditor General

The audit of Financial Statements of the National Council for Elders for the year ended 31 December 2016 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2016 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 2016 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

W.P.C.Wickamaratne
Acting Auditor General



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கணக்காய்வாளர் தலைமை அபிபதி திணைக்களம்
AUDITOR GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

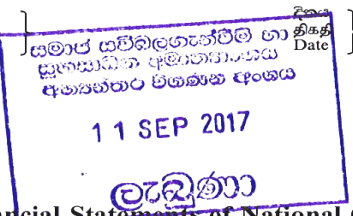


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 எனது இல. }
 My No. }

මගේ අංකය }
 உமது இல. }
 Your No. }

04 August 2017

The Chairman,
 National Council for Elders



Report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements of National Council for Elders for the year ended 31 December 2016 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 2016 comprising the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2016 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.

1.2 Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

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.

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

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

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(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 misstatement 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 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 2016 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Public Sector Accounting Standards.



2.2 Comments on Financial Statements

2.2.1 Accounting Deficiencies

The following observations are made.

- (a) The provision for gratuity had been overstated by Rs.262,792 in the financial statements of the year under review.
- (b) A sum of Rs.4,712,391 remitted to the Divisional Secretary, Monaragala for the improvement the Kataragama Circuit Bungalow and its landscaping had been brought to account under the building instead of being accounted under the work-in-progress and as such, the value of the buildings and the depreciation had been overstated by Rs.4,712,391 and Rs.188,496 respectively.
- (c) The lands and buildings of the Home for Elders and the Circuit Bungalow at Kataragama, Home for Elders at Maligathenna and the Nilwala Sevana Center for the Disabled at Nivithigala belonging to the Council had not been valued and brought to account.
- (d) Instead of accounting the funds as advances at the time of providing such funds to the Divisional Secretariats, those had been stated as expenditure and as such unspent sum of Rs.801,455 returned out of the funds thus provided in the preceding year had been accounted as the income of the Council during the year under review.
- (e) For the purchase of computers and accessories, a sum of Rs.3,266,010 had been spent out of the Sundry Deposit Fund during the year under review and the depreciation thereon Rs.653,202 had been erroneously debited to the Treasury Grants Account and credited to the income as a differed income.

2.2.2 Lack of Evidence for Audit

The Council had granted a sum of Rs.8,023,244 for the repairs of 07 elders homes maintained by the other public institutions and private institutions during the year under review. Nevertheless, bills and progress reports in support of the expenditure incurred on these repair activities had not been furnished to audit.



2.3 Non-compliance with Laws, Rules Regulations and Management Decisions

The following non-compliances with Laws, Rules and Regulations were observed.

Reference to Laws, Rules, Regulations etc.	Non-compliance
(a) Guideline 4.3 (a) of the Government Procurement Guidelines 2006	Although the total expenditure estimate including all the related expenditure should be prepared, the total estimate had not been prepared according to the provisions of circulars for 4 constructions and purchases carried out during the year under review.
(b) Treasury Circular No. IAI/2002/02 dated November 2002.	A register of assets had not been maintained for computers and accessories valued at Rs.10,472,700 belonging to the Council.

3. Financial Review

3.1 Financial Results

According to the financial statements presented, the operation of the Council for the year ended 31 December 2016 had resulted in a surplus of Rs.816,530 as against the deficit of Rs.2,378,580 for the preceding year, thus indicating an increase of Rs.3,195,110 in the financial results for the year under review as compared with the preceding year. Although the employees remuneration had increased by Rs.11,036,076, increase in the other income by Rs.3,199,012 and decrease in the other operating expenditure by Rs.11,396,776 had mainly attributed to the above improvement.



4. Operating Review

4.1 Performance

The following observations are made.

4.1.1 Even though 16 functions had been stated as required to be performed in terms of Section 13 of the Protection of the Rights of Elders Act, No. 09 of 2000, only 09 out of those functions had been performed according to the Action Plan and following 07 functions had not been performed.

- (a) To recommend programmes to the Government and the other appropriate bodies, to strengthen the family unit based on the traditional values of Sri Lanka.
- (b) To maintain accurate and up to date statistics relating to elders.
- (c) To promote 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.
- (d) To make the public aware of the problems, needs and aspirations of elders.
- (e) To monitor and coordinate programmes and schemes initiated and implemented by the Government, voluntary Organizations and bodies of persons, for the upliftment of the status of elders.
- (f) To introduce and implement a health insurance benefit scheme for elders.
- (g) To maintain 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 and to maintain a directory of elders according to their talent and expertise for the reference of the public.

4.1.2 Provisions amounting to Rs. 53,000,000 had been made in respect of 09 functions included in the Action Plan and the progress in performing those functions was as follows.



(a) Financial Assistance for Elders' Committees

- (i) A sum of Rs. 2,000,000 had been allocated during the year under review to establish 358 elders' committees comprising 340 rural level committees, 10 regional level committees, 04 district level committees, and 04 provincial level committees. However, only 330 committees comprising 325 rural level committees, 03 regional level committees, 01 district level committees, and 02 provincial level committees had actually been established. A sum of Rs.1,696,500 had been spent on those committees and the receipts sent in support of obtaining that money had not been furnished to audit. However, a sum of Rs.262,500 out of the money granted for the establishment of elder's committees had not been utilized even by the end of the year under review.
- (ii) A sum of Rs.7,500 out of Rs.15,000 granted for a district level committee and a sum of Rs.5,000 out of Rs.7,500 granted to a regional level committee had been retained in order to open bank accounts. Although the receipt of that money should be informed to the Council within a period of one month, committees had not taken action accordingly.
- (iii) As a proper register had not been maintained in granting money, it could not be specifically recognized as to how many committees in a district had been granted money during the year under review.

(b) Issue of Elders' Identity Cards

For the purpose of issuing 80,000 elder's identity cards, provisions amounting to Rs.600,000 had been made during the year under review and the following observations are made in this connection.

- (i) A number of 581,020 elder's identity cards had been printed from the year 2011 to the year under review and out of that, only 99,159 identity cards had been issued. Accordingly, as identity cards had been newly



printed without being issued the identity cards remained in each year for the next year, 481,861 identity cards had remained undistributed by the end of the year under review.

- (ii) Although elder's identity cards had been distributed for 246 Divisional Secretaries without being identified the elders persons residing in the Divisional Secretary's Divisions, there were 85 Divisional Secretaries for which any identity card had not been distributed during the year under review.

(c) Grants of Eye Lenses and Hearing Aids

It was stated that 3693 eye lenses and 489 herring aids had been distributed exceeding the planned amount among the visually and audibly impaired persons. Nevertheless, no information had been maintained to establish that the said equipment had been received.

(d) Conducting Awareness and Training Programmes

- (i) Although a sum of Rs.797,197 had been spent for a special project relating to the formulation of national policies for the elders which had not been included in the Action Plan, that expenditure had been included in the Training and Awareness Programme.
- (ii) For the conduct of awareness programmes on the rights of elders and the position they should be deserved in the society to the rural women's organizations and the school children in 331 Divisional Secretariats, a sum of Rs.2,317,000 had been estimated. These programmes had been conducted in 120 Divisional Secretariats and a sum of Rs.1,687,000 had been spent thereon during the year under review. However, action had not been taken to conduct these programmes in 211 Divisional Secretariats and as such a sum of Rs.1,370,000 out of the estimated amount had not been utilized.



- (iii) Although 10,000 pad books had been printed at a cost of Rs.730,000 in order to distribute among the school students under this programme, particulars on the schools to which those books were distributed had not been made available to audit.

(e) Elder Care Services

Having called applications for the home care services from the citizens of Sri Lanka and recruited qualified persons, those had been employed after giving them trainings, whereas the number of persons thus recruited had not been included in the Performance Report. Further, the services provided for the elderly persons by other activities and the formulation of national policies for the elders which had been presented as a special proposal by the Budget had not been included in the Performance Report.

(f) Update of the Data on the Elders

It had been a function of the Council to maintain accurate and updated statistics relating to elders and the Committee on Public Enterprises had recommended that an accurate data base should be maintained in that respect. Accordingly, the Elders Rights Promotion Officers had been informed to include the data on number of homes for elders, elders committees, elders daycare centers and the number of elders in the internet on the Elders Day on 01 October. Nevertheless, the data base had not been updated.

(g) Celebration of Elders' Day

Provisions amounting to Rs. 11,000,000 had been made for the International Elders Day scheduled to be celebrated on 01 October of the year under review and out of that, expenditure amounting to Rs.10,881,796 had been incurred. The following observations are made in this connection.

- (i) For the celebration of the International Elders Day, 150 elderly persons older than 100 years of age in 97 Divisional Secretariats and 24 mothers older than 75 years of age who had delivered the highest number of children in 24 Divisional Secretariats had been granted



10,000 each. Nevertheless, action had not been taken to obtain receipts from 38 Divisional Secretariats to ensure that the said money was received. Further, confirmations had not been obtained to establish that the money was received by the relevant persons.

- (ii) A sum of Rs. 2,215,500 had been granted to 84 Divisional Secretariats to celebrate the Elders Day and reports had not been obtained from 34 Divisional Secretariats to ensure that the above programmes were held.
- (iii) Although only 24 Tamil elders had participated in this function, 100 language translation equipment had been hired by spending a sum of Rs.82,000.
- (iv) In respect of the Elders Day, a flag week had been commenced and 2,500,000 flags and 83,100 stickers with the face value of Rs.33,310,000 had been distributed to the District Secretariats and Divisional Secretariats. It had been informed in writing that the above flags should be sold before 20 November of the year under review and a sum of Rs.11,658,500 or 35 per cent out of the money received from the sale of those flags should be given to the Elders Secretariats. Nevertheless, Action had not been taken to obtain that money or get back the unsold flags and stickers even by 31 December of the year under review.
- (v) Although the approval of the Council had been obtained to broadcast documentaries through the media, conduct of timely discussions on the senility, broadcasting commercial advertisements demonstrating the value of the elders, preparation of a series of articles continuously published in print media and purchase of air time of the electronic media and conduct of media programmes on the discussions relating to the scope of the elders in the months of September and October of the year under review in parallel to the Elders Day, no such programme whatsoever had been conducted.



4.2 Management Activities

The following observations are made.

(a) Formulation of a National Policy for the Elders

The National Budget Department had proposed to formulate a National Policy for the Elders including two proposals of the establishment of a medical insurance scheme for the senior citizens up to the age 75 years and providing common transport facilities for the elders exceeding the 65 years of age and provisions amounting to Rs.10,000,000 had been made therefor.

The following observations are made in this connection.

- (i) In order to formulate this policy, a sum of Rs.2,438,715 had been granted for 25 districts during the year under review and after completing the task, the comments and the proposals should have been given to the Elders Secretariats before 10 October. Nevertheless, the Council had not taken action to obtain the particulars on the expenditure in 16 districts and the reports on the formulation of the policy in 08 districts in December of the year under review.
- (ii) For the formulation of the policy, the Council had spent a sum of Rs.797,197 during the year under review and a sum of Rs.2,253,065 had been obtained from the Ministry for the future activities. Nevertheless, a sum of Rs.1,694,164 out of that money had been retained in the Deposit Account without being utilized for the relevant purpose even by the end of the year under review.

4.3 Idled and underutilized assets

Although the Nilwala Sevana Center for the Disabled situated in a land of 02 acres in extent at Nivithigala and received by the Council through a Deed of Gift in the year 2009 had been renovated by spending a sum of Rs.390,000 in the same year, it had been closed down up to the year under review without being utilized for any purpose. As a result of non-utilization, the transferee had filed a court case reclaiming this land.



4.4 Personnel Administration

The approved cadre of the Council as at 31 December of the year under review stood at 141 and the actual cadre was 121. Accordingly, the number of vacancies of the staff was 20. The posts of the Assistant Director (Administration), and the Legal Officer of remained vacant since the year 2011 had further remained vacant even by 12 June 2017.

4.5 Operating Inefficiencies

The following observations are made.

- (a) Out of Rs.2,000 granted for the elders over 70 years of age, a sum of Rs.100 had been given back to the Council by the Divisional Secretariats and in order to carry out 10 activities out of that money, approval had been obtained by the Cabinet Paper No. අ. ඔ.ප/16/0719/711/010 on 30 August during the year under review. Nevertheless, a sum of Rs.427,704,100 received from January to December of the year under review had been deposited in a current account and a sum of Rs.389,000,000 had been transferred to a fixed deposit account in December without carrying out the relevant activities.
- (b) In order to donate Rs.10,000 out of interest of a fixed deposit of Rs.6,974,959 maintained in a State bank for the welfare of the elders to 30 kidney patients, the approval of the Council had been granted. Nevertheless, a sum of Rs.441,267 received as the interests had been credited to the revenue and only a sum of Rs.250,000 had been given for 25 districts.
- (c) A directive had been given by the Committee on Public Enterprises held on 02 June 2012 to convert the fixed deposit of Rs.4,000,000 of the Council to a welfare fund. The balance of that deposit as at the end of the year under review amounted to Rs.6,974,959 and it had been maintained as a fixed deposit without being converted to a welfare fund.



4.6 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 acquire that land and the building properly by carrying out surveying and preparing a deed. Nevertheless, a sum of Rs. 11,974,436 had been incurred by the funds of the Council on repairs and constructions since 2004 up to the year under review.

5. Accountability and Good Governance

5.1 Corporate Plan

The Council had not introduced a methodology to timely review the progress of achieving the targets in the Action Plan and the activities stated in the Action Plan had not been prepared to suit to the functions of the Act, since several years.

5.2 Budgetary Control

Variances ranging from 10 per cent to 62 per cent between the budgeted and actual income and expenditure were observed , thus indicating that the budget had not been made use of as an effective instrument of management control.

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 | (i) Failure to account assets and donations properly. |
| | (ii) In granting advances, those had been accounted as expenditure instead of accounting them as advances and as such, there was a risk of failure in accounting the unspent money thus returned. |
| (b) Staff | Failure to fill the vacancies and thereby exerting an impact on the performance. |
| (c) Financial Control | Underutilization of funds. |
| (d) Operating Control | Although the functions such as disseminating views of the elders in the society and carrying out welfare activities should have been performed, follow up action had not been taken to ensure that such an environment had been created after the grant of funds to the Committees. |

W.P.C. Wickamaratne
Acting Auditor General.

Sgd./ H.M. GAMINI WIJESINGHE
Auditor General



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சமூகவலுவூட்டல், நலன்புரிமற்றும் கண்டிமரபுரிமைகள் அமைச்சு
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT, WELFARE & KANDYAN HERITAGE
ජාතික වැඩිහිටි මහලේකම් කාර්යාලය
முதியோர்களுக்கான தேசிய செயலகம்
National Secretariat for Elders



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உமது இல }
Your No. }

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திகத } 2017.07.04
Date }

Secretary,
Ministry of Social Empowerment, Welfare and Kandyan Heritage

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 2016 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 31.12.2016

With reference to the report of the Auditor General, bearing No. LEW/C/NCE/1/16/21 dated 15.06.2016, my observations are kindly submitted below.

02. Financial Statements

2.1 Expressing the views on Financial Statements

2.2.1. Accounting Deficiencies

The following observations are made.

- (a) I would take steps to rectify the balance in the year 2017 with regard to the Gratuity Provisions Allocation Account
- (b) I would revise the balances in the year 2017 in relation to the building account for the expenses on the constructions of Kataragama and building depreciation allocation account with the concurrence of the audit.
- (c) I kindly informed you that the market value of the land and buildings, in which the Kataragama Holiday Resort, Kataragama Elders' Home and Eugene Nona Elders' Home are situated, have been received following the valuation of them. Hence, I would take actions to bring these values into accounts from the final accounts of 2017.

The land belonging to Niwithigala Nilwala Sevana Disabled Care Centre had been vested as the deed of gift in the Chairman, Manju Sri Dissanayake and Secretary, Thilak Priyantha Abenayake of the Head Office of the said Care Center located at No. 146, Pitipana North, Homagama by Wasthu Kankanamalage Gunathilaka resided at Parawatta Junction, Niwithigala and subsequently this land had been vested in the Department of Social Services by them. The said Department had entrusted this land with the National Secretariat for Elders. Subject to the grant of this deed of gift, in terms of the Condition No. 02 presented by the land lord, Wasthu Kankanamalage Gunathilaka, this land cannot be entrusted with anyone, but, the relevant land was entrusted with the Department of Social Services again. However, the son of

ලිපිනය : 2 වන මහල, D කොටස, සෙත්සිරිපාය - දෙවන අදියර, බත්තරමුල්ල.

முகவரி : 2ஆம் மாடி, தொகுதி D, செத்திரிபாய-கட்டம் II, பத்திரமுல்லை

Address : 2nd Floor, Block D, Sethsiripaya- II Stage, Baththaramulla.

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දුරකථන / தொலைபேசி / Telephone:

අධ්‍යක්ෂ / பணிப்பாளர் / Director : 2187045

කාර්යාලය / அலுவலகம் / Office : 3094543/4

ෆැක්ස් / பெக்ஸ் / Fax : 0112187015

Wasthu Kankanamalage Gunathilaka has filed a case in the District Court, Ratnapura demanding the said land to be vested in him again due to the violation of the condition. I kindly informed you that I would take actions as per the decision of the said Court Decision in the future.

- (d) I would take steps to revise it with the concurrence of the audit.
- (e) I would take steps to rectify the balance of the Treasury Grant Account in 2017.

2.2.2. Lack of Evidence for Audit

- Final work reports and final bills have so far been received by 04 Divisional Secretariats and reminders have been sent to the Divisional Secretariats, who have not yet submitted the reports and I kindly informed you that I would submit those reports to you as soon as I have received the said reports.

2.2.3 Non – compliance with Laws, Rules, Regulations and Management Decisions

- (a) Relevant actions for preparing the total estimate are being processed at the present.
- (b) I kindly inform you that all advances had been settled by 31.12.2016
- (c) All officers were made aware and all officers excluding one officer have submitted the medical reports by now and the officer who did not submit the medical report has informed that he would also submit a said report in the least possible delay.
- (d) When purchasing the computers, it had been brought into the account under the Object of Equipment so far. In subsequence, for the year 2016, allocation of provisions and purchasing of them had been done under the said Object and I kindly inform you that I take actions to bring the relevant information into accounts under the Object of computer in the year 2017.

3. Financial Review

3.1 Financial Result

4. Operating Review

4.1 Performance

- (a) The relevant actions have been taken to give the required instructions to the government for strengthening the family units based on the traditional ethical values of Sri Lanka by the National Policy on Elders which is being formulated at present by the National Council for Elders.

Further, I kindly inform you that the web site, which is being prepared by the National Council for Elders, has made arrangement to provide the required instructions to other organizations and persons.

- (b) A web site containing the information system on all the elders living in this country, is being prepared by the National Secretariat for Elders

This web site is created under the total supervision of the Prime Ministers' Office and it would be completed before finishing this year. Feeding the data into the said system is being done at present.

- (c) The special attention of the Council has been drawn to social, cultural and economic issues, which are affected to the problems of the elders.

In subsequence, a formal research in connection with the monthly allowance of Rs. 2000/- which to be given the senior citizens over 70 years of age has been completed.

Stepping forward in the relevant year, in association with the University of Colombo, it is scheduled to conduct a special research on the health condition of elders living in the elders' homes in the western province. A special awareness programme in this regard would be held on 07/07/2017 in the University of Colombo.

- (d) Very special telephone number of 118 has been introduced for informing the all the social economic and cultural problems confronted by all the elders.

Moreover, on behalf of the World Elder Abuse Prevention Day, which falls on 15th, June, a sticker campaign was initiated and commemoration programme of it was held under the distinguished patronage of the Hon. Minister on 15. 06. 2017 at the Central Bus Stand, Colombo and Railway Station, Pettah.

In this connection, all elders, who are confronted by social, economic and cultural issues were able to take actions to inform their grievances to the National Secretariat for Elders and were able to be educated on the services of the National Council for Elders

- (e) I kindly inform you that all proposals and all the other activities, which are implemented by the government or other institution for uplifting the living status of the elders, are supervised and coordinated by the National Secretariat for Elders that has been set up under this Council.

The relevant institute is already being implemented all the welfare activities performed by the government on behalf of the elders and supervision activities are being carried on.

Moreover, I kindly note you that the said Institute is coordinating with the Divisional Secretariats scattered in island wide, District Secretariats, Provincial Department of Social Services, Other voluntary organizations, which provides services to the elders, local non-governmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations and individuals

- (f) For the purpose of implementing a health insurance benefit scheme for the older persons, a discussion was held on 09.05.2016 with the participation of the representatives of all recognized insurance companies in Sri Lanka.

In the said discussion, it was noted that the private insurance companies showed very negative attitude towards the said insurance scheme as they performed only on commercial purpose.

In subsequence, in association with the insurance companies in the government sector, it is kindly informed you that the actions are being taken to introduce a new insurance benefit scheme.

- (g) I kindly inform you that a special attention has been drawn in this connection.

The proposed catering project "Athamma", local crop cultivation project and revolving loan funds to be implemented by the National Secretariat for Elders, would make opportunities to the elders for earning the money.

Further, I kindly inform you that from the work places and job opportunities allocated to the elders to be published by the web page of this Institute, the programme of providing the job opportunities would make our attempt success.

Moreover, I kindly inform you that the elder's directory including the names of inborn talented elders scattered in island wide would be published through the Elders Rights Promotion Officers or Officers in Charge of the elder subject.

(a) Supply of financial assistance for Elders Committees

- i. Village Level Elders Committees, Divisional Level Elders Committees, District Level Elders Committees and Provincial Level Elders Committees are provided with the financial assistance upon the request of those elders committees.

Under the aforesaid Object, for the purpose of supplying the financial assistance for Elders Committees and performing the other special activities of Elders Committees, the amount of Rs. Two Millions have been allocated.

In subsequence, as per the requests received, the financial assistance had been provided to 325 Village Level Elders Committees, 03 Divisional Level Elders Committees, 01 District Level Elders Committee and 02 Provincial Level Elders Committees and I kindly mention that the remaining amount of money had been allocated to the other special activities of Elders Committees.

- ii. The receipt had been obtained from the benefitted District Level Elders Committees and Provincial Level Elders Committees mentioning that they received the money for the Elders Committees in

the year 2016 and the necessary actions for the confirmation of the relevant balance thereto are being taken at present and I would report you in this regard, in the future.

- iii. Schedules have been prepared in Divisional Secretarial level on the supply of financial assistance for Elders Committees in the year 2016 and I would take actions to prepare this Schedule in district level in the coming years.
- iv. As per the request with the recommendation of the Divisional Secretary, balance confirmation slips with regard to the supply of financial assistance for Elders Committees are being received and having obtained all the information without delay, I would take actions present them to you.
- v. Members of Elders Committees conduct the meetings for discussing their activities and they often meet to deal with their welfare activities. The necessary actions have been taken to make the Elders Rights Promotion Officers in the relevant area to participate in such meetings. Moreover, these activities of the Elders Rights Promotion Officers would be included into the performance report in future.

(b) Issuance of Elders Identity Cards

- i. As the issuances of Elders Identity Cards are done through the Divisional Secretariats, after purchasing these Identity Cards, our institute prints them. Subsequently, the printed Identity Cards and Laminated Covers are issued to Divisional Secretariats. Therefore, the relevant Divisional Secretariats had kept the remaining Cards, which had not been used for this purpose, in their offices itself and I kindly mention that I would make arrangement to use the remaining Cards in the next year.
- ii. The amount of Rs. 60,000/- had been provided to issue the Elders Identity Cards in the year under the review. When issuing the identity cards in concurrence with the President's mobile service held in the said year, the additional amount of money, which had been incurred for printing the required photograph for the said identity cards, had been provided to the Divisional Secretariats. So I, kindly inform you that we had taken some actions to obtain the said amount of money through various income sources.
- iii. I kindly inform you that all Divisional Secretariats had issued the Elders Identity Cards by 31.12.2016.

(c) Supply of eye lenses and hearing aids

- Although the purchase of eye lenses and hearing aids for the year 2016 had been planned to perform for the same prices, which we had spent in the year 2015 for purchasing those eye lenses and hearing aids, we could bought them for a lower price in 2016 in comparison with 2015. In subsequence, the higher number of lenses and hearing aids than the estimated value had been distributed among the beneficiaries.

All the bills with regard to the certification of obtaining of eye lenses and hearing aids are attached in the file and signature registers, which are to prove that the beneficiaries had been obtained the instruments, are also attached in the file.

(d) Supply of financial assistance for self employments

The invoices to prove the receipt of money from Morawewa and Vavuniya South Divisional Secretariats have not been received but all the others have already been received, hence, I kindly inform you that those were attached to the file.

Follow up reports were not received only from 27 persons and I would take actions present them, having obtained the said reports in the future.

(e) Conduct of awareness and training programmes

- i. Preparing the National Policy for Elders is a budget proposal raised in the year 2015 and required provisions for this purpose had been received to the Ministry in the year 2016. This endeavor had been vested in the National Secretariat for Elders on 29. 03. 2016 as it is a work of elders. For the reason that, there were a considerable number of preliminarily functions to be performed, the National Secretariat for Elders had to perform the said functions.

Until the General Treasury is provided the imprest to the Ministry and again the relevant fund is provided to this office, the relevant expenses had temporarily been included in the Awareness and Trainings and subject to the settlement of the relevant expenses after receiving the fund, it had been deposited in that account. I kindly inform you that, it had been rectified by 31. 12. 2016.

- ii. It had been planned to conduct the awareness programme for women's organizations and school children covering all the Divisional Secretariats in island wide.

Estimates for performing the relevant activity had been received from only 120 Divisional Secretariats regarding the programmes planned in the said manner and having provided the money to all those 120 Divisional Secretariats, above programmes had successfully been done and follow up reports had been received up to the percentage of 100%.

However, upon the shortage of the officers, who are under one hierarchy, the aforesaid programme could not held in 221 Divisional Secretariats due to the inconvenience of performing the affairs of the National Secretariat for Elders in the proper way.

In subsequence, by utilizing the relevant amount of money, actions had been taken to perform another few more programmes and after filling the vacancies of the officers who are under one hierarchy level, I kindly inform you that all the activities would be performed up to 100%.

- iii. Although these books were printed in the year 2016, it has been planned to evaluate the creations, which to be included into those books, in concurrence with the International Day of Older Persons in the year 2017, I kindly inform you that, the progress would be included into the Performance Report in the year 2017.

(f) Elderly Care Service

- I kindly mention here that the number of persons who have been recruited to the elderly care service would be included into the Performance Report of this year and affairs of preparing the National Policy is being performed at the present and as soon as it has been completed, it would also be included into the Performance Report.

(g) Updating the data on the older persons

- Training the officers in relation with the feeding of data into the system has been delayed because the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has not released the fund to the University of Colombo for training the officers. Therefore, some discussions are on the progress with the Prime Ministers' Office, Ministry of Finance, University of Colombo and UNFPA. Training activates, in this regard, will be commence in the future with the concurrence of the Ministry of Finance, and after that, the affairs of updating the data would be carried out.

(h) Commemoration of the International Day of Older Persons 2017

- i. The relevant information with regard to the confirmation have been received to us by the Divisional Secretariats and the other Divisional Secretariats, those who have so far not sent the confirmation, have been informed through the letters and telephone and I would present these information to the audit as soon as the information has been received.
- ii. 75 reports were received to confirm the conduct of programmes so far and the institutes, those who have not sent the reports, have been informed to take actions to send the reports to the Institute and I kindly mention that, as soon as I have received the reports, I would present them to the audit.
- iii. Representing every district in the island, 100 older persons were participated in the commemoration programme held to mark the International Day of Older Persons.
 - Among them, 24 elders, who talk the Tamil language, represented the North and Eastern Provinces. In addition to this, there were a considerable number of elders from Nuwara Eliya District and small number of elders from Matale District representing the Tamil people. In subsequence, the relevant translation / interpretation equipment were provided to use of above elders and I kindly mention that these equipment were used to adhere the government language policy.
- iv. I would make arrangement to report you, having completed the relevant activities for discarding the flags and stickers, which were not sold, at the least possible delay.
- v. Even though the percentage of 100% was not achieved when functioning for the targeted programmes in the year under the review, based on the allocated provisions,
 - Current dialogues on elderly hood
 - Publication of advertisements in the printed media
 - Radio and Television programmes were conducted.

Moreover, since the allocated provisions for purchasing the airtime in printed and electric media were very low. Actions were taken to create a summary programme in relation to the role of the National Secretariat for Elders. For the reason that, the charges on broadcast time/ air time is very high for a Television/ Radio programme.

In spite of this, I kindly inform you that necessary actions would be taken to prepare a new media programme in connection with the Media institutes in the year 2017.

4.2 Management Inefficiencies(a) Formulation of the National Policy on Older Persons

- i. The scheduled time period for the formulation of the National policy on Older Persons was June – 2016 – December 2016. During this six months' time period of, District Officers and all other officers committed to complete the work of the National policy in addition to their normal official duties.
As a result of this, it was scheduled to obtain the final report of the **Main Steering Committee** by 05.06.2017 and the said activity has also been completed by now.
- ii. Currently, the affairs in the final stage of the formulation of the National Policy on Older Persons are being carried out. I kindly mention that the amount of Rs. 1,694,164/- out of the money received from the Ministry has been retained and deposited into the Miscellaneous Deposits Account for incurring the expenses for performing the relevant activities, Translation charges, printed and electric media charges, publication charges, final publication charges, policy intro-

- duction charges and other charges to be born for the National Policy on Older Persons in the future.
- (c) Incurring expenses for this purpose has been stopped and I would take actions in the future as per the court decision.

4.3 Staff Administration

- I kindly inform you that actions are in the progress of filling the vacancies.

4.4 Operating Inefficiencies

- (a) Even though the series of rules and regulations have already been prepared for incurring this expenditure, it has not been approved by the Governing Council. Since, this matter was forwarded to the next council meeting by the last council meeting, which was held in May 2017 for further study, hence, I would take actions to spend the expenses following the approval of the said rules and regulations.
- (b) Actions have been taken to distribute the remaining amount of money in this year.
- (c) This deposit has been forwarded to the welfare fund and I kindly mention that the annual interest of it has been forwarded to the cancer donations.

4.5 Commencement of projects in lands and buildings which were not formally acquired

Survey actives have already been completed by the Surveyor General's Department for the land belonging to the Kataragama Elder's Home and Guidance Center and Surveyor General's Department has submitted their plan of the land. Therefore I kindly, inform you that, the necessary actions for taking over the land are being carried out at present.

5. Accountability and Good Governance

5.1 Corporate Plan

- I kindly point you that the Corporate Plan has been prepared for the next five year (05) period commencing from the year 2016.

5.2 Action Plan

- I would make arrangement to prepare the action plan for each action when preparing the action plan in the next year.

5.3 Budgetary Control

- Upon the limits of the budgets allocated from the Ministry of Finance, Actions were taken following the allocation of money to each Object subject to the approval of the National Council and approval was taken to spend the money by changing the budget limits of the Objects through transferring the provisions from the Objects which will have excess provisions at the end of the year to the Objects, which will have the shortage of provisions and I kindly inform you that the expenses are being born subject to the said approval.

6. Systems and Controls

(a), (b), (c), (d)

- The observations pointed by the Auditor in connection with the system and control have strongly been considered and I kindly inform you that I would take the required actions to make them further formal.

Suvinda S. Singappuli
Director