

Performance of the Finance Commission

(From 01st of April 2018 to 30th of June 2018)

1. Revisions of Provincial Annual Development Plans - 2018

Based on the requests made by the provinces, concurrence was granted in principle for revisions up to broad activity areas of the Annual Development Plans 2018.

2. Receiving Recurrent and Capital needs from the Provinces for 2019

The Finance Commission has received Capital and Recurrent needs - 2019 from all the provinces. Review meetings of provincial needs to conduct with the participation of relevant provincial officers have been scheduled to be held during the 3rd Quarter.

3. Review of Strategic Plan / Implementation

The Strategic Plan of the Finance Commission has been reviewed and is being updated.

4. Annual Report of the Finance Commission - 2017

The English version of the Annual Report for 2017 has been completed and the translations of the report to Sinhala and Tamil are in progress. It will be submitted to the Presidential Secretariat shortly.

5. Review of Provincial Audit Reports

Audit report of the Northern Province made by the Auditor General's Department was reviewed and our observations were sent to the Governor and Chief Secretary with copy to the Auditor General.

6. Construction of New Building for the Finance Commission

Construction work of the Office Complex of the Finance Commission (FC) is in progress. Three progress review meetings at the Finance Commission and additionally three technical meetings were held with the participation of Project Consultancy Unit (The Faculty of Architecture, University of Moratuwa) and the contractor. Out of the Rs.180 million allocated for 2018, Rs. 139.26 million had been paid to the Contractor by end of the 2nd quarter. It was noted that the project is behind schedule about 95 days. The construction project is scheduled to be completed by 31st August 2018.



7. Finance Commission Data Base and MIS

The Finance Commission had a series of discussions with the Asia Foundation and University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) in relation to development of a Data Base / Management Information System (MIS) for the use of the Finance Commission.

In this regard a MOU between the Finance Commission and The Asia Foundation (TAF) has been signed. However, as the FC was in the view of the duration and the cost are high, TAF was informed to select an alternative software developer for the project.

8. The Draft Finance Commission Act

The Draft Act for the Finance Commission was prepared and submitted to H. E. the President in 2016. Consequently, H. E. the President has forwarded a Cabinet Paper to assign this task to Legal Draftsman on 2nd January 2018. On 26th of June, the Finance Commission received the preliminary draft of the Act from the Legal Draftsman for observations of the Finance Commission. Finance Commission responded with observations after studying the Draft Act.

9. A Special Meeting with the Chief Secretaries and Commission members



A special meeting with the Chief Secretaries of all nine Provinces was held on 10th April 2018 at the Finance Commission. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the key policy issues confronted by Provincial Councils in development and administrative functions. From the discussion, a number of issues of their Annual Development process were highlighted.

10. Discussion on the Policy Recommendations of the Finance Commission -2018

At the request of the Finance Commission a meeting chaired by the Secretary to the President on the Policy Recommendations of the Finance Commission 2018 was held on 23rd May 2018 at the Presidential Secretariat. The members and officers of the Finance Commission, Chief Secretaries and relevant secretaries of line ministries attended the meeting. After the discussion the Finance Commission Recommendations, the issues submitted to the Finance Commission by the Chief Secretaries were also discussed.

11. Meetings with Provincial Revenue Commissioners and the officers of Provincial Transport Sector

The Finance Commission held two different meetings with the Provincial Revenue Commissioners and the officers of Provincial Transport Sector on 2nd April 2018 at the Finance Commission. The objective of the meetings was to provide an opportunity to all representatives to discuss the problems and issues faced by the Provincial Transport and Revenue Sectors.



12. The Operational Manual of the Finance Commission

The operational manual of the Finance Commission is being prepared. The manual consists of the three major sections the systems and procedures for Financial Management, the need assessment procedures, and the general administration procedures of the office of the Finance Commission. In addition a separate internal policy manual streamlining the function of Finance Commission is also being prepared.

13. Field visit to Kalutara District - Kanewela Anicut and Agricultural Projects (Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) by 10th May 2018



The officials of the Western Province and the Finance Commission participated in a field visit in Kaluthara District to review the Reconstruction of Kanewela Anicut and several Agricultural Projects (Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)). During the visit certain issues have been identified. In order to address the issues, a special meeting was held with relevant authorities on 25th June 2018. The Deputy Chief Secretary

Planning (WP), the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture (WP), Provincial Directors of the Department of Agriculture and Irrigation and other responsible officers in the Western Province and a representative from the Export Development Board attended this meeting.



Reconstruction of Kanewela Anicut



Agricultural Projects under Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

14. Capacity building of the officers

Training

Two officers of the Commission attended local training programmes on SLIDA Computer Driving License and Pay As You Earn (PAYE) and With Holding Tax.

Guest Lecture

Mr. C.K.Edirimuni, Motor traffic Examiner, Department of Motor Traffic made a presentation on “Ethics and Qualities for Drivers and Road Safety Awareness”.

Staff Studies

A number of Special studies were carried out by the Finance Commission during the quarter.

Name		Topic
• Mrs. Erandi Gunasekara Asst. Director	-	Blue Green Economy
• Mr. Thisara Kasun Pushpasiri ICT Officer	-	Revenue Forecasting
• Mrs. P.Indra Devi Assistant Research Officer	-	Assessment of Provincial Recurrent Needs
• Mrs. P.D.C.Niroshi Development officer	-	Rural Development

15. Performance Reports of the Finance Commission

Performance Report of the Finance Commission for the period from 1st January 2017 to 31st December 2017 was tabled in Parliament on 22nd May 2018 and Performance Report of the 1st Quarter 2018 was submitted to the Constitutional Council on 27th April 2018.

16. Recruitment and Transfer of the staff

Four Public Management Assistants were appointed to the Commission and one driver got a transfer.

17. The Internal Audit Committee

The 2nd Quarter meeting of the Internal Audit Committee was held on 12th June 2018 with the participation of the Director, Department of Management and Audit Superintendent, Department of Auditor General. Decisions of the meeting were informed to the all staff of the Finance Commission, for necessary follow up action. The Commission decided that Internal Audit, in addition to regularity aspects, should deal with performance aspects as well.

18. Follow up on Workshop on Improvement of Development Process through Optimum Coordination between National and Provincial Level

Since 2015, a series of discussion on the above subject has been held in collaboration with the Presidential Secretariat. The Finance Commission has been reviewing progress of actions taken by relevant line agencies. Subsequently, following the letter sent to relevant agencies in this regard, progress reports are being received and studied even in the second quarter 2018.

19. Medical Officer's Visit to Finance Commission



Doctors of the Medical Administration visited the Finance Commission to study the role and functions of the Finance Commission. The areas, presented for them are Recommendation Process, Planning and Budgeting Process for the provinces, Grants provided to the Provinces, Revenue sources of the provinces, Financing for Local Government, Cadre of the provinces.

20. Participation / Attendance Meetings, Seminars and Workshop

The Chairman, the Secretary and some senior staff of the Finance Commission attended the following Meetings / Workshops

- State of Sri Lankan Cities
- Local Development Support Project
- Primary Health Care Sector
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Cadre Approval for Local Government Institutes
- Inter Provincial Coordinating Committee Meeting
- Transport Connectivity Management Project
- Draft Financial Regulation Act
- First SAARC Annual Meeting on Non Communicable Diseases
- Status of Social Enterprise Sector in Sri Lanka

21. Commission Meetings

- The following Commission Meetings were held during the Quarter.
 - 25th April 2018
 - 12th May 2018
 - 09th June 2018
- The Commission Sub Committee met regularly before each Commission Meeting
- Co-group Meetings - Weekly Co-group meetings were held.
- Staff meetings - 05.04.2018, 31.05.2018 and 29.06.2018.