Developing of a National Policy on children should be expedited - COPA emphasizes

Date : 26-05-2022

The Committee on Public Accounts (COPA) emphasizes that the Department of Probation and Child Care Services should expeditiously develop a National Policy on children in Sri Lanka and give proper guidance in this regard.

The COPA report which was presented in the Parliament recently, further states that the Ministry should intervene to allocate funds without disparity when funds for this subject were provided to the Provincial Councils.

The Committee also directed the Department of Probation and Child Care Services to pay attention to establishing a probation office for every judicial zone when the National Policy was developed.

The Committee has directed the Secretary to the Ministry to amend the Laws and Ordinances applicable to children, including the Adoption of Children Ordinance, and to take necessary steps to amend these Acts expeditiously in accordance with timely requirements.

The Secretary to the Ministry said that the process of amending the ordinances had already been commenced and the amendment of the laws relating to the Children and Young Persons Ordinance was at its final stage.

The Committee directed the Department of Probation and Child Care to develop a methodology to protect children from abuse when they use internet.

The Committee also instructed to develop a programme to create a mass media censorship favorable for society to avoid irregularities committed by mass media in reporting incidents of juvenile crimes. It was disclosed here that a committee has been appointed with the intervention of the Women's Caucus of Parliament on media regulation in relation to the said matter and its work was being carried out speedily.
These matters were contained in the first report of the Second Session of the Ninth Parliament of the COPA, which was tabled in Parliament recently (20) by the COPA Chairman Hon. (Prof.) Tissa Vitharana.

This report contains information on the investigations of 7 Government Institutions summoned by the Committee on Public Accounts during the period from 04.08.2021 to 19.11.2021 and one Special Audit Report.

First Report of the COPA (9th Parliament, 2nd Session)